

**VA**



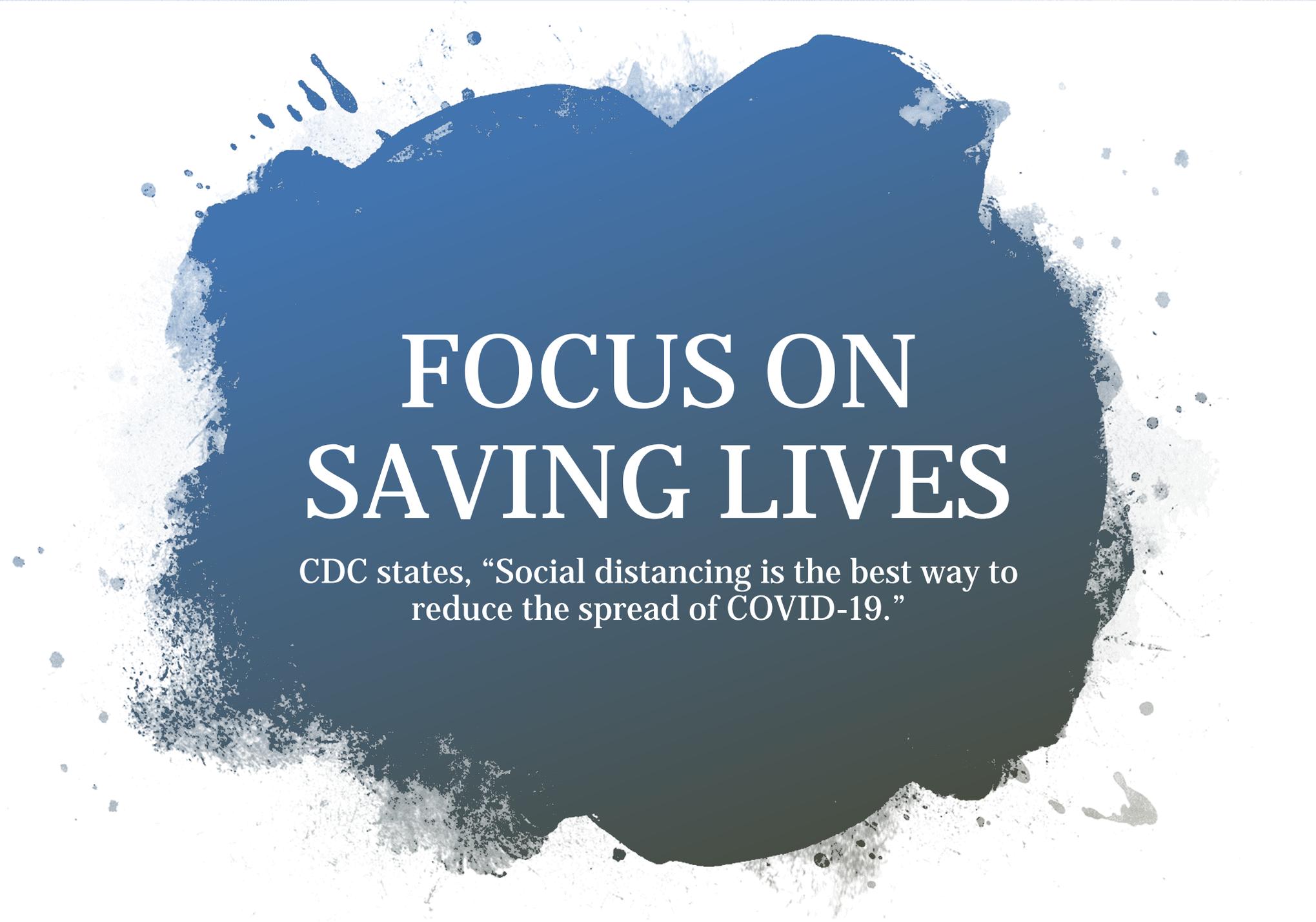
U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

# SSVF COVID-19 Response

Update for May 22, 2020

Updated Guidance and FAQ available at  
[www.va.gov/homeless/ssvf](http://www.va.gov/homeless/ssvf)

LINK TO AUDIO



# FOCUS ON SAVING LIVES

CDC states, “Social distancing is the best way to reduce the spread of COVID-19.”



## ACT WITH URGENCY

- **COVID-19 is an imminent threat to the health and safety of Veteran families.**
- **Congress has charged SSVF with a lead responsibility to protect and serve homeless Veterans.**
- **Critically important that life saving services during this public health emergency take priority – embrace the flexibility and funding.**



## EMPOWER YOUR STAFF TO DELIVER SERVICES

- **Expand emergency housing capacity**
  - Can use for self-quarantines
  - Place unsheltered even if not CDC “vulnerable”
- **Support HUD-VASH placements**
  - Can assist with housing navigation
- **Expand prevention services**
  - EHA can support Rapid Resolution
  - Can serve even with eviction moratorium



## EMPOWERING GRANTEES TO ACT

- In addition to the \$201.5M in CARES Act funds, national disaster declarations have invoked the Stafford Act.
- Many regulatory limits have been waived.
- Range of liberalized guidance available in FAQ.



