

# The SSVF Rapid Rehousing Waiver

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**Audio:**

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/7294129735688679938>

# SSVF Purpose

- To assist very low-income Veteran families residing in or transitioning to permanent housing
- To provide a range of supportive services to eligible Veteran families, designed to promote housing stability
- Prioritizes Veteran families experiencing literal homelessness
- Requires Housing First model in addressing and ending homelessness. This is the primary intervention in working with Veterans experiencing literal homelessness.

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RESOURCES

RESOURCEFULNESS

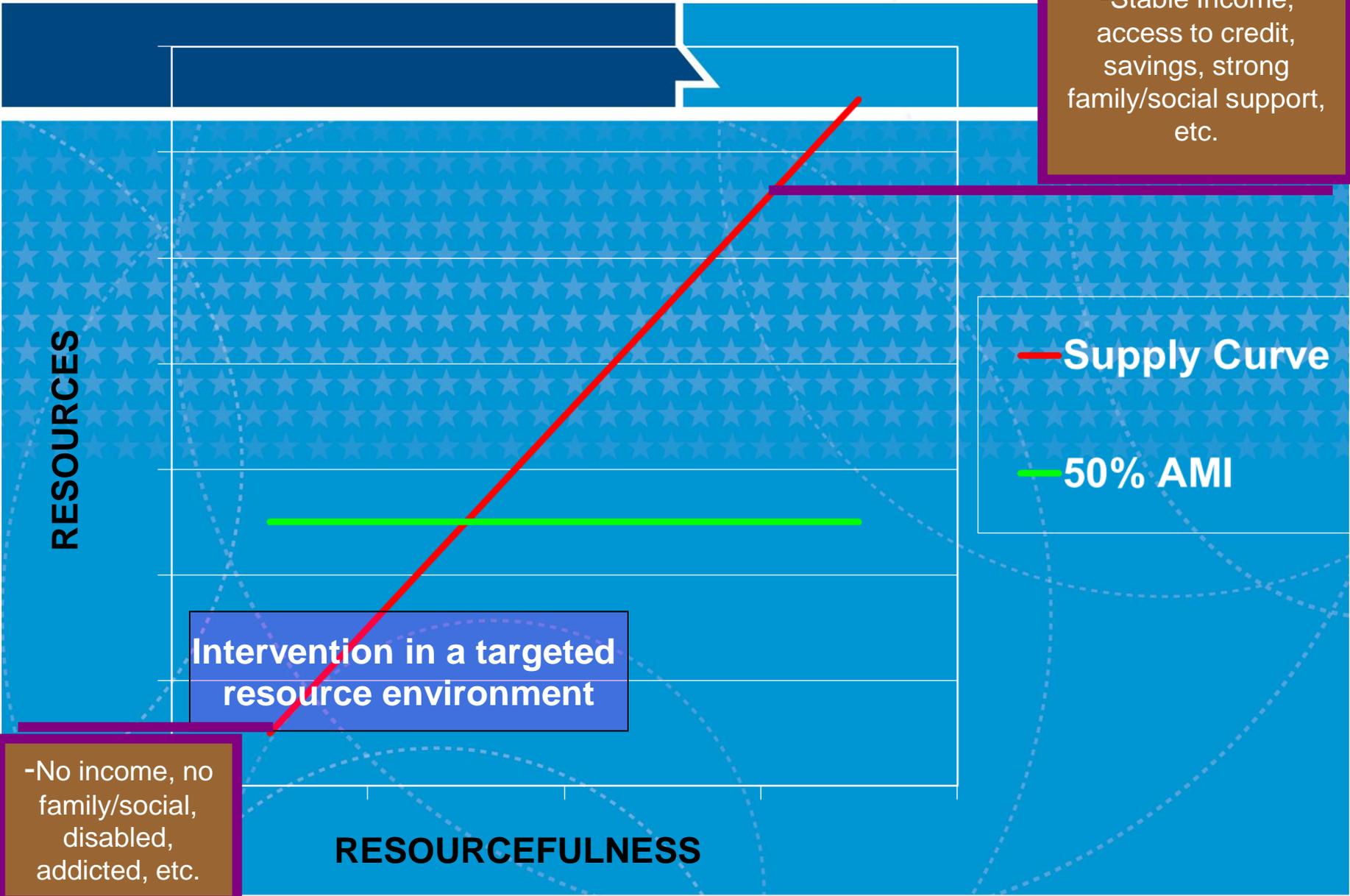
-Stable Income,  
access to credit,  
savings, strong  
family/social support,  
etc.

— Supply Curve

— 50% AMI

Intervention in a limited  
resource environment

-No income, no  
family/social,  
disabled, addict,  
etc.



