

Grant and Per Diem Operational Call

Jeff Quarles, MRC, LICDC
National Director, GPD

Chelsea Watson, MSPH
Deputy Director, GPD

Tuesday, November 10, 2020 at 2pm Eastern/11am Pacific

Recording:

<https://veteransaffairs.webex.com/recording/service/sites/veteransaffairs/recording/514ffc49d2f2459489a5406b9dfd291e>

Password: FgH3sVp*



Chat

To: Everyone

Enter chat message here

Mute | Stop video | Share | Record | [More] | [Close]

Participants | Chat

VETERANS DAY

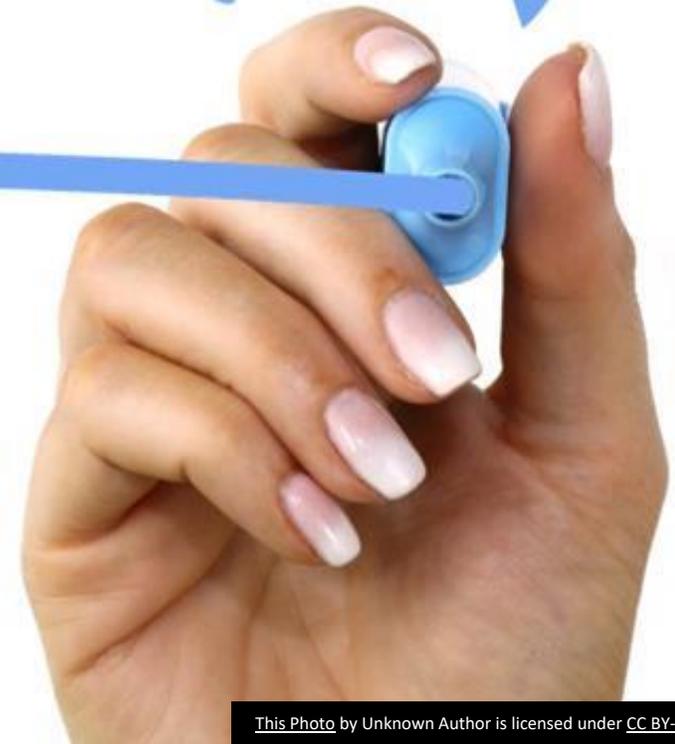


— Honoring All Who Served —

AGENDA

GPD Operational Call Agenda

- Announcements
 - CARES Act Funding
 - Update on Grants Management System
- Office of Business Oversight (OBO)
- COVID-19 Safety
- Guest Presentations
 - Community Engagement Communications
 - SQUARES 2.0
- Q and A





GPD Announcements- CARES Act Funding

- CARES Act Per Diem waiver
- CARES Act funding for GPD requested through Fiscal Year 2021
- Information on per diem waiver on Per Diem rate request webpage https://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/GPD_ProviderRate.asp



