

Background

In 2018, Congress passed two pieces of legislation that significantly impacted the Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program (HVRP)¹ by expanding the definitions for program eligibility: [The Departments of Defense and Labor \(DOL\), Health and Human Services \(HHS\), and Education \(ED\) Appropriations Act, 2019 and Continuing Appropriations Act of 2019](#) and [The Veterans Benefits and Transition Act of 2018](#). These eligibility changes took effect in HVRP Program Year 2019, which began on July 1, 2019.

In July 2019, DOL's Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS) issued VPL 06-19 to provide guidance on the eligibility changes. VETS further clarified HVRP eligibility in November 2020 with the issuance of [VPL 01-21](#). VETS directed the National Veterans' Technical Assistance Center (NVTAC) to conduct webinar training on the new eligibility requirements for VETS' regional staff and HVRP grantees. This document consolidates the questions received during these trainings, at HVRP Post Award Conferences (PACs), and through email and stakeholder feedback, and presents a summarized process for determining eligibility for HVRP.

Process for Determining HVRP Eligibility:

Step 1: Veteran Status

The definition of veteran may be different for other programs, so HVRPs should verify veteran status first. In order to meet the HVRP definition of a veteran, the individual must meet the following criteria:

- At least one day of active duty:
 - Clearly indicated on DD-214
 - National Guard and Reserve must have been federally activated for duty, not including training
- Discharge other than Dishonorable

NOTE: [Grant Officer Memo \(GO Memo\) 01-21](#) authorizes the use of either the VA Medical Centers' Hospital Inquiry (HINQ) or SQUARES report to document veteran status, in lieu of the DD-214, through June 30, 2021.

Step 2: Homeless

If the individual meets the HVRP definition of veteran, the next step is whether they meet the HVRP definition of homeless:

- Homeless per the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act of 2009

¹ Includes HVRP, Incarcerated Veterans' Transition Program (IVTP) and Homeless Female Veterans' and Veterans' with Families Program (HFVWF), collectively referred to as HVRP.

- Includes those at imminent risk (within 14 days) of homelessness
- Individuals who were homeless but found housing during the 60-day period preceding the date of HVRP enrollment (recently housed)

If the veteran meets one of these criteria, move on to Step 5. If not, continue to Step 3.

Step 3: Participant in Partner Services/Other Categories of Eligibility

Does the veteran fit into any of the following eligibility categories?

- Participant in Partner Services
 - Housing and Urban Development-VA Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH); Tribal HUD-VASH
 - Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act of 1996
 - Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Prevention or Rapid Rehousing
- Other Categories of Eligibility
 - Transitioning from incarceration
 - Recently released from incarceration

If the veteran meets one of these categories, move on to Step 5. If not, continue to Step 4.

