

2023 VA Permanent Housing Conference

C2 Dallas SSVF Shallow Subsidy as a Tool for Long Term Success

Who is in the room?

- **SSVF Staff**
- **HUD-VASH Staff**
- **VA leadership**

Shallow Subsidy as a Tool for Long -Term Success

November 2023

Presenter: Deidre Knight (they/them), LCSW, LAC

Agenda

Part 1: Introduction & Overview

Part 2: Referrals

Part 3: Identification & Prioritization

Part 4: Housing First & Holistic Approach

Part 5: Lessons Learned

Part 6: Case Studies & Success Stories

Who is SSVF?

Who has a successful

Shallow Subsidy Service?

What struggles are you

facing?

30 Years Serving Colorado



RMHS Overview

A non-profit organization that supports more than 17,000 Coloradans through case management and direct services



Homes for All

Veterans Program

Rocky Mountain Human Services serves over 1400 Veterans annually across the state of Colorado.

The Veterans' program is funded by the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) grant.

The Veterans' program has operated at Rocky Mountain Human Services since 2011.



Who We Serve

Military
Veterans



Must be experiencing
homelessness or at imminent
risk of homelessness

Shallow Subsidy



RMHS Shallow Subsidy

Service

Employs four full-time case managers and a Program Manager

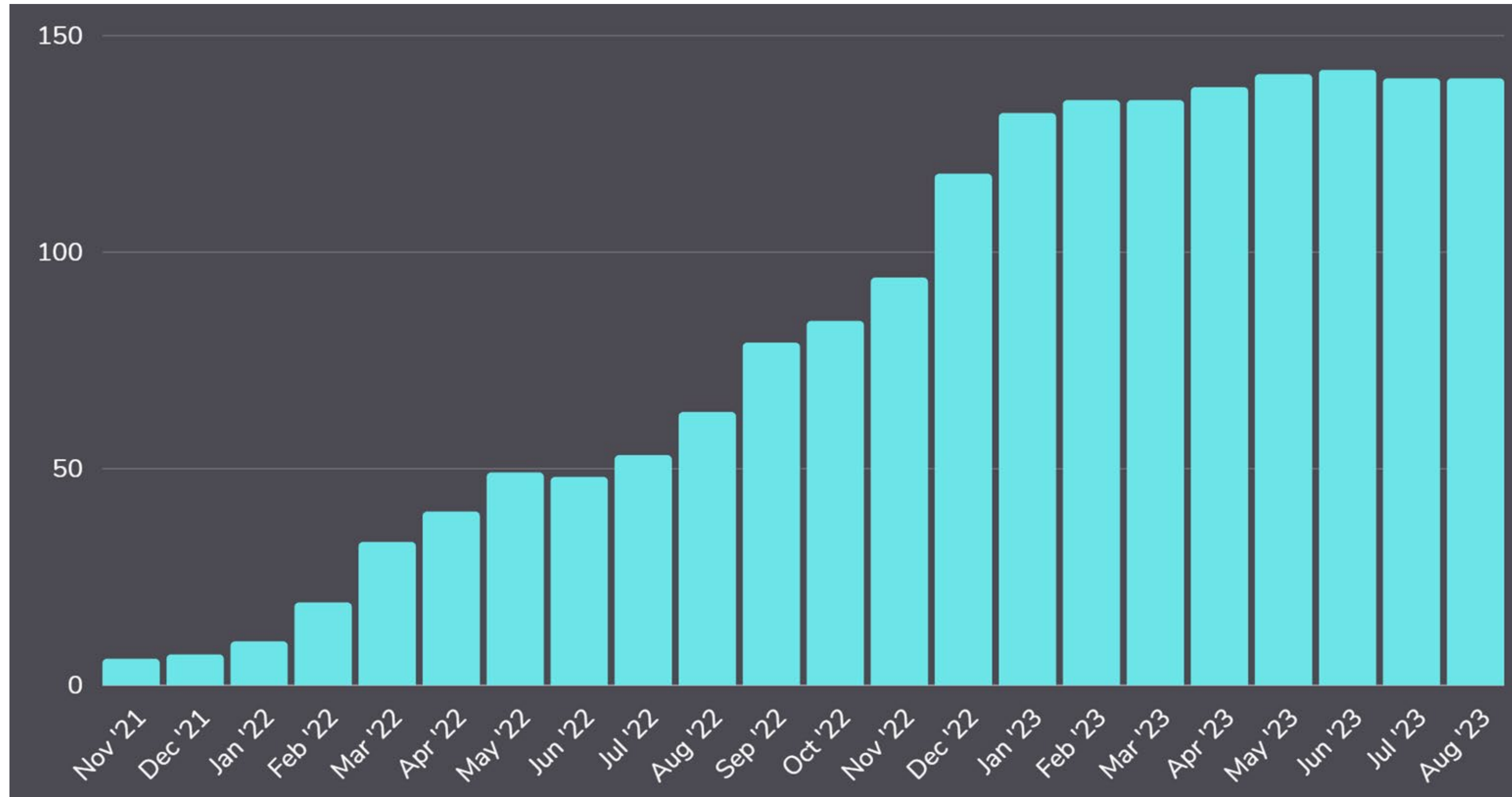
Enrolled over 160 Veterans in less than 2 years