**BREAKING
NEWS**

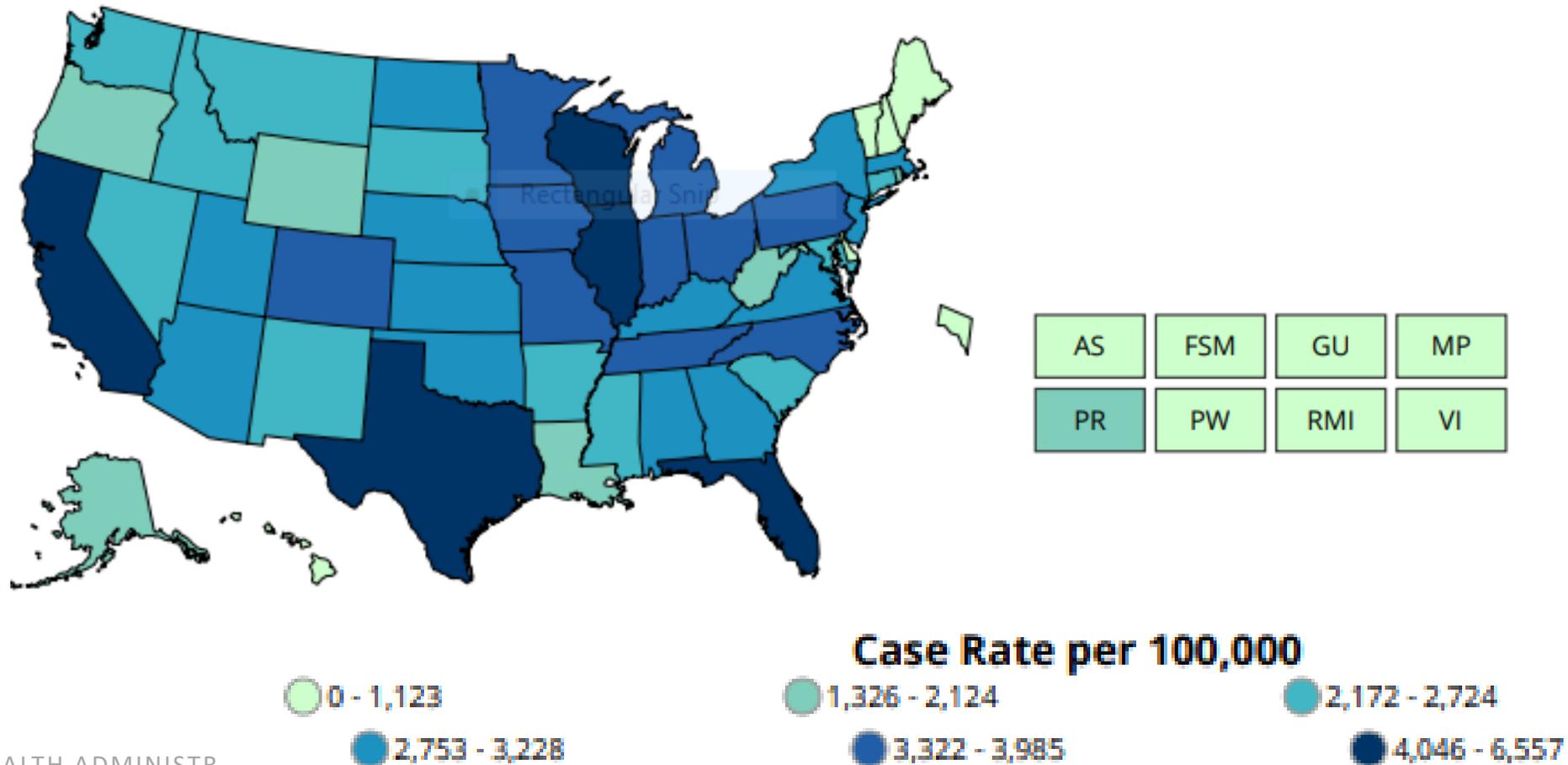
GPD Announcements

- Due to unforeseen circumstances Blackbaud Grantmaking (GIFTS) system that your agency used to submit requirements and apply for your current award will no longer be accessible soon
- Save copies of your grant application
- We do have a new grants management system that we will be onboarding over the next month

Office of Business Oversight

- **Federal Contractors**
- **Upcoming Fiscal Reviews:**
 - **The Healing Place** - Louisville, KY - November 17-19, 2020
 - **US Veterans Initiative California** - Long Beach, CA - December 1-3, 2020
 - **LA Family Housing** - North Hollywood, CA - December 7-11, 2020
 - **Barron Heights Community Development Corp.** - Memphis, TN - December 15-17, 2020
 - **St. Annes Retirement** - Diamond Bar, CA - December 15-17, 2020
 - **Presbyterian Night Shelter** - Fort Worth, TX - January 5-7, 2021
 - **Washington State Department of Veteran Affairs** - Olympia, WA - January 5-7, 2021
 - **The Poverello Center, Inc.** - Missoula, MT - January 12-14, 2021
- **CAARES ACT Oversight**

CDC COVID-19 Data Tracker Map



Trends in Number of COVID-19 Cases and Deaths in the US Reported to CDC, by State/Territory

Reported to the CDC by State or Territory

Select a state or territory:

United States

View:

Cases

Deaths

Metric:

