



Shallow Subsidy Talking Points October 2023

- The Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program launched the Shallow Subsidy service in response to the affordable housing crisis.
- Shallow Subsidy provides rental assistance for a set period of time to eligible, enrolled Veterans. Generally, the Shallow Subsidy service is targeted to Veterans who require longer-term rental assistance than is traditionally provided through SSVF to maintain housing.
- For SSVF's Shallow Subsidy service, the maximum amount of rental subsidy that can be provided on behalf of the Veteran household is up to 50% of the lease rent. If something were to happen and the Veteran could no longer pay their half, they still have that cushion of the traditional rapid rehousing or homeless prevention financial services from SSVF. While the Veteran household is receiving Shallow Subsidy services, they remain eligible for the full commitment period regardless of increases in their income.
- SSVF usually comes in two forms —homeless prevention services for at-risk Veterans and rapid rehousing for Veterans who are literally homeless.
- Shallow Subsidy services are geared towards Veterans in both groups who have potentially fewer case management needs but still have a high rent burden.
- Traditional SSVF is shorter term in length, between six to nine months, and could pay up to 100% of the rent based on a household's needs. Veterans utilizing these programs are typically just approaching or entering the homelessness system.
- Shallow Subsidy is different from traditional rapid rehousing and homelessness prevention assistance services because of the ability to support households for a longer period (up to 24 months) in order to support housing stability.
- But it differs from programs like [HUD-VASH](#) in that the subsidy is time-limited and generally not targeted toward Veterans with multiple barriers to housing stability.
- Shallow Subsidy helps Veterans get back on their feet. It reduces the stigma around getting help and provides a collaborative partnership that supports Veterans until circumstances improve.



- For more information about Shallow Subsidy, visit:
<https://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/ShallowSubsidy.asp>
- It is important to reach out for help if you are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.
 - You should reach out to your local SSVF grantee to help determine if you are eligible for traditional, shallow subsidy, or other services to help find and maintain housing or prevent the loss of your current housing.
 - The [SSVF website](#) is a great way to find your local grantees, and Community Solutions also has a [resource locator website](#) that could help identify additional supports.
 - Veterans can also call the [National Call Center for Homeless Veterans](#) at 877-424-3838, where trained counselors are ready to talk confidentially 24 hours a day, seven days a week.