## POLICY CHANGES

- 45 day limit for emergency housing suspended
- 72 hour limit for individuals suspended
- Limits on number of months for rental and utility assistance suspended.
- Stage 2 screener no longer required
- 40% maximum spending on prevention waived
- 50% maximum budget for TFA removed
- No limit on food assistance



## EXAMPLES OF FLEXIBILITY FROM FAQ

- Alternate forms of consent, including verbal, acceptable
- Self-certifications can be used when necessary
- Eviction moratoriums do not preclude HP assistance
  - “Past Due” notice sufficient
- When Lifeline phones are unavailable, grantees can purchase disposable phones for Veterans
- \$1200 stimulus and \$600 in unemployment supplements do not count towards AMI limits



## HEALTH RISKS

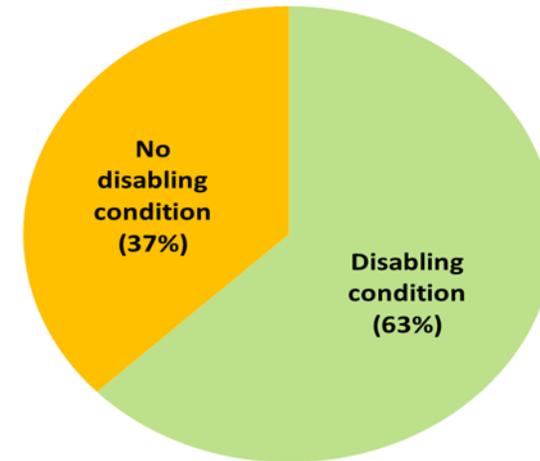
- CDC reported COVID-19 testing of 19 shelters in Seattle, Boston, San Francisco and Atlanta found 25% of residents and 11% of staff tested positive
- Age and disability make homeless Veterans vulnerable
- Shelter and transitional housing have reduced capacity as social distancing rules are put in place



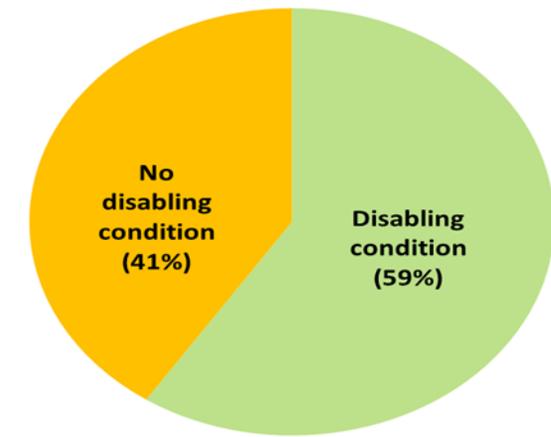
# DISABILITY RATES

- **System Comparison:** Veterans with disabling conditions is higher for SSVF than for sheltered Veterans.
- **SSVF Trend:** Veterans with a disabling condition is rising
  - FY 2014: 55%
  - FY 2015: 56%
  - FY 2016: 58%
  - FY 2017: 62%
  - FY 2018: 63%

