

# Application of the Homeless Definition to VA Homeless Programs



# HOMELESS DEFINITION

# HEARTH Homeless Definition



## HEARTH Homeless Category – Final Rule

### Cat. #1 – Literally Homeless in:

- Shelter, transitional housing or Safe Haven
- Place not meant for human habitation, or
- Exiting an institution where (s)he has resided for 90 days or less and was in a shelter or place not mean for human habitation immediately before entering the institution

### Cat. #2 – Imminent Risk of Homelessness:

- Losing housing within 14 days
- No subsequent residence identified
- The person lacks the resources or support networks needed to obtain other housing

### Cat. #3 – Homeless under other Federal Statutes:

- Unaccompanied youth under 25 years of age or families with children who are homeless under other federal statutes
- No lease, ownership interest or occupancy agreement for permanent housing in last 60 days
- Persistent housing instability – 2 or more moves in last 60 days
- Expected to retain homeless status due to special needs or 2 or more barriers to employment

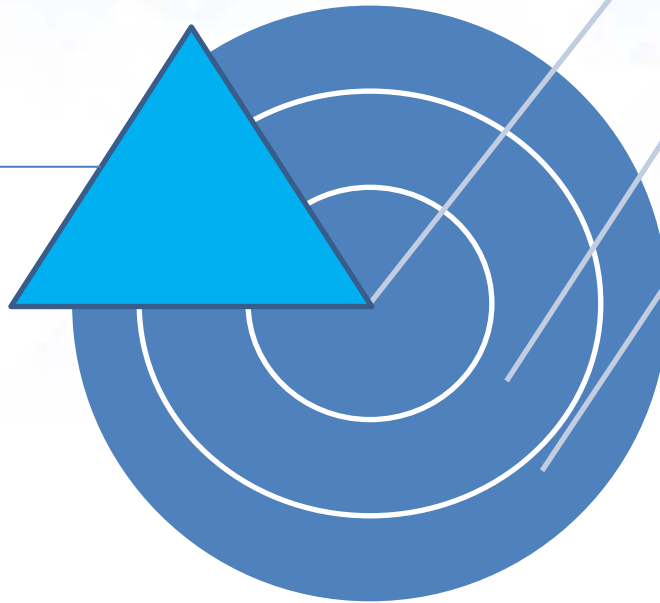
### Cat. #4 – Fleeing/Attempting to Flee Domestic Violence

