Grant and Per Diem Operational Webinar

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National Director, GPD

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Deputy Director, GPD

Tuesday, December 8, 2020 at 2pm Eastern/11am Pacific

Recording:
https://veteransaffairs.webex.com/veteransaffairs/ldr.php?RCID=88e5d2ead6c408c069ecf4e2311f966b
Password: Homelessprogram1!
GPD Operational Call Agenda

• Announcements

• Office of Business Oversight (OBO)

• Guest Presentations
  • HUD VASH
    • Q & A
  • COVID-19 Testing Protocols for GPD and HCHV CRS
    • Q & A
GPD Announcements

- Blackbaud Grantmaking (GIFTS) system that your agency used to submit requirements and apply for your current award is no longer be accessible
- New grants management system, Smartsimple that will be installed over the next month
Announcements – Per Diem Rate Requests

- During the transition period from GIFTS to SmartSimple, grantees should email Per Diem Rate Request worksheets to GPDFiscal@va.gov.
- Grantees can disregard the “Transmit Worksheet” instructions regarding completing a requirement. You will only need to email the per diem worksheet and IDCR if applicable.
- Please include in the Subject line of the email “Per Diem Rate Request”.
- Once SmartSimple is up and running, our office will provide further guidance on how to submit rate requests.
- The Per Diem Worksheet can be found at: https://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/GPD_ProviderRate.asp.
GPD Announcements

- Case Management Renewal NOFA – Anticipate announcement this month
  - Only open to existing grantees
  - Simple renewal application process planned
- Special Need and possible Capital grant NOFA planning
Office of Business Oversight

• Upcoming Fiscal Reviews:
  – Barron Heights Community Development Corp. - 1385 Lamar Ave Memphis, TN 38104-4841 December 15-17, 2020
  – St. Annes Retirement - 1142 S Diamond Bar Blvd, Diamond Bar, CA 91765 December 15-17, 2020
  – Washington State Department of Veteran Affairs - 1102 Qunice ST SE Olympia, WA 98504-11550 January 5-7, 2021
  – Vietnam and All Veterans of Brevard, Inc. - 700 E. Fee Avenue Melbourne, FL 32901 January 19-21, 2021
  – LA Family Housing - 7843 Lankershim Blvd, North Hollywood, CA 91605 January 19-21
  – The Poverello Center, Inc. - 1110 W. Broadway Street Missoula, MT 59802-3918 February 2-4, 2021

• CAARES ACT Oversight
• SF-425’s
• Training Item of the Month:
  – Office of Management and Budget (OMB) SF-425 Federal Financial Report Instructions, Page 3, states, "Annual reports shall be submitted no later than 90 days after the end of each reporting period."
HUD-VASH COVID-19 PANDEMIC RESPONSE AND PROGRAM COLLABORATION

MEGHAN C. DEAL, LICSW, ACTING NATIONAL DIRECTOR, HUD-VASH PROGRAM OFFICE

TRACY EMMANUEL, ACTING HUD-VASH REGIONAL COORDINATOR, HUD-VASH PROGRAM OFFICE
COVID-19 Impacts

- Decreased capacity for face-to-face contact
- Partner agency closures
- Public Housing Authority (PHA) closures and delays
HUD-VASH ENTRIES, REFERRALS, ISSUANCES, AND MOVE-INS FY 2020
COVID-19 Mitigation Strategies: PHA Flexibilities and Waivers

- The CARES Act provided new flexibilities and waiver authorities to PHAs in response to COVID-19, which were initially released on 4/10/2020 in Notice PIH 2020-05 and were subsequently updated in Notice PIH 2020-13 (HA), REV-1.

- The HUD-VASH Program Office has strongly encouraged facilities to partner with local PHAs to implement these waiver authorities when helpful in serving HUD-VASH Veterans.
COVID-19 Mitigation Strategies: Telehealth Expansion

- The COVID-19 Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act requires VA to ensure that telehealth capabilities are available during a public health emergency for case managers of, and homeless Veterans participating in, HUD-VASH.

