



SSVF Office Hour Series

Shallow Subsidy – March 25, 2022

[Link to Audio](#)

Housekeeping



Webinar will last for one hour



Slides & handouts are in the “handout” section



Recording, Handouts & Slides will be sent via email



Submit questions in the question box or any time at ssvf@va.gov

Agenda

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. SSVF Shared Principles

III. Shallow Subsidy

IV. Grantee Presentations

V. Questions and Discussion



Presenters

**Cynthia Spencer, SSVF Supervisory
Regional Coordinator**

Tara Reed, SSVF TA

Jim Yates, SSVF TA

Randy McCoy, SSVF TA

**Tasiaeafe Sua, SSVF Grantee, US
Vets**

**Esther Laumatia, SSVF Grantee, US
Vets**

**Angie Striepling, SSVF Grantee,
Adjoin**





SSVF Shared Principles

Shared Principles



- **Equity Driven:** A key driver of homelessness and health disparities is a system wide lack of equity across systems of care stemming from structural racism and systems of discrimination. SSVF is uniquely positioned to promote equity across housing, health care, economic, and social systems.
- **Housing First:** Obtaining and keeping housing assistance is not based on income- although it generally does require income for Shallow Subsidy,- ability to maintain sobriety, recovery or other pre-requisites beyond basic program policies.
- **Veteran Choice:** Veterans choose where they want to live (as feasible), the types of services they want to engage in, the length of time that they will receive services for (as services are voluntary), and how their service and housing plans are implemented

Shared Principles

- **Crisis Response:** Homelessness is a crisis, particularly with Covid-19 – we must respond NOW.
- **Progressive Assistance:** An approach to helping households end their homelessness as rapidly as possible, despite barriers, with minimal financial and support resources. More supports are offered to those households who need more to obtain housing and/or who struggle to stabilize and cannot maintain their housing without assistance.





Shallow Subsidy

History of SSVF Shallow Subsidy



- **2019**- In October the initial Shallow Subsidy pilot begins in select (high cost, low vacancy) communities
- **2021**- National Expansion of Shallow Subsidy
 - **August 5** - VA publishes expansion notice in the Federal Register
 - **August 12** - MOAs sent to grantees funded with \$200 million in ARP funds
 - Expanded services became available **around October**

Shallow Subsidy



- Is a service of SSVF and not a separate program
- Is a two-year commitment by the grantee to the household-unless the household terminates or receives a voucher or another source of permanent housing subsidy
- Can be augmented by local funds and other non-federal resources, if available

Veterans must be eligible for SSVF and enrolled in RRH or HP with additional considerations for when to use Shallow Subsidy for individual households.

Shallow Subsidy



- Stable monthly rent subsidy set with max of 50% of the actual rent amount in the lease for the unit.
 - Rent must be reasonable for the unit size
 - Percentage set as determined locally by grantees with shared geography in the CoC
- Subsidy amount is fixed over the 24-month commitment
 - Differentiating it from Rapid Rehousing which can be adjusted to more or less of the contract rent based on client needs and varies in length of time
 - No recertification required after Shallow Subsidy service transition so no disincentive to increase income
- Veterans can be recertified at the end of the 24-month assistance period, if income eligible and still in need of subsidy support

Important Considerations



- Must be eligible for SSVF when transitioning to Shallow Subsidy service type
- Generally, requires minimal supportive services/tenancy supports
- Has the ability to pay the balance of the rent
- Only needs shallow rental assistance differentiating it from HUD-VASH services

The subsidy calculation is based on the actual rent amount of the unit. If a grantee has set the rate at 50% for their community rate and a Veteran is leasing a unit for \$1,000 per month, the monthly subsidy amount would be \$500, as long as the rent is reasonable for that unit size.

Veteran Pathways

Veteran may be transitioned from traditional SSVF RRH or Prevention services to Shallow Subsidy Services:

- Generally expected to be a part of a progressive engagement approach, employed after Rapid Rehousing (RRH) or Homeless Prevention assistance
- Regardless of Subsidy type all Veterans must be enrolled as either RRH or Prevention for purposes of eligibility, HMIS, and grant management



Population Considerations



Veterans could...

- (Potentially) Be a good candidate for Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program or other employment service-although not required- and/or has the ability to (continue to) build income (work or non-work) over time. Veteran household **must have the ability to pay their share of the rent** (not covered by Shallow Subsidy).
- Be on fixed income such as retired seniors or disabled Veterans - effective prevention tool
- Be on the waiting list for affordable housing opportunities
- Be engaged in pursuing shared housing opportunities.
- Be employed but need additional financial assistance to afford rent

Financial Assistance



Moving forward... all eligible TFA expenses should be drawn down from the Shallow Subsidy award TFA Budget.

