

SSVF FY 2022 Supplemental Award

SSVF and HUD-VASH FAQ

Version 2 August 2022

This FAQ has been created to address frequently asked questions about the SSVF FY 2022 Supplemental Award. Grantees received award notifications on 8/9/22. Revised budgets are due by September 2nd. For additional information on awards and next steps, please refer to the [SSVF website](#), and the [NOFA webinar library](#). This new opportunity and flexibilities will evolve over time. Please submit nuanced questions to your respective SSVF or HUD-VASH Program Office if you need further clarification.

General Questions

Award Timeline and Next Steps

1. How many years do the supplemental awards last?

They are 4-year awards that supplement existing capacity. Annual grant funds can also support some of the services offered under these new authorities.

2. Where can I find information about awards?

Formal award announcements are expected in early September.

3. When are revised budgets due to the VA?

SSVF Budget revisions and Geography Resolutions are due in UDPaaS by September 2nd.

4. Our SSVF grant serves counties outside of the named VA Medical catchment area. For planning and budgeting, do these new flexibilities also apply to Veterans or services in those other counties?

No. Only Veterans served within the geography of the VA Medical Center can access these various flexibilities. Grantees will need to work internally to ensure proper controls are in place, so these flexibilities remain focused on the counties/areas covered by the VAMC. Other areas outside of the VAMC catchment area continue to operate under normal SSVF regulation.

5. What role does HUD-VASH have in planning for next steps?

The HUD-VASH program office expects HUD-VASH teams to be active partners in planning and implementation. HUD-VASH should work jointly with SSVF to plan for staffing and other considerations, e.g., ensuring new systems and processes do not exacerbate existing disparities. HUD-VASH teams and local grantees who share catchment areas should initiate planning as soon as possible prior to September 2nd final budget submissions and will likely continue to plan and implement these new services over time.

Co-Enrollment and Services

6. Does a Veteran need to be co-enrolled in HUD-VASH and SSVF to receive SSVF Housing Navigator services?

Yes, if the SSVF Housing Navigator time funded through the supplemental award is assisting the Veteran to find housing then the Veteran needs to be co-enrolled in both programs. SSVF Housing Navigation time for Veterans only enrolled in SSVF and not HUD-VASH would be charged to SSVF's normal grant award.

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- 7. For co-enrollments, would SSVF still need a referral from the HUD-VASH worker to enroll a Veteran?**
Local coordination and planning will be essential to determining the process, but generally SSVF would need to communicate with HUD-VASH team before providing these navigation services. Enrollment and referral protocol should be locally driven and based upon each program's capacity, needs and other coordinated entry considerations.
- 8. Can HUD-VASH Contractors utilize the additional services too?**
Collaborative planning will be critical, and services performed by contractors cannot be duplicated by SSVF. The presence or absence of HUD-VASH contract housing specialists should be a consideration when identifying the housing navigation gaps that SSVF needs to focus on.
- 9. What will be the role of HUD-VASH versus SSVF**
Identifying Veterans for HUD-VASH is the responsibility of the HUD-VASH team (in coordination with location CES and partners, including SSVF). The expectation is that HUD-VASH will continue to screen and enroll Veterans in HUD-VASH through this process, but specific strategies for coordinating with SSVF to ensure all appropriate Veterans are screened will be dependent on local case conferencing processes, etc. HUD-VASH will provide the primary case management services with SSVF focused specifically on housing navigation.
- 10. It sounds like the SSVF Bridge to HUD-VASH is similar to what we were given clearance to do during the PHA delays during Covid? Is it essentially similar?**
Yes. Using a bridge model would be appropriate if there are local delays in issuing vouchers in order to expedite Veteran access to permanent housing.
- 11. Is the HUD VASH Referral packet still applicable (less the requirement of a unit being identified) or is SSVF required to document eligibility as it does for non-VASH?**
SSVF must determine eligibility at the point of co-enrollment and document the enrollment in HMIS. SSVF only needs to confirm Veteran status, homeless status, and income to determine eligibility and may be able to receive that information from HUD-VASH. The HUD-VASH packet is used for a different purpose than co-enrollment for Housing Navigation services. The SSVF Program Office anticipates updating the HUD-VASH packet to allow for its use under these new eligible activities.
- 12. Can we keep a client enrolled in SSVF after the housing placement with the HUD-VASH voucher is done?**
Generally, no. SSVF should be exiting Veterans from SSVF services when or shortly after the housing placement is complete and the HUD-VASH voucher is in place. Similar to any other co-enrollment guidance, SSVF and HUD-VASH should not be simultaneously serving Veterans once the Veteran is permanently housed. The only exception to this would be where SSVF serves a bridge to permanent housing to expedite housing placements while final voucher arrangements are completed.
- 13. We have just received a grant for HUD-VASH Housing Navigators where we receive \$2,000 per lease signed. Can this grant and outcomes use this SSVF grant if they are controlled and count as an outcome.**
Unfortunately, not at this time.
- 14. Will we have a targeting tool to determine equitably which Veterans/Veteran families to enroll?**
The only mandated targeting tool currently in use is the SSVF homeless prevention screener. It is required that the majority of the funding from the grant (at least 80% of the temporary financial assistance) is used to place literally

