

GRANT & PER DIEM NATIONAL PROGRAM OPERATIONAL GRANTEE CALL

December 12, 2023

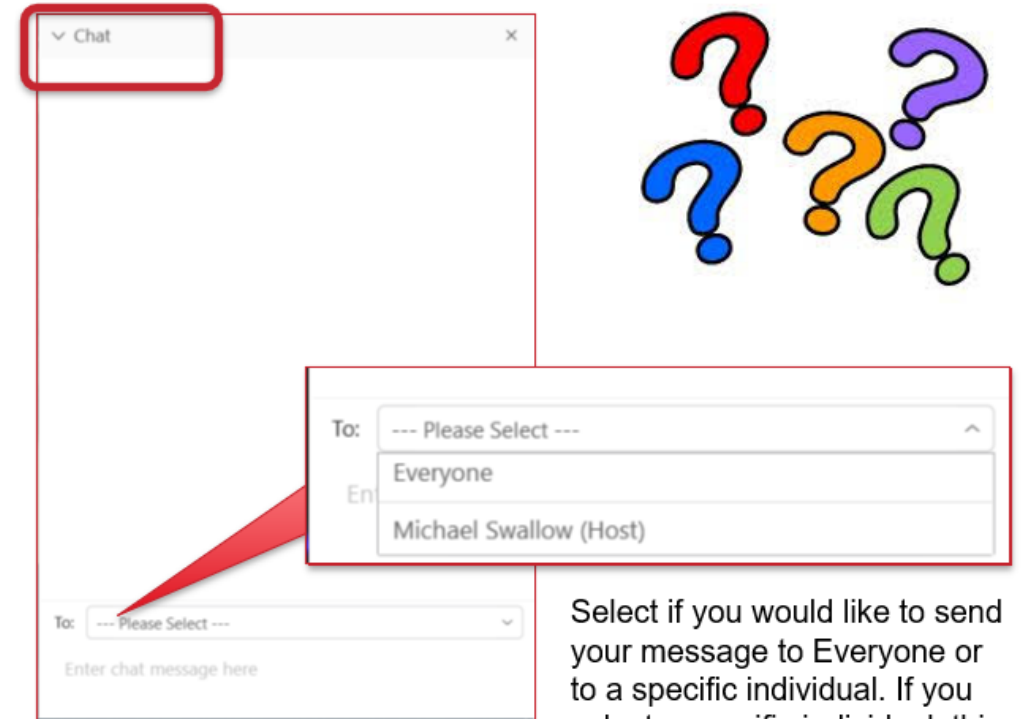
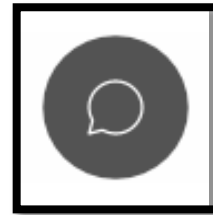
RECORDING LINK: <https://veteransaffairs.webex.com/veteransaffairs/ldr.php?RCID=c08b2462c28d9de3496b94dc07424d2f>

RECORDING PASSWORD: Homeless1!

HOUSEKEEPING

- This meeting is being recorded.
- Past recordings are available on the GPD provider website:
https://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/GPD_ProviderWebsite.asp
- The webinar will last approximately 60 minutes.
- Mics and video are disabled (but always check to make sure you're on mute).
- Questions can be submitted using the Chat function.

Select the Chat icon on the tool bar at the bottom of the screen.



Select if you would like to send your message to Everyone or to a specific individual. If you select a specific individual, this will send the message privately so no one else in the meeting will see it.

AGENDA

- **Announcements & Reminders** Chelsea Watson, National GPD Director
- **Presentations**
 - **Learning from your peers: Collaborative Discharge Planning**
 - Jessica White, PhD, LCSW, GPD Liaison G.V. (Sonny) Montgomery VA Medical Center
 - Jessica Chaney, GPD Coordinator, Pine Belt Mental Healthcare Resources
 - **New Grant Cycle Benchmarks and Myth-busting:** Erin Johnson, National GPD Deputy Director
 - **Financial Management Updates:** Nancy Hegel, Supervisory Financial Analyst
 - **Self Care and the holiday season:** Matt Kerr, LCSW Suicide Prevention Supervisor, VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Choose **VA**