- Initial implementation efforts focused on collaborative work with VA's Office of Connected Care (OCC) and other partners to ensure HUD-VASH case managers and Veterans have the equipment necessary to participate in telehealth.
COVID-19 Mitigation Strategies: Leverage Available Resources

- **SSVF Assistance for Veterans Participating in HUD-VASH 10N Memo** dated May 19, 2020 allows SSVF grantees to provide housing search assistance, housing placements, security deposits, and rental assistance for Veterans in HUD-VASH.

- **HUD-VASH Admissions During COVID-19 Response 10N Memo** states that every Veteran in temporary accommodations due to COVID should be considered for HUD-VASH.
COVID-19 Mitigation Strategies: Leverage Available Resources

- Voucher Utilization Expansion Efforts:
  - Focused on serving Veterans who are eligible for, and would benefit from, HUD-VASH but have lower case management needs than those traditionally served by the program.
  
  - Case management services are provided by HUD-VASH partners and may include assessment, referral, and ongoing case management services.
  
  - Pilots established to date partner with:
    - SSVF grantees
    - GPD case management grantees
    - HCHV/CRRC
Collaboration Opportunities: HUD-VASH & GPD Pilots

• Pilot participation requires strong collaboration and coordination between the partners:
  • MOU/MOA or Service Coordination Agreement
  • Plan for transitioning case management between programs when needed
  • Homeless Program Office Review, Concurrence, and Support

• Pilots with GPD case management grantees
  • HUD-VASH and GPD are working with local sites who have identified both a need and ability to engage in creative thinking around serving Veterans with HUD-VASH vouchers.
Collaboration Opportunities: Quarantine Facilities

• GPD Veterans placed in hotels/motels or other quarantine facilities in response to COVID-19, *but without a current permanent housing plan*, may be appropriate for HUD-VASH

• Dependent on local resource availability and prioritization processes
Collaboration Opportunities: Bridge Housing

- Veterans who have been accepted to HUD-VASH
- Community engagement to understand how to assess and direct Veterans toward bridge beds while assessing for HUD-VASH
Communication is Key!

• Every community is different

• Clear communication is required with internal and external stakeholders:
  • What GPD beds and models are available?
  • What is the local availability of HUD-VASH vouchers?
  • Other relevant community factors?
Question and Answer Period

• Questions should be submitted through the chat box
• Please do not unmute yourself
• Keep questions focused on items that may interest other participants
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
SARS-CoV-2 Testing Protocol for Veterans in VHA Homeless Program: Grant and Per Diem (GPD)

Memo Review and Expectations

Jillian Weber PhD, RN, CNL
HPACT National Program Manager
Purpose of the Memo

• Homeless and formerly homeless Veterans are uniquely vulnerable to COVID-19
  – Living conditions, advanced average age, and high rate of chronic health problems

• CDC research indicates there can be high rates of asymptomatic carriers in congregate settings and once an individual tests positive the rate of actual infection among residents is much higher
Purpose of the Memo

• The VA supports expansion of testing to Veterans who are asymptomatic and request testing per the VHA memo COVID-19 Updated Guidance on Testing for Veterans and Employees released May 14, 2020

• Therefore, this memo was developed to ensure that eligible Veterans in GPD and HCHV CRS programs receive viral testing to allow for early identification of COVID-19 cases and mitigate disease outbreaks in these congregate settings
Planning Prior to Testing

• GPD sites are required to plan prior to any testing to ensure housing options have been identified to mitigate any gaps in housing and resources

• Work closely with local and state health departments to ensure all non-eligible Veterans and frontline staff are also tested
  – GPD: Grantees are permitted to include in their per diem budget costs associated fees with acquiring COVID-19 testing for Veterans in the program
Planning Prior to Testing

- Processes should be in place at GPD sites for screening all persons entering the building including Veterans and frontline homeless program staff for fever and other COVID-19 symptoms according to facility screening protocols.
  - Remain diligent with screening protocols to mitigate risk
Viral Testing at Admission

• Eligible Veterans newly admitted to GPD should be tested for SARS-CoV-2 by VHA unless other processes are in place (e.g. local health department testing)
• Conduct testing no more than 48 hours prior to admission unless Veteran has recovered from known SARS-CoV-2 infection and met CDC criteria for *Discontinuation of Isolation for Persons with COVID-19 Not in a Healthcare Setting*
  – Primarily follows [CDC symptom-based criteria](#)
    • At least 10 days have passed since symptom onset *and* at least 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reduction medications *and* other symptoms have improved.
    • Persons infected with SARS-CoV-2 who never develop symptoms may discontinue isolation and other precautions 10 days after the date of their first positive test.
Initial Viral Testing