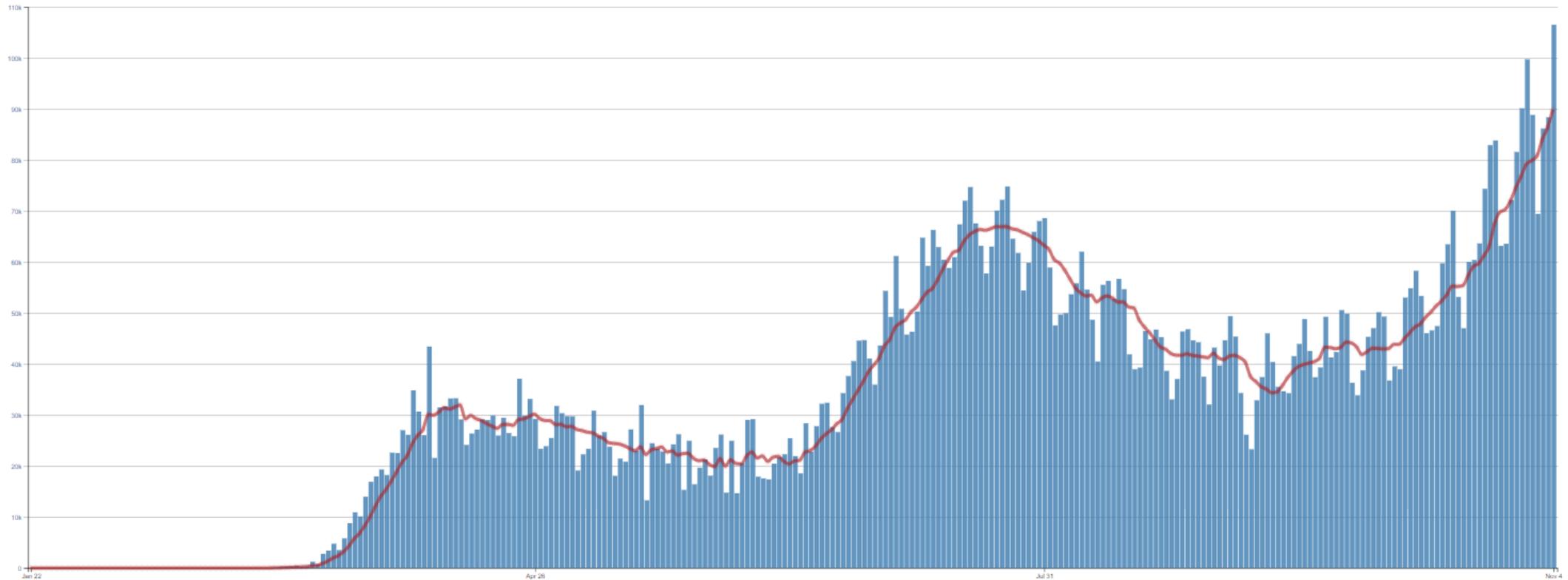
Daily trends

Total and rate

Show:

7-Day moving average

Daily Trends in Number of COVID-19 Cases in the United States Reported to CDC



COVID-19: Holiday Celebrations

Per the CDC guidance on [holiday celebrations](#) there are seven factors that contribute to the risk of getting infected or infecting others with the SARS-CoV-2 virus at holiday celebrations and should be considered when planning to attend holiday events:

- 1) Community levels of COVID-19-** higher levels of COVID-19 cases and community spread in the gathering location, as well as where attendees are coming from, increase the risk of infection and spread among attendees;
- 2) Location of the gathering-** indoor gatherings generally pose more risk than outdoor gatherings;
- 3) Duration of the gathering-** gatherings that last longer pose greater risk than shorter gatherings;
- 4) The number of people at the gathering-** gatherings with more people pose more risk than gatherings with fewer people;

COVID-19: Holiday Celebrations

- 5) Locations attendees are traveling from-** gatherings with attendees who are traveling from different places pose a higher risk than gatherings with attendees who live in the same area;
- 6) Behaviors of attendees prior to the gathering-** gatherings with attendees who are not adhering to social distancing, mask wearing, hand washing, and other prevention behaviors pose more risk; and
- 7) Behaviors of attendees during the gathering-** gatherings with more preventive measure in place (i.e. mask wearing, social distancing, hand washing) pose less risk than gatherings where fewer or no preventive measures are being implemented.

