GRANT & PER DIEM NATIONAL PROGRAM
OPERATIONAL GRANTEE CALL

October 10, 2023

RECORDING LINK: https://veteransaffairs.webex.com/recordingservice/sites/veteransaffairs/recording/playback/c754d77e49c4103ca7df0050568183df

RECORDING PASSWORD: Homeless1!
• 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
  • FY 2024 grant awards
  • Required HMIS Training for Case Management Grantees
  • GPD Team and Contact Information

• Evaluation of the Low Demand Model in Serving Unsheltered Homeless Veterans—Rebecca Kinney, PhD, MPH, Research Health Scientist

• Understanding Grant Agreements – Elizabeth Whittington, GPD Program Analyst
• Legal Services for Veterans - Madolyn Gingell, National Coordinator, Legal Services for Veterans
• FY 2024 Performance Measures – Melissa Meierdierks, GPD Program Specialist
• Financial Management Updates – Nancy Hegel, GPD Supervisory Financial Analyst
• Grant Payments
ANNOUNCEMENTS
FY 2024 GRANT AWARDS

• **Congratulations FY 2024 GPD grantees!**
• Welcome new community partners
  – **Monthly webinars**: second Tuesday of each month at 2:00 pm ET; calendar invites sent to points of contact listed in eGMS
  – **Executed grant agreements** may be downloaded from eGMS (under the external attachments tab)
  – Always include your Federal Award Identification Number (FAIN) on all correspondence / documents
    o Current FAINs for PDO, TIP, Service Centers, and Case Management grants **end with –24**
    o Special Need are not new grant awards and will retain the SN-22 designation
  – TIP grants are **no longer billed through HHS DPM** and will now be paid by your local VA medical center
  – PDO and TIP grants are now **one-year awards with up to two option years**
    o Federal fiscal year runs annually from October 1 through September 30
  – FY 2024 grant agreements contain language about **same-day access to GPD services**
FY 2024 GRANT AWARDS

- **GPD Provider Website** has a wealth of resources and is updated regularly
  - Regulations ([38 CFR part 61](#))
  - FY 2024 Grant Recipient Guides: transitional housing (PDO, TIP, SN) and [Case Management](#)
  - FY 2024 NOFOs: PDO, TIP, and [Case Management](#)
  - Fiscal information: per diem payment voucher, daily census templates, SF425 reporting
  - Per diem rate modifications requested through eGMS
  - Inspections and change of scope requests
  - SQUARES is a VA web application that provides information about Veteran eligibility
  - Trainings and Presentations: fiscal, SOAR, housing navigation, equity
  - Links to resources to support Veterans: income and financial, other federal resources
  - Operational Grantee webinars: slides and recording links posted monthly
• **Network Homeless Coordinator** (NHC) is the regional contact for VA homeless programs

• **GPD Liaison** appointed by your local VA medical center and is responsible for the oversight and monitoring of GPD grants
  – Coordinates the initial inspection (multi-disciplinary team from the VA medical center)
    o VA medical center director must sign the completed inspection approving placement of Veterans
    o **New GPD sites and bed models must pass inspection prior to the placement of Veterans**
    o All sites reinspected at least annually; ad hoc reviews may occur throughout the year
  – Authorizing per diem payments
  – Veteran program admission and exits
  – Meeting with Veterans to assess progress towards the Veteran’s goals
  – Reviewing and approving extension requests for Veterans
  – Review of program performance metrics should be regular and ongoing between grantee and liaison
  – Initiating corrective action plans or performance improvement plans, if appropriate
REQUIRED HMIS TRAINING FOR CASE MANAGEMENT GRANTEES

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

HMIS Webinar Agenda
- GPD & HMIS Overview
- Uploading Data
- Understanding Data Quality
- Accessing Technical Assistance

Save these dates

- **September 20, Wednesday**: 2:30-4:00 ET/ 1:30-3:00 CT/ 11:30-1:00 PT
  Register in advance for this webinar:
  [https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_2UTrilrKThi1hrf1H0Vlg](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_2UTrilrKThi1hrf1H0Vlg)

- **September 26, Tuesday**: 3:00-4:30 ET/ 2:00-3:30 CT/ 12:00-1:30 PT
  Register in advance for this webinar:
  [https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_XWJEV61TS7WqLCl6meJUdA](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_XWJEV61TS7WqLCl6meJUdA)

- **September 29, Friday**: 11:00-12:30 ET/ 10:00-11:30 CT/ 8:00-9:30 PT
  Register in advance for this webinar:
  [https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_4E_eTz-NQEu9U8duQXVkwQ](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_4E_eTz-NQEu9U8duQXVkwQ)

- **October 11, Wednesday**: 2:00-3:30 ET/ 1:00-2:30 CT/ 11:00-12:30 PT
  Register in advance for this webinar:
  [https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_8kv9VySUSGqaO9mtO-QVLQ](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_8kv9VySUSGqaO9mtO-QVLQ)

Same training offered on 4 dates; only one webinar is required. After registering, CM grantees will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.
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

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
EVALUATION OF THE LOW DEMAND/SAFE HAVEN MODEL IN SERVING UNSHELTERED HOMELESS VETERANS
Unsheltered homelessness is a disconcerting public health problem that sparks much debate given it is a complex sociopolitical phenomenon that involves a measurable “stack” of both personal-and community-level factors.