- Initial viral testing (i.e. baseline/universal testing) should be conducted on Veterans already enrolled in GPD when there is substantial community transmission based on CDC criteria
  - Initial viral testing to avoid rapid spread of infection that could result in adverse effects for Veterans residing in congregate settings in communities with substantial transmission
# CDC: Community Transmission Levels

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level of Community Transmission</th>
<th>Community characteristics and description</th>
<th>Level of mitigation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Substantial, uncontrolled transmission</td>
<td>Large scale, uncontrolled community transmission, including communal settings (e.g., schools, workplaces)</td>
<td>Shelter in place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Substantial, controlled transmission</td>
<td>Large scale, controlled community transmission, including communal settings (e.g., schools, workplaces)</td>
<td>Significant mitigation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimal to moderate community transmission</td>
<td>Sustained transmission with high likelihood or confirmed exposure within communal settings and potential for rapid increase in cases</td>
<td>Moderate mitigation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No to minimal community transmission</td>
<td>Evidence of isolated cases or limited community transmission, case investigations underway; no evidence of exposure in large communal setting</td>
<td>Low mitigation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Positive Test Results

• At admission
  – Do not limit entry into GPD programs based on positive or pending test results

• Initial testing or new confirmed case at site
  – Testing all previously negative or untested Veterans should be repeated every week and continue weekly until no new cases are identified and at least 14 days have passed since most recent positive test at the site
Veteran Declines Testing

- Veteran declines testing without symptoms
  - Should not be placed in congregate setting
  - **Quarantined** for 14 days using the *Options for Social Isolation Under the COVID-19 National Emergency: Guidance for GPD, HCHV CRS, and SSVF*

- Veteran declines testing with symptoms
  - Should not be placed in congregate setting
  - **Isolated** until able to meet the CDC **symptom-based criteria** for discontinuation of isolation
    - At least 10 days have passed since symptom onset **and** at least 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reduction medications **and** other symptoms have improved
Testing Strategy

• Every VAMC should develop a testing strategy to meet all testing needs described

• VAMC homeless program staff are responsible for documenting testing information in HOMES in addition to documenting in the electronic health record per VHA memo COVID-19 Documentation in HOMES, released May 13, 2020
  – Test results
  – Who administered the test
  – If Veteran placed in hotel/motel
Additional Testing Recommendations

• Utilizing homeless program staff in coordination with VA clinical staff (e.g. HPACT) to assist with notifying site staff, Veterans, and facilities of any positive test results/potential exposures

• Coordinate initial testing at GPD sites when possible where VAMC staff come to facilities to perform SARS-CoV-2 testing rather than transporting Veterans to the local VAMC to reduce the chance of disease transmission and increase access

• Consider initial testing events on weekends to enhance access to testing

• Consider repeat testing of all Veterans enrolled in GPD if resources and staffing capacity allow
Expectations of VA

• Testing eligible Veterans at admission
• Initial testing of Veterans already enrolled in programs in communities with substantial community transmission
• Follow-up testing when positive cases identified at sites through initial testing and new cases identified
• Provide the testing supplies and testing staff
• Documenting testing in electronic health record and HOMES
Expectations of GPD Sites

• Proactive planning prior to testing
  – Ensure housing options for isolation and quarantine have been identified to mitigate any gaps in housing and related resources
  – Strongly encouraged to coordinate with local/state health departments or other health initiatives to ensure all non-eligible Veterans, non-Veteran residents, and frontline staff are also tested
  – Have processes in place for screening all persons entering the building
    • Infection control procedures: CDC guidance on cleaning and disinfecting
• Communicate with VA on testing needs and identification of positive cases
Question and Answer Period

- Questions should be submitted through the chat box
- Please do not unmute yourself
- Keep questions focused on items that may interest other participants
COVID-19 Resource Information

- 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
Reminders

- Next webinar January 12, 2021 @ 2pm eastern
- GPD Provider website
  https://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/GPD_ProviderWebsite.asp
  - COVID 19 resource info
    - CDC Guidance links