VA



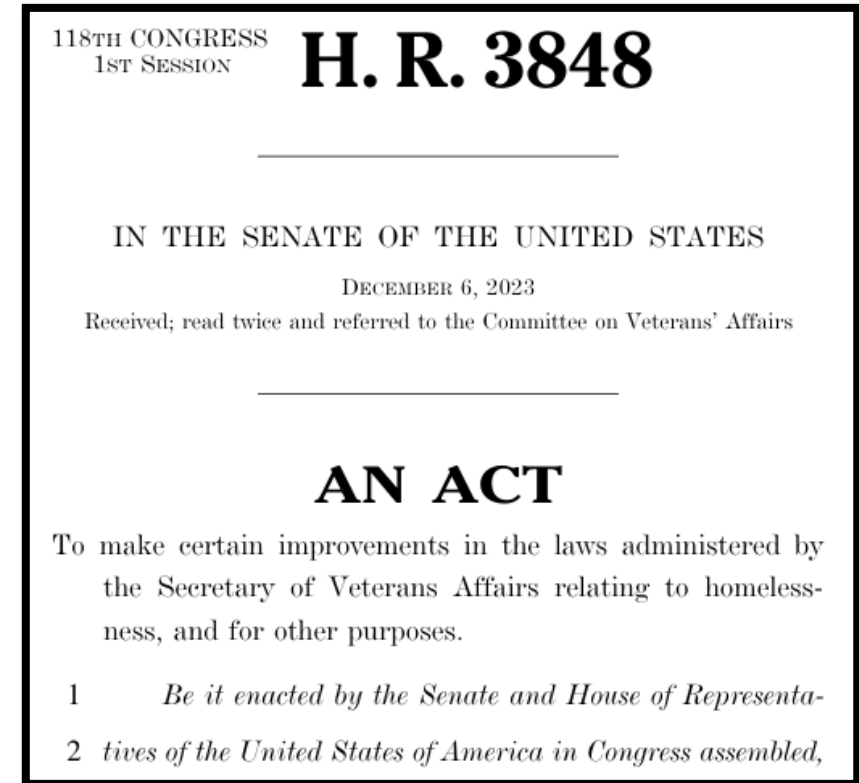
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MAXIMUM PER DIEM RATE INCREASE

- The State Home domiciliary rate increased to \$59.69
 - 115% State Home rate \$68.64 (Per Diem Only)
 - 115% State Home rate \$8.58/hour (Service Centers)
 - 150% State Home rate \$89.54 (Transition In Place)
 - 200% State Home rate \$119.38 (Special Need)
- Requests to modify a per diem rate are submitted through GPD's [electronic grants management system \(eGMS\)](#)
- Grantees **may not bill** for their newly requested per diem rate until you receive an approval notification from the GPD National Office
- Questions should be directed to GPDFiscal@va.gov

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

- [H.R. 3848](#) - Housing our Military Veterans Effectively Act of 2023 or the “HOME Act of 2023” (118th Congress)
 - Section 2 proposes a maximum per diem increase of 133%
 - Limited waivers to the max rate, subject to funding availability
 - Limiting to 12,000 beds
 - Passed in the House
 - Currently with the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs



INSPECTIONS

- Annual inspections are expected to be **complete** - including the correction of any deficiencies - by **December 31, 2023**
 - VA medical center director, or designee, signs the first page **approving placement of Veterans**
 - GPD liaison will provide a copy of the completed inspection
- New grants - projects must be activated and begin serving veterans by **March 29, 2024** (180 days)
 - Activation requires that the site pass inspection and be approved for placement of Veterans
 - Per [38 CFR 61.30\(c\)](#), “... must provide supportive housing or services to the homeless veteran population **within 180 days** after the date on the notification of award letter, **or VA will terminate** the PDO payments.”

