



U.S. Department
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Fact Sheet

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Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Program

Overview

The SSVF program was authorized by Public Law 110-387 and provides supportive services to very low-income Veteran families that are currently in or transitioning to permanent housing. SSVF is designed to rapidly re-house homeless Veteran families and prevent homelessness for those at imminent risk due to a housing crisis. Funds are granted to private non-profit organizations and consumer cooperatives that will assist very low-income Veteran families by providing a range of supportive services designed to promote housing stability.

Background

VA has made ending homelessness among Veterans by the end of 2015 a top priority, undertaking an unprecedented campaign to dramatically increase successful outcomes for Veterans and their families who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Estimates for Veteran homelessness have dropped substantially in the past several years. There has been a twenty-four percent reduction in Veteran homelessness since 2010. To achieve the goal of ending Veteran homelessness, VA must continue to assist families transitioning from homelessness to permanent housing and prevent at-risk families from becoming homeless. SSVF Program is designed to help Veteran families quickly regain stability in permanent housing after experiencing a housing crisis and/or homelessness.

Supportive Services

Through the SSVF Program, VA aims to improve very low-income Veteran families' housing stability. The first core concept is that SSVF programs utilize a Housing First approach. The essential idea of Housing First is that people's need for housing is a basic need that should be met as quickly as possible, without any preconditions. To meet this goal, grantees (private non-profit organizations and consumer cooperatives) provide eligible Veteran families with outreach, case management, and assistance in obtaining VA and other benefits, which may include:

- Health care services
- Daily living services
- Personal financial planning services
- Transportation services
- Fiduciary and payee services
- Legal services
- Child care services
- Housing counseling services

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In addition, grantees also provide time-limited payments to third parties (e.g., landlords, utility companies, moving companies, and licensed child care providers) if these payments help Veterans' families stay in or acquire permanent housing on a sustainable basis.

Locate an SSVF provider

To learn if there is an SSVF provider in your community, please visit <http://www.va.gov/homeless/ssvf.asp> and look for the list of current year SSVF providers or call VA's National call Center for Homeless Veterans at 1-877-4AIDVET (1-877-424-3838).

Application Process

If you are interested in applying to become an SSVF grantee, you can find application information at <http://www.va.gov/homeless/ssvf.asp> and <http://grants.gov>. When grant funds become available, VA publishes a Notice of Fund Availability (NOFA) in the Federal Register.

Program highlights

In only the second year of program operations, SSVF grantees assisted over 65,000 Veterans and their family members, including nearly 16,000 dependent children. Overall 83 percent of the homeless and imminently at-risk Veteran families served were placed in permanent housing through SSVF.

Additional Information

For more information, please visit: <http://www.va.gov/homeless/ssvf.asp> or send an e-mail to the program at SSVF@va.gov.

This sheet was last updated April 2014 and represents information current as of the end of the second quarter of fiscal year 2014 (January 2014 through March 2014). This fact sheet is next projected to be updated April 2015.