Around 70% of the chronically homeless remain unsheltered throughout the duration of their homelessness, consequently, exacerbating existing health conditions and increasing the risk for premature mortality.

As unsheltered homelessness has become more visible, there has been a troubling rise in state and local laws that criminalize and exacerbate homelessness.

Federal Strategic Plan to End Homelessness recognizes there has been a rise in unsheltered homelessness across the country.

What models are effective in engaging and transitioning the unsheltered homelessness Veteran population to more permanent housing options?

Objective: To determine the effectiveness of Low Demand/Safe Haven model(s) of transitional housing to engage and effectively house unsheltered homeless veterans.

Aim 1: Using VA's national data repository, compare three models of community-based transitional housing on admissions and outcomes.

Hypothesis 1: The Low Demand/Safe Haven model will engage a larger number of unsheltered veterans than other transitional housing types and will be associated with more successful housing outcomes.

Hypothesis 2: Fidelity to the Low Demand/Safe Haven model will be positively associated with more successful housing outcomes.

Aim 2: Qualitatively examine community stakeholders’ perceptions of the facilitators and barriers to Low Demand/Safe Haven model engagement and effectiveness among unsheltered veterans.
• The Low Demand/ Safe Haven Model may be one pathway to engage unsheltered homeless veterans that can then be replicated across other programs serving the broader unsheltered homeless adult population.

• The information gained from this project will be invaluable to understand not only challenges with serving unsheltered homeless veterans but potential solutions.

• The results of this project will directly inform practices and policy in the VA and the broader homeless services ecosystem about a model that incorporates harm reduction approaches in their admission and operating practices.
UNDERSTANDING GRANT AGREEMENTS
Understanding grant agreements

- Introduction
- Requirements overview
- Reminders and resources
What is it?

- A grant agreement with a VA signature is evidence of a Federal award
- It is an authorizing document allowing costs to be incurred against the award
- Other notices, letters or announcements are not authorizing documents
Order of precedence

- Other applicable Federal statutes
- Appropriations Act for the fiscal year of the funding
- Implementing regulations: 38 C.F.R. part 61
- Executive Orders and Presidential memoranda
- The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Guidance, including the Uniform Guidance at 2 C.F.R.
- State and local laws
- Terms and conditions of the grant agreement
- GPD guidance (e.g., Recipient Guides, website resources)
Overview

• Read the full grant agreement early and often
• Some requirements are explicitly spelled out in the grant agreement
• Some requirements are incorporated broadly by reference
• Fundamental premises (2 CFR 200.400):
  o Grantees are responsible to administer the grant through sound management practices
  o Grantees are responsible to ensure that accounting processes, documentation practices and other operating procedures are consistent with Federal requirements
  o Grantees should maximize their unique combination of staff, facilities and experience to carryout Federal requirements
  o The application of Federal requirements should require no significant changes in the internal accounting policies and practices of the non-Federal entity as long as they support compliance with cost principles and other Federal requirements
Dates

- Refer to page 1 of the grant agreement for start and end dates
- All projects must be able to start serving Veterans as of October 1, 2023
  - Failure to be fully up and running within 180 days may result in termination
- If a subsequent option year(s) award is expected, it is indicated on page 1 of the agreement
- Certain requirements continue beyond the end date:
  - Closeout
  - Audit
  - Property management
  - Records retention
Records retention

- Grantees must permit access to grant records.

- Grantees and VA must protect confidentiality of Veteran records and all personally identifiable information.

- Grantees must retain financial records, supporting documents, statistical records, and all other records pertinent to a Federal award for three years from the date of submission of the final report.

- VA must retain grant records for 10 years from the date of the last payment.