LEARNING FROM YOUR PEERS: COLLABORATIVE DISCHARGE PLANNING

G.V. (Sonny) Montgomery VA Medical Center Jackson, Mississippi



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- Pine Belt Mental Healthcare Resources (Region XII Commission on Mental Health & Retardation)
- Two Sites: Clearview Recovery Center (52 beds) and Oak Arbor (24 beds)
- Bed Models: Clinical Treatment (12 male beds) and Bridge Housing (5 male beds)
- Clearview Recovery Center provides Clinical Treatment only and Oak Arbor provides clinical treatment and Bridge Housing



COLLABORATIVE DISCHARGE PLANNING

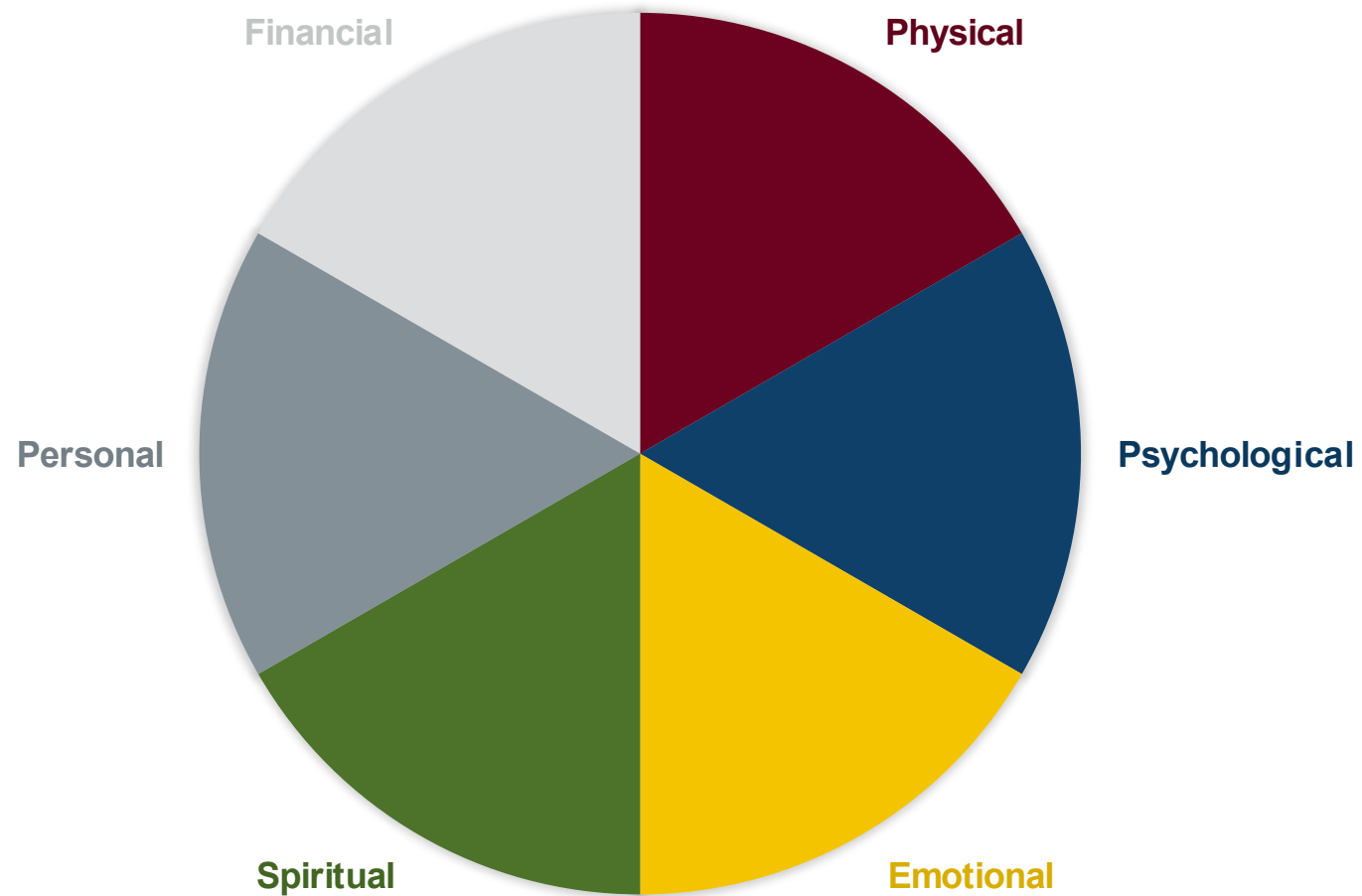
GRANTEE STAFF	GPD LIAISON
Discuss permanent housing plan upon admission and available resources	Discuss permanent housing plan during screening process and make appropriate referrals (e.g., HUD-VASH)
Veterans are offered to involve family/friends in discharge planning process. Family therapy is provided bi-monthly.	Veterans are offered to involve family/friends in discharge planning process.
Veterans are contacted within 7 days of discharge from the program for a follow-up visit.	Discharge planning group held monthly at the grantee site; VA and community resources are provided
Aftercare groups are offered weekly at Clearview Recovery Center; Veterans can attend these groups indefinitely.	Veterans who are assigned a MHTC will have at least one follow-up appointment scheduled prior to discharging from GPD
	Veterans are contacted within 7 days of discharge from the program for a follow-up visit.

