Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) COVID-19 Response

*Emergency Housing Assistance (EHA)*

Adobe Audio Link
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
How to Submit Questions during the Webinar
Many working virtually, complicated for staff.

Need to maintain existing services.
   – Still offering “regular” EHA.

External services can be difficult to access.

Yet, COVID-19 puts certain vulnerable populations at higher risk. We can use EHA to reduce risks to health.
• Goal is to reduce risk for vulnerable populations defined as 60+, compromised immune system, and/or lung disease.

• Referrals for EHA should be asymptomatic.

• Need to be eligible for SSVF – homeless Veteran households with AMI below 50%
• Placement in EHA is generally coupled with full enrollment in SSVF that leads to housing.

• However, local decision may be to co-enroll a high risk Veteran.
  – Other Homeless Programs could have options available to them to reduce risks.
Screening and Referral

• SSVF “Basic Eligibility Form” to help screen.
• Enroll in SSVF; telework may mean some data entry is deferred.
• Identify available capacity and work with VA to create referral process for highest need.
• Veteran needs to be linked to VA or community health care provider.
Expanding Capacity

• If demand warrants, look to expand capacity.
• Budget flexibility if more funds need to be shifted to TFA.
• SSVF Program Office may provide additional funding using disaster relief process – contact your Regional Coordinator.
• 45 day limit the goal, but short-term leases may be possible.
Telework and Communication

• The SSVF Program Office anticipates many Grantees will temporarily move to a telework or limited access office situation.

• This should meet the requirements imposed by Federal, State and local guidance. Understanding the there will be flexibility in delivery of services.

• Explore alternative methods to continue case management. Options to consider to continue to have contact with Veterans currently enrolled with SSVF (phones, laptop, telehealth systems)
  – Will your Grant need to acquire the technology needed to ensure business can continue? - Research technology that will meet current needs at a reasonable cost.
  – How will your agency continue to enroll homeless Veterans? (phone, laptop, webcam, video, web and audioconferencing, telehealth systems, etc.)

• What system will you have in place to ensure signatures are obtained for documentation when possible?

• Grantees will need to keep their SSVF Regional Coordinator updated with the plan to ensure services are being delivered and when changes are made.
## FY 2020 COVID-19 Emergency Housing Assistance Referrals and Placements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Referral Date</th>
<th>VAMC</th>
<th>Referring VA Program</th>
<th>Veteran Number</th>
<th>Disposition: Placed Y/N/PENDING</th>
<th>Date Placed</th>
<th>Estimated Cost</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3/20/2020</td>
<td>(402) Togus, ME</td>
<td>HUD VASH</td>
<td>Veteran #1</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>3/20/2020</td>
<td>3,000.00</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Veteran #2</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Compliance- COVID 19

Documentation

• It will be important for Grantees to do their best (make every effort) to get appropriate documentation for the case file.

• This may be in a non-traditional format (pictures of documents sent via text, showing document via face time apps, etc.) collected at a later date, or require a more frequent use of self-certification.

• FOFA and Office of Business Oversight are aware of our guidance and will refer to this and forthcoming guidance until the crisis is resolved.
Are we allowed to pay for alternative transportation or other associated costs as a result of service delivery restrictions that are imposed

• SSVF Grantees will need to evaluate situations specific to the COVID-19 environment and make appropriate decisions to ensure that you are taking the proper steps to meet community guidance to contain the potential of exposure.

• Should these decisions change the scope or method of current approved budgeted costs and require another avenue or mechanism to ensure the continuation of services, they would be deemed allowable.

• Documentation and rationale should be noted for the costs and grantees should consider the most reasonable and cost-effective ways to continue services.
Compliance- COVID 19

Budget Changes/Reconciliation

• SSVF Program Office is waiving 2nd quarter sweeps to ensure grantees have sufficient funds to deal with COVID 19 crisis.

• Grantees should be cognizant of fund usage and the impact both short term and long term.

• Decisions should reasonable and necessary to meet the crisis.

• SSVF will determine next steps for Budget changes and reconciliation with program changes implemented during this period.

• When in doubt you have any question related to compliance ask your RC!
Additional Questions?

SSVF Program Office
ssvf@va.gov

Website:
www.va.gov/HOMELESS/ssvf.asp

Thank You!