COVID-19: Holiday Celebrations

People with or exposed to COVID-19 and those at increased risk for severe illness (e.g. older adults, people with certain medical conditions such as cancer, CKD, COPD, type 2 diabetes, etc.) should not attend in-person holiday celebrations. Veterans and staff should consider the above guidance when making decisions about attending holiday gatherings. After the celebration, if a Veteran participated in a higher risk activity or think they may have been exposed during a celebration, the programs should take extra precautions for 14 days after the event for the safety of others by using the [Options for Social Isolation Under the COVID-19 National Emergency: Guidance for GPD, HCHV CRS, and SSVF](#). Facilities should continue to screen all persons entering the building including Veterans and frontline homeless program staff for fever and COVID-19 symptoms.

GPD Program Office Announcements and Updates: COVID-19 Update

- Reminder of various resource documents available on GPD provider website
 - [Wellness & Symptom Checks for COVID-19 Positive & Presumptive Positive Veterans In Hotels and Motels](#)
 - [GPD Isolation Options](#)
 - [GPD CARES Act Implementation Guidance](#)
 - Links to Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidance
- Be sure to coordinate with local health departments, VA Medical centers regarding testing
- Grantees expected to follow CDC guidance and comply with local public health guidelines regarding quarantine and safety protocols associated with COVID-19
- Grantees may include the cost of testing asymptomatic staff who have direct contact with GPD Veterans as part of their allowable program costs



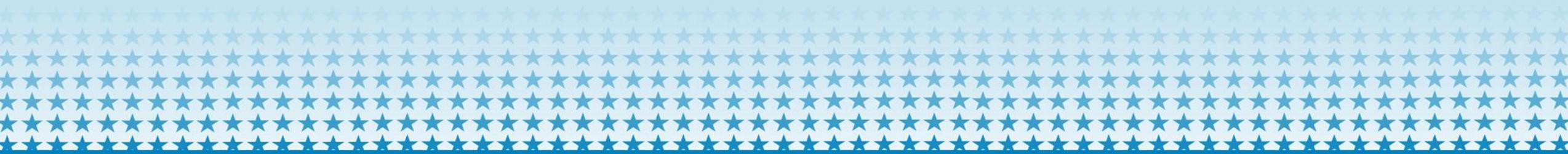
Shawn Liu is a Community Engagement Coordinator with the VHA National Homeless Programs Office. As a member of the Office of Community Engagement, he develops, strengthens, and maintains a network of resources through strong partnerships and communications to enhance efforts to prevent and end homelessness among Veterans and their families.

He also supports the development and implementation of policies, plans, guidelines, and proposals for a variety of VA homeless programs and initiatives including integrating homeless programs into VA's nationwide suicide prevention efforts; integrating local VA's into their community's coordinated entry systems; identifying and disseminating strong and innovative practices across program operations; and evaluating communities seeking federal confirmation of achieving an effective end to Veteran homelessness. This summer marked Shawn's 12th year working with VA.

Shawn holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology degree, from Florida International University, a Master of Social Work degree from Florida State University and is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with the State of Florida.

VHA Homeless Programs Office

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMUNICATIONS PRODUCTS



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Homeless
Programs
Office

Community Engagement Communications Products

- The VHA Homeless Program Office's (HPO) Office of Community Engagement and VA's Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs disseminates information on VA's homeless programs through a variety of communications venues.
 - Veterans Experiencing Homelessness: <https://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/>
 - Promising Practices: <https://www.va.gov/homeless/promising-practices.asp>
 - Homeless Programs Office Monthly Newsletter: https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USVHA/subscriber/new?qsp=USVHA_103
 - VAntage Point Blog: <https://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/>



HPO's Monthly Newsletter via GovDelivery

- HPO uses GovDelivery to distribute monthly newsletters and important email updates.
- The primary objective is to share information about HPO programs with Veterans, grantees, community partners, other stakeholders, and the general public.
- Using this tool allows HPO to:
 - Send targeted email blasts and curated content to subscribers
 - Direct traffic to the Homelessness website, HPO program-specific sites and webpages, VAantage Point and other online locations with our content
 - Increase key audiences' awareness of program updates
- HPO currently distributes content to more than 21,000 subscribers.



Signing Up for HPO's Monthly Newsletter and Submitting Content

- Sign-up for HPO updates through GovDelivery and follow [this link](#) to subscribe.
- Share this link with your staff so that they can stay updated as well.
- If you have ideas or requests for newsletter content, please send your feedback to Shawn.Liu@va.gov.