LESSONS LEARNED

- Involving family/friends in the discharge planning process provides an opportunity to explore the needs of not only the Veteran, but family/friends as well.
- Discharge planning should include grantee staff and GPD liaison.
- When discharging to family/friends, it is important to clarify with Veteran and family/friends, if housing plan is a permanent or temporary tenure.



LIFE BALANCE



THANK YOU

Jessica White, PhD, LCSW

Grant and Per Diem Liaison

Email: Jessica.White78@va.gov

Phone: 601-421-4299

Jessica Chaney, GPD Coordinator

Pine Belt Mental Healthcare Resources

Email: Jessica.Chaney@pbmhr.org

Phone: 601-545-2925

WELCOME TO FY 2024: NEW GRANT CYCLE KICK-OFF CALLS

NEW FOR THE FY 2024 GRANT CYCLE

- **New for this grant cycle—operational portfolios within the national office**
 - Our national office program specialists (Angela Smittie, Janine Griggs, and Melissa Meierdierks) will be reaching out for a group “kick-off” call
 - Meetings include GPD national staff, VA VISN and VAMC teams, and grantees
 - Last about 60 minutes
 - We’ll review in a small group resources available to grantees and operating principles
 - Time to ask questions
 - **Intention is to build relationships and mentorship opportunities, foster communication, and share helpful information**
 - Keep an eye out for an invitation (likely from your liaison) and forward to others
 - Please be sure to keep your contacts in eGMS updated

NEW FOR THE FY 2024 GRANT CYCLE

- **Kick-off call early take aways—your voice matters**
 - **Great question: What is the difference between Low Demand and low-barrier?**
 - Low Demand [is a designated PDO bed model](#) for which you must have applied
 - “...a low-demand, harm-reduction model to better accommodate Veterans experiencing chronic homelessness and Veterans who were unsuccessful in traditional treatment settings...”
 - Specific performance targets and LD designated beds would appear in your grant agreement
 - An approach that is low barrier is an operating principle that mitigates service entrance delays, reduces requirement burdens on Veterans, and fosters same-day access
 - Because a low-barrier approach is a concept, it is adaptable to the needs of your program and community (unlike a codified bed model like Low Demand)

NEW FOR THE FY 2024 GRANT CYCLE

- Kick-off call early take aways—your voice matters
 - Great question: Do same-day access requirements mean I can no longer set admission criteria for my program?
 - Answer: No, GPD grantees have discretion to set admission criteria and foster healthy milieus in their programs while still operating with low-barrier approaches
 - Page 2 (“Terms related to non-Construction funding”) of the TH grant agreement stipulates
 - “The grantee must implement **a low barrier approach** to providing services to Veterans, which generally means service occurs on **the same day** from the point of identification or referral to the GPD project, or within no **more than 72 hours**, as described in the NOFO.”
 - “The [grantee] must engage in the local coordinated entry process and the by name list as appropriate.”

GIVE US YOUR HOT TAKE

Sneak peek—warm up your fingers (or thumbs), crack your knuckles, and type in the chat...

- How often would you like your GPD liaison to be on-site at your program's physical location?
 - No right or wrong answer
 - (Also, no prizes)

WELCOME TO FY 2024: NEW GRANT CYCLE BENCHMARKS AND MYTH BUSTING

NEW GRANT CYCLE BENCHMARK: LENGTHS OF STAY SNAPSHOT

- Snapshot of lengths of stay by model among Veterans **currently enrolled in GPD** (11/15/2023)
- **Myth-busting about “warehousing:”**
GPD grantees excel at that teeing Veterans up for permanent housing in under six months
- Sparks for discussion with your VA liaison:
 - How do our individual lengths of stay compare to the national average?
 - Where can we streamline (especially Bridge and TIP)?
 - What barriers are unique to our community?