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homeless Veterans into permanent housing. Grantees must work closely with the local HUD-VASH and coordinated entry teams to ensure equitable access to these enhanced services. All grantees are strongly encouraged to partner with their local VAMC, CoC, and other key critical partners; including Veterans with lived experiences and expertise to understand the local needs, available local resources, and data – disaggregated by race, ethnicity, gender, ability, and other intersectional factors to avoid causing or worsening any disparities.

Housing Navigator Roles and Responsibilities

15. Our grant award amount does not allow us to fund a full-time navigator. Can a navigator split their services between HUD-VASH and SSVF?

Depending on the size of the SSVF grant, geographic considerations, general expertise, and assessment of local need (to be informed through collaborative planning with SSVF and HUD-VASH), SSVF may elect to have staff with roles that are split. The time spent on SSVF-only Veterans would be billed to the normal SSVF grant.

16. Will navigators funded through the supplemental award only provide services to Veterans that are enrolled in HUD-VASH? Can Veterans not eligible for HUD-VASH be served by these specific navigators?

Generally, yes. Funds from this supplemental funding must support housing navigation for HUD-VASH co-enrolled Veterans. However, some staff may need to split roles based on budget constraints or need so a single individual staff member could provide housing navigation to SSVF-only Veterans but their time providing those services to Veterans not co-enrolled in HUD-VASH would be charged to your normal grant budget.

17. We cover multiple HUD-VASH teams. Is there going to be a cap on the number of Housing Navigators SSVF can have on staff to work with HUD-VASH?

You will need to work with HUD-VASH and other area SSVF grantees to determine how many navigators, where they will be placed, and what role(s) those Navigators play.

18. Is this housing navigator a separate position from the housing navigator we already utilize?

Housing navigator services funded under the supplemental awards are dedicated to finding housing for Veterans enrolled in HUD-VASH. The Veteran may initially be briefly housed through SSVF, but the final housing must be HUD-VASH.

19. Can we also hire a Social Worker for HUD-VASH as our local HUD-VASH team desperately needs a Social Worker?

The staffing funds from this supplemental award can only be used to hire/retain housing navigators employed by the SSVF grantee. However, SSVF housing navigator capacity may end up freeing HUD-VASH staff to provide clinical case management for Veterans not currently receiving an adequate level of services.

20. Who do the new Housing Navigators report to? SSVF or the HUD- VASH staff?

The housing navigators are hired by SSVF and report to the SSVF grantee but work collaboratively with the HUD-VASH team. SSVF funds from these awards cannot be used to hire other staff or hire federal employees. We strongly encourage SSVF and HUD-VASH managers to be communicating about needs or potential changes to how the Housing Navigators provide benefit to the goal of permanently housing Veterans.

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21. Why not consider that the funding is allocated to HUD-VASH for the housing navigator if it is just to augment their roles as case manager?

The process for HUD-VASH teams augmenting their staffing is separate. This process is specifically for grantees to utilizing their existing flexibilities to support shared goals.

22. Will sample functional statements/job descriptions be provided?

We will make sample job descriptions available and invite grantees to share existing job descriptions they have with the SSVF program office. SSVF and HUD-VASH should work together to define roles across teams.

