

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF)

SSVF National Webinar Series

FY 2020 Grants Management
and Program Updates
October 10, 2019

[**Link to Adobe Audio**](#)



WEBINAR FORMAT

- Webinar will last approximately 90 minutes
- Participants' phone connections are “muted” due to the high number of callers
 - Questions can be submitted during the webinar using the Q&A function
- Questions can also be submitted anytime to SSVF@va.gov



PRESENTERS

Jill Albanese LCSW, SSVF Deputy
Director

Sandra Foley LCSW, SSVF Supervisory
Regional Coordinator



WEBINAR TOPICS

- FY2020 Resolution
- GIFTS Requirements
- Veteran Status Verification
- SSVF Shallow Subsidy
- Rapid Resolution
- SSVF Screening and Enrollment
- VA HMIS Data updates



FY2020 GRANT RESOLUTION

- Grantee Agreement with the VA represented by a signed Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)
 - Funded Application (s)
 - Approved FY20 Budget
 - Approved FY19 Program Changes
 - Resolution Data
 - Established Target Household for FY20
 - CoC Distribution Sheet
 - Subcontractor changes (if indicated)
 - HP Threshold Score
 - Rapid Re-Housing Waiver
- Grantees will receive MOA after the Resolution review by December 2019



FY2020 GRANT RESOLUTION

- 10/4/19 Resolution Requirement in the GIFTS Portal
- Grantee received email with CoC Distribution attached
- Sample Resolution Requirement and CoC Distribution are available on the SSVF Website at:

https://www.va.gov/homeless/ssvf/?page=/official_guide/reporting_and_monitoring_requirements

- Due October 30, 2019



Reviews Key components of FY20 Award

- Established Target Household for FY20
 - Any requested changes must be supported by data
- CoC Distribution Sheet
 - Must add up to Targeted Households
 - Must include all CoCs served
 - May need to be resubmitted to Regional Coordinator, if any changes approved
- Subcontractor
 - Identify agency, amount and SSVF key Supportive Service provided
 - No need to include FY20 MOA, if in application
 - Will need the FY20 MOA onsite for monitoring and audit purposes
 - Add/removing subcontractor will require uploading MOA/Termination letter
- HP Threshold Score for FY20
- Rapid Re-Housing Waiver, if approved in Fy19



GIFTS RETIRING REQUIREMENTS

Retiring Requirements

- Travel and Training Requirement
 - prudent with all funds and aware of the perception related to travel costs
 - thoughtful when determining the number of employees to send to each training or conference.
 - required to document in their files how the travel directly benefits/relates to the SSVF grant and project.
 - adhere to Federal Travel Regulations.
 - Per-Diem expense reimbursement is allowable if it meets the reimbursement standards.
- Quarterly Grantee Certification
 - SSVF Program will continue to review data on a monthly/quarterly and will reach out the grantees, if there are issues identified
 - Household served grant to date
 - Rapid Resolution conversations and enrollments
 - Participant Satisfaction Survey registered compared to SSVF Exits in the VSSC



FY2020 GIFTS REQUIREMENTS

Requirements currently in GIFTS

- SSVF Contact Change –due date 9/30/2020
 - Submitted only if needed
- Critical Incidents- due date 9/30/2020
 - Submitted only if needed
- FY20 Grant Resolution- due 10/30/2019
- FY19 End of Year-
 - Due 11/15/2019- Grants who did not request extension
 - EOY due 12/16/2019 – will be published 11/1 for Grants who did requested extension

Requirements that will in GIFTS 01/2020

- HP Score change –due date 9/30/2020
 - Submitted only if needed
- RRH Waiver –due date 7/17/2020
 - Only for Grants without approved FY20 Waivers
 - Submitted only if needed



FY2020 GIFTS REQUIREMENTS

Requirements published as needed in GIFTS

- Grievance
- Voluntary Return of Funds
- Disaster Relief Request
- OBO FOFA request

Reporting Requirements published in GIFTS

- SSVF Grant Resolution
- Extension Request
- End of Year Certification
- Budget Submission



FY2020 GIFTS REQUIREMENTS

FY2020 Program Changes

- Second Quarter
 - Available on February 2, 2020 - Due March 2, 2020
- Third Quarter
 - Available on May 4, 2020 - Due June 1, 2020
- Program Changes that need submission
 - Change in geographic area served
 - Addition/Removal of a supportive service not included/included in the current year grant agreement
 - Addition or termination of a subcontractor
 - A budget modification, which will result in changes amounting to greater than 10 percent of your total award.
 - Adding new budgeted line items.
 - Note: When adding new personnel positions, only those which do NOT have a budget line.
- Regional Coordinators may pre-approve any urgent changes- should be an exception
- **No Quarter 4 changes-** unless there is critical need and this would be reviewed with Regional Coordinator
- Program Changes guide available on website at https://www.va.gov/homeless/ssvf/?page=/official_guide/reporting_and_monitoring_requirements



SSVF KEY WEB LINKS

SSVF Website:

www.va.gov/homeless/ssvf.asp

SSVF Events calendar:

https://www.va.gov/homeless/ssvf/?page=/home/event_calendar

SSVF GIFTS Section on Website:

https://www.va.gov/homeless/ssvf/index.asp?page=/official_guide/reporting_and_monitoring_requirements