Model	National Average LOS (days)	LOS target as described in GPD notice of funding or regulations
Bridge Housing	111	90 days
Clinical Treatment	168	n/a
Hospital to Housing	176	n/a
Low Demand	139	n/a
Service Intensive	184	n/a
Special Need, CMI	259	n/a
Special Need, Frail Elderly	235	n/a
Special Need, Women	154	n/a
Transition in Place	212	180 days (6 months)
All TH models in aggregate	165	38 CFR 61.1 “Supportive housing” (1) Is not shelter care... (2) Is designed to either: (i) Facilitate the movement of homeless veterans to permanent housing as soon as possible but no later than 24 months [730 days], subject to § 61.80;

NEW GRANT CYCLE BENCHMARK: LENGTHS OF STAY SNAPSHOT

- Snapshot of lengths of stay by model among Veterans **exited from GPD in FY 2024** (11/15/2023)
 - 155 days across all models nationally
 - Range of 116 days to 209 days
 - No right or wrong when it comes to deciding on care, **but these data show stays of under six months are the norm**
- Spark topics for discussion with your VA liaison:
 - Discharge planning at entrance
 - Set vision for permanent housing
 - Engagement with your community about housing needs

VISN	Avg LOS
V01	169
V02	200
V04	209
V05	171
V06	202
V07	114
V08	170
V09	121
V10	116
V12	213
V15	209
V16	127
V17	130
V19	168
V20	179
V21	151
V22	141
V23	132
National Average	155

POP QUIZ

Warm up your fingers (or thumbs), crack your knuckles, and type in the chat...

- **Nationally, what percentage of Veterans who engage with GPD are actually ineligible for VHA services?**
 - Closest without going over
 - (Still no prizes available)

NEW GRANT CYCLE: BENCHMARKS AND MYTH BUSTING

- **Veteran eligibility for GPD by the numbers**
 - **In a national sample of 21,646 Veterans engaged with GPD and seeking VHA services**
 - **Eligible: 20,090 (93%)**
 - **Ineligible: 1,556 (7%)**
 - Food for thought
 - How do these numbers fit with your perception?
 - Does this change your considerations of admitting Veterans quickly (after hours, using SQUARES, etc.)?
- **As we kick off this grant cycle, our office would like to give you tools to make informed operational decisions—more to come**

THANK YOU AND HAVE A GREAT HOLIDAY SEASON!



Choose  **VA**

VA



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FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT UPDATES

FEDERAL FINANCIAL REPORT (SF-425)

- All grantees are required to submit a [Federal Financial Report \(SF-425\)](#) documenting actual costs incurred during fiscal year (FY) 2023.
 - Reporting period is from October 1, 2022 – September 30, 2023.
 - A separate report must be submitted for each FAIN.
 - Submission of these reports is a condition of these awards and a requirement to receive Federal funding.
- SF-425's will be reviewed by VA's Office of Business Oversight (OBO).
 - **Change**: Submit the completed SF-425 **and** the supporting documentation (general ledger) to GPD425@va.gov.
 - Signatures on the SF-425 must be wet ink or a true electronic signature by an authorized representative of your organization.
- SF-425 submissions **due no later than Monday, January 30, 2024.**
 - Early submissions are encouraged.
 - GPD will issue a withholding of payments for any grant projects that have not submitted a properly completed SF-425 and general ledger by the due date.

