SSVF Equity—Data and Practice
May 11, 2023

Link to Audio

Agenda

- **Welcome & Introductions**
- **Expiring PHE Reminders and Updates**
- **Equity Grounding, Context and Leadership**
- **Equity and Data: SSVF Equity Report**
- **Equity in Practice – A conversation with an SSVF Grantee**
- **Next Steps: Using the SSVF Equity Report**
- **Q&A**

Introductions

SSVF Program Office

Cindy Spencer, SSVF Program Supervisory Regional Coordinator

Technical Assistance

Esau Williams (he/him), Senior Associate

Genelle Denzin (she/her), Associate

Mark Silverbush (he/him), Associate

St Vincent de Paul CARES

Daisy Corea (she/her), Deputy Chief of Housing Programs

Nicholas Bennett (he/him), Chief of Housing

Please introduce yourself in the chat:

Name, Pronouns, Location

Up to 90 minutes

Slides & handouts are in the "handout" section

Recording, Handouts & Slides will be sent via email

Submit questions in the question box or any time at ssvf@va.gov

Expiring Public Health Emergency (PHE) Reminders and Updates

Major Changes

- Limits on the number of months of rental assistance over a 2-year period are going back into effect.

- Limits on the number of months of utility assistance over a 2-year period are going back into effect.

- Limits on Emergency Housing Assistance (EHA) timelines are going back into effect.

- The $500 limit on food as part of General Housing Stability Assistance (GHSA) is going back into effect.

Major Changes

- Limits on the number of months of rental assistance over a 2-year period are going back into effect. SSVF grantees must follow the standard recertification process (i.e., recertify every 90 days from the date of enrollment) per the [SSVF Program Guide](#).

- Veterans receiving Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) as of May 11, 2023, will have their TFA limits reset, with an effective start date of June 1, 2023.

- Rental and Utility Assistance for June 2023 will represent month 1 of assistance for calculating the months of assistance provided for Veterans enrolled on or before May 11, 2023.

- EHA limitations reset for Veterans in hotels or motels as of May 11, 2023. The 60-day time limit will apply moving forward beginning on May 12, 2023.

- For Veterans who enroll in SSVF after May 11, 2023, SSVF grantees must follow the traditional guidelines and TFA limitations.

- Veterans participating in Shallow Subsidy do not need to be recertified until month 24 of service from the date of enrollment.
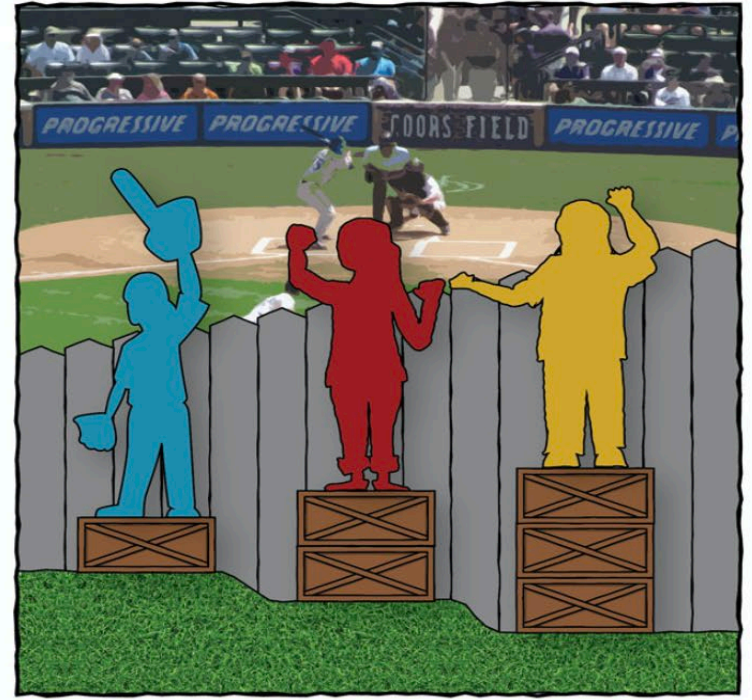
Equity Grounding, Context, and Leadership

