

**Department of
Veterans Affairs**

Memorandum

Date: May 19, 2020

From: Assistant Under Secretary for Health for Operations (10N)

Subj: Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Assistance for Veterans Participating in Housing and Urban Development-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) (VIEWS# 2774059)

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

1. This memorandum provides guidance on the availability of Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) resources to assist Veterans participating in Housing and Urban Development-VA Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH). The COVID-19 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.

2. Beginning April 24, 2020, through December 31, 2020, 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 the 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 are awaiting the HQS inspection so that they can move 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.

Page 2

Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Assistance for Veterans Participating in Housing and Urban Development-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH)

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, by email at SSVF@va.gov or Ms. Jesse Vazzano, National Director, HUD-VASH Program, by email at Jesse.Vazzano@va.gov.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jimmy Garnecci".

for
Renee Oshinski