

**Department of Veterans Affairs
Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF)
Grant Awards
Fact Sheet
September 2014**

Summary:

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is committed to ending Veteran homelessness by the end of 2015 and has made it a priority goal for the agency. The Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Program is essential in accomplishing this goal. VA is announcing the award of approximately \$207 million in FY 2015 funds to 82 community agencies. This FY 2015 awards will expand the reach of the SSVF program to Guam. SSVF grants will include “surge” funding for 56 high need communities where there are significant numbers of Veterans who are either homeless or at-risk of homelessness. The grants will help approximately 70,000 Veterans who are either homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Program Background:

- SSVF grantees provide supportive services to very low-income Veterans and their families who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness. Required services provided by grantees include outreach, case management, assistance in obtaining VA benefits, and providing or coordinating efforts to obtain needed entitlements and other community services.
- SSVF grantees secure a broad range of other services for participants: legal assistance, credit counseling, housing counseling, assisting participants in understanding leases, securing utilities, coordinating moving arrangements, employment, training leading to employment, providing representative payee services concerning rent and utilities when needed, and serving as an advocate for the Veteran when mediating with property owners on issues related to locating or retaining housing.
- Grantees also offer temporary financial assistance that provide short-term assistance with rent, moving expenses, security and utility deposits, child care, transportation, utility costs, and emergency expenses.

Program History:

- In its first year of operations (FY 2012), with \$60 million funding awarded in FY 2011, SSVF served more than 35,000 participants in 40 states and the District of Columbia, of whom 3,416 Veterans served had never before accessed VA services.
- Through awards made at the end of FY 2012, in FY 2013, SSVF expanded to \$100 million and 151 grantees in 49 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. In FY 2013, SSVF served over 65,000 participants. In FY 2014, SSVF expects to serve approximately 115,000 participants.
- VA offered the FY 2014 SSVF Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) at approximately \$300 million in FY 2014 funds. In FY 2015, SSVF expects to serve approximately 115,000 participants.

The SSVF Program Impacts for services delivered through September 2013:

- Significant impact on Veteran families, with 15,948 children assisted.
- Of 39,649 Veteran participants, 5,865 are women (15 percent of Veterans served) and 6,610 (17 percent of Veterans served) are Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation New Dawn.
- Of those exiting SSVF, 84 percent have permanent housing.
- In a follow-up of SSVF participants one year after discharge from the program, 89 percent of single Veterans and 93 percent of Veteran families that received SSVF prevention assistance did not have a reported return to homelessness; for homeless Veterans that received rapid rehousing assistance, 84 percent of single persons and 90 percent of families did not have a documented return to homelessness one year after exiting the SSVF Program.