

VHA Homeless Programs Office

Working Together to Help Veterans Exit Homelessness

Program Highlights



VA program helps formerly homeless Veterans afford housing in high rent communities

A new VA subsidy will help low-income and formerly homeless Veterans afford housing in high-rent communities.

The Shallow Subsidy initiative provides low-income Veterans a fixed rental subsidy for up to two years. The subsidy is available to Veterans who are enrolled in the [Supportive Services for Veteran Families \(SSVF\)](#) program and live in communities characterized by high rates of homelessness and low availability of affordable housing. To encourage long-term self-sufficiency through employment, renters receive the subsidy for up to two years, regardless of any increases in their household income.

Through a competitive application process, VA awards SSVF grants to private, non-profit organizations and consumer cooperatives to provide eligible Veteran families with outreach, case management, and assistance obtaining VA and other mainstream benefits that promote housing stability and community integration. SSVF has recently partnered with the U.S. Department of Labor's [Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program](#) to co-enroll Shallow Subsidy participants in employment and training programs to help them become economically self-sufficient by the end of their two-year subsidy.

The Shallow Subsidy initiative reflects the benefits of VA's ongoing use of data to adjust programs based on evidence to promote the best possible outcomes for Veterans. VA created the Shallow Subsidy initiative after several analyses of SSVF data revealed that intermediate-term rental subsidies would remove a key barrier to long term housing stability among homeless Veterans. For the life of the Shallow Subsidy initiative, VA will collect and evaluate data on outcomes to ensure the initiative is producing the intended results.

SSVF was established in 2011 as the first VA-administered homeless prevention and rapid rehousing program to serve Veterans and their family members. In addition to the recurring SSVF grants already awarded, VA has also committed \$50 million in nonrecurring awards to support shallow subsidies in the following communities:

- **California:** Alameda (including Oakland), Contra Costa, Los Angeles, San Diego, San Francisco, Santa Clara
- **District of Columbia:** Washington
- **Hawaii:** Honolulu
- **Illinois:** Cook County
- **New York:** New York City and Bronx, Queens, Kings and Richmond counties
- **Washington:** Seattle

Veterans who live in any of the targeted communities and wish to be considered for the initiative should visit the Homeless Programs Office at their [local VA medical center](#) or contact the National Call Center for Homeless Veterans at **877-4AID-VET**(877-424-3838).

Read more about the Shallow Subsidy Initiative and how it helps Veterans [here](#).

Formerly homeless Veterans benefit from employment program at a Chicago VA medical center

Veteran Sheldon Capers had difficulty finding a job, despite having a bachelor's degree in human services. While receiving career coaching from [Homeless Veterans Community Employment Services \(HVCES\)](#) staff at the [Jesse Brown Veterans Affairs Medical Center \(VAMC\)](#) in Chicago, Linda Lyons, a VA social worker, told Capers about the Veterans School at Work (VSAW) program.

VSAW combines education with career planning to prepare Veterans for successful employment or higher education. VSAW runs for 13 weeks and includes instruction in topics such as communication in the workplace, life management skills, and refreshers in grammar, reading, writing and math.

According to Beatrice Smith-Redd, Community Employment Coordinator and VSAW Manager, partnerships with community-based organizations were instrumental in getting VSAW started at Jesse Brown. Donations of laptops from organizations like the [Elks National Foundation](#) helped provide computer access for online lessons, and [National Able Network](#) provided a guest speaker and military Veteran, Kevin Averyhart, who shared valuable advice about the military to civilian employment transition and interviewing skills.

Capers now has an internship at the Jesse Brown VAMC that will allow him to gain valuable experience in the social work field. [Read more](#).

Announcements

HUD-VA Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) program webinar

The VA Center for Faith and Opportunity Initiatives (CFOI) will host a webinar on March 3, 2020, about the [U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development-VA Supportive Housing \(HUD-VASH\) program](#).

HUD-VASH is a collaborative program between HUD and VA that pairs Housing Choice Vouchers with VA case management and supportive services. These services are designed to assist Veterans in obtaining and sustaining permanent housing and help them engage in needed treatment and other supportive services that improve their quality of life and end their homelessness. The HUD-VASH program has been proven to help Veterans exit homelessness, remain stable in housing, and improve the ability and motivation to engage in treatment strategies.

The webinar will also feature a discussion about the important role of faith-based organizations in helping to integrate the HUD-VASH program into communities.

To participate, log in using the following link: http://va-eerc-ees.adobeconnect.com/hv_training/ on Tuesday, March 3 from 1:00 p.m. until 2:00 p.m. (eastern time). You may also listen by phone at 1-800-767-1750; access code 81805#.

New notice of funding availability (NOFA) for Transition in Place (TIP) grants

On February 18, 2020, VA's Grant and Per Diem (GPD) Program published a fiscal year (FY) 2020 Transition in Place (TIP) notice of funding availability (NOFA) in the [Federal Register](#). This NOFA announces funding opportunities for eligible organizations to provide transitional housing beds through the TIP model. The NOFA is competitive and interested applicants are urged to fully read the NOFA and associated technical assistance materials provided on the GPD website at <https://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/GPD.asp>.

Awards are for services that will begin October 1, 2020. Current awards for all TIP grantees expire on September 30, 2020. Applicants wishing to continue receiving per diem funds after that date must apply under the FY 2020 NOFA for consideration. The NOFA is open to current grantees and new applicants. The application deadline is **April 22, 2020, by 4 p.m. (eastern time)**.

Communicate with Us

We value your feedback about the work underway to prevent and end homelessness among Veterans. Please share your comments by clicking the blue "Contact Homeless Outreach" button on the [VHA Homeless Programs website](#).