The screenshot shows the top portion of a newsletter. At the top left is the VHA Homeless Programs Office logo, which includes the Department of Veterans Affairs seal and the text 'VHA Homeless Programs Office'. To the right of the logo, the date 'September 2020' is displayed. Below the header is a section titled 'Message from Monica Diaz, Executive Director, VHA Homeless Programs Office'. To the left of the text is a portrait of Monica Diaz, a woman with dark hair wearing a dark blazer over a patterned top, standing in front of an American flag and a blue flag with yellow stars. The text of the message discusses Suicide Prevention Month, the risks of homelessness, and a recent funding award of \$1.3 million to the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program.

VHA Homeless Programs Office

September 2020

Message from Monica Diaz, Executive Director, VHA Homeless Programs Office

September is Suicide Prevention Month, an important time to highlight available resources for Veterans in distress. Homelessness is a primary risk factor for suicide among Veterans. Veterans within 30 days of eviction or the onset of homelessness are at elevated risk of suicide. The VA [Homeless Programs Office](#) (HPO) works to ensure that Veterans have access to the resources they need to become or remain stably housed.

Recently, the [VA Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention](#) (OMHSP) awarded \$1.3 million to HPO's [Supportive Services for Veteran Families \(SSVF\) Program](#) to increase suicide prevention services for Veterans experiencing or at risk of homelessness. The funding allows the SSVF program to provide supportive services, including rapid rehousing and homelessness prevention services, to Veterans who are identified as being at elevated risk of suicide.



VAntage Point Blog and Good News Stories

- VAntage Point is VA's official blog and is an excellent way to highlight good news stories.
 - <https://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/>
- Though VAntage Point has a diverse audience, the primary focus for each blog tells the VA story through a Veteran-centric lens.
- If you have a good news story you wish to share about a Veteran, email Shawn.Liu@va.gov.

Veteran finds dream home through HUD-VASH voucher

VA's HUD-VASH and Geriatrics and Extended Care programs partner to address the increasing needs of aging homeless Veterans and the need for permanent and sustainable housing, access to high-quality health care and supportive services



In 2017, Army Veteran Laddie McMillan faced declining health and housing instability. He entered the Veterans Restoration Quarters after losing his home, then later obtained housing with the assistance of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development-VA Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) program.

Through VA's collaboration with HUD, eligible Veterans receive HUD-VASH vouchers to make market rate housing affordable. They also receive wraparound supportive services, such as case management, financial literacy training, healthcare, and other





Leisa Davis provides project management support for a variety of critical activities and partnerships such as the SQUARES Veteran eligibility database^[1], Veterans School at Work (VSAW) through Catalyst Learning, Bombas, Veterans United Home Loan, and the Strategic Decision and Coordination Team (SDCT). Ms. Davis is also the Alternate Designated Federal Officer for Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans (ACHV).

She has 30 years of federal service and Master Degree in Business Administration and certifications in Lean Six Sigma, Federal Acquisition for Program and Project Managers, Accounting, Financial/Performance Management. and Webmaster; and is a Part Time Community College Instructor.

^[1] SQUARES is a VA web application that provides external homeless service organizations with reliable, detailed information about Veteran eligibility. Users submit identity attributes for homeless individuals (name, DOB, SSN, gender), and SQUARES returns information regarding their Veteran status and eligibility for homeless programs. The tool facilitates quick and simple access to care for homeless and at-risk Veterans. More information at <https://www.va.gov/homeless/squares/index.asp>.



Overview

Presented By
Leisa Davis, SQUARES Administrator
November 10, 2020

Agenda



- Overview
- Getting Started with SQUARES
- Request for Technical Assistance
- Request for UAT Volunteers
- Questions and Answers



SQUARES Overview

SQUARES is a VA web application that provides external homeless service organizations with reliable, detailed information about Veteran eligibility.

Users submit identity attributes for homeless individuals (name, DOB, SSN, gender), and SQUARES returns information regarding their Veteran status and eligibility for homeless programs.

The tool facilitates quick and simple access to care for homeless and at-risk Veterans.

