

Options for Social Isolation Under the COVID-19 National Emergency: Guidance for GPD, HCHV CRS, and GPD

The following options have been developed by the Homeless Program Office to provide official guidance regarding use of existing program authorities to support COVID-19 isolation efforts. Please note, guidance may change in this evolving situation, and updates to this guidance will be provided when received. Note, this guidance is as of **May 26, 2020**.

Grant and Per Diem

The GPD Program office is willing to work with grantees to authorize additional sites of care under their program to assist with social distancing efforts or the need to provide quarantine/isolation spaces for symptomatic or vulnerable Veterans. Please see the four options identified below under existing authorities.

Isolation Option 1: Grantee has space at existing location

- Grantee is proposing to use additional space within their current site (maybe second floor perhaps or staff room that has now been turned into isolation area).
- The site has been inspected; no email needed to the GPD Office. Grantee and liaison should maintain local records.

Isolation Option 2: Grantee does not have space at existing location

- Grantee proposes a new site that is not currently written into their grant but that their agency has access to.
- Grantee sends change of scope for expeditious review.
- Modified inspection process may be used to facilitate rapid movement of Veterans.
 - Veterans could be placed in a facility immediately for a period of up to 15 calendar days to provide the VAMC time to conduct an inspection.
 - Inspections may be conducted virtually, as applicable, using video (i.e. FaceTime, Skype, Zoom). Note that signatures from the inspector and VAMC Director are still required on the inspection package. *Note: Where inspections are performed virtually due to COVID-19, it is understood that 1) the scope of the inspection is limited due to the virtual nature and 2) the outcome may be different when facility staff does an onsite inspection.*
 - If the site was previously inspected and approved for HCHV within the last 12 months, this inspection will be accepted for temporary placement of Veterans in GPD.

Isolation Option 3: Use of another GPD facility

- Grantee does not have space, but another existing GPD grantee does and is willing to take the Veteran.
- Transfer Veteran to that location; discharge and admit to the new grantee.
- No inspection needed because site was already inspected as an existing grantee.

Isolation Option 4: Use of local motel/hotel room

- The grantee does not have space in their facility and seeks to isolate a homeless Veteran temporarily in a motel/hotel room.
- Veterans may be placed in a motel/hotel room to facilitate isolation and/or social distancing efforts in relationship to the COVID-19 public health emergency. Time-limited use of hotels/motels may occur without inspection through September 30, 2020 to facilitate rapid movement of Veterans into safe locations.
- The approval of such a plan is contingent upon the grantee having a plan to be able to check on the Veteran daily (remote contact allowed) for wellness checks, and support services as needed. In addition, a plan for meals for the Veteran must also be in place.
- Veteran in hotels be counted in the monthly census and grantees may not exceed their authorized number of beds.
- Grantee may bill at their authorized per diem rate for the bed days of care provided while in the hotel.