Equality vs. Equity
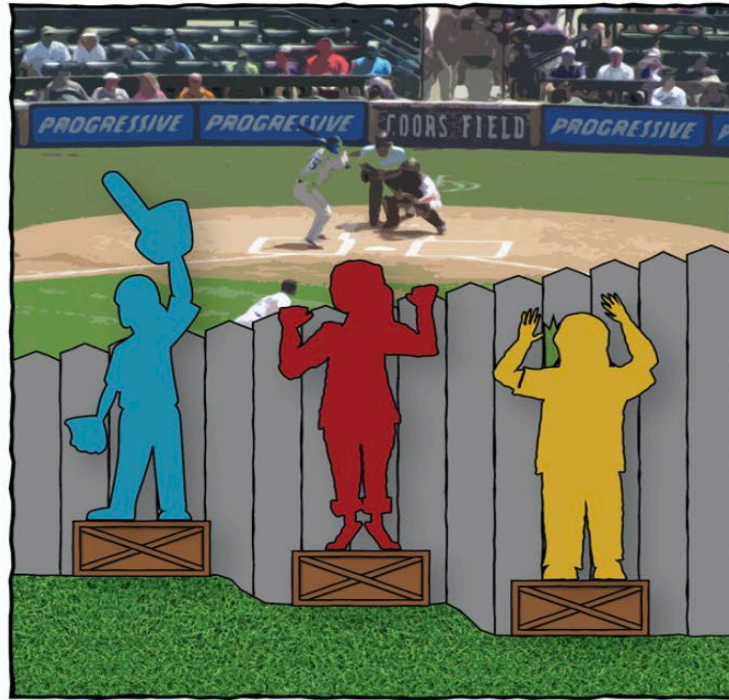
EQUALITY

EQUITY

Effective services for Veterans at-risk for or currently experiencing homeless address social equity.

The US's current state of homelessness stems in large part from policies that were discriminatory, such as enslavement, forced migration, redlining, segregation, etc.

➢ Therefore, persons of color are disproportionately represented among persons experiencing homelessness and at-risk populations.

➢ Analysis of program data from an equity perspective can identify disparities and opportunities to further equity.

Why is it Important to Lead with Equity?

- 54 percent of those served by SSVF are Black, Indigenous, Latine, and People of Color.

- "Members of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (LGBTQ) community are more likely to become homeless, and once homeless, more likely to endure discrimination and harassment that extends their homelessness." - HUD Exchange

- Homelessness in older adults continues to increase even as the number of Veterans experiencing homelessness overall decreases. Over 50% of all homeless Veterans are age 50+.

- 65% of those served by SSVF have been diagnosed with a disability.

Programs that are designed to effectively serve the most marginalized serve everyone else more effectively too.

Why is it Important to Lead with Equity?

- We have an ethical responsibility to provide equitable services to all of our community members

- Race is the single largest predictor of outcomes along the social determinants of health

- Allows us to be good fiscal stewards of our funding

Equity and Data: SSVF Equity Report

Purpose of the SSVF Equity Report

The SSVF Equity Report has been developed by the SSVF Program Office to better understand and assist grantees in efforts to achieve racially equitable service delivery and policy implementation.

How to Use the SSVF Equity Report

Explore Your Equity Data

Possible Disparity ID and Vetting

Make Policy and Practice Changes
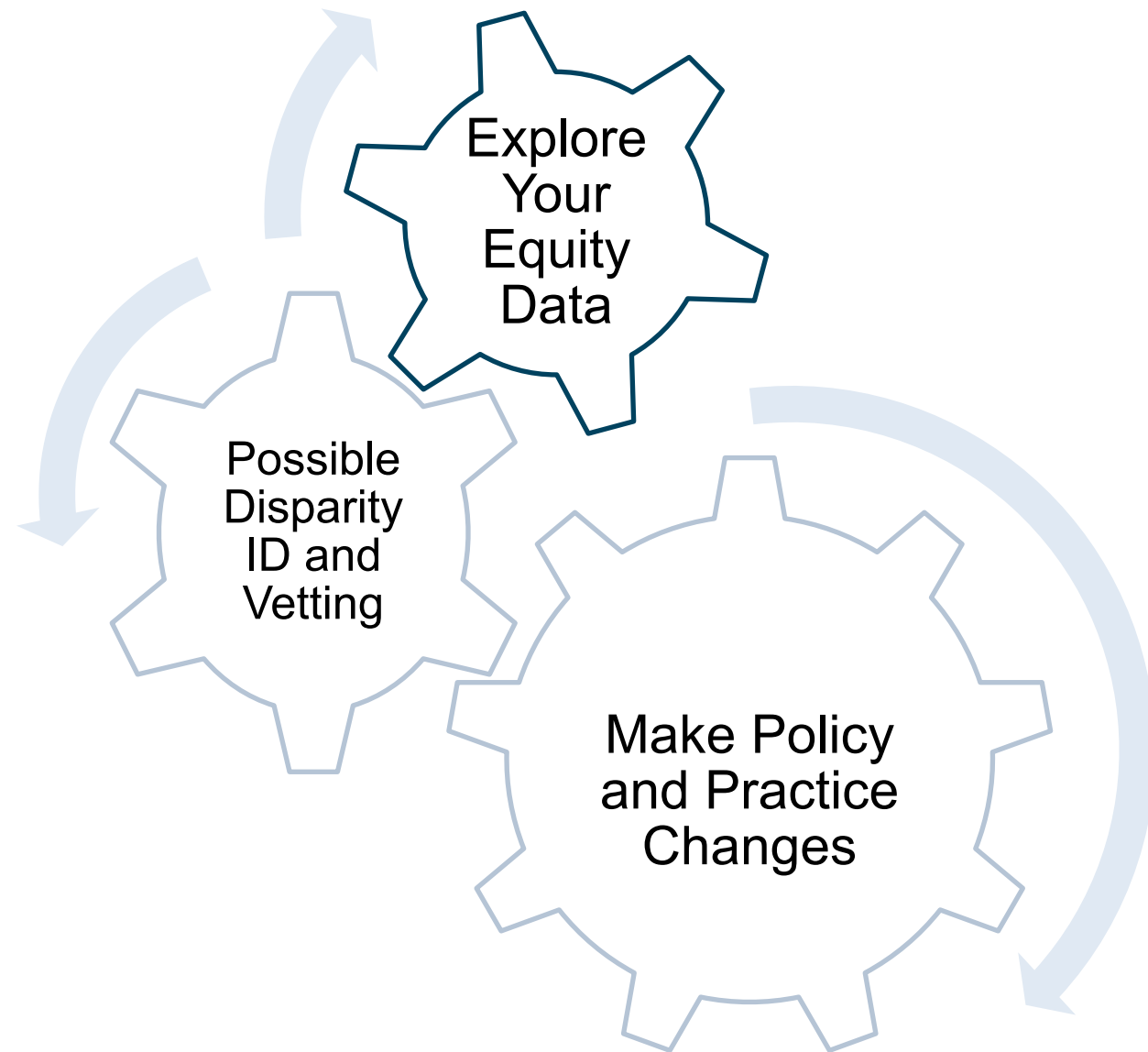
Overview of SSVF Equity Report

