




U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-7000

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR
COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

June 25, 2013

MEMORANDUM FOR: CPD Directors

FROM: 
Ann Marie Oliva, Director for Office of Special Needs
Assistance Programs, DNS

SUBJECT: Guidance for Determining Eligibility for Permanent Supportive
Housing for Persons Participating in Certain Department of
Veteran's Affairs Programs

This memorandum provides information to field offices regarding:

1. the eligibility of persons currently participating in the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) homeless assistance programs with a rapid re-housing component, including the Supportive Services for Veterans Families (SSVF) Program or the Veterans Homelessness Prevention Demonstration Program (VHPD), seeking to enroll in HUD-funded permanent supportive housing (PSH) programs;
2. the status of persons in the VA's homeless assistance programs with a rapid re-housing component for counting purposes; and
3. the relationship between VA's homeless assistance programs and HUD's homeless assistance program types.

Rapid Re-housing as a Housing Model

Rapid re-housing is a housing model that aims to quickly re-house individuals and families who become homeless. It is considered a form of permanent housing because while the subsidy is short- or medium-term, the housing unit is intended to be permanent. Rapid re-housing can also be used as a bridge for some homeless persons to allow them to be housed quickly while waiting for a PSH subsidy to become available.

Eligibility of Individuals and Families Receiving Rapid Re-housing Assistance

In general, when individuals and families are placed in permanent housing they are no longer considered homeless. However, program participants that receive rapid re-housing assistance, including rapid re-housing participants in the SSVF Program or VHPD, maintain their homeless status for the purpose of eligibility for HUD-funded PSH programs funded through the Continuum of Care (CoC) Program or HUD-VASH, provided that they meet other eligibility

requirements for those programs. Program participants maintain their homeless status during the time period in which they are receiving the rapid re-housing assistance.

In addition, program participants receiving rapid re-housing assistance who met the definition of chronically homeless upon entry into the project may also maintain their status as chronically homeless during the period in which they are receiving rapid re-housing assistance. Therefore, these individuals and families remain eligible for PSH units that have been dedicated to serve the chronically homeless.

The purpose of these policies is to ensure that rapid re-housing can be successfully used as a bridge to PSH subsidies and that program participants receiving rapid re-housing assistance are not forced to return to the streets in order to become eligible for a more appropriate placement.

Counting Individuals and Families Receiving Rapid Re-housing Assistance

Although program participants in rapid re-housing maintain their homeless status—and chronically homeless status—if applicable, for purposes of eligibility for entrance into PSH, HUD will continue to exclude rapid re-housing programs, and their program participants, from its CoC's sheltered Point-in-Time count because HUD views rapid re-housing as a form of permanent housing.

The Relationship Between the VA's Homeless Assistance Programs and HUD's Homeless Assistance Program Types and Eligibility

As HUD and the VA work together to end veteran homelessness, it is critical that there is clarity about the relationship of the VA homeless assistance programs and HUD's homeless assistance program types and eligibility. The following chart relates the VA homeless assistance programs with HUD's homeless program types and clarifies homeless and chronic homeless status for eligibility and counting purposes and identifies eligible HUD program types persons can go to when exiting the VA homeless assistance programs.

Relationship Between VA’s Homeless Programs and HUD’s Program Types and Eligibility

HUD Homeless Program Type	VA Homeless Programs	Eligibility: Homeless Status During Program Stay	Eligibility: Chronically Homeless Status During Program Stay	Counting: Homeless Status on the Night of the PIT Count	HUD Homeless Program Type Participants are Eligible to Enter upon Exit of This Program (as of FY2012) ¹
Emergency Shelter (ES)	VA-funded Health Care for Homeless Veterans (HCHV) provider programs, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VA Community Contract Emergency Housing (HCHV/EH) • Health Care for Homeless Veterans VA Community Contract Residential Treatment Program (HCHV/RT) 	Yes	Yes	Yes	TH RRH SH PSH
	VA-funded VA Mental Health Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program – Domiciliary Care for Homeless Veterans (VADOM) provider programs				
Safe Haven (SH)	VA-funded Health Care for Homeless Veterans (HCHV) VA Community Contract Safe Haven Program (HCHV/SH)	Yes	Yes	Yes	TH RRH PSH
Transitional Housing (TH)	VA Grant and Per Diem (GPD) ²	Yes	No	Yes (homeless)	RRH SH PSH (if they came from the streets or shelter when they entered the TH Program)
	VA Compensated Work Therapy – Transitional Residence (CWT/TR) ²			No (chronically homeless)	
Rapid Re-housing (RRH)	VA-funded Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) provider programs	Yes	Yes	No	PSH
	Veterans Homelessness Prevention Demonstration Program (VHPD)				
Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)	HUD-funded Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH)	No	No	No	n/a

¹ Programs identified under *HUD Homeless Program Type Participants are Eligible to Enter upon Exit of This Program* represent positive outcomes. Participants remain eligible for emergency shelter upon exit and participants that exit from either rapid re-housing or permanent supportive housing remain eligible for transitional housing or safe havens. Recipients should ensure that participants satisfy all eligibility criteria beyond the homeless status.

² HUD recognizes that the VA determines chronic homeless status at the initial intake to VA homeless services. Veterans who qualify as chronically homeless at initial intake will maintain that status throughout the episode of care, even if they are served in a VA program that is characterized as TH prior to entry to HUD-VASH.