Grant and Per Diem Operational Call

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July 9, 2019 at 2pm Eastern/11am Pacific

Visuals: http://va-eerc-ees.adobeconnect.com/gpdbh/
Audio: 1-800-767-1750 Code: 17663
Agenda

1. Announcements
2. Office of Business Oversight
3. Continuous Improvement/Quality Assurance: Quarterly Performance Reviews as a Proactive Tool
5. Homeless Data Collection Systems: HMIS & HOMES
6. Questions and Answers/Dialogue
Announcement: National GPD Grantee Call Schedule

• **August 13th:** Cancelled

• **September**
  – Tuesday, September 10th at 2pm Eastern/11am Pacific
  • Preparing for the New Grant Year/Option Year and Case Management Program Roll Out

• **October/November**
  – GPD and SSVF Coordination
  – Opportunity to Provide Feedback on Future Grantee Call Topics
VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

Announcements: Option Year Funding FY20 Process

Step 1:
Requirement in GIFTS due by April 15.

Step 2:
Reviewed & Determinations made April/May.

Step 3:
Grant agreements sent & Due June 10th to GPD PO.

Step 4:
Signed agreements sent for VA signature.

Step 5:
Final copy sent to grantees in Fall.

Note: Withdraws and grants not recommended for renewal received further instructions via email on information needed as well as close out procedures.
Just Released! Updated Federal Criteria & Benchmarks

What’s New?
• GPD Quick Guide
  – Page 11
• GPD in 2 groups:
  – Service
  – Bridge
• Enhanced Definitions
  – Pages 13 and 14

What’s the Same?
• Overall requirements
• The process for preparing and submitting a claim
• Our commitment
  Federal Criteria and Benchmarks
Just Released! The Transformation of VA GPD Programs: Considerations for Communities

- Released on June 27, 2019
- Co-Published by USICH and VA GPD PO
- Overview of the housing models currently funded through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Grant and Per Diem (GPD) programs
- Describes the current mix of implementation of the various GPD models
- Provides some considerations for CoCs and community stakeholders as this transformation is implemented and navigated locally
- GPD Transformation: Considerations for Communities
Office of Business Oversight

• **Fourth Quarter Site Visits**
  – The Salvation Army, Las Vegas, NV – July 9-11, 2019
  – City of New York, New York, NY – July 23-25, 2019
  – The Salvation Army, Beaverton, OR – August 6-8, 2019
  – NJ Dept. of Military & Veteran Affairs, Winslow, NJ – August 27-29, 2019
  – American GI Forum, San Antonio, TX – September 10-12, 2019
  – Veterans Multi-Service Center, Philadelphia, PA – September 24-26, 2019

• **Upcoming Training**
  – Cost Principles: The purpose of this course is to provide Grantees with full awareness of the CFR references for cost principles applicable to expenses and costs for the GPD program.

• **Indirect Rate Agreements**
• **Federal Financial Reports (SF-425)**
  – Were due on 12/31/2018, please submit to: GPD425@va.gov

• **Training Item of the Month:**
  – **2 CFR 200 Subpart E, Cost Principles, 200.331(4)(d) Requirements for pass-through entities:** states, “Monitor the activities of the sub-recipient as necessary to ensure that the subaward is used for authorized purposes, in compliance with Federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of the subaward; and that subaward performance goals are achieved.”
Planning Forward: Program Strategy & Understanding Community Needs

Janine Griggs, MSW, LICSW
Clinical Program Specialist, Grant and Per Diem Program Office

Adrienne Nash Meléndez, MLD
Program Specialist, Grant and Per Diem Program Office
An end to homelessness does not mean that no one will ever experience a housing crisis again. An end to homelessness means that every community will have a systematic response in place that ensures homelessness is prevented whenever possible or is otherwise a rare, brief, and non-recurring experience.
GPD Grantee Role with Strategy

Program

GPD Grantees

CoCs and Community Partners

VAMCs & GPD Liaisons

Learning over past 2 years

Putting learning into action

System
Strategic Planning Tools

- Quarterly Reviews
- Federal Criteria and Benchmarks
- Master List/Active List/By Name List and Benchmark Generation Tool
- USICH & VA Transformation of GPD: Considerations for Communities
- HMIS and HOMES
- CoC Gaps Analysis Tool
- VA, HUD, and USICH Community Planning Survey Responses

⭐ = Topics we will cover today
Reflection Points and Opportunities for Dialogue and Planning

Where have we been?

