

VAU.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Fact Sheet

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Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Program

Overview

The SSVF program was authorized by Public Law 110-387 and provides supportive services to very low-income Veteran families that are currently in or transitioning to permanent housing. SSVF is designed to rapidly re-house homeless Veteran families and prevent homelessness for those at imminent risk due to a housing crisis. Funds are granted to private non-profit organizations and consumer cooperatives that will assist very low-income Veteran families by providing a range of supportive services designed to promote housing stability.

Background

VA has made ending homelessness among Veterans a top priority, undertaking an unprecedented campaign to dramatically increase successful outcomes for Veterans and their families who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. The SSVF Program is designed to help Veteran families quickly regain stability in permanent housing after experiencing a housing crisis and/or homelessness.

As more states and communities declare that they have ended Veteran homelessness, SSVF plays a critical role helping communities build and sustain capacity to prevent a recurrence in Veteran homelessness. Through its unique blend of rapid re-housing and prevention capabilities, SSVF grantees are able to tailor services that meet the specific needs of the community they serve. In addition to the direct services provided by SSVF grantees, SSVF also works to build community collaboration by facilitating the development of local planning and systems designed to prevent or quickly address homelessness when it occurs.

Supportive Services

Through the SSVF Program, VA aims to improve very low-income Veteran families' housing stability. The first core concept is that SSVF programs utilize a Housing First approach. The essential idea of Housing First is that people's need for housing is a basic need that should be met as quickly as possible, without any preconditions. To meet this goal, grantees (private non-profit organizations and consumer cooperatives) provide eligible Veteran families with outreach, case management, and assistance in obtaining VA and other benefits, which may include:

- Health care services
- Daily living services
- Personal financial planning services
- Transportation services
- Fiduciary and payee services
- Legal services
- Child care services
- Housing counseling services

In addition, grantees also provide time-limited payments to third parties (e.g., landlords, utility companies, moving companies, and licensed child care providers) if these payments help Veterans' families stay in or acquire permanent housing on a sustainable basis.

Locate an SSVF provider

To learn if there is an SSVF provider in your community, please visit <http://www.va.gov/homeless/ssvf.asp> and look for the list of current year SSVF providers or call VA's National call Center for Homeless Veterans at 1-877-4AIDVET (1-877-424-3838).

Application Process

If you are interested in applying to become an SSVF grantee, you can find application information at <http://www.va.gov/homeless/ssvf.asp> and <http://www.grants.gov>. When grant funds become available, VA publishes a Notice of Fund Availability (NOFA) in the Federal Register.

Program highlights

In the past year, SSVF served over 112,000 people, including nearly 20,000 children. Of those exiting SSVF, 80 percent were permanently housed and another 11 percent were in safe, temporary housing.

Additional Information

For more information, please visit: <http://www.va.gov/homeless/ssvf> or send an e-mail to the program at SSVF@va.gov.