- No housing options
- No financial resources or supports

# Relationship of HEARTH Homeless Categories



Fleeing  
Domestic  
Violence



Literally  
Homeless

At Imminent  
Risk

Homeless  
under other  
Federal  
Statutes

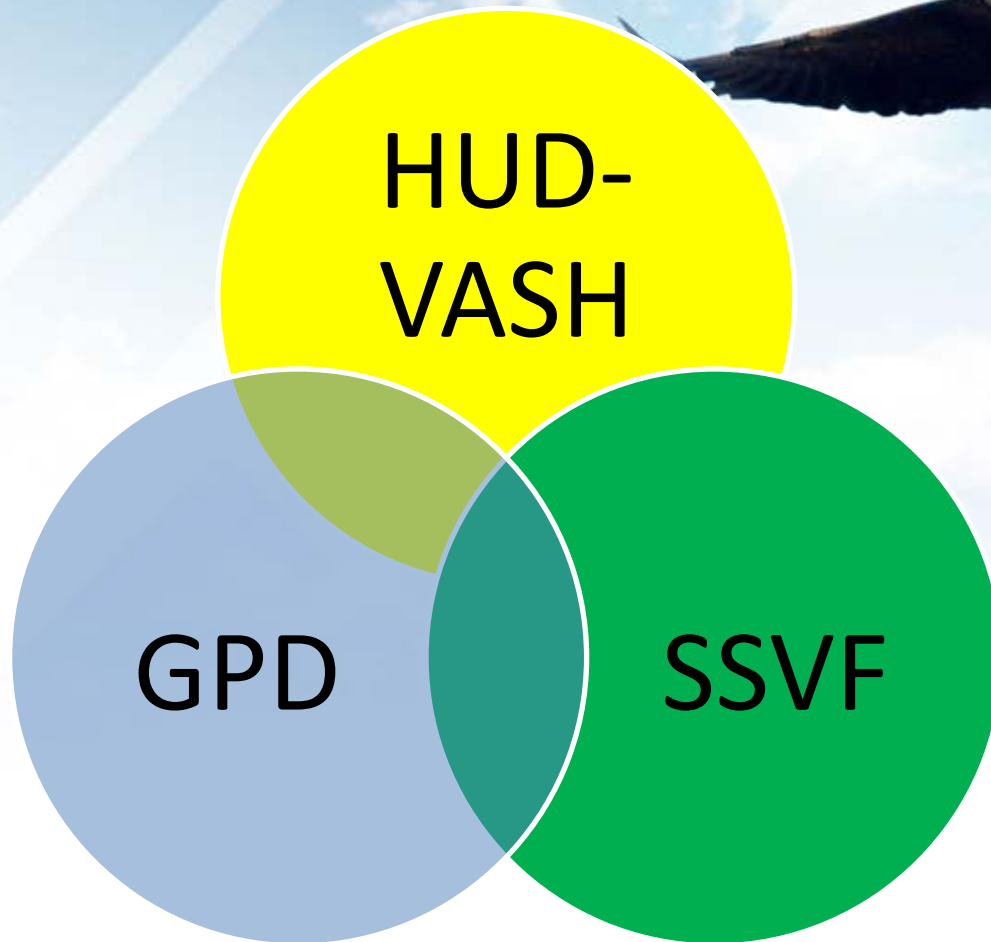
# Homeless Definition for VA Programs



PROGRAM	HOMELESS DEFINITION
GPD Source: <a href="#">2014 GPD Handbook</a>	Veteran can be literally homeless in shelter or a place not meant for human habitation, or can be imminently losing their housing with no other housing options, or financial or other resources.
SSVF RRH Source: <a href="#">SSVF Program Guide</a>	Veteran must be literally homeless in shelter or a place not meant for human habitation.
SSVF HP Source: <a href="#">SSVF Program Guide</a>	Veteran must be at imminent risk of losing their housing with no other housing options, or financial or other resources.
HUD-VASH Source: <a href="#">2011 VASH Handbook</a>	Veteran can be literally homeless in shelter or a place not meant for human habitation, or can be imminently losing their housing. HUD-VASH priority for chronically homeless Veterans and than those assessed as having the highest need.

HEARTH Homeless Category – Final Rule	SSVF	HUD-VASH	GPD
<p>Cat. #1 – Literally Homeless:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Shelter, transitional housing or Safe Haven</li> <li>- Place not meant for human habitation, or</li> <li>- Exiting an institution where (s)he has resided for 90 days or less and was in a shelter or place not mean for human habitation immediately before entering the institution</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eligible for RRH</li> <li>• Can provide TFA for Veterans receiving HUD-VASH if under 30% AMI and chronically homeless, some exceptions to these requirements are allowed</li> <li>• Can provide TFA for Veterans for Veterans residing in GPD if enrolled in SSVF within 30 days of entry or if GPD is used as bridge housing while Veteran searches for permanent housing with SSVF assistance</li> <li>• Can provide TFA for Veterans residing in GPD and exiting with a VASH voucher if under 30% AMI and chronically homeless</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eligible</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eligible</li> </ul>
<p>Cat. #2 – Imminent Risk of Homelessness:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Losing housing within 14 days</li> <li>- No subsequent residence identified</li> <li>- The person lacks the resources or support networks needed to obtain other housing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eligible for HP</li> <li>• Can provide TFA for Veterans at imminent risk of homelessness that are receiving HUD-VASH if it is necessary and required to resolve risk of literal homelessness (SSVF Program Guide pg. 121-122).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eligible</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eligible</li> </ul>
<p>Cat. #3 – Homeless under other Federal Statutes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Unaccompanied youth under 25 years of age or families with children who are homeless under other federal statutes</li> <li>- No lease, ownership interest or occupancy agreement for permanent housing in last 60 days</li> <li>- Persistent housing instability – 2 or more moves in last 60 days</li> <li>- Expected to retain homeless status due to special needs or 2 or more barriers to employment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not eligible</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NA</li> </ul>
<p>Cat. #4 – Fleeing/Attempting to Flee Domestic Violence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No housing options</li> <li>- No financial resources or supports</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eligible</li> <li>• RRH if literally homeless</li> <li>• HP if at imminent risk of homelessness</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eligible</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eligible</li> </ul>
<p><b>All Veterans must meet applicable VA, PHA and grantee program requirements for SSVF, HUD-VASH and GPD.</b></p>			

