

**Department of
Veterans Affairs**

Memorandum

Date: December 22, 2020

From: Assistant Under Secretary for Health for Clinical Services (11)

Subj: Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Assistance for Veterans Participating in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Housing and Urban Development- Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) (VIEWS # 4118488)

To: Veterans Integrated Service Network Directors (10N1-23)
Network Homeless Coordinators (10N1-23)

1. To highlight VA's ongoing commitment to preventing and ending Veteran homelessness, the purpose of this memorandum is to provide guidance of the availability of SSVF resources to assist Veterans participating in (HUD-VASH)
2. The COVID-19 pandemic outbreak has caused many public housing authorities (PHA) to temporarily close offices or operate on modified schedules. These changes may have resulted in a backlog of Veterans participating in HUD-VASH from being able to move into housing. Beginning April 24, 2020, through until further notice, SSVF will modify guidance to allow SSVF grantees to provide housing search assistance, housing placements, security deposits, and rental assistance for Veterans participating in HUD-VASH and looking for housing. This will allow Veterans to secure prospective housing while waiting for PHA to complete the process of issuing a HUD-VASH voucher and completing the required housing quality standards (HQS) inspection.
3. Veterans in HUD-VASH and receiving SSVF housing search, placement, security deposits, and rental assistance will be co-enrolled with both programs. This may include assistance with completing any necessary paperwork to obtain a HUD-VASH voucher and completing the housing search and lease up process.
4. SSVF may provide rental assistance on behalf of Veterans who has been admitted to HUD-VASH and are awaiting issuance of a voucher or have a voucher that an HQS inspection has not been completed. This will facilitate moves into permanent housing without delay. It is encouraged that moving Veterans into households prior to the HQS be done with landlords who are already familiar with HUD-VASH or Section 8 PHA process. It is recommended that SSVF grantees utilize rent reasonableness in situations where a voucher has not yet been issued by the PHA. SSVF may continue to pay rental costs until the Veteran can be transitioned to a HUD-VASH voucher.

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5. SSVF providers may have limited capacity and resources to provide this type of assistance therefore HUD-VASH staff needs to prioritize referrals. It is important for VA and SSVF staff to discuss available funding, staffing capacity, and referral process frequently.

6. Should you have additional questions, please contact the SSVF Program Office at SSVF@va.gov or Meghan Deal, Acting National Director, HUD-VASH Program by email at meghan.deal@va.gov.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'KLM', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kameron Leigh Matthews, MD, JD, FAAFP