



Grant and Per Diem (GPD) Program

P.L. 116-315: Safety and Survival

On January 5, 2021, the *Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020* ([Public Law 116-315](#)) was signed into law. The law authorizes GPD grantees to use per diem payments “to provide assistance required for **safety and survival**” (such as food, clothing, blankets, hygiene items, and cleaning supplies) **during the public health emergency**. These items may be provided to homeless Veterans and formerly-homeless Veterans residing in a facility operated by a GPD per diem grantee. This guidance does not apply to Case Management grantees. This document offers sample guidance to screen and document costs associated with **safety and survival assistance**.

SAFETY AND SURVIVAL ASSISTANCE COST DOCUMENTATION

GPD grantees need to retain documentation in their records supporting incurred costs under this provision. Below are suggested questions to enhance documentation:

Is the Veteran homeless or formerly-homeless Veteran residing in a facility operated by a GPD per diem grantee?
If yes, move to step one. **Yes or No**

Step 1: Does the Veteran require safety and survival assistance? If yes, move to step two. **Yes or No**

Step 2: Was the Veteran verified in SQUARES or through VA eligibility (retain documentation)? If yes, move to step three. **Yes or No**

Step 3: What type of safety and survival assistance is required and how much is the related cost?

1. Food – \$_____
2. Clothing – \$_____
3. Blankets – \$_____
4. Hygiene Items – \$_____
5. Cleaning supplies – \$_____

Step 4: Properly identify and document safety and survival related costs (e.g. evidence from a third party entity creating the cost/expense such as billing invoice, lease agreement, etc., and evidence of payment specific to cost/expense such as copy of check, ACH, if paid by credit card and any other documentation, not mentioned, needed to support the costs).

Step 5: Sign and Date

Grantee: _____ Date: ____/____/____

Veteran: _____ Date: ____/____/____

Veteran Name: _____ SSN Last 4: _____



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are examples of operating costs associated with serving Veterans?

1. Food – (e.g. groceries, meals provided through grantee)
2. Clothing – (e.g. coats, gloves, hats)
3. Blankets – (e.g. blankets, bedding, sleeping bag)
4. Hygiene Items – (e.g. toothpaste, soap, face masks, sanitizer)
5. Cleaning supplies – (e.g. disinfectant cleaners, laundry detergent)

May I purchase prepaid items for emergencies and Stand Downs? No.

May I pre-purchase the items and request for reimbursement? No.

What about other costs and activities not specifically addressed in these FAQs?

It is impossible to predict all circumstances a grantee may encounter. Grantees are expected to have written procedures in place related to how they implement their programs, including how they will implement this new opportunity for assistance. Written procedures must conform to relevant requirements, must be followed consistently and all costs must be documented.

What happens when the COVID-19 public health emergency is declared over?

This flexibility is only available during the public health emergency. Once the public health emergency has ended the costs would no longer be allowable and grantees should adjust their per diem rates as needed.

ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE

Additional per diem rate request guidance can be found on the GPD Per Diem Rate Website:

https://www.va.gov/homeless/GPD_ProviderRate.asp

Additional COVID-19 guidance and resources can be found on the GPD Provider Website:

https://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/GPD_ProviderWebsite.asp

OMB Grants Management Circulars – Allowable Costs:

- Factors Affecting Allowability of Costs ([2 CFR 200.403](#))
- Reasonable Costs ([2 CFR 200.404](#))
- Allocable Costs ([2 CFR 200.405](#))