# Co-enrollment for SSVF, GPD & HUD-VASH



# GPD Bridge & Service Enriched TH



- The Criteria & Benchmarks for Achieving the Goal of Ending Veteran Homelessness prioritize Veterans moving into permanent housing as quickly as possible.
  - One of the Benchmarks measures how long it takes to house a Veteran, with a goal of an average of 90 days or less. A Veteran's whole GPD stay is counted in this calculation unless the Veteran was offered permanent housing first. If the Veteran wants to move to permanent housing but needs a safe place to stay while he is working on permanent housing, then GPD can provide that safe place as a bridge housing program.
  - If the Veteran does not want permanent housing at that moment then they can enter GPD to access treatment and other supports without the stay in GPD counted against the community's average length of time from homelessness to housing.
- More information about GPD bridge housing and co-enrollment between SSVF and GPD can be found in the GPD Webinar at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/5212064821386910209>





# Homeless Definition Scenarios

# Homeless Definition Scenarios



- In all scenarios Veteran status has been documented and the Veteran has an honorable discharge. Eligibility review in each scenario just refers to homeless status; the Veteran will need to meet other VA and local requirements before they can be enrolled in any program.
- Veterans receiving HUD-VASH must demonstrate an on-going need for case management and supportive services. HUD-VASH should be prioritized for chronically homeless Veterans and then those assessed to have the highest needs.

NOTE: Scenarios are for discussion purposes and are not meant to supersede any guidance on eligibility from the VA homeless programs.

# Scenario #1



Veteran is living in his car and has been working with an outreach worker.

- Eligible for SSVF RRH, HUD-VASH and GPD under Category #1: Literal Homelessness

*BASIS FOR DETERMINATION: Veteran is literally homeless*

## Scenario #2



Veteran staying sometimes with his mother and sometimes with his brother. Veteran would like to get his own housing but has not been asked to leave either place.

- Not eligible for SSVF RRH or HP
- Eligible for GPD or HUD-VASH? NO

*BASIS FOR DETERMINATION: Veteran is not homeless or at imminent risk of losing housing within the next 14 days with no subsequent residence identified. Veteran is not a youth under the age of 25 or in a family with children or youth – not Category 3.*

## Scenario #3



Veteran is living in his car when he is assessed by an outreach team. At the end of the assessment, the outreach team member asks the Veteran if he wants assistance moving into housing and the Veteran says 'Yes'. To address the Veteran's immediate need for a safe place to stay, the outreach team member asks the Veteran if he wants to go to shelter and the Veteran say 'No'. The outreach team member then offers the Veteran a bed at the GPD program while he looks for housing. The Veteran agrees to go to GPD.

- Eligible for SSVF RRH and VASH
- Eligible for GPD, would enter a bridge bed at GPD because he accepted an offer of permanent housing before he entered the program.

*BASIS FOR DETERMINATION: Veteran is literally homeless and eligible for all VA programs.*

## Scenario #4



Veteran is behind on his rent and has received a court order from an eviction action that says he has to leave within 14 days.

- Possibly eligible for SSVF HP if meets other requirements, targeting and grantee has resources
- Eligible for GPD and HUD-VASH? YES if Veteran lacks other housing options, and has no financial or other resources or supports.

*BASIS FOR DETERMINATION: Veteran meets imminent risk definition in Category 2.*

## Scenario #5



Veteran entered VA Domiciliary for substance abuse treatment 60 days ago, had been living with his girlfriend prior to entering the Domiciliary but she will not let him return.

- Possibly eligible for SSVF HP if meets other requirements, targeting and grantee has resources
- Eligible for GPD and HUD-VASH? YES if Veteran lacks other housing options, has no financial or other resources or supports.

*BASIS FOR DETERMINATION: Veteran was not literally homeless before entering Domiciliary – not Category 1. Veteran meets imminent risk definition in Category 2.*

# Scenario #6



**Scenario #6:** Veteran is in shelter, has no income and is not chronically homeless.

- Eligible for SSVF RRH to exit to permanent housing
- Eligible for GPD and HUD-VASH
- Possibly eligible for SSVF TFA for security deposits if Veteran is housed using HUD-VASH

*BASIS FOR DETERMINATION: Veteran is literally homeless and eligible for all programs.*

*To receive SSVF TFA for assistance with security deposit with a HUD-VASH voucher Veteran would need to meet the criteria in the SSVF Program Guide (pg. 121-122). If the Veteran is not chronically homeless with an income under 30% AMI then, on a case by case basis, exceptions may be made but the SSVF grantee must determine and fully document that the exception is necessary and required to resolve the Veteran's homelessness.*





# Next Steps