23. If we elevate a current housing navigator into the liaison role with HUD-VASH through this funding, would we still be able to utilize these staff for traditional case management (non-dually enrolled Veterans)?

The staffing funds from these supplemental funds can only be used to hire housing navigators. The housing navigators are hired by SSVF and report to the SSVF grantee but work collaboratively with the HUD-VASH team. Some individual staff members may split their roles if appropriate, but their time performing job duties not related to HUD-VASH would need be charged to your normal grant.

24. Are there any templates that can guide the SSVF providers on procedures for imbedding staff with HUD-VASH or is that something we would develop collaboratively with the HUD-VASH staff?

It will be critical to work collaboratively with local HUD-VASH staff to develop locally responsive processes and procedures.

25. Are we limited placing one housing navigator to place with HUD-VASH, or is it one position per HUD-VASH program, or determined by our planning with partners in community?

SSVF grantees will need to work both with other area grantees and HUD-VASH staff to assess need.

Landlord Incentives

26. Can we plan to provide the two month incentive for all Veterans enrolled in SSVF?

All Veterans enrolled in SSVF within the funded VA Medical Center catchment areas could potentially access landlord incentives on their behalf; however, incentives are meant to overcome housing barriers for the Veteran and/or resolve landlord concerns. Where housing is already dedicated for homeless persons, for instance housing supported with project-based vouchers or tax-credits, such landlord incentives should not be necessary. So, SSVF grantees must still demonstrate that the landlord incentive was used to further expedite permanent housing access for the Veteran. Grantees also need to assess how much money is available for landlord incentives as you may need to prioritize or further limit incentives based on budget realities and local demand.

27. Are we able to provide less than the maximum incentive amount in order to serve more Veterans?

Yes, the maximum incentive is a limit, and the incentive amount can be customized to reflect local need. Grantees are encouraged to also negotiate with landlords, when needed and applicable.

28. Would the 2 months of rent go under General Housing Stability Assistance? Can you use this if the rent is over the FMR?

Whatever the unit rent up to rent reasonableness is the basis for the incentive. It is not charged under the GHSA limit.

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As a reminder, SSVF uses Rent Reasonable rather than Fair Market Rent. HUD-VASH units are tied to the local PHA's payment standards.

29. Is there a minimum lease term for landlord incentives?

Incentives may only be offered for lease situations of at least one year. Shorter term lease situations may not include landlord incentives.

30. Can you clarify more about the landlord incentives and HUD-VASH?

SSVF can provide up to the value of 2-months' rent to secure a new lease for Veterans enrolled in SSVF or co-enrolled in SSVF and HUD-VASH. This payment is not considered "rent" or "security deposit" but instead a "fee" or "incentive" for the landlord for leasing to a high-risk tenant/Veteran.

31. Is there a limit on how often a landlord incentive may be used with a Veteran? For example, if we use the incentive to house a Veteran but he/she is evicted or needs to move before the end of the lease, can we use these funds again for a different landlord to receive an incentive?

It can be used again if the Veteran needs to move to a new housing location.

32. Will landlord incentives and any other new eligible expenses under this funding also be allowable under existing funding, or can we only pay for these types of new eligible expenses under the new supplemental funding? If only under the new funding, can we pair the new funding with our regular grant, e.g., pay for the landlord incentives with the new grant and pay for the rental assistance through the regular grant or shallow subsidy grant for example?

If a grantee received a supplemental award, they would also be able to use existing funding for these incentives.

33. Can you clarify what a "double security deposit" is and what the landlord incentive is of up to 2 months' rent? Is this landlord incentive for 2 months' rent applied to the total rent or is it just a separate payment to the landlord as a bonus incentive not applied to the rent?

The landlord can receive two, separate payments to support move-in. Previously, you were always allowed to provide a 2-month security deposit where market conditions made that necessary to secure a lease. This NOFA allows for an additional landlord incentive payment worth up to 2-months' rent. Unlike the security deposit, the landlord incentive is not returned at the end of the tenancy. The landlord incentive would not be applied towards the Veterans rent.

34. Can we give the landlord the 2-month incentive once every year during the four years of this grant?

You may only provide the incentive one time per lease. The incentive would not be given every year on the same lease. It is to be used to originate, not renew a lease. A Veteran could receive another incentive on their behalf if they move to a new unit and the incentive is necessary to facilitate that move.