- Sources:
  - 2 CFR 200
  - 38 CFR part 61
  - VA Records Control Schedule
Selected terms

- Page 2: Funding opportunity
  - Eligibility
  - Low barrier
  - Annual performance measures
  - HMIS (Case Management)
  - Apartment requirements (TIP)
  - SITH bed limits (PDO)
  - Capital grants (PDO)
When a change is needed

- VA may adjust specific award conditions

- Grantees may request an adjustment through the change of scope process

- Written prior approval from VA is documentation of a change to the grant agreement

- [https://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/GPD_ProviderWebsite.asp](https://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/GPD_ProviderWebsite.asp)
Reminders

• Read the grant agreement at the start of each new grant cycle

• Incorporate requirements into internal operating materials

• Share information with colleagues

• Establish a system for reviewing requirements regularly and at key times during the grant cycle
Federal-wide resources

• U.S. Code:
  o http://uscode.house.gov/
  o https://www.govinfo.gov/app/collection/uscode

• Federal statutes: https://www.congress.gov/

• Appropriations: https://crsreports.congress.gov/AppropriationsStatusTable

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

UNDERSTANDING GRANT AGREEMENTS
THANK YOU
VA LEGAL SERVICES FOR VETERANS
PROGRAM UPDATE
LEGAL SERVICES FOR VETERANS (LSV)

• Outreach, training and coordination designed to expand access to legal service to Veterans
• Further Veteran’s legal service access through the continued growth of Medical Legal Partnership (MLP) model within the VHA
• Establish and administer Veteran Health Administration’s (VHA) new legal services grant programs
MEDICAL LEGAL PARTNERSHIP (MLP)

- Collaboration between VA clinicians and legal service providers
- Co-located at a VA facility
- Consultation specific to Veteran needs
- More than just a referral
- Training across disciplines
- Priority: **Veteran-centric care**
- Listing found on LSV website: [VA MLP LC list](#)
– Authorize VA to fund legal services grants for organizations to provide specific legal services to Veterans who are experiencing homelessness or at-risk of becoming homeless
– No income threshold
– Dedicated funding to serve women Veterans
– 79 grants awarded, covering 38 states & D.C.
– 1 year grant cycle began August 1, 2023
– Administered by Veterans Justice Programs – Legal Services for Veterans Program
Allowable legal services covered under this Grant Program, include legal services related to (38 C.F.R. 79.20):

- **Housing** including eviction defense, representation in landlord-tenant cases, and representation in foreclosure cases;
- **Family law** including assistance in court proceedings for child support and custody, divorce, estate planning, and family reconciliation;
- **Income support** including assistance in obtaining public benefits;
- **Criminal defense**, including defense in matters symptomatic of homelessness such as outstanding warrants, fines, and driver's license revocation, and citations (to reduce recidivism and facilitate the overcoming of reentry obstacles in employment or housing, covered legal services relating to criminal defense also include legal assistance with request to expunge or seal a criminal record);
- **Requests to upgrade the characterization of discharge or dismissal** of a former member of the Armed Forces and;
- **Other covered legal services** as the Secretary determines appropriate.
Eligible Veterans for assistance under this Grant Program, include:

- A Veteran is defined as a person who served in the active military, naval, air, or space service, and who was discharged or released therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable (as defined in 38 U.S. Code Section 101(2) and 38 CFR 79.15).

AND

- A Veteran who is homeless as that term is defined in the McKinney–Vento Homeless Assistance Act and 38 CFR 79.15(a) or;

- At risk for homelessness (as defined in 38 CFR Part 79.15(b)).
Legal Services for Veterans (LSV) website

LSV-H Grantee Listing

VA MLP/Legal Clinic Listing

Legal Services for Veterans Program: lsv@va.gov

Legal Services for Veterans Grant Program: lsvgrants@va.gov
Q&A and Discussion
FY 2024 PERFORMANCE MEASURES
FY 2024 performance targets will remain the same for most housing models, with changes to GPD3 performance targets for Transition in Place (TIP) and Service Intensive (SI) housing models.

Since targets vary by service model for GPD1 and GPD3 metrics, please work closely with your GPD Liaison to review the Scorecard, for target information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Housing Model</th>
<th>Permanent Housing</th>
<th>Negative Exits</th>
<th>Competitive Employment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bridge Housing</td>
<td>≥75%</td>
<td>≤20%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Treatment</td>
<td>≥65%</td>
<td>≤20%</td>
<td>≥55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital to Housing</td>
<td>≥65%</td>
<td>≤20%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low Demand</td>
<td>≥60%</td>
<td>≤20%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service Intensive</td>
<td>≥70%</td>
<td>≤20%</td>
<td>≥60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transition in Place</td>
<td>≥75%</td>
<td>≤20%</td>
<td>≥70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Need - CM</td>
<td>≥60%</td>
<td>≤20%</td>
<td>≥55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Need - W</td>
<td>≥70%</td>
<td>≤20%</td>
<td>≥55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Need - FE</td>
<td>≥65%</td>
<td>≤20%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FY 2024 Performance Measures: GPD1 and GPD2

