

# SSVF 2023 Contract Addendum and 80% AMI Eligibility Considerations

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# Presenters

- Cynthia Spencer – SSVF Regional Coordinator Supervisor
- Rico Aiello – SSVF Compliance Officer
- Louie Rothschild – Abt Associates
- Doug Tetrault, Technical Assistance Collaborative



# Housekeeping



90 minutes



Slides &  
handouts  
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“handout  
” section



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# Agenda

I. Welcome

II. Housekeeping

III. Overview of New Eligible Costs

IV. Increase in Eligibility to 80% Area Median Income

V. Q&A

# Overview of New SSVF Allowable Costs and Eligibility Changes

# Reminder: Addendum Key Features

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The Addendum flexibilities are in place as of December 22, 2022

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Resources to Secure Housing of up to 2-months rent

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Miscellaneous Move in Costs of up to \$1000

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Increases SSVF income eligibility to 80%

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# Addendum Important Reminders

- Applies to all grantees.
- Does not increase program budgets for this year. Grantees must prioritize based on available funds.
- There are new allowable costs included in the FY2024 NOFA as permanent services for SSVF moving forward.
- Does not include Housing Navigation for HUD-VASH (FY 2022 supplemental awards continue to allow this).



# Applicable Households

New allowable costs and eligibility for any Veteran enrolled in SSVF, ***based on available resources.*** These households include:

- SSVF-only Veterans in typical SSVF programming
- HUD-VASH Veterans who need one time financial assistance for high barrier clients to obtain permanent housing
- Veterans coming from other homeless programs needing one-time financial assistance to secure permanent housing

**Grantees and local VA partners should discuss the needs of these different Veteran households and how to prioritize resources for them.**



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# Increase in Eligibility to 80% Area Median Income

# SSVF Policy Reminders

- Eligibility is different than prioritization
- RRH for literally homeless Veterans is the first priority of SSVF
- Grantees must enroll a *minimum* of 60% of households in RRH, but can and should increase RRH to fully meet local demand



# 80% AMI Income Eligibility Overview

- Veterans eligible up to 80% AMI
- Applies to both RRH and HP enrollments
- SSVF must continue to prioritize lowest income and most vulnerable Veterans
  - May not be able to enroll higher income Veterans depending on demand and budget constraints.
  - Grantees should have a local policy that establishes prioritization criteria for both HP and RRH and any income caps below 80% AMI based on local capacity and demand. This should be coordinated with other grantees, VA and any referral partners in the community.
- Grantees must ensure equitable service delivery across the community



# Implications

- SSVF eligibility is now 80% AMI nationally for all enrollment types and services, including recertifications
  - RRH
  - HP
  - Shallow Subsidy
  - Rapid Resolution
  - Recertification – Veterans who were initially enrolled under 50% AMI can still be served.



# Prioritization Planning

- Grantees may not have resources to serve all Veterans up to 80% AMI
  - Grantees/communities may need to set a lower income threshold based on prioritization needs and available resources
  - Grantees may be able to serve all RRH up to 80% but have lower income guidelines for HP households if they don't have the resources or capacity to serve all Veterans up to 80%
  - Grantees may target services for Veterans in different income brackets to Veterans in certain situations – ex. high housing barriers, previous episodes of homelessness



# 80% AMI Income Eligibility Demand

- Review available local data to understand changes in eligible population based on AMI increase
- Review program budget and By Name List client demand to:
  - Anticipate number of Veterans between 50%-80%
  - Establish how to continue to ensure rapid and adequate housing access for extremely low and zero income Veterans
  - Update intake documents and income references for staff certifying eligibility under new, locally prioritized income guidelines
  - Possibly create financial projection tools or forms
- Financial Assistance demand (one time or arrears) may be different than service demand (full enrollment with case management services)



# Establish Income Guidelines Related to Various Services

- Rapid Rehousing for SSVF-only Veterans
- Capacity for one-time financial assistance for HUD-VASH Veterans (security, utility, incentives)
- Homelessness Prevention Cases
  - Those who can be provided Rapid Resolution support without significant TFA
  - Those who need deeper TFA to avoid homelessness



# Shared Geography

- Grantees with shared geography must have a consistent prioritization protocol for all enrollments, including:
  - Level of income for Veterans if capacity is limited
  - Prioritizing lowest income and most highly vulnerable Veterans
  - Balancing RRH demand with ability to provide HP assistance
- Grantees with more capacity may need to take more Veteran enrollments but characteristics and prioritization must be consistent
- Access to services, including proactive outreach and screening, must ensure historically disadvantaged populations are not overlooked or otherwise unaccounted for.





# Communication and Triage

- Triage protocol from CES and other VA or external partners must reflect prioritization decisions related to income and other factors
- Eligibility is different than prioritization; grantees must ensure partners understand SSVF capacity before advertising or referring Veterans now newly eligible under SSVF grant guidelines
- Grantees may want to discuss with HUD-VASH whether PHA would be willing to raise AMI to 80% based on this eligibility for both programs
- Decisions to support enrollment must be in the case file and follow the established P&P on enrollment up to 80% AMI



# Example Policy #1

- Community has some RRH demand but literal homeless population is trending down
  - Grantees can meet full demand for RRH up to 80% AMI for all literally homeless SSVF-only Veterans
  - Grantees can provide RRH one-time TFA for HUD-VASH Veterans up to 60% AMI, which aligns with the local HUD-VASH PHA AMI standard
  - Due to limited resources, keep HP prioritization at 50% AMI and a moderately high threshold score



# Example Policy #2

- Community has significant literally homeless population
  - Grantees only have capacity to serve Veterans up to 65% AMI based on local data and resources
  - Grantee ensures any HUD-VASH Veteran needing one-time TFA can be provided assistance
  - Due to RRH demand, grantee is unable to offer any HP at this time aside from light touch Rapid Resolution services and referrals



# Example Policy #3

- One grantee has much larger budget than the other
  - Between the two grantees, full RRH demand can be met up to 80% AMI
  - The smaller grantee's resources are fully exhausted providing RRH, with the larger having remaining capacity
    - The smaller grantee does not provide HP services locally
    - The larger grantee does provide HP services but needs to cap the income threshold at 40% AMI and medium threshold score, based on local population needs





# Questions



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