# Scarcity of Resources

- Showing that a prevention ‘works’ is a challenge. Assessing the likelihood of a hypothetical outcome can be difficult.
- Remember: using prevention removes that scarce resource for a literally homeless Veteran family
- Eviction does not equal falling into literal homelessness
  - NYC Analyses: 1 in 5 (20 %) welfare families facing eviction became homeless. Without an intervention, 80 percent of the families were ‘successes.’ The intervention would have to improve those odds and would attempt to do so by assisting both the 80 percent who did not need it as well as the 20 percent who did. Using only this criterion, the program would not be efficient.
    - Source: [https://www.huduser.gov/Publications/pdf/Strategies\\_for\\_preventing\\_Homelessness.pdf](https://www.huduser.gov/Publications/pdf/Strategies_for_preventing_Homelessness.pdf)
- **Effective targeting of scarce resources**
  - Literal Homeless ALWAYS Come First
  - Shelter Diversion
  - Of all those at-risk of literal homelessness, prioritize those at highest risk using the SSVF Homelessness Prevention Screening Toolkit

# Allocating Resources for Rapid Rehousing and Homelessness Prevention

- Data are still unclear about the true effectiveness that Homeless Prevention services has on shelter stays/preventing literal homelessness
- Rapid Rehousing is an effective use of limited financial resources in ending literal homelessness
- Assessing resource allocation should be a community decision with real data showing actual need. Have you measured?
  - How many households have presented to your agency for prevention services? Of those, how many did not meet imminent risk? Of those at imminent risk, how many met the targeting threshold? Of those that were referred to other resources, how many fell into literal homelessness? What were the characteristics of those households?
- Does your community data show that more prevention funds would be an effective use of resources to reduce shelter stays or inflow into your coordinated entry system?

# Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) Waiver Request

- A RRH waiver allows SSVF grantees to lower the 60% minimum amount of TFA required to be used for RRH households

## RRH Waiver Request Options

**30% minimum TFA on RRH**

**Communities Confirmed by Federal Partners**

**40% minimum TFA on RRH**

**Certain Conditions: Rural Area, Adopted Strategy**

\*Grantees with approved waivers can spend increased amounts of TFA on Homeless Prevention (HP) households.

- Communities with a SSVF RRH Waiver must continue to demonstrate that no literally homeless Veteran will be turned away from services, even if that requires exceeding the approved/ revised minimum RRH.

# Options for RRH Waiver

SSVF grantees may request a waiver under one of three Options:

- A. Eligible to reduce RRH TFA minimum to 30% if an agency's CoC has been confirmed as having reached the goal of ending Veteran homelessness by the USICH and the Federal Partners
- B. Eligible to reduce RRH TFA minimum to 40% if an agency's service area is rural to the point that there are not enough RRH clients to support using 60% of TFA on RRH households.

This should be limited given all grants have applied for funds via NOFA stating 60% is the requirement.

- C. Eligible to reduce RRH TFA minimum to 40% if there is a strategic allocation applied to a CoC, based on community plan to end Veteran homelessness, that has multiple SSVF grantees and one grantee may agree to be the only provider of homelessness prevention services.

# Grantee Responsibilities

- Goal is to end literal homelessness for Veteran families
- **Rapid rehousing remains SSVF priority**, even with the RRH Waiver
- RRH Waiver does not relieve grantee responsibility of this overarching performance goal
- Review RRH Waiver periodically to ensure primary goal is met, and maintained
- Grantees should address all sources of Veteran homelessness, including long-stay GPD, before using homelessness prevention resources
  - Veterans participating in GPD and other Transitional Housing programs are still considered literally homeless!

# Rapid Rehousing (RRH) Waiver Request

All RRH Waiver Requests MUST include Continuum of Care (CoC) endorsement.

- Applying for a waiver is a community-based decision. Requires justification indicating that RRH demand can still be met
- CoC endorsement must be signed by CoC Chairperson or equivalent
- All SSVF Grantees serving CoC must provide information on allocated resources to CoC
- SSVF grantees serving the CoC may apply for the RRH waiver, depending upon the proportion of their award allocated to the CoC
  - For example, if a grantee within a CoC applying for a waiver only attributes 10% of their SSVF grant funds to that community, that grantee may not necessarily be approved for a waiver to their program
- Approval decisions will be made by VA on a Grantee by Grantee basis.
- Submission are accepted on an as needed basis. Refer to RRH Waiver Companion Guide for this fiscal year's end date for submission

# Rapid Rehousing (RRH) Waiver Request

## Overview of Process

- 1) Grantee identifies one of the three Options for RRH Waiver
- 2) Grantee consults with CoC, local VA and other service providers to verify need.
- 3) Grantee(s)/CoC requests discussion with SSVF Regional Coordinator to review intention to submit a request.
- 4) Grantee(s) reviews RRH Waiver companion guide, completes RRH Waiver request packet and submits to SSVF Regional Coordinator via email.
- 5) SSVF Program Office will review submission along with any other available data/information and arrive at a decision PER GRANTEE.
- 6) Program Office will notify EACH grantee of waiver decision within 30 days.

# Rapid Rehousing Waiver Request

## Submission Materials

1. RRH Waiver Request Form
2. CoC Letter of Endorsement (From CoC to VA SSVF Program Office)
3. USICH Approval Letter - this is ONLY required for applicants under Option A

# Rapid Rehousing Waiver Request

## Submission Timeline

Submission are accepted on an as needed basis. Refer to RRH Waiver Companion Guide for this Fiscal Year's end date for submission.

Link to RRH Companion Guide and Forms:

[https://www.va.gov/homeless/ssvf/?page=/official\\_guide/reporting\\_and\\_monitoring\\_requirements](https://www.va.gov/homeless/ssvf/?page=/official_guide/reporting_and_monitoring_requirements)

### **Website:**

[www.va.gov/HOMELESS/ssvf.asp](http://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/ssvf.asp)

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