Eligible Financial Assistance - *eligible while participating in the Shallow Subsidy service. Traditional TFA limits apply using the original SSVF enrollment date:**

- Utility Assistance
- Child Care
- Transportation Assistance
- Moving Assistance
- General Housing Stability Assistance
- Security & Utility Deposits

**Ineligible Financial Assistance:
Rental Assistance (*to cover additional rent on top of SS*):**

- Emergency Housing Assistance

**Some TFA limits have been lifted under the Stafford Act.*



Grantee Presentations



Esther Laumatia & Tasiaeafe Sua



Initial Considerations



Case Manager Task Management

- Integrate Cost Sharing Method (2-3 Months of 50% of total rent)
- Certification/Recertification completed within the past three months
 - Rent reasonableness
 - Review of Veteran candidates
 - Supports needed
- Schedule Case Conference
 - Scheduled and reoccurring every first Friday of the month
 - Provide end goal for Veteran i.e. HUD-VASH, Senior Home, etc.

Case Conferencing



Pre-Screening

- Review Assessment Form
- Recertification
- Case Conference
- File Audit (Priority 1)
- Intake Data Specialist approval (Run audit report)
- Team Lead APPROVAL
 - Case Manager completes initial SS Check Request #1
 - Case Detail is changed in MCR (data base)
- Transfer Complete

Pre-Screening Form



- CLIENT IDENTITY
- CLIENT INCOME
- ASSESSMENT
- ADDITIONAL INFO
- ATTACH RENT REASONABLENESS (Rentometer)

SHALLOW SUBSIDY ASSESSMENT

Client Name: _____ SSVF CM: _____
SSVF Entry Date: _____ HMIS#: _____
Number of months of rental assistance: _____

Income

Is client on a fixed income? YES NO
Source of Income: _____ Amount: \$ _____ monthly
Source of Income: _____ Amount: \$ _____ monthly
If employment income, how long has client been employed? _____

Does client have the ability to increase monthly income through employment or applying for VA Benefits or Social Security? YES NO

Please explain: _____

Assessment

Is the client currently cost sharing rent? YES NO
Total rent: \$ _____ Current client portion: \$ _____

If you answered No to this question, how has client demonstrated the ability to pay 50% of his/her rent? _____

Is client on a wait list for income-based housing? YES NO
Is client waiting on a benefit award? YES NO

Please explain: _____

AMI Tracker and Form



Shallow Subsidy Form

AMI

Less than 30% Between 30%-50%

Household income: \$XXXXX

Number in household: XX

Veteran: XXXXX

Of months paid by P1 Grant: XXXXX

Of months eligible for shallow subsidy: XXXXX

Start month/year of shallow subsidy: XXXXX

End month/year of shallow subsidy: XXXXX

Number of bedrooms: XXXXX

Vets rent amount: \$XXXXX

U.S. Vets portion (50% of vets rent): \$XXXXX

Payment XX of XX

Was the security deposit paid by shallow subsidy grant? Yes No

If yes, what was the amount?

Date referred to HVRP:

External Coordination

Programs and Resources

Pool of Resources

- Expect unexpected changes in client's long-term goal
- Compile community resources available to assist client's urgent needs

COORDINATED ENTRY SYSTEM

- Collaboration with CES and Partnered Agencies
- Bi-weekly staff meetings with CES
- CES meetings with partner agencies
 - Partners in Care (PIC)
 - Landlord Engagement Program (LEP)
 - Mayors Challenge Meeting
 - Catholic Charities Hawai'i (CCH)



External Coordination

Program Resources (continued)

- VETERAN ADVOCACY SERVICES PROGRAM (VASP) assists with applying for:
 - Veteran Affairs (VA) Benefits
 - VA Card
 - VA Service-Connected Disability claims and appeals
 - General Assistance (GA)
 - Employment Assistance (*for clients that do not qualify for HVRP*)
 - Social Security Benefits



External Coordination

Program Resources (continued)

- HVRP (WORKFORCE)
 - HVRP assists client with employment goals
 - All clients are referred to HVRP prior to transitioning to SS Service
 - Exceptions are made for clients who are disabled and unable to work
 - SSVF Case Managers conduct monthly check-ins with HVRP Case Managers to ensure clients are following HVRP program expectations
- HOUSING PLACEMENT PROGRAM
 - Rent assistance
 - Non-federal funded