35. Are there any caps on the number of months for this rental assistance per Veteran household?

Under SSVF the limit is a rent reasonableness standard. HUD-VASH uses the FMR. All other SSVF rental assistance regulations remain in place.

36. The landlord would get paid for 14 months of rent for a 12-month lease, correct?

In essence, yes, the landlord could receive up to two months additional rent as an incentive if needed to secure

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housing for the Veteran. However, these incentives are not treated as “rent,” and are instead a direct payment that is separate from either “rent” or “security deposits.”

37. Our HUD-VASH team mentioned that they may have landlord incentives coming also. Can a landlord receive both the SSVF landlord incentive AND the HUD-VASH incentive?

SSVF funding cannot be combined with other federal funding used for identical purposes, so incentives provided by SSVF cannot be combined with HUD incentives. They could, however, be combined with other private or local government resources.

38. Can HUD-VASH refer households to SSVF to receive landlord incentives?

Yes, if those Veterans are co-enrolled in SSVF and SSVF has the funding capacity to support those costs.

Tenant Incentives

39. What are some of the items we can purchase on behalf of Veterans?

The SSVF Program Office will continue to evaluate various purchases and provide guidance on an ongoing basis. Please review the previous webinars and documents on the SSVF website. If you have a specific, nuanced question about a type of purchase please email SSVF@va.gov and include your SSVF Regional Coordinator. The tenant incentive available through the NOFA is in addition to the funding available to support tenant move-in through General Housing Stability Assistance (GHSA). That GHSA limit is currently \$1800.

40. Are we able to provide less than the maximum incentive amount in order to serve more Veterans?

Yes, \$1000 is a limit on available support and the incentive can be customized to meet community and Veteran need.

41. The tenant incentive is NOT a direct payment to Veteran, correct?

Correct. The tenant incentive does not go directly to the Veteran. Instead, SSVF makes the purchases on behalf of the Veterans in compliance with SSVF regulations. SSVF is encouraged to establish a list of preferred vendors (online retail, box stores, local stores) to make financial tracking easier. Grantees must be able to demonstrate that the goods purchased do not exceed \$1,000 for any individual Veteran household and that that the goods were delivered or provided to the Veteran in their housing unit.

42. Can HUD-VASH refer households to SSVF to receive tenant incentives?

Yes, if those Veterans are co-enrolled in SSVF and SSVF has the funding capacity to support those costs. Local partners must coordinate how requests are made and the steps needed to approve or deny such requests. As funding is limited, in their budget planning HUD-VASH and SSVF should have a clear understanding about how many such incentives are available.

43. Can you buy the Veteran a pet with tenant incentive funds?

Grantees can buy a pet (including fees associated with adoption) but cannot pay for any ongoing expenses so this must be carefully planned and budgeted. Grantees should ensure that the pet is also in compliance with the terms of the lease agreement.

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44. Can the tenant incentives be used to pay for a gym or health club membership?

Yes. Grantees should explore how best to allocate this cost, most likely on a yearly basis. Also, tenant incentives could be used to purchase health equipment or goods that the Veteran retains (workout equipment, bicycles, etc.)

45. If we purchase a computer for a Veteran, can we also pay for internet access?

SSVF is incorporating and updating the Program Guide for internet services, cell phone or landline phone to be allowed under Utility TFA. This is an allowable expense for those type of activities.

46. Can the tenant incentives include a "move in kit" such as dishes, cleaning supplies, shower curtains, etc.?

Yes, but grantees should also consider that these items can be funded with TFA under normal GHSA as well so the tenant incentive TFA can include items not generally purchased under GHSA.

47. We purchase beds under GHSA, would beds as an incentive only be if they exceed the GHSA limit?

Yes, if TFA for GHSA is exhausted, the tenant incentive can be utilized for this.

48. Can incentives be more than one item that totals up to \$1,000?

Yes, the total incentive limit is \$1,000.

49. Are the tenant incentives for all SSVF clients or only those co-enrolled with HUD-VASH?

Both tenant and landlords' incentives are available to SSVF only households as long as they are served in one of the funded VAMC catchment areas that receives funding.

50. Can we use the tenant incentive money for Veterans already housed but still enrolled and served with ongoing TFA and housing retention services and/or shallow subsidy services or is this only for new clients?