**GPD1: % Exits to PH**

- **Purpose:** To increase exits to permanent housing destinations.
- **Measure Description:** Percentage of Veterans discharged from GPD programs to permanent housing.
- **Target:** Permanent housing targets are based on grant type and available on the grantee-level report. Percentages will display on the main Scorecard; however, stoplight coding will only be available on the grantee-level report.

| FY 2024 Status | No Change |

**GPD2: % Negative Exits**

- **Purpose:** To reduce instances of negative exits and increase successful completion of residential treatment programming.
- **Measure Description:** Percentage of Veterans who have a negative exit from GPD programs.
- **Target:** ≤20%

| FY 2024 Status | No Change |
FY 2024 Performance Measures: GPD3

GPD3: % Employed at Exit

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FY 2024 Status</th>
<th>Updated Targets (TIP and SI only)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

- **Purpose**: To increase employment opportunities for Veterans.
- **Measure Description**: Percentage of Veterans who exit GPD programs with competitive employment.
- **Target**: Employment targets are based on grant type and available on the grantee-level report (SN-FE, BH, LD, HH will be excluded). Percentages will display on the main Scorecard; however, stoplight coding will only be available on the grantee-level report.
  - TIP: The target for this measure will be increased from 55% to 70%.
  - SI: The target for this measure will be increased from 55% to 60%.
FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT UPDATES
• 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.
• **Upcoming Fiscal Reviews:**
  - Christian Care – October 23 - 27, 2023
  - Goodwill of the Heartland – October 23 - 27, 2023
  - The Salvation Army, Las Vegas – October 23 - 27, 2023
  - Young Men's Christian Association of Greater Des Moines – November 6 -10, 2023
  - Archdiocesan Housing Authority – November 6 -10, 2023
  - Lutheran Social Services Of Central Ohio Inc – November 13 - 17, 2023
  - Delaware Center for Homeless Veterans, Inc. – November 13 - 17, 2023
  - The Salvation Army, Louisville – November 13 - 17, 2023
  - Delaware Center for Homeless Veterans, Inc. – November 27 - December 1, 2023
  - Home of the Brave – November 27 - December 1, 2023

• **Federal Contractors:**
  - Trilogy, BDO, RMA & Associates

• **OBO Updates:**
  - Grantee Training in December 2023
GRANT PAYMENTS
• **Case Management grants**
  – Grantees submit payment requests for **costs incurred** through the Health and Human Services (HHS) Payment Management System
  – Payment requests are reviewed and approved by the GPD national office
  – VA obligated the entire 24-month award
  – **No advances**
    – Typically, grantees submit payment requests monthly or twice per month
    – Cumulative payment requested amount should not exceed the portion of the grant period elapsed to ensure funding is not fully drawn down before the grant period ends.

• Organizations that had case management grants in FY 2023, must be careful to select the correct HHS account when requesting your final (September) payment.
• Per Diem Only (PDO) and Transition In Place (TIP) grants
  – FY 2024 authorized per diem rate is stated in the award letter/email (sent October 3rd)
  – TIP and PDO grantees **may not bill for more than their authorized number of beds** (see grant agreement, page 1)
    • Ex: 20 authorized beds is a maximum of 620 bed days in October and 600 bed days in November
  – **No advances**; grantees are paid based on the number of bed days of care provided each month
  – Grantees must maintain a **detailed daily census** of all participants;
    • Census is supporting documentation for your monthly invoice and must be provided to the GPD liaison along with the **per diem payment voucher**
  – Monthly payments submitted through Tungsten and routed to the local VA medical center for review and approval
**Per diem rate monitoring and modifications**

- Per diem is up to 100% of the estimated cost of care, minus other sources of income (38 CFR 61.33(c)).
- **Grantees must monitor their per diem rate for accuracy** (monthly)
  - Grantees are required to submit a rate modification request if their per diem rate does not accurately reflect their allowable and allocable costs incurred
  - Rate modifications may be submitted through eGMS at any point during the grant lifecycle and are effective the 1st of the month following a properly submitted request ([How-to Submit a Rate Modification](#))

- **Grantees may not accrue substantial unobligated funds** through the over-estimation of their per diem rate
  - This is non-compliant with the terms and conditions of the GPD grant
  - Excessive accrual of unobligated funds demonstrates a lack of internal controls (2 C.F.R §200.303)
  - Federal payments require that “payment methods must minimize the time elapsing between the transfer of funds from the United States Treasury or the pass-through entity and the disbursement by the non-Federal entity” (2 C.F.R §200.305)
THANK YOU!

Next Call: Tuesday, November 14 @ 2pm ET