SSVF Veterans, FY 2018

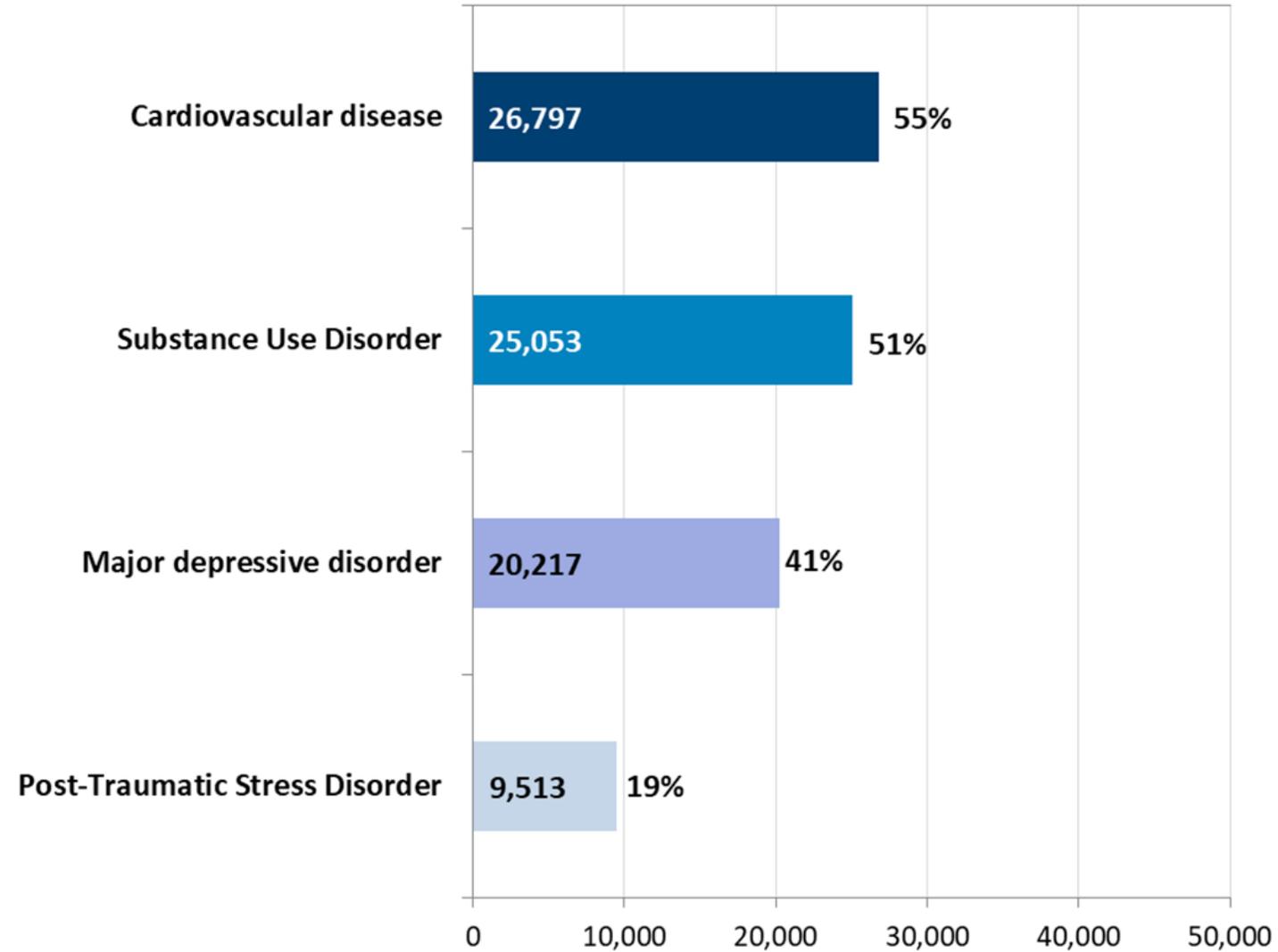


Sheltered Veterans, FY 2017





# COMMON DISABILITIES



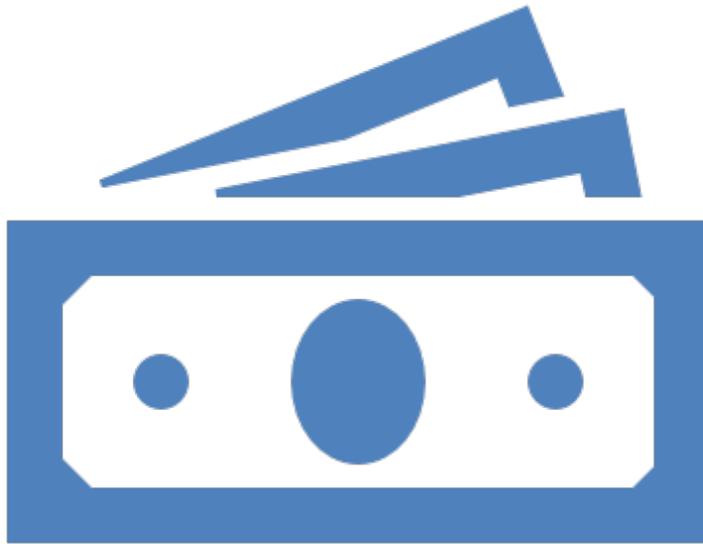


## MEASUREMENT

- Congress closely monitoring impact of CARES – looking to have capacity expanded
- HMIS primary tool for evaluating utilization
- Results could lead to substantial increase in FY 2021 funding

# BEYOND JULY 31

- \$201.5 million supplement distributed April 24
- Additional funds available for high needs areas
- After CARES funds spent, access FY 2020 budgets





## EXPAND ENROLLMENT

- Coordinated Entry
- VAMCs
- Previous SSVF enrollees
- DOL (unemployment offices)

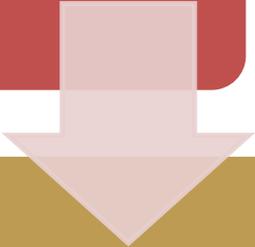


## COORDINATING CARE

- VAMC vital partner for health care services
- Use existing relationship to case manage and facilitate access to care
- VAMC POC will be designated to assist
- If stuck, contact your Regional Coordinator

**BE  
BOLD!!!!**

Imperative to act now and  
save lives



Easy to get bogged down in  
administrative and  
compliance concerns



SSVF has introduced  
significant flexibilities to  
support your creativity and  
capacity to serve





# QUESTIONS

- Check the FAQ at [www.va.gov/homeless/ssvf](http://www.va.gov/homeless/ssvf)
- Contact your Regional Coordinator
- Email [ssvf@va.gov](mailto:ssvf@va.gov)