No, this is for newly housed.

51. Can you use the tenant incentive money with prevention clients or just RRH clients?

Grantees can utilize for both prevention and RRH, however a minimum 80% of the TFA funds from the NOFA must be used for the literally homeless. Grantees can use their "regular" award funds to support tenant incentives which need to conform only to the minimum 60% requirements.

52. For the tenant incentive, we were looking at staggering the \$1000.00 over two periods: one at move-in, and one at the halfway point of a lease agreement. To get housed and stay housed. Is this kind of flexibility allowed, or should it be all up front?

The intent of the incentive is \$1,000 at the time of move in and not to stagger the purchases. It may take a couple of weeks or so for a Veteran to identify their needs in housing but generally the \$1,000 incentive should be used at the beginning of the tenancy.

53. Just confirming that HUD-VASH is not responsible for the purchasing tenant incentives.

Correct, although, HUD-VASH case managers may help co-enrolled Veterans identify what they need or want and communicate with SSVF to make the purchases. This should be coordinated locally.

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80% Area Median Income (AMI)

54. Does the 80% AMI change apply to all SSVF services, or only those co-enrolled in HUD-VASH?

The AMI change applies to any Veteran seeking SSVF services in the VA Medical Center catchment area, regardless of co-enrollment in HUD-VASH. However, grantees and their partners will need to assess whether there is local capacity to serve this expanded eligibility group. This change in eligibility applies to all SSVF funding streams, including Shallow Subsidies.

55. Will HUD-VASH/PHA's in the funded communities also be increasing their cap to 80%AMI?

This is a local PHA decision. We encourage grantees to work closely with your HUD-VASH and PHA partners.

56. Can you please clarify/confirm/deny that by very low income you mean below 50%AMI?

The definition of very low income is at or below 50%. For communities awarded these supplemental funds, SSVF can serve up to 80% AMI. This applies to all Veterans enrolled in SSVF, not just those co-enrolled in HUD-VASH. The ability to serve higher income Veterans is based on grantee capacity and the need to maintain commitment to housing first and ensuring equity in service planning and delivery.

57. Is there an income level restriction/component to this 80%?

Eighty percent AMI is the income limit, which is equal to the "low Income" level in the HUD AMI Limits chart.

58. Were there strategies shared on how to ramp up to 80% AMI?

VA continues to offer support and Technical Assistance to grantees. Grantees are encouraged to work with HUD-VASH teams and local coordinated entry leads to develop a projection of how demand may increase. Grantees are still expected to use the HP screener to prioritize services for at-risk Veterans. Literally homeless Veterans eligible for services should be prioritized for services. Grantees are strongly encouraged to communicate these changes with local coordinated entry leads so appropriate adjustments can be made.

59. Regarding 50-80% AMI, is this mandatory that we increase to 80%, or can we increase to 65%, for example?

You should make that decision based on local need and demand.

60. Can the 80% AMI flexibility be used for Shallow Subsidy? We see Veterans who are over 50% AMI, but have child support, other withholdings that may make rent unaffordable.

Yes.

61. Once we are allowed to serve Veterans at 80% AMI, does this also apply to Veterans currently enrolled at their point of recertification? Can a currently enrolled Veteran be recertified up to the 80% once the MOAs are in place?

This applies to all Veterans, including those who are being recertified.

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SSVF Specific Questions

HMIS

62. How do we capture these services in HMIS?

To accurately capture the work provided under the Supplemental awards for Landlord or Veteran Incentives in HMIS and to ensure the data is uploaded to the VA Repository please perform the following for each Veteran:

1. V2 Services Provided – SSVF This is how we will know that the Veteran is receiving assistance under the NOFA. On Date of Service, record “Other” service and write “Incentive”
2. V3 Financial Assistance – SSVF This is how we will know what kind of = incentives the Veteran received. On same Date as above, record EITHER “Moving cost” plus amount for “Landlord Incentive” OR “General housing stability assistance” plus amount for “Veteran Incentive”

Have your HMIS Lead/HMIS Vendor confirm with the HMIS Data Dictionary that you are tracking it correctly in your local HMIS software. Email ssvfhmis@abtassoc.com if you have further questions or need clarifications.