Angie Striepling, MSW
Director

Veterans Community Services

adjoin together we
ignite possibility



Shallow Subsidy Overview

Total active Participants receiving SS: 205

- RRH: 135
- HP: 70

Shallow Subsidy Team:

- 4 Case Coordinators
- 1 CC Supervisor
- Average Caseload: Currently: 51 Goal: 65-70 (continuing to transition to SS as eligible)
- 47% received SSVF previously (before this SSVF enrollment)
- Number connected to Employment program (HVRP, etc.): 31

Recertifications: 36

- Increased income to over 50% AMI: not recertified (perm housed): 6
- recertified for SS service: 30

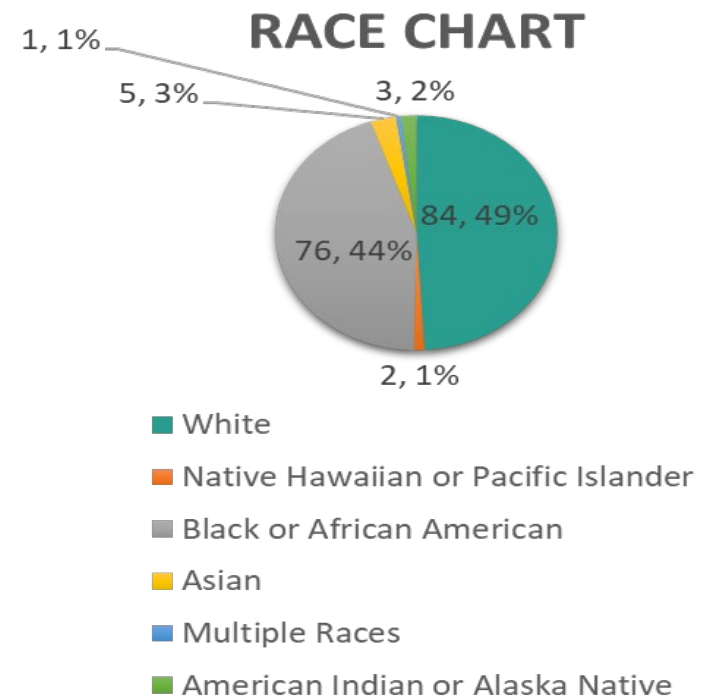
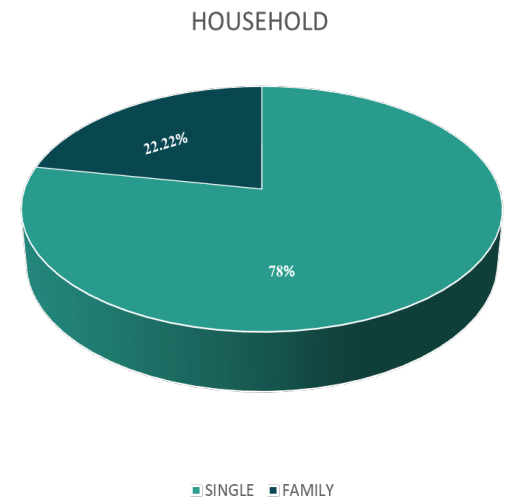
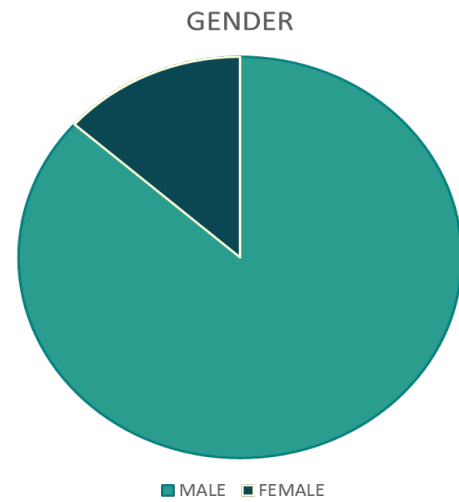
Exits: 43

- Permanent housed exits: 39 households
- Three perm housing exits passed away
- Several moved out of state during their time in SS
- Three moved in with partner at end of lease
- Three moved into rehab facility after hosp.
- Several no contacts (referred from another SSVF)
- Income over 50% AMI at recert: 7 households
- **# back to traditional SSVF (loss of income): 13 households**
- Temporary/unknown: 4 households