- Project Types: Rapid Re-housing and Homelessness Prevention

- Service and Outcome Measures
  - Veterans Served by Race/Ethnicity
  - Average Temporary Financial Assistance by Race/Ethnicity
  - Veteran Exits (Destination) by Race/Ethnicity

- Data Level:
  - National
  - Grantee

- Years: FY 2021 & FY 2022, FY 2023 upcoming

Overview of SSVF Equity Report

- Introduction tab includes:
  - Purpose
  - About this report
    - Report controls
    - Contents overview
  - Groupings
  - Limitations
  - Next Steps
  - Resources

Accessing the SSVF Equity Report

- The SSVF Equity Report is intended to be accessed directly by:
  - SSVF Grantee Staff with Repository accounts
  - SSVF Regional Coordinators
  - SSVF TA providers
  - SSVF Program Office Staff

- Members of these groups should receive an invite in your email later today.

- If you cannot find the email by May 14th, please check your spam or deleted folders. If you did not receive one, please email ssvfhmis@abtassoc.com to let us know.

- When you get the email, click the link and follow onscreen instructions.

- Once you have created your account, you can access the report here: https://ssvfhmis.shinyapps.io/ssvf_equity_report/

- Log in using the credentials you set when you set up your account to get into the report.

Live Demonstration

Equity in Practice – A conversation with an SSVF Grantee

SVdP CARES At a Glance…

19 Florida Counties

11 COCs

80+ State/Federal Grant Contracts

4 VA Medical Centers

125+ PSH Units

Low-barrier Shelter Provider
(Pinellas County Only)

Vision

To create a community with an improved quality of life for all by eliminating poverty and homelessness

Mission

To be a beacon of light by transforming lives in the Vincentian spirit of charity, justice, and mercy through interpersonal connectivity.