View Burden Statement

Federal Financial Report
(Follow form instructions)

OMB Number: 4040-0014
Expiration Date: 02/28/2022

1. Federal Agency and Organizational Element to Which Report is Submitted

2. Federal Grant or Other Identifying Number Assigned by Federal Agency (To report multiple grants, use FFR Attachment)

3. Recipient Organization (Name and complete address including Zip code)

Recipient Organization Name:

Street1:

Street2:

City:

State:

County:

Province:

Country: USA: UNITED STATES

ZIP / Postal Code:

4a. DUNS Number

4b. EIN

5. Recipient Account Number or Identifying Number (To report multiple grants, use FFR Attachment)

6. Report Type

☐ Quarterly

☐ Semi-Annual

☐ Annual

☐ Final

7. Basis of Accounting

☐ Cash

☐ Accrual

8. Project/Grant Period

From:

To:

9. Reporting Period End Date

10. Transactions

(Use lines a-c for single or multiple grant reporting)

Federal Cash (To report multiple grants, also use FFR attachment):

a. Cash Receipts

b. Cash Disbursements

c. Cash on Hand (line a minus b)

(Use lines d-o for single grant reporting)

Federal Expenditures and Unobligated Balance:

d. Total Federal funds authorized

e. Federal share of expenditures

f. Federal share of unliquidated obligations

g. Total Federal share (sum of lines e and f)

h. Unobligated balance of Federal Funds (line d minus g)

Recipient Share:

i. Total recipient share required

j. Recipient share of expenditures

k. Remaining recipient share to be provided (line i minus j)

Program Income:

l. Total Federal program income earned

m. Program income expended in accordance with the deduction alternative

n. Program income expended in accordance with the addition alternative

o. Unexpended program income (line l minus line m or line n)

OFFICE OF BUSINESS OVERSIGHT

Upcoming Fiscal Reviews:

- Altamont Program, Inc. – December 11, 2023 - December 15, 2023
- Aspire Health Partners – December 11, 2023 - December 15, 2023
- Buffalo Valley, Inc. . – December 11, 2023 - December 15, 2023
- Camillus House – December 11, 2023 - December 15, 2023
- People Assisting the Homeless – January 8 - January 12, 2024
- Boley Centers, Inc. – January 8 - January 12, 2024
- Society of St. Vincent de Paul South Pinellas, Inc. – January 8 - January 12, 2024
- Catholic Services Acadiana, Inc. – January 8 - January 12, 2024
- United States Veterans Initiative, Phoenix, AZ – January 22 - January 26, 2024
- Central Iowa Shelter & Services – January 22 - January 26, 2024
- VHVH, Inc. – January 22 - January 26, 2024

How can you be audit ready:

- Keep receipts accessible and well organized
- Ensure separation of duties
- Make sure all income and expenses are assigned to the correct account
- Create, Maintain, and Follow policies and procedures

GPD Grantee Annual Training FY24 - How to Prevent Questioned Costs and Unobligated Funds – Presented by VA The Office of Business Oversight (OBO)

- Wednesday, **December 13, 2023**, 2hrs (9:00 am Pacific, 10:00 am Mountain, 11:00 am Central, 12:00 pm Eastern)
<https://veteransaffairs.webex.com/veteransaffairs/j.php?MTID=me78ea46194d4305a6d2a8d45a7b095e8>
- Meeting number (access code): 2764 693 8895 and Meeting password: Homeless1!

GPD CASE MANAGEMENT – CLOSING OUT FY 2023

- **Update Tracking Tool** – FY 2023 case data
- **Quarterly financial reporting in eGMS**
 - Required on Case Management awards.
 - 3rd quarter financial reporting of Case Management awards was due July 31st.
- **Closeout Activity in eGMS**
 - After you have submitted and received payment on your last draw, complete the eGMS closeout activity.
 - Check "Yes" to the following statement "Please confirm that you have completed all of your necessary draws for this grant, received your final payment and thus are ready to close out the grant in PMS."

GPD CASE MANAGEMENT – FY2024 HMIS UPLOAD

All GPD Case Management (CM) grantees must participate in their local Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) to document GPD CM services.

