

**Department of
Veterans Affairs**

Memorandum

Date: May 18, 2023

From: Assistant Under Secretary for Health for Clinical Services/Chief Medical Officer (11)

Subj: Housing and Urban Development – Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) and Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Collaboration (VIEWS 10214591)

To: Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) Directors (10N1-23)
VISN Network Homeless Coordinators (10N1-23)
Medical Centers Director (00)

1. The purpose of this memorandum is to provide guidance to SSVF and HUD-VASH programs regarding coordination and collaboration after the end of the Public Health Emergency, which expired on May 11, 2023. Close collaboration between SSVF and HUD-VASH remains a critical component in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) ongoing efforts to end Veteran homelessness by assisting Veterans to both obtain and sustain permanent housing.
2. Every homeless Veteran placed in temporary accommodations (e.g., hotel, motel) by SSVF should be considered and prioritized for a HUD-VASH voucher where the resource is available. Admitting these Veterans to HUD-VASH so they can be issued vouchers and moved into permanent housing will ensure they have a safe and stable environment and will minimize the risk of a return to homelessness.
3. Every formerly homeless Veteran housed by SSVF through Rapid Rehousing who has been receiving ongoing Rapid Rehousing services and who lacks a clear and sustainable exit to permanent housing should also be considered for a HUD-VASH voucher where the resource is available.
4. In circumstances where HUD-VASH case management and/or voucher resources are not immediately available for a Veteran who would otherwise be appropriate for the program and where SSVF has the capacity, Veteran families may be co-enrolled and provided SSVF housing navigation services, financial assistance (including rental assistance), and non-clinical housing case management supports. HUD-VASH is responsible for assuring the delivery of clinical care related to health and behavioral health needs, while SSVF is providing these additional supports.

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5. HUD-VASH staff and SSVF grantees have an ongoing responsibility to inform their Continuum(s) of Care and coordinated entry system partners of current prioritization or admission processes, including any changes related to this guidance. Such changes may include not strictly following the community's current system of prioritization if doing so creates delays in housing homeless Veterans.

6. SSVF grantees are encouraged to coordinate with their HUD-VASH program partners and Public Housing Authorities to understand Housing Quality Standards, local inspection processes, and voucher limitations that may delay or prohibit the Veteran from receiving and utilizing their HUD-VASH voucher. Regular coordination, including case conferencing, process improvement, and transition planning, is also strongly encouraged.

7. Should you have questions concerning this memorandum, please contact [Meghan Deal](mailto:Meghan.deal@va.gov), HUD-VASH National Director at Meghan.deal@va.gov or Nikki Barfield, Acting SSVF National Director at Nikki.barfield@va.gov.



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