- VA, HUD, and USICH Community Planning Survey (May 2019)
- Federal Criteria and Benchmarks Updates & GPD Transformation: Considerations for Communities (June 2019)
- National Coalition for Homeless Veterans (NCHV) Conference (End of May)
- National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH) Conference (July 2019)
- GPD Quarter 4 (July, August, September)
- Quarterly Report and Quarterly Review in October
- Start of New Grant Year (October)
- Release of Big NOFA Fall/Winter

Where are we going?
Continuous Improvement/Quality Assurance: Quarterly Performance Reviews as a Proactive Tool

- What is continuous improvement/quality assurance?
- Why is it important to GPD grantees?
- How do GPD liaisons and GPD grantees work together for continuous improvement?
- What are quarterly performance reviews?
- What has our messaging been to GPD liaisons regarding quarterly reviews?
- How can GPD grantees use quarterly performance reviews as a proactive tool to enhance their programs and their work in community?
Updates to the Criteria and Benchmarks

The criteria and benchmarks have been updated to reflect what we’ve learned over three years of reviewing and confirming communities and to ensure clearer communication of some of the expectations and intentions. The updates primarily focus on:

- Consolidating information, specifications, and clarifications to make it easier for people to review and understand all of the information holistically.

- Providing clarification on the Grant and Per-Diem (GPD) program models and how those programs, and Veterans staying with them, are considered within the criteria and benchmarks.
  - 2 Categories Now
    - Service (LD, H2H, CT, SITH): Note: They use service intensive/SITH for all.
    - Bridge (BH)
The grid summarizes the exempted groups that Veterans in a transitional status may fall within under Benchmarks A and B, noting that there are no exempted groups for calculating Benchmarks C and D:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Veterans Staying in the Following GPD Models</th>
<th>Are Considered as Staying in…</th>
<th>Under Benchmark A…</th>
<th>Under Benchmark B…</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low Demand</td>
<td>Service-Intensive Transitional Housing</td>
<td>Some of these Veterans may fall within Exempted Group 2</td>
<td>Some of these Veterans may fall within Exempted Group 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital to Housing</td>
<td>Service-Intensive Transitional Housing</td>
<td>Some of these Veterans may fall within Exempted Group 2</td>
<td>Some of these Veterans may fall within Exempted Group 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Treatment</td>
<td>Service-Intensive Transitional Housing</td>
<td>Some of these Veterans may fall within Exempted Group 2</td>
<td>Some of these Veterans may fall within Exempted Group 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service Intensive</td>
<td>Service-Intensive Transitional Housing</td>
<td>Some of these Veterans may fall within Exempted Group 2</td>
<td>Some of these Veterans may fall within Exempted Group 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridge Housing</td>
<td>Bridge Housing</td>
<td>Some of these Veterans may fall within Exempted Group 3</td>
<td>None of these Veterans fall within any Exempted Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transition in Place</td>
<td>Permanent Housing</td>
<td>None of these Veterans fall within any Exempted Group</td>
<td>None of these Veterans fall within any Exempted Group</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
USICH & VA Transformation of GPD: Considerations for Communities

- Creates common language
  - Model, Intent, Target Population, Services, Housing Placement
- Charts and Tools
  - Current Mix of GPD Models
  - Beds and Models by VISN
- How we can work together
- Next Steps: Take the lead in sharing the new document; use it as a starting point for dialogue where helpful.
Homeless Data Collection Systems: HMIS and HOMES

Lindsay Hill
Program Analyst, VA Homeless Programs
Office of Analytics and Operational Intelligence (OAOI)
A Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) is a local information technology system used to collect client-level data and data on the provision of housing and services to homeless individuals and families and persons at risk of homelessness.

Administered by HUD through the Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs (SNAPs) Office.

Comprehensive data response to HUD’s congressional mandate to report on national homelessness.*
- The HEARTH Act, enacted into law on May 20, 2009, requires that all communities have an HMIS with the capacity to collect unduplicated counts of individuals and families experiencing homelessness.
- The Act also codifies into law certain data collection requirements integral to HMIS.
- With enactment of the HEARTH Act, HMIS participation became a statutory requirement for recipients and subrecipients of CoC Program and Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) funds.

*Program funding is a barrier for some projects.
HMIS Software

• Each Continuum of Care is responsible for selecting an HMIS software solution that complies with HUD's data collection, management, and reporting standards.
  • Each CoC has an HMIS Administrator.
  • Some states have state-wide HMIS systems (for example, Delaware).