SQUARES Resources Page: <http://www.va.gov/homeless/squares>



SQUARES Users/Managers Getting Started with SQUARES

STEP 1:



TRAINING

Complete
[Online SQUARES Training](#), prior to requesting access to SQUARES

STEP 2:



RESOURCES

Download
[Instructions on How to Open a New Account for NonVA Users](#)

Part 1: Request Account
Part 2: Access Account

STEP 3:



ACCESS

Type SQUARES Website in the Chrome Browser
my.va.gov/squares
Avoid bookmarking site
Avoid using Internet Explorer

Designated SQUARES Managers are required to have an active SQUARES account, so Standard Users' access requests can be routed to them for review/approval.

SQUARES Managers

SQUARES requires all organizations to register for access and designate someone to be the SQUARES Manager, who will be responsible for reviewing/approving Standard Users (within their organization) when access requests are automatically routed to them. GPD Grantees are required to post the name of their designated SQUARES Manager in GIFTS.

[SQUARES Managers Guide](#) provides information on how to review and approve access requests.

Please encourage all new users to complete [Online SQUARES Training](#) (before applying for access)

Remind them to use Chrome as their browser and avoid bookmarking site.

Please provide all new users with the following information (before they apply for access) so their requests can be automatically routed to you for review/approval:

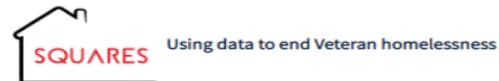
Org	City	State	Homeless Program (GPD, SSVF, Other)	VAMC	CoC
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Please delete Standard Users who are not part of your organization from your approval queue and when you receive notification that Standard Users are departing your organization.

SQUARES

 [Home](#) [Bulk Veteran Search](#) [Users](#) [Approvals](#) [Internal User Request](#) [Help Desk](#) [Squares Cases](#)

Ask a question... 



Single Veteran Search

Enter as many fields as possible. Searches without SSN and last name are very unlikely to be successful. For individuals with very common names, searches will almost always fail without SSN.

First Name	SSN	Gender
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Last Name	Date of Birth	
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	

Search

FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	SSN	GENDER	VETERAN ELIGIBILITY STATUS	CHARACTER OF DISCHARGE	DISCH
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Sample for illustration purposes only

Friendly Reminders

Type my.va.gov/squares in the Chrome Browser

Avoid bookmarking site and Avoid using Internet Explorer

SQUARES – Single Search

Single Veteran Search

First Name: SSN: Gender:

Last Name: Date of Birth:

FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	SSN	GENDER	VETERAN ELIGIBILITY STATUS	CHARACTER OF DISCHARGE	DISCHARGE YEAR
Sarah	VETERANTWO	01/06/1985	***-**-4445	F	3-VHA Ineligible; SSVF/GPD Eligible	Bad Conduct Discharge	2012

Sample for illustration purposes only

Users submit identity attributes for homeless individuals (Name, DOB, Full SSN, Gender) and SQUARES returns information regarding their Veteran status/eligibility for homeless programs. (Resource: [Single Search Guide](#))

SQUARES – Bulk Search

Bulk Veteran Search

Label (*Required)

Label your search so you can easily find it among your recent searches. You might label it, for example, 'shelter inventory 10/22.' No one else but you will see this label.

[Next](#) [Cancel](#)

Bulk searches may be submitted as .xlsx or .csv files. (SQUARES does not accept .xls files.)

You can input data using this [template](#); or simply ensure the columns in your spreadsheet are labeled "First Name," "Last Name," "Date of Birth," "SSN," and "Gender." If you submit column names that differ slightly from these, SQUARES will try to match your spreadsheet to the intended header names. If any columns cannot be matched, SQUARES will perform your search using only the matched variables. You will see in the Submitted Fields area of the results file which data SQUARES was able to understand.

Warning: Bulk Veteran Search may not work correctly in Internet Explorer. If you experience issues, try another web browser.

All bulk searches you submitted in the last 24 hours are listed below. Searches are deleted after 24 hours, so be sure to save any results you need on your local device.

SEARCH #	LABEL	SEARCH DATE/TIME	STATUS
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Sample for illustration purposes only

Users submit identity attributes for homeless individuals (Name, DOB, Full SSN, Gender) for various Veterans by uploading a template and SQUARES will return Veterans status/eligibility for homeless programs (within 24 hours).