Pay over \$100,000/month on rental assistance

How did we do it?



Shallow Subsidy Enrollments





Identification & Prioritization

Internal Hype: 10% goal

Prioritization: BIPOC and LGBT+

Prioritization: fixed-income, medical needs



Referral

Simple

Requirements agreed upon with fellow grantee:
Must have enough income to cover half of rent
Must successfully pay half of rent for one month

Must discuss during Team Meeting



Referral

Does Veteran have current lease?

Does Veteran earn more than 30% Area Medium Income?

Housing Inspection Complete?

Rent Reasonable Form Complete?

Is Shallow Subsidy in their Housing Stability Plan?

Program Manager Approval



Housing First

No discrimination against income type

Can have mental health needs & medical needs

No sobriety requirements

No such thing as “unsuitable” based on attitude



Holistic Support

Connections to Health Care Navigators

Connections to Legal Services Subcontractor

Connections to job training programs

All Veterans create a budget

All Veterans create a Housing Stability Plan:
Planning for graduation at Day One

Rent Calculator



Household's total monthly income *

Veteran's full address *

Number of bedrooms *

Veteran's total monthly rent amount *

Total monthly amount that Veteran will pay *

Is the Rent Reasonable Form uploaded into CaseLogic? *

Shallow Subsidy start date *

Any other important information regarding this Veteran or their lease or their landlord?



Need to re-evaluate on
a quarterly basis.
All programs should be
constantly evolving.

Lessons Learned

Hired a Shallow Subsidy Program Manager
one year into roll-out

Additional Questions on Referral

Denying Veterans when it won't fit in their budget

Explaining to case managers that not 100% of
Veterans can go into Shallow Subsidy

Moving Veterans back into traditional SSVF when
they do not pay their half of rent

Case Study

Veteran receiving disability benefits at \$1000/month. No other income. Their rent is \$1800/month.

Not appropriate referral

Case Study

Elder Veteran receiving pension of \$1400/month. Rent is \$1000/month. Veteran starting to become unable to take care of their daily needs in an independent apartment: will need Assisted Living or Skilled Nursing shortly.

Appropriate referral!

Case Study

Veteran just started a new job 2 weeks ago earning \$2000/month. Rent is \$1200/month. Veteran has been slightly rude to their case manager in the past and drinks alcohol daily.

Appropriate referral!

Ask them to pay half their rent for a number of months before Shallow Subsidy Service

Success Story

36-year-old female Veteran who obtained part-time employment. Within a few months she obtained higher-paying full-time employment.

Within 12 months she saved up for a down payment on a house and voluntarily opted out of the program when she started meeting with a realtor. Purchased her first home 3 months after graduating from Shallow Subsidy.

Success Story

65-year-old male Veteran who only had disability income and several medical concerns.

Was immediately connected to the Health Care Navigator, who connected him to a Primary Doctor, medications, and in-home health nursing care.

Case Manager got him approved for Medicaid Long Term Care.

Within 16 months, he moved into an Assisted Living Facility paid for by Medicaid: no longer needed SSVF services.



Questions



Contact



Deidre Knight:
dknight@rmhumanservices.org