63. Do we have to create a separate project for this grant in HMIS and, if so, the Veterans will have to be dually enrolled, correct?

This is not a new project type. SSVF grantees will continue to enroll participants as RRH or HP.

HHS Account/PMS

64. Will the funding be a separate account in the PMS? Do we need to track expenditures for this funding separately from our regular SSVF funding?

Yes, a separate HHS account will be established for this funding and separate fiscal reporting will be required (FFR-FER)

65. The NOFA states that a minimum of 80% of TFA must be used to serve very low-income Veteran families.

The NOFA states that 80% of funds must be used on Veterans experiencing literal homelessness.

66. Do we need to track the landlord and tenant incentives separately in our financial management system?

Yes. While these payments will be recorded in specific ways in HMIS for the time being, you must track internally the distinctions between landlord incentives, normal GHSA, tenant incentives and typical SSVF costs.

67. Is this part of the \$1800 General Housing Stability limit or money in addition?

The \$1,000 tenant incentive is in addition to GHSA and is a more flexible resource than traditional GHSA.

TFA Eligibility

68. Can we spend more than 50% of the new awards on the TFA categories (incentives) if that works for our community, or

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are we required to spend at least 50% on Housing Navigation?

You may spend more than 50% of your award on TFA if that best meets the need for your local community. SSVF grantees and HUD-VASH partners should work together to ensure these funds best meet local needs.

69. Can we also use TFA from regular grants to pay for landlord incentives if we need to for some reason?

Yes, however, this is limited to Veterans housed in the catchment area of the identified for the VAMC.

70. Under the new funding, is SSVF-deposit assistance still limited to once every 2 years?

Deposit assistance is still limited to those restrictions and would be paid for by your normal grant. The landlord incentive is a separate type of allowable cost.

71. Can a Veteran receive TFA through traditional SSVF and the new supplemental funds?

Grantees can use the “regular” grant for other forms of TFA. This NOFA is exclusively to be used for incentives and housing navigators. This is an added service on top of other traditional SSVF services. The resources from this NOFA are a supplement to your existing award – it is not funding for a separate program.

72. If a Veteran is homeless with 80% AMI, would the TFA for rent have a different limit than the Veterans at 50% AMI?

No, other regulations are unchanged.

73. So, we can use TFA from regular grant in conjunction with landlord incentives with new grant, correct? We can co-mingle grant monies to serve the same Veteran.

Yes, that is correct.

74. When will traditional SSVF expand financial eligibility from max of 50% AMI to 80% AMI for all grantees? If we did that, we could take a substantial step towards meeting the 38,000 goal.

The changes available to grantees serving areas in Table 1 may be expanded, in the future, to other areas depending on funding availability.

75. Is supervisory staff allowable with this funding (e.g., portion of an FTE for Program Manager), or must that come from existing funds?

Staff outside the Housing Navigator or their direct support must come from your regular grant funds. While grantees can charge the portion of supervision directly tied to housing navigation to the grant if it cannot be supported from their regular award, the intent is to provide as much direct support to HUD-VASH housing navigation as possible. Please note: grantees typically have ample funding and will need to continue to provide other supports through their regular grants, given they are on a 9 month spending plan for a 12 month award (FY22).

76. What percentage of the award must be used for staffing vs TFA?

This is a locally driven decision based on need.

77. Can this ARP funding or SSVF funding be used to pay for HQS training/certification of housing staff?

Grantees can certainly use the “regular” budget for this purpose.

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78. Just to clarify, is it true that the MOA amount will be spread over the 4 years? For example, if the MOA shows \$800,000 award amount, then we break out the budget at \$200k per year times 4 years?

Generally, yes, however the program office expects some grantees will have higher spending rates toward the front end of that timeline. Please contact your Regional Coordinator if funding projections need attention.

79. Are veterans who are not served by HUD-VASH eligible to receive incentives using the supplemental funds?

They can be used either for co-enrolled participants or for those enrolled in SSVF only. The only resource restricted to those co-enrolled with HUD-VASH are the housing navigation services supported by this NOFA.

80. Can we pay for some advertising/promotion to directly target potential new landlords and veterans to advise them of these new incentives and benefits? For example, PSAs which we have found very helpful.