HMIS

- The first [HMIS Repository](#) opened November 1, 2023, for GPD CM uploads and closed Tuesday, November 7, 2023
- Accessing Technical Assistance: GPD_HMIS@abtassoc.com
- **NEXT UPLOAD:** January 3, 2023

Month in FY 24	First Upload Due	Final Upload Due	Export Start/End
October	Thursday, November 2, 2023	Tuesday, November 7, 2023	October 1, 2023, to date of upload
November	Monday, December 4, 2023	Thursday, December 7, 2023	October 1, 2023, to date of upload
December	Wednesday, January 3, 2024	Sunday, January 7, 2024	October 1, 2023, to date of upload
January	Friday, February 2, 2024	Wednesday, February 7, 2024	October 1, 2023, to date of upload
February	Monday, March 4, 2024	Thursday, March 7, 2024	October 1, 2023, to date of upload
March	Tuesday, April 2, 2024	Sunday, April 7, 2024	October 1, 2023, to date of upload
April	Thursday, May 2, 2024	Tuesday, May 7, 2024	October 1, 2023, to date of upload
May	Monday, June 3, 2024	Friday, June 7, 2024	October 1, 2023, to date of upload
June	Tuesday, July 2, 2024	Sunday, July 7, 2024	October 1, 2023, to date of upload
July	Friday, August 2, 2024	Wednesday, August 7, 2024	October 1, 2023, to date of upload
August	Wednesday, September 4, 2024	Saturday, September 7, 2024	October 1, 2023, to date of upload
September	Wednesday, October 2, 2024	Monday, October 7, 2024	October 1, 2023, to date of upload

SELF CARE AND THE HOLIDAY SEASON

WHAT IS SELF-CARE??

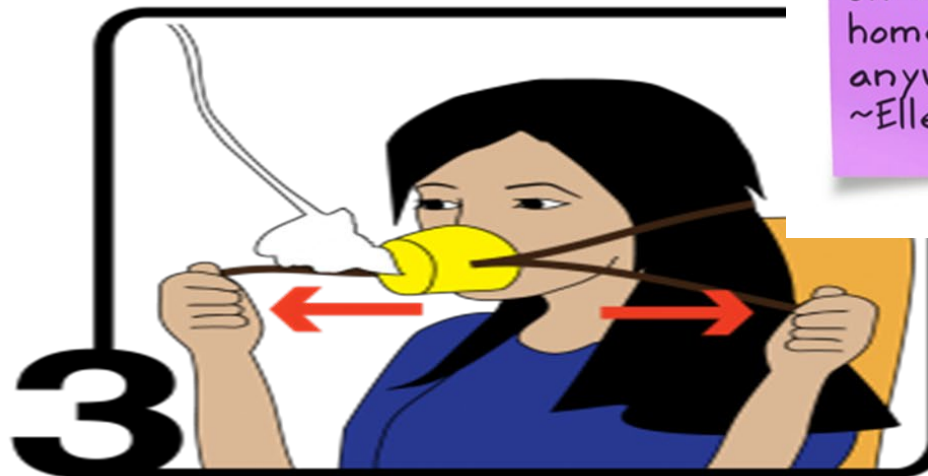
SELF-CARE

The practice of taking an active role in protecting one's own well-being and happiness, in particular during periods of stress, like the holidays.

HELP YOURSELF FIRST!



Put your own
oxygen mask on
first, whether it's
on the plane, at
home or
anywhere in life.
~Ellen Delap



WHY IS SELF-CARE IMPORTANT?

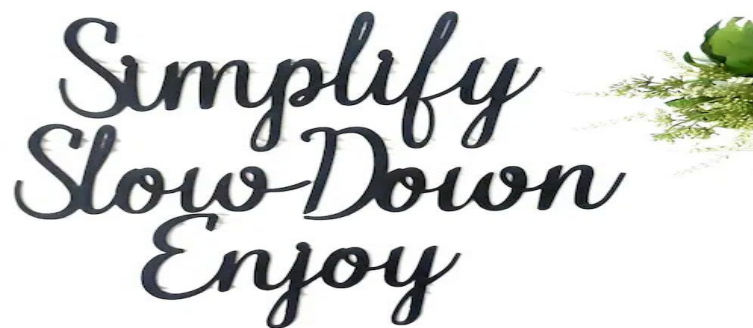
- Stress that goes unaddressed leads to any and/all of the following:
 - Increased health problems
 - Disruption in relationships
 - Depression
 - Decrease in quality of life
 - Burn out!



7 STEPS TO HOLIDAY SELF-CARE

Simplify and SLOW down

With your to-do list growing, it may feel like you need to be in multiple places at once; however, what we know about the brain is that it cannot successfully do 2 things at once. So, focus your entire attention to the task at hand rather than multi-tasking even though we all think we are great at it!



