

## **Additional SSVF Resources Available During COVID-19 Crisis\***

*(Version April 28, 2020. Please Note this List Will Be Updated as Conditions and Resources Evolve)*

### 1. Emergency Housing in Hotel/Motels

- a. Designed to reduce exposure of vulnerable populations (as defined by the CDC) to congregate environments where they may be at greater risk from contracting COVID-19.
- b. 45-day overall limit and 72-hour limit for individuals is waived.
- c. Grantees need to provide support services. Purchase of disposable phones for this purpose is allowed when no other resource is available, such as Assurance Wireless – part of the Lifeline Assistance Program at [www.assurancewireless.com](http://www.assurancewireless.com).
- d. Where there are local public health initiatives to set aside hotels/motels for those who are symptomatic, SSVF can use grant funds to support these stays.
- e. Funds can be used for unsheltered, even if not in vulnerable definition.
- f. Recorded webinar on emergency housing available at <https://tacinc.adobeconnect.com/pgk8jrxv1xb6/>.

### 2. Transition-In-Place for HUD-VASH

- a. In areas where PHAs can no longer process vouchers or complete HQS due to shutdowns, SSVF may use temporary financial assistance (TFA) to secure permanent housing. TFA can continue until PHAs resume functioning and rental costs can be transitioned to HUD-VASH voucher support.
- b. Where SSVF has capacity, it may provide housing navigation for HUD-VASH placements.
- c. HUD-VASH staff remain responsible for ongoing case management.
- d. Referral process follows procedures currently in place for SSVF's support of move-in costs. Referral package can be found at [www.va.gov/homeless/ssvf](http://www.va.gov/homeless/ssvf).

### 3. Expanded Access to Homeless Prevention (HP)

- a. The stage 2 screener for HP is no longer required to provide financial assistance.
- b. Households protected by eviction moratoriums may be served, if their accumulating debt will put them at-risk of homelessness.
- c. The requirement that a minimum of 60 percent of financial assistance be spent on literally homeless Veteran households is waived.
- d. Limits on the number of months rental and utility assistance can be provided is waived.

### 4. Food Assistance

- a. SSVF grantees are currently allowed to spend up to \$500 per household on food assistance when no other food resource is available. That \$500 limit has been waived. Do not let Veteran households go hungry.

*\* Resources are only available for those eligible Veteran households enrolled in a SSVF program. These resources should be deployed in close coordination with local VAMCs and CoCs to prioritize the needs of the most vulnerable.*