We are currently limiting the use of these funds to the specific purpose items identified in the budget. You could consider using your regular SSVF funding if this is a need. Please follow the Program Guide guidance and criteria to ensure its allowable.

81. When the Stafford Act ends, will the additional landlord incentives under the supplemental award count towards the total number of months of rent available to the Veteran?

These incentives are not counted towards the normal rent limits. These are a separate cost type.

82. When will the program Guide be updated to reflect this additional funding?

Expect to see update when the next program guide is published.

83. Is there a limited or maximum month(s) that we can provide the rental assistance per Veteran?

The amount of rental assistance (dollars or months) is based on the Veteran's needs and SSVF RRH or Shallow Subsidy program guidelines. The supplemental award does not change those program guidelines.

84. Are we able to master lease?

You can, but SSVF can only pay for rent of a Veteran occupied unit.

85. Are grantees allowed to charge other things to the grant that will be needed for the Housing Navigator to provide HUD-VASH assistance e.g., laptop, mileage, phone, cell service, and etc.?

The SSVF Program Office would like grantees to keep their primary focus on the provision of Housing Navigation and Incentives in addition to expanded eligibility within the VA Medical Center catchment area. Currently, up to 10% of the budget may be used for administrative costs. Most additional expenses should be supplemented from your existing grant budget. Should it be necessary, grantees would be allowed to charge phone service, computer, internet service, and vehicle costs to this new supplemental funding award.

HUD-VASH Specific Questions

86. How will the SSVF Housing Navigator staff integrate into existing HUD-VASH programs?

This will be dependent on each site's case management organizational structure. HUD-VASH case management duties and responsibilities will remain the same as per [Directive 1162.05\(1\)](#) however the additional SSVF Housing Navigator staff will support HUD-VASH staff in the actual housing placement process, including housing search and coordination with

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PHA. The expectation is that the SSVF Housing Navigator will work alongside the VA staff, with close coordination and communication on a daily basis.

87. Is the HUD-VASH program required to provide office space to the SSVF Housing Navigator (s)?

No. VA encourages HUD-VASH and SSVF to work in close partnership. In some cases, this may mean co-location, but this is not a requirement.

88. Can the Housing Navigator run groups for Veterans in the housing process?

Yes, Housing Navigators could use a group model for supporting housing search and placement as long as the focus is on housing navigation and not broader case management or clinical needs.

89. Will SSVF Housing Navigators provide case management for HUD-VASH Veterans?

No. HUD-VASH staff will continue to be responsible for and provide case management. Each site will discuss and clarify the SSVF Housing Navigator roles, particularly where there are existing Housing Specialists or teams set up to house Veterans. HUD-VASH will also clarify the case management roles and responsibilities that will continue to be provided by VA staff.

90. Are Housing Navigator expected to interact with the local PHA issuing HUD-VASH vouchers?

This is a local decision based on existing relationships and needs. Generally, we expect HUD-VASH to maintain its partnership with the PHA, but how that is operationalized should be based on local planning.

91. What information sharing agreements need to be in place to coordinate around Veteran needs?

[Routine Use 30](#) allows for broad information sharing related to Veterans' housing needs. VA and SSVF, along with local partners, are strongly encouraged to have existing data and information sharing agreements to allow for seamless delivery of services for Veterans at-risk of or experiencing literal homelessness. Please see the [SSVF website](#) and other VA guidance for more information, including guidance related to information sharing for the purposes of coordinating housing services.

92. What additional documentation will be expected of HUD-VASH staff as result of this collaboration with SSVF Housing Navigators?

As with all interactions with SSVF or other non-HUD-VASH resources, collaboration is to be documented in CPRS/Cerner EHR.

93. If a Veteran is receiving rental assistance through SSVF prior to being housed with a HUD-VASH voucher, how is this documented in HOMES?

If the Veteran is permanently housed with rent paid by SSVF prior to the start of the HUD-VASH voucher subsidy, this should be documented in the SSVF Housing Status section of the Housing Progress Form. Otherwise, proceed with HUD-VASH documentation in HOMES as usual. No additional documentation is needed in HOMES to capture services provided by Housing Navigators or landlord incentives. For HOMES documentation questions, please submit a ticket to the HOMES Help Desk, available on the [HOMES main page](#).