• There are many different vendors that produce software for HMIS data collection.

• HMIS data collection is not centralized on a national reporting platform.

• While all CoCs are required to have an HMIS implementation, cost can be a barrier to participation for some projects.
  • Additionally, not all programs serving homeless Veterans enter into HMIS particularly if they are not funded through HUD (ex: Faith Based Organizations).
  • VA has strongly encouraged HMIS participation for GPD and HCHV programs.
HMIS Data Standards

• HMIS data standards were developed to ensure consistent data collection across systems.

• All HMIS systems must conform to HUD’s data standards which include Universal Data Elements (UDEs) and data elements specified by the federal partners (HHS, VA, and HUD).
  • Each year HUD releases revised specifications that take effect October 1 of the following year.
  • Each HMIS administrator can work with the CoC to add data elements not included in HUD’s data manual.
  • Certain data elements are only collected for the head of household.

• Current and upcoming data standards documents can be found on the HUD Exchange here.
Each HMIS Implementation should have the ability to export data.
HMIS Implementations

• An HMIS can be used to:
  o Produce an unduplicated count of persons experiencing homelessness for each CoC.
  o Describe the extent and nature of homelessness locally, regionally, and nationally.
  o Identify patterns of service use.
  o Measure program effectiveness.
The Homeless Operations Management and Evaluation System (HOMES) is VA's primary platform for collecting intake, progress, and outcome information for homeless Veterans as they move through VA's system of care.

- Programs included: Residential Treatment Programs (DCHV, CWT/TR, GPD, HCHV), HUD-VASH, HCHV Case Management, and Veteran's Justice Programs.

Data collection is centralized on a national platform that is administered by VHA HPO Clinical Operations.

- Data is collected at the VA Medical Center (VAMC) level.

Documentation in HOMES is the responsibility of VA Staff.

- Non-VA staff cannot access HOMES.
- GPD Liaisons are responsible for data entry into HOMES.
  - GPD Liaisons work with the GPD Providers to ensure accurate data collection.

VA uses this system to track program performance outcomes (ex: permanent housing placements).
General HOMES Process Flow

Assessment Form → Entry Forms → Housing Progress Forms (VASH only) → Exit Forms → Housing & Employment Tracker

The HET is the only data that can be updated outside the normal process.
General HMIS Process Flow

**Assessment/Initial Contact/CE**
- Different for each community.
- No standard assessment across communities.

**Project Entries**
- Creation of Client Record
- Client Location
- Entry Date
- Living Situation and Special Needs

**Service Tracking**
- CM Services
- Connection to Benefits
- Financial Services
- Move-In Dates

**Project Exits**
- Exit Date
- Housing Status

Some data elements are updated throughout the process (entry, update, exit, annually).
Key Differences Between HMIS and HOMES

• VA has worked to align HOMES system data collection with the [HMIS data standards](#) and universal data elements (UDEs).
  • HOMES and HMIS are mostly consistent across UDEs.
• Key differences:
  • Project setup
  • HMIS collects information on the entire household; although some data elements are only collected for the Head of Household.
  • Disabling Condition (Assessment vs. Entry)
  • Living Situation (Assessment vs. Entry)
    • Length of time in an institutional setting prior to entry.
    • Length of time in PH prior to entry.
    • Includes approximate date homelessness began.
  • Determination of chronic homeless (Assessment vs. Entry)
  • Income and Benefits.
Key Differences (continued):

- Domestic Violence
- VAMC station capture
- Meta-data elements
  - IDs are not universal across HMIS implementations.
- Data collection points

Terminology

- HMIS and HOMES define a HUD-VASH entry differently.
  - HOMES = point of entry into case management services.
  - HMIS = point of move-in to HUD-VASH housing.
Recommendations

- Communication with HMIS system admins and program leads is essential to ensure data is being used correctly.
  - It is important to translate between CoC and VA language.

- Key questions to consider:
  - How is a program entry defined?
  - How often is each data element collected?
    - This will vary and may not completely align with HOMES.
  - How does the community intend to use this data?
    - What are their business rules?
  - What does a program exit look like and how are exit destinations defined?
  - What additional context is needed to ensure we are on the same page with our data?
National GPD Operational Grantee Call

- CANCELLED-August 13th Call
- Next Call-Tuesday, September 10th at 2pm Eastern/11am Pacific

• GPD Questions?
  - 1. Contact your GPD Liaison
  - 2. If you need additional assistance, please email us at gpdgrants@va.gov