

Supportive Services for Veterans Families (SSVF) Shallow Subsidy Service Overview

Background

As part of its response to the affordable housing crisis, the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Program Office implemented a new type of rental subsidy arrangement, known as the Shallow Subsidy service. SSVF Shallow Subsidy offers a set percentage of rental support over a defined time period, differentiating it from traditional Rapid Rehousing (RRH) and Homelessness Prevention (HP) assistance that has more rental assistance flexibility but is generally a shorter, variable timeframe. The service is also distinct from the HUD-VASH program in that the subsidy is time-limited and generally not targeted toward Veterans with high clinical service needs. The SSVF Program Office rolled out the Shallow Subsidy service in select high-cost and low-vacancy communities starting in 2019. The [Federal Register Publication](#) on August 5, 2021 authorized all SSVF grantees, regardless of location and service area, to use their funds and resources to deploy the Shallow Subsidy service. Please see the [SSVF Shallow Subsidy Compliance Guide](#) for in-depth information.

Description of SSVF Shallow Subsidy

Shallow Subsidy is a service that provides a set amount of rental assistance for a defined period of time to eligible, enrolled Veterans. Generally, Shallow Subsidy service is targeted to Veterans who are rent burdened and require longer-term rental assistance than is traditionally available in SSVF to maintain housing. Shallow Subsidy is typically part of a progressive engagement approach, where Veterans receive some level of traditional RRH or HP rental assistance to secure and stabilize housing prior to beginning this service. Under the SSVF Shallow Subsidy service, SSVF grantees make a longer-term commitment to the landlord and the household – unless the household terminates their housing or receives another permanent rental subsidy. SSVF grantees generally provide light case management services, which may be increased if a crisis or unanticipated needs arise, to assist Veteran households in maintaining their housing.

Shallow Subsidy Rent Share and Timelines

For SSVF's Shallow Subsidy service, the maximum amount of rental subsidy that can be provided on behalf of the Veteran household is up to 50% of the lease rent, as determined by the local community planning process. The percentage, when determined, will be standard and used for any Veteran household served by an SSVF grantee within the local geography. This subsidy amount is intended to provide a significant level of support, but distinct from other rental subsidies provided by HUD-VASH or the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher programs, which provide permanent rent assistance under a voucher allocation. The Shallow Subsidy amount does not change regardless of increases or decreases in the Veteran's household income or in the lease rent, over the initial service period.

Veteran households between 30-50% AMI	Veteran households at or below 30% AMI
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shallow subsidy is up to 50% of rent on a unit that is deemed rent reasonable • Rental assistance for 2 years minus the number of months of rental assistance they received during traditional SSVF services (Rapid Rehousing or Homeless Prevention). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shallow subsidy is up to 50% of rent on a unit that is deemed rent reasonable • Rental assistance for 2 years, regardless of previous SSVF rental assistance provided.

TFA Allowable Costs and Limitations

The SSVF Program Office requires that the shallow subsidy rental amount remain the same for a Veteran household during the time that they are receiving Shallow Subsidy services.

In addition to the fixed monthly rental assistance that the Shallow Subsidy service provides to Veteran households, other needs-based payments may be provided as well. See table below for other TFA allowable costs and limitations:

Utility Assistance	Eligible while participating in the Shallow Subsidy service; traditional TFA limits apply using the original SSVF enrollment date.
Child Care	Eligible while participating in the Shallow Subsidy service; traditional TFA limits apply using the original SSVF enrollment date.
Transportation Assistance	Eligible while participating in the Shallow Subsidy service; traditional TFA limits apply using the original SSVF enrollment date.
Security and/or Utility Deposit	Eligible while participating in the Shallow Subsidy service; traditional TFA limits apply using the original SSVF enrollment date.
Rental Assistance (to cover additional rent on top of 50% of rent)	Not eligible when the Veteran is receiving a shallow subsidy. However, other forms of non-SSVF, non-federal rental assistance may be combined with the Shallow Subsidy as long as the total of all subsidies do not exceed the total rent amount. If a Veteran is no longer able to pay their portion of the rent, they may transition back to traditional SSVF so that available SSVF TFA Rental
Traditional Rental Assistance	Assistance can be utilized. Veterans must be recertified to determine eligibility immediately prior to transitioning to traditional SSVF.
Emergency Housing Assistance	Not eligible when Veteran is participating in the Shallow Subsidy service.
Moving Assistance	Eligible while participating in the Shallow Subsidy service; traditional TFA limits apply.
General Housing Stability Assistance	Eligible while participating in the Shallow Subsidy service; traditional TFA limits apply.

Community Planning

The SSVF Program Office encourages grantees to review their disaggregated data, including average number of Veteran households served by SSVF, average Veteran household cost burden percentages, and average number and characteristics of Veterans households returning to homelessness, to inform planning. Grantees should coordinate with other grantees with shared geography, their local Continuum of Care (CoC), HUD VASH and VAMC staff, Veterans with lived expertise, and community stakeholders to identify how best to leverage this service in coordination with other available resources.