(Resource: [Bulk Search Guide](#))

Results will last for 24 hours

SQUARES Quick Reference Guide



SQUARES: Quick Reference Guide Veteran Eligibility Statuses and Description Table

Description	What it means for SSVF/GPD	What it means for VA health care/ HUD-VASH
1-VHA Eligible: Eligible for SSVF/GPD and VA health care.	Eligible	Eligible
2-VHA Unknown: Eligible for SSVF/GPD, but eligibility for VA health care is undetermined. Veteran should apply to determine VA health care eligibility.	Eligible	Apply to determine eligibility
3-VHA Ineligible; SSVF/GPD Eligible: Veteran is eligible for SSVF/GPD, but ineligible for VA health care. VA health care ineligibility can take two distinct forms: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> This Veteran was found ineligible for VA health care due to time in service or character of discharge, and will remain ineligible barring a correction to their military record. This Veteran is currently not eligible for health care enrollment because he/she does not fall into one of VA's priority groups – usually, this means the Veteran is neither low-income nor disabled. The Veteran may be found eligible upon reapplying, if income or disability rating has recently changed. You are encouraged to double check the Veteran's current VA health care eligibility, given the possibility for changes.	Eligible	Ineligible

The Veteran Eligibility Status search results correspond with the [Quick Resource Guide \(Veteran Eligibility Statuses and Description Table\)](#)

Request for Technical Assistance (Data Discrepancies)

Data Discrepancies

Please do not include personal identifiable information when you submit the [Help Desk Form](#). Include the following information:

- Briefly describe the issue (**without including personal information**)
- Provide error message based on [Veteran Eligibility Statuses Description Table](#)
- State (yes/no) if you have a copy of the DD214 (please do not upload)
- Your Contact Information (name, email, organization)

If you have eligibility questions, **send an encrypted email** to SQUARESAdmin@va.gov

If you do not have encryption software, please contact SQUARESAdmin@va.gov

Please do not include Veterans' personal identifiable information in the email.

Acceptable Documentation to Prove Veterans' Status

Listed below is a list of other documents that could be used to prove Veteran's status::

- Veteran's DD-214 Certificate of Release Discharge from Active Duty
- Veterans Benefits Administration's Statement of Service (SOS)
- Veterans Health Administration Identity Card
- VISTA printout from VHA Healthcare Provider
- Hospital Inquiry System (HINQS)
- Veterans Benefits Administration's Award Letter of Service-connected disability payment or non-service-connected pension
- Veterans Choice Card
- NA Form 13038 which primarily is used to replace a lost or destroyed Report of Separation. Military Personnel Records (MPR) uses this form most often when reconstructing military service data lost in the fire.
- VA Photo ID Card - starting in November 2017. The 2015 Veterans Identification Card Act orders the VA to issue a hard-copy photo ID to any honorably discharged veteran who applies

Please refer to the GPD Program Guide for additional information

Request for Technical Assistance

(Internet Protocol Error)

(Modifications to Business Email or Phone Number)

(Account Deactivations - Due to Inactivity)

Internet Protocol Error

Refer to the following items and contact SQUARESAdmin@va.gov if you are unable to access SQUARES:

- Type my.va.gov/squares in the Chrome Browser
- **Avoid using Internet Explorer**
- **Avoid bookmarking the site**

Modifications to Business Email or Phone

Contact SQUARESAdmin@va.gov (if your registered business email or phone number changes) because these items are aligned with your ID.Me Account.

Account Deactivations (Due to Inactivity of 60 Days or More)

- In order to avoid deactivations, **please log into account at least every 30 days.**
- If your account is deactivated, please forward an email to SQUARESAdmin@va.gov.
- **Please do not submit a new application.**

Request for Technical Assistance (Deactivations)

Standard User -- Account Deactivations (Due to Departure from the Organization)

If you are departing from your organization, complete the Help Desk Form (at least 72 hours, prior to the effective date) and include the following information:

- Effective Date of the Change
- Name of Organization (City/State)

SQUARES Manager -- Account Deactivations (Due to Departure from the Organization)

If you are departing from your organization, complete the Help Desk Form (at least 72 hours, prior to the effective date) and include the following information:

- Name of Organization (City/State)
- Effective Date of the Change
- Former Designated SQUARES Manager (Name, Email, and Organization)
- New Designated SQUARES Manager (Name, Email and Organization)
- Include a sentence to advise if the New Designated SQUARES Manager an active user or will be applying for new access