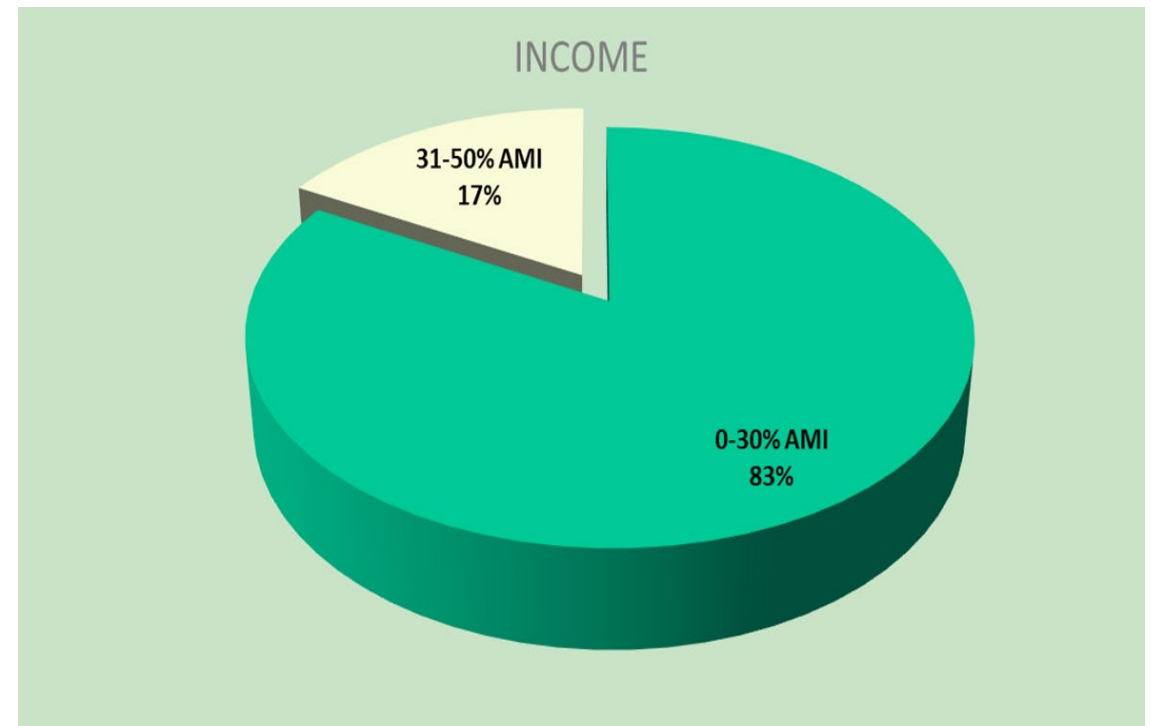
Participants left housing/moved unknown housing status

Participants moved out of state unknown housing status

SS Demographics



- Average age of Participant in SS: 52
- Largest age group served: 62+
- Implications of age and income



Who receives a shallow subsidy?

- Permanently housed
- Stable income through employment, benefits, or combination
- Cost sharing: agreed upon graduated cost-sharing plan
- Currently have low case management
- Review housed Participants monthly in internal Case Conferencing as well as in supervisions
- Submit internal SS referral form
- Once accepted, review income, cost share amount, and sign program agreement



Stories

Success



A woman with long, dark hair is shown in profile, looking out towards a modern, multi-story building with large windows and balconies. The scene is bright and sunny, with greenery visible in the foreground. A dark teal rectangular box is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing white text.

**Thank you for
joining us!**

Questions?

Contact information



- Angie Striepling
- angie.striepling@adjoin.org
- 858.300.9974 X7000

Resources

Please review the following resources:

- [SSVF Program Guide.pdf \(va.gov\)](#)
- [Shallow Subsidy FAQ.pdf \(va.gov\)](#)
- **VA SSVF Equity Webinars**
 - <https://youtu.be/JEaaX7EJb0E>
 - <https://youtu.be/JytwiubZEFo>



Resources

Please review the following additional resources:

- **Data and Equity**
<https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/Data-and-Equity-Using-the-Data-You-Have.pdf>
- **Equity Capacity: Hiring, Training, and Supervision**
<https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/COVID-19-Homeless-System-Response-Equity-Capacity-Building-Hiring-Supervision-Training.pdf>



Q & A





**Thank you for all you do to
assist Veterans & their
families!**

*Additional questions may be sent to the SSVF Program Office at ssvf@va.gov.
Project specific & compliance questions should be sent to your Regional Coordinator.*