Simplify
Slow Down
Enjoy

7 STEPS TO HOLIDAY SELF-CARE

Be where you want to be

If you don't feel like travelling, you deserve to stay home. If you don't feel like being at home, find a place that feels right for you. If you arrive somewhere and it is not feeling aligned for what you are needing, it is okay to excuse yourself. Whatever is comfortable for you is the perfect place to be.



7 STEPS TO HOLIDAY SELF-CARE

Put down the phones

Yep, I said it! Often times social media can impact our level of stress by comparing ourselves to others, especially when everyone is so truthful about how “amazing” things are going in their lives. This can lead us into a downwards spiral. So, try to limit access to your phone and engage with those around you.

no posting.
no liking.
just living.

7 STEPS TO HOLIDAY SELF-CARE

Take a Break

You have the right to take a minute (or more) for yourself. If you need a moment to step away from the holiday stress, tell those around you that you need a break. Tune into what you need in that moment and remember to fill your cup up in ways that work for you.



7 STEPS TO HOLIDAY SELF-CARE

Give yourself credit

Have you ever looked back on your day and said, “what did I even do today?” This is absolutely an over generalization and can lead to feeling more defeated. Remember to give yourself credit for ALL the things you do throughout your day. By doing this, over time you will become much more mindful of how much you do.



7 STEPS TO HOLIDAY SELF-CARE

Gratitude

There is increasing research on the importance of practicing gratitude daily. Our brains are inherently negative so being intentional about shifting out of our holiday stress (and negativity) can help bring perspective and renew our enjoyment of the season.



7 STEPS TO HOLIDAY SELF-CARE

Feel how you feel

If today isn't the day for holiday songs and cookie baking, that's okay! Take a day for yourself without putting on a brave face or pretending everything is okay. If today feels like you might do something fun, do it! The holidays are full of powerful emotions, and you are not required to feel how others expect you to feel.



SELF-CARE RESOURCES



[7-minute Tai Chi App](#)

[Mindfulness Coaching App](#)

[Free CALM meditations for rest and sleep](#)

[Simply 30 Days of Yoga | Day 1 | Simple Yoga Flow | w/ Stephen Beitler - YouTube](#)

[Free 8-week course on Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction](#)

<https://www.veteranscrisisline.net>

THANK YOU AND BE WELL!!



Choose **VA**

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GPD RESOURCES



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VA



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VA'S GRANT AND PER DIEM (GPD) RESOURCES

VA's Grant and Per Diem (GPD) resources

- GPD provider page: https://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/GPD_ProviderWebsite.asp
 - NOFOs
 - Recipient guides
 - Payment and per diem information
 - General terms & conditions of award repository
 - Service delivery information
 - Change of scope guidance
- GPD main page: <https://www.va.gov/homeless/gpd.asp>
 - Lists of grant awards
 - Program descriptions
 - GPD fact sheet
 - Good news stories
 - Link to the Provider Website



GPD TEAM AND CONTACT INFORMATION

GPD National Program Office Staff

- Chelsea Watson, Director
- Erin Johnson, Deputy Director
- Nancy Hegel, Supervisory Financial Analyst
- Elizabeth Whittington, Program Analyst
- Janine Griggs, Program Specialist
- Melissa Meierdierks, Program Specialist
- Angela Smittie, Program Specialist
- Coral Baker, Grants Management Specialist
- Jenny King, Grants Management Specialist
- Heather Monroe, Grants Management Specialist
- Courtney Bray, Financial Management Specialist
- Sharon Wilkerson, Administrative Officer
- Yvette Green, Auditor
- Justin Dandois, Compliance Officer

Contact Information

- General Operational Questions: GPDGrants@va.gov
- Fiscal Questions: GPDFiscal@va.gov
- GPD Vouchers: GPDVouchers@va.gov
- Federal Financial Report (SF-425): GPD425@va.gov

GPD Web Resources

- GPD National Site:
<https://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/GPD.asp>
- GPD Provider Site:
https://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/GPD_ProviderWebsite.asp

NO CALL IN JANUARY 2024

Have a wonderful holiday season and a happy new year!

*Thank
You*

Next Call: Tuesday, **February 13th** @ 2pm ET