Resources At-A-Glance

Brief Description	SQUARES is a Web-based tool that allows VA employees, VA Homeless Program Grantees associated with Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF), Grant and Per Diem (GPD), and Contract Emergency Residential Services (CERS) and others to quickly determine Veterans' eligibility for homeless programs by entering identity attributes (name, date of birth, social security number, and gender) into the system using the single or bulk search features.
Online Training	Complete SQUARES Online Training prior to requesting access
External Users Guide	External User Guide Part 1: Request Your SQUARES Account Part 2: Access Your SQUARES Account (Type my.va.gov/squares in the Chrome Browser) (Please do not use Internet Explorer) (Please do not bookmark the site but login to my.va.gov/squares with each session).
Resource Guides	Manager's Guide Bulk Search Guide Single Search Guide Eligibility Table
SQUARES Help Desk	Help Desk Form

Volunteers for User Acceptance Tests (UAT)

What is User Acceptance Test (UAT)?

- UAT is the last phase of software testing, before the final release of the software. The goal of UAT is to assess if the system can support day-to-day business and user scenarios and ensure the system is sufficient for the new enhancements. UAT is conducted by SQUARES Managers and Standard Users, who test scenarios and record (pass/fail) that they discover during testing.

What is the time commitment?

- 1 ½ hour Kickoff Meeting (Next Meeting: Dec 8; 1:00-2:30pm EST)
- 1 hour to complete/record results (anytime on Dec 9; before 4:00pm EST)
- Technical Assistance is provided before/during the test

Forward the following information to SQUARESAdmin@va.gov by **November 16, 2020**

- Name/Email/Organization (City/State)
- Application Role: Standard User or SQUARES Manager

Questions

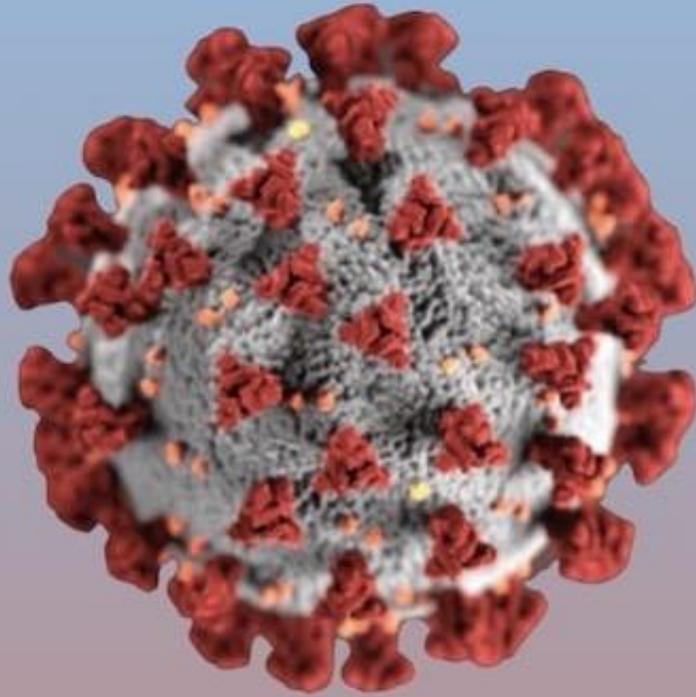


Leisa Davis
SQUARES Administrator
Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration/Homeless Program Office
Leisa.Davis@va.gov



Question and Answer Period

- Questions should be submitted through the chat box
- Please do not unmute yourself
- There will be topic areas to focus questions
- Keep questions focused items that may interest other participants



Coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 COVID-19

This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA-NC](#)

Question Area - COVID -19

Questions in this section should be focused on COVID-19 planning and response



Question Area - Current Funding

- What questions do you have about current funding?



Question Area - Future Funding Opportunities

- Case Management grant
- Capital grant
- Special Need





Question Area - Potpourri

Anything else we can answer for you about GPD?

News You Can Use

Helpful Info

Great Advice

Need to Know

Reminders

- Next webinar December 8, 2020 @ 2pm eastern
- GPD Provider website
https://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/GPD_ProviderWebsite.asp
 - COVID 19 resource info
 - Opioid Overdose Education and Naloxone Distribution