Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Program

FY2015 Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) and Continuums of Care

January 2014

I. SSVF Program Overview

II. NOFA Overview

III. CoC Role & Review Tool

I. SSVF Program Overview

Goal of SSVF Program

- Provide housing stability to homeless and at-risk Veterans and their families

Grantees

- Private non-profit organizations and consumer cooperatives

- Grantees provide **rapid re-housing** assistance and targeted **homelessness prevention** and to very low-income Veterans and their families who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness

Final Rule, Notice of Fund Availability published in Federal Register, application, webcast recordings, and FAQs available on SSVF website: **www.va.gov/HOMELESS/SSVF.asp**

Required Supportive Services:
1. Outreach services
2. Case management services
3. Assist participants to obtain VA benefits
4. Assist participants to obtain and coordinate the provision of other public benefits provided by Federal, State, or local agencies, or any eligible entity in the area served by the grantee (provided directly or through referral to partner agencies)

Optional Supportive Services:
1. Other services which may be suggested by an applicant, a grantee, or VA in the future that are consistent with the SSVF Program
2. Temporary financial assistance

Important Aspects of the SSVF Program

- *Housing First* approach
  - Focus is on housing stability, not treatment.

- Emphasis on crisis intervention and client self-determination

- Grantees are community-based organizations

- Grantees serve Veterans *and their families*

- Temporary financial assistance payments may be provided to third parties on behalf of participants

II. Notice of Fund Availability (NOFA) Overview

Application due: 4:00 p.m. Eastern on Friday, March 14, 2014

Allocation

- Up to $600 million may be available
  - ~$300 million available through Priority 1 and ~$300 million available through Priorities 2 and 3 (combined), subject to available appropriations for FY 2014 and FY 2015

- Priority 1: 3-year, non-renewable grants to eligible entities applying for new grant in one of 76 priority CoCs listed in NOFA.
  - NOFA includes formula amount for each priority CoC. Grantee award not subject to funding caps.
  - Applications must be endorsed by the CoC to be considered. Each CoC can endorse no more than two applications. Specify Priority 1 endorsement in support letter.

- Priority 2: 1- to 3-year renewal grants for existing SSVF Program grantees.
  - Max award: $2M/year (must be equal to or less than current award)
  - Grantee's program concept must be substantially the same.
  - Letter of support from CoC(s) strongly encouraged

- Priority 3: 1-year grants to eligible entities applying for new grant.
  - Funds not allocated through priorities 1 & 2. Max award: $2M/year
  - Letter of support from CoC(s) strongly encouraged

III. CoC Role and Review Tool

How SSVF Supports CoC Goals & Complements Other CoC Programs

- Can fill key gaps in local CoC service system for Veterans (i.e., every homeless Veteran without another permanent housing solution should be referred to SSVF)
- Provides a critical resource for Veterans imminently at-risk of literal homelessness
- Referral resource for CoC centralized or coordinated assessment systems
- Reduces the length of time Veterans remain homeless and helps them stabilize in permanent housing
- Provides a "bridge"/enhancement to permanent supportive housing (e.g. in conjunction with the HUD-VASH Program)
- Can be used in conjunction with other homeless assistance or prevention programs, such as HUD's Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) program or local Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) programs.

CoC Support

- Priority 1: must endorse applicant(s) (max 2) and provide support letter
- Priorities 2 & 3: support letter strongly encouraged
- Support letters should describe:
  - Applicant's engagement in the CoC's efforts to coordinate services
  - Applicant's participation in the CoC's coordinated assessment efforts
  - Identify whether applicant is endorsed for Priority 1

CoC Considerations

- Does current/proposed SSVF supportive services address CoC need?
- Does applicant participate in CoC's coordinated assessment system?
- Does applicant use/propose to use Housing First approach? Are other best practices used/proposed?
- Will new, proposed program fill existing gap in CoC's service system?
- How can SSVF be used to accelerate and support CoC efforts to end homelessness for Veterans?

CoC Pre-Application Review Tool & Process

- Tool is a template and <u>voluntary</u> – CoCs may use as-is, modify, or use another tool/process.

- Tool includes: applicant experience, program design, target population, funding request, etc.

- Recommend requesting a copy of the draft grant application for review or executive summary. Some questions in template may be removed to reduce duplication.

- If possible, ask applicants to present proposed program to CoC Board.

- Use review process as opportunity to provide feedback on and assure CoC agreement with:

  - Program design

  - Allocation between RRH and HP

  - Program participation in CoC and coordinated assessment

  - Number served and outcomes

Email: SSVF@VA.gov

Phone: (877)737-0111

Website:

www.va.gov/HOMELESS/SSVF.asp