GIFTS Access:

https://www.grantrequest.com/SID_2115/



VETERAN STATUS VERIFICATION

- Update Documentation for Verifying Veteran Status
- To prove a participant's Veteran status, grantees should obtain at least ONE of the following documents:
 - SQUARES Printout
 - Veteran Health Administration (VHA) Veteran's Identity card
 - VA Veterans Choice Card
 - VA Photo ID Card -
 - Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) Statement of Service (SOS)
 - VISTA printout from VHA healthcare provider
 - VA Hospital Inquiry System (HINQS)
 - VBA award letter of service connected disability payment or non-service connected pension
 - NA Form 13038
 - DD Form 214 Certificate of Release Discharge from Active Duty
- SQUARES 2.0 allows any SSVF grantee user of the HMIS Repository to instantaneously determine Veteran status.
 - www.va.gov/homeless/SQUARES



SSVF SHALLOW SUBSIDY

- Shallow Subsidy offers shallow rental subsidy for up to two years in selected high cost communities.
- **California:** Los Angeles, San Francisco, Alameda, San Diego, Santa Clara, Contra Costa
- **Washington:** King
- **Hawaii:** Honolulu
- **Illinois:** Cook
- **New York:** New York, Bronx, Queens, Kings, Richmond
- **District of Columbia:** District of Columbia



RAPID RESOLUTION

- Rapid Resolution is an intervention designed to prevent immediate entry into homelessness or immediately resolve a household's homelessness once they enter shelter, transitional housing or an unsheltered situation.
- Rapid Resolution includes both Diversion and Rapid Exit strategies with the aim of ensuring homelessness is avoided or as brief as possible when it does occur.
- Rapid Resolution should be attempted with every Veteran



SSVF SCREENING AND ENROLLMENT

- Using SQUARES can expedite enrollments to SSVF
- Goal is to enroll the Veteran same day as screening
- Use process consistent with local Coordinated Entry policies
 - If CE a barrier to care causing potential for Veteran to left without immediate shelter, negotiate processes that facilitate immediate access to shelter for Veterans (such as SSVF as an entry point)
- Work with SSVF Regional Coordinator to address concerns about CE



SSVF SCREENING AND ENROLLMENT

In all scenarios, start with Rapid Resolution conversation

Establish eligibility

- a. Veteran Identification documented (DD214, confirmed by SQUARES, VA ID Card, HINQ, VA letterhead etc.)
- b. Confirm income eligibility
- c. Confirm need for services
- d. *ENROLL.*



SSVF SCREENING AND ENROLLMENT

In all scenarios, start with Rapid Resolution conversation

If Unable to Establish Eligibility

Veteran does not have Identification and SQUARES is inconclusive:

1. Use self-certification and presumptive eligibility
 - a. Allows for case management
 - b. No TFA until eligibility firmly established



SSVF SCREENING AND ENROLLMENT

In all scenarios, start with Rapid Resolution conversation

If Veteran does not identify an immediate alternative to homelessness through Rapid Resolution refer Veteran to one of the following:

- Emergency Shelter (HCHV contract beds, community shelter)
- Transitional Housing (GPD)
- SSVF Emergency Housing Assistance

Continue to pursue Rapid Resolution where appropriate



SSVF SCREENING AND ENROLLMENT

SSVF Emergency Housing Assistance can be utilized when rental housing has been identified generally but is not immediately available. (38 CFR 62.34(f))

- Used when HCHV Contract, GPD, or Emergency Shelter are not available
- Believe housing option is available (including Rapid Resolution), but not yet secured
- 45 day limit for families
- 72 hour limit for individuals



VA DATA HMIS UPDATE

- HMIS CSV version change
- –**New:** FY 2020 HMIS CSV version 1.4
- –**FY19 (old):**HMIS CSV version 6.12
- •**Oct 28:**If possible, HMIS vendors will have access to the Repository to test new export procedures.
- •**Nov 1:**The Repository will open for grantees for the 1stFY 2020 uploads.
- •**Nov 9:**Grantees' 1stmonthly upload deadline ends.
- •**Late Nov:** If needed, the Repository will re-open to test and resolve export / upload issues before the Dec upload cycle begins.



VA DATA HMIS UPDATE

- CSV Changes
 - •Data element numbering system changes.
 - •Small updates to Project, Funder, Project CoC, Enrollment, Exit, and Services.
 - •New file Event.csv required: Contains information on new *Rapid Resolution* assistance tracking.
- Coordinated Entry data elements are part of the 2020 Data Standards and should be available on October 1, 2019 for SSVF projects.
 - 4.19 Coordinated Entry Assessment (optional)
 - 4.20 Coordinated Entry Event



DATA STANDARD CHANGES FY 2020

- V2 SSVF Services Received: New services added
 - •Extended Shallow Subsidy
 - •Returning Home
 - •Rapid Resolution (for HP/RRH enrolled clients)
- V3 SSVF Financial Assistance: New assistance category
 - Extended Shallow Subsidy



DATA STANDARD CHANGES RR CAPTURE

Separate Project set up in HMIS using *Coordinated Entry Event* data element to capture all RR activity

- All Receive Problem Solving/Rapid Resolution Conversation
- All Enroll in Rapid Resolution HMIS Project (type CE or Services Only)
- All Record “4.20 Coordinated Entry Event” and result of conversation, exit after result is recorded
- Most also enroll in traditional SSVF RRH or HP HMIS Projects (some receive additional Rapid Resolution services, TFA etc.)
- All Uploaded to HMIS Repository monthly



Q & A

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