SERVICE AREA

- Charlotte
- Citrus
- Collier
- Desoto
- Hardee
- Hernando
- Highlands
- Hillsborough
- Lake
- Lee
- Manatee
- Orange
- Osceola
- Pasco
- Pinellas
- Polk
- Sarasota
- Seminole
- Sumter
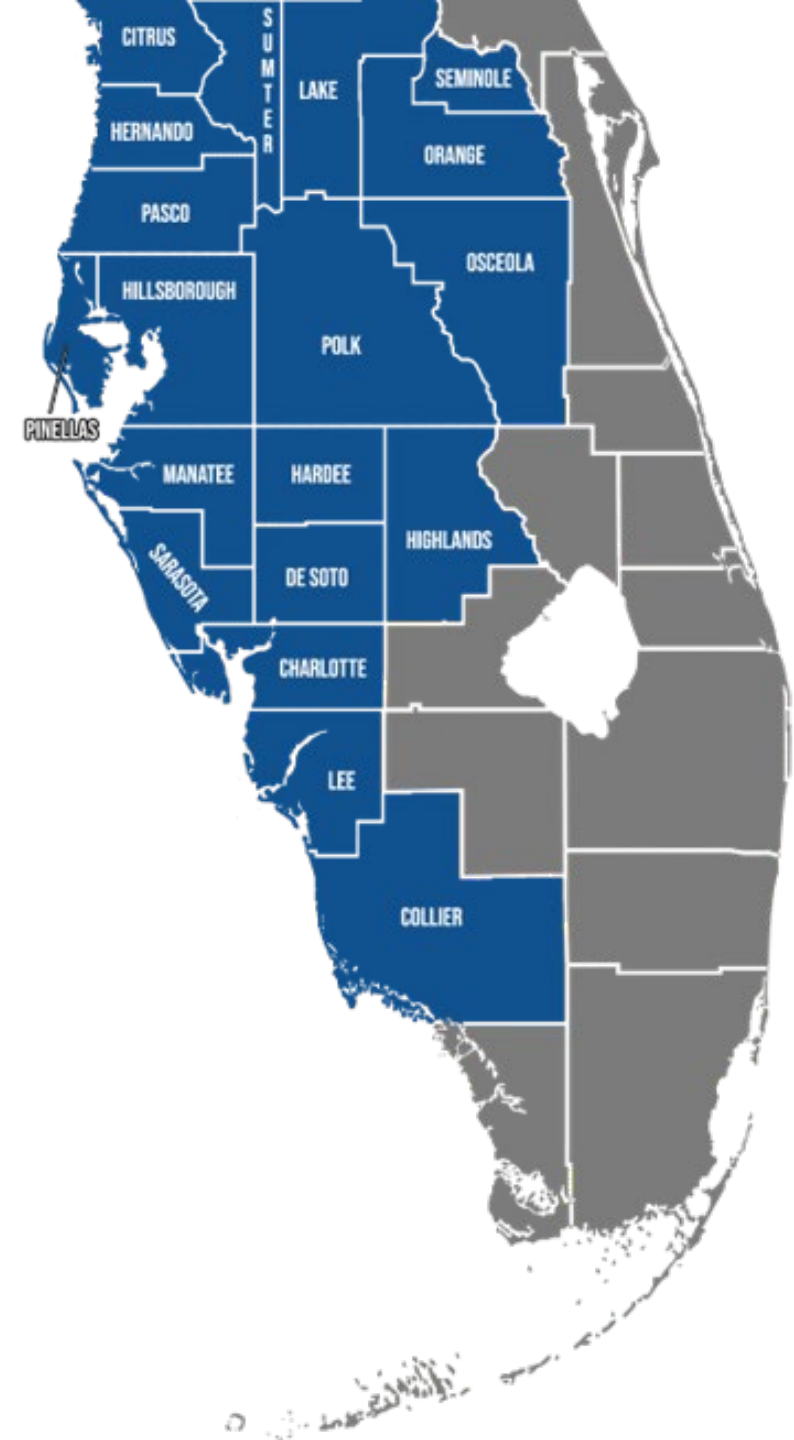
Next Steps:
Using the SSVF Equity Report

Using the SSVF Equity Report

- **Relevant comparisons**
  - Localization
  - Like-to-Like
  - **HP Examples:**
    1) Use 'In Poverty' Census data from your grant's CoC from the HUD CoC Racial Equity Analysis tool in comparison to Veterans Served data;
    2) Compare HP Veterans LSA destinations data by race/ethnicity to your grant's HP Veterans destinations data by race/ethnicity
  - **RRH Example:** Use your grant's CoC HMIS/LSA Veterans report OR Point-In-Time Count data on Veterans from the HUD CoC Racial Equity Analysis tool in comparison to Veterans Served data
  - **Grantee Comparison:** For grantees that serve the same geography as another grantee, compare your grant's Veterans Served, Avg. TFA, and Destinations data

Using the SSVF Equity Report

- **Get specific** for more meaningful findings
  - Are differences more acute for certain groups?
  - When there is a possible disparity, how does that group look compared to the average? This helps to understand that group's composition and experience better. It may also help provider mitigating factors.
    - % in households w/children and % in households w/o children
    - % with one or more disabling conditions
    - Income at entry differences (could impact TFA and destination)

Using the SSVF Equity Report

- **The significance trap**
  - Identify differences while noting scope, scale, possible mitigating factors and limitations;
  - Don't get caught up proving legal/statistical significance

- **Broaden** analysis inputs and outputs
  - Culture of humility
  - Different staffing levels
  - Lived experience perspectives
  - Continuous quality improvement

- **Have a plan** for ongoing analysis and action
  - Plan for quarterly updates
  - Continuous Quality Improvement
  - Staffing Practices
  - Agency Policies, Procedures, and Data Collection Practices
  - Strategic Organizational Practices

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Q & A