

HVRP and SSVF

Leveraging Opportunities to Best Serve Veterans

What is HVRP?

- Administered through the Department of Labor Veterans' Employment and Training Service (DOL-VETS), the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program (HVRP) is the only federal program that focuses exclusively on the employment of Veterans who are experiencing homelessness.
- As of 2015, over 150 HVRP grants operate in 40 states, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia. These grants range from \$100,000 to \$300,000, depending on the size of the program and the service area.
- Even though the structure and name will look different depending on where you are, all HVRP grantees have the same mission: help Veterans experiencing homelessness get competitive jobs. The program connects Veterans to gainful employment informed by the labor market and facilitates the connection of service delivery systems. To meet this dual objective, HVRP grantees embrace four core principles:

A Spectrum of Services

HVRP grantees provide a wide array of employment services to help Veterans who are experiencing homelessness obtain and maintain gainful employment. These services are tailored to the needs in the community and the individual Veterans enrolled in the program.

A Coordinated Effort

In most communities, HVRP grantees tap into the wider community network to help with outreach, training, and other services that cannot be paid for by HVRP, like child care, legal services, or housing.

Connecting Training to Real Jobs

HVRP grantees focus on job-driven training principles - employment opportunities pursued by Veterans in HVRP are based on the local labor market and involve skills-based training. The goal is competitive employment in the local workforce.

Knowing the Veterans

HVRP grantees use a client-centered case management approach to services, recognizing that strong employment outcomes are linked to housing stability.

What kind of services can HVRP provide?

- HVRP grantees provide a core set of services determined by the needs of Veterans, the employers in the area, and the local labor market. Services are focused on providing Veterans experiencing homelessness with relevant skills, connecting these Veterans to employers, and improving employment outcomes and earnings for Veterans while they are enrolled. The program focuses on more than applying for jobs online - quality placements and sustained retention are critical. HVRP does this through four core activities:

Outreach

Outreach activities include outreach to Veterans, but also to partners and employers. Outreach often includes project orientation workshops for partners like SSVF. HVRP grantees utilize Stand Down as a major outreach activity and funds from DOL-VETS are available to host a Stand Down.

Assessment and Intake

Assessment and intake for HVRP may look similar to an SSVF intake. Assessment is not the same as enrollment for HVRP, and some Veterans you refer for assessment may not end up enrolled. All HVRPs will ask the Veteran about his or her willingness to engage in services and go back to work before enrollment. They will assess barriers to employment and skills and knowledge gaps. Even if they do not enroll a Veteran in HVRP after he or she is assessed, they will still refer him or her to community resources, like SSVF, for support.

Job-Driven Training and Employment

Job-Driven Training and Employment is the largest section of services for HVRP. HVRPs focus on developing training that is targeted to the specific industries, occupations, and skills that are in demand locally. Priority is given to work-based, over classroom-based, learning opportunities. Many HVRP grantees provide pre-employment services and partner with the [American Job Center's Local Veterans Employment Representatives \(LVERS\)](#) for job placement. Training and employment activities could include: job search workshops, job counseling using mock and motivational interviewing, resume writing, and connection to work-based training like on the job training (OJT) or Registered Apprenticeship.

Follow-Up Services

Follow-up services through HVRP last for 270 days. HVRP reports on each Veteran participant's employment retention. Often, they will host services like job clubs, alumni groups, or continuing education classes to keep Veterans engaged after they achieve employment. Working together, you and the HVRP grantee can stay in contact with the Veterans you serve so those at risk do not lose employment or fall back into homelessness.

How are HVRP and SSVF similar?

- As a community, your goal is to help as many Veterans achieve housing stability as possible. That mission has two components: housing and stability. Each program can leverage its unique skill sets to foster stability through a combination of housing and employment.
- Like SSVFs, all HVRP grantee programs are structured differently. While some HVRPs are part of larger service agencies working with all people experiencing homelessness in the community, other HVRP grantee programs focus specifically on Veteran employment.
- Like SSVF, the name of the HVRP in your community is likely not just “HVRP”. In fact, some large agencies may have both SSVF and HVRP under the same roof.
- Like SSVF, HVRP has a few sub-programs to serve special focus areas. HVRP has carve-outs for female Veterans and SSVF serves a higher proportion of female vets than any other VA homeless program. HVRP is also further divided into urban and rural programs.

How are HVRP and SSVF different?

- While both programs seek to foster stability, each focuses on different components of a Veteran’s needs. While SSVF is focused on the housing placement, HVRP can help foster long-term stability through employment. SSVF is primarily a service program, not only a financial assistance program. HVRP, on the other hand, cannot pay for any housing related costs.
- SSVF and HVRP may have different service timelines based on the Veteran’s unique needs. For instance, HVRP keeps in contact with all Veterans for 270 days whereas SSVF engagements are unique to each Veteran household and may be longer or shorter than that timeframe.
- SSVF is intended for both homeless veterans and veterans who are imminently at-risk of literal homelessness and their families, while HVRP is only for Veterans experiencing homelessness, including those who will be homeless within 14 days.
- Many SSVF grantees employ social workers and housing navigators. At HVRP, staff members are often trained in vocational services or vocational rehabilitation.
- HVRPs are not all 501(c)3 agencies. HVRP grantees may be State Workforce Investment Boards, public agencies like city or county governments, Native American tribal organizations, for-profit agencies, or nonprofit organizations.

Co-enrollment in SSVF and HVRP fosters stability through a combination of housing and employment, but not every Veteran is eligible for both programs. Contact your local HVRP right away to discuss specific cases and specific agency eligibility restrictions.

SSVF and HVRP Coverage by State



How else can you work together with HVRP?

Transportation

Because both SSVF and HVRP can pay for some transportation costs, some agencies with both programs create transportation logs. Veterans enrolled in both programs can use SSVF transportation support to get to medical appointments and other meetings related to care, and HVRP transportation support to get to job interviews and other meetings related to work. The date and purpose of these trips are documented in the log. SSVF and HVRP programs can use these logs to track efforts, ensure consistent communication, and identify gaps in coverage.

Credentials and Work Supplies

Because both SSVF and HVRP can potentially pay for credentials and work supplies, one agency with both grants in their community had weekly team meetings to make sure the SSVF and HVRP teams were dividing up training dollars to fill gaps for Veterans on their joint caseload. For example, when the SSVF program was low on funds near the end of the program year, the HVRP program was able to use its training funds to pay for food safety certifications and work boots.

Data Sharing

HVRP and SSVF report into different data systems (VOPAR and HMIS respectively). But, that does not mean agencies with both or even communities with both programs do not communicate. One community employed MOUs outlining what information could be shared between programs. All Veterans coming into SSVF were screened for HVRP and referred immediately. This community hosted bi-weekly meetings of case management teams from both programs to go over specific cases and used a joint online calendar to share trainings and workshops so Veterans enrolled in both did not miss out because of conflicting schedules.