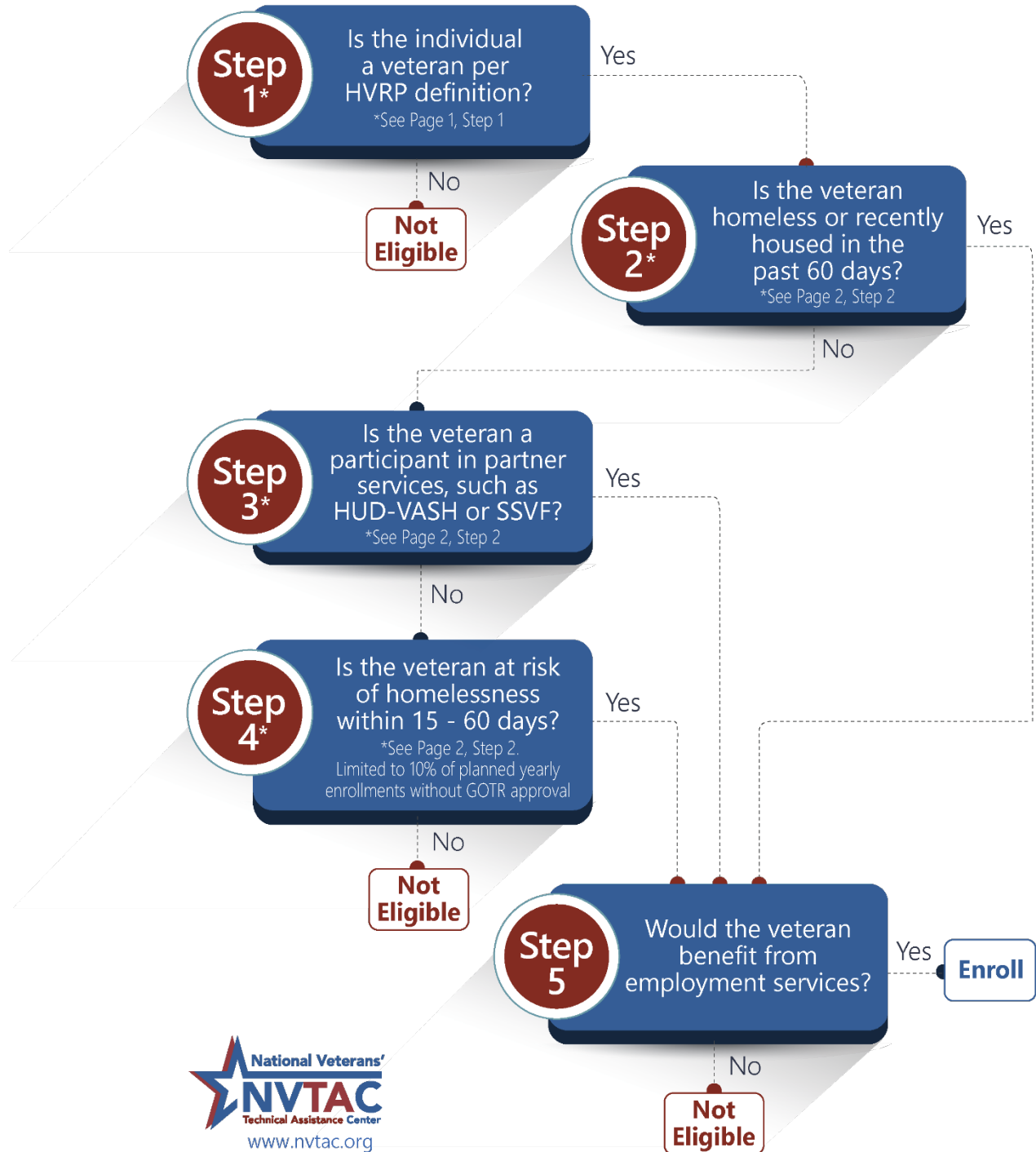
Step 4: At-Risk of Homelessness

Is the veteran at-risk of homelessness within the next 15–60 days? Answering this question requires the HVRP to assess the veteran's current situation to determine their risk. Simply losing a job or separating from a spouse is not enough to justify enrollment in HVRP. [VPL 01-21](#) provides guidance on determining whether an individual is at risk of homelessness. If you are unsure, reach out to your Grant Officer's Technical Representative (GOTR) or NVTAC for assistance. Individuals who are not eligible for HVRP should be referred to other services including the American Job Center.

Step 5: Need or Would Benefit from Employment Services

HVRP is an employment program; a veteran who meets the eligibility requirements should not automatically be enrolled in HVRP. The veteran must need employment services. There are many reasons why a veteran who meets all the eligibility requirements for HVRP may not be a good fit for the program. A good assessment process will help with that decision.

Steps To Determine HVRP Eligibility



Frequently Asked Questions

1. When do the HVRP eligibility changes go into effect?

The initial changes in HVRP eligibility began on July 1, 2019. VPL 01-21 included additional changes and clarifications in HVRP eligibility which began when the VPL was issued, November 24, 2020.

2. Who is eligible to participate in HVRP?

In order to participate in HVRP, an individual must be a veteran *and* either homeless *or* participating in a partner service, *or* at-risk of homelessness within 60 days (explanations provided above) *and* in need of or would benefit from employment services.

3. Has the definition of veteran changed?

Yes, VPL 01-21 includes a revised definition of active-duty service to include time spent in basic training regardless of completion. For HVRP, a veteran is an individual with at least one day of active duty (as defined above and in VPL 01-21) and a discharge status other than Dishonorable.

4. Has the definition of homeless changed?

Yes. The new HVRP definition of homeless includes everyone previously identified as homeless under the HEARTH Act. In addition to those individuals, the definition of homeless has been expanded to include veterans who were homeless but found housing during the 60-day period preceding the date of HVRP enrollment (recently housed).

5. Are veterans who do not meet the new definition of homeless eligible for HVRP?

It depends. Veterans who are not homeless are eligible for HVRP if they meet one of the following eligibility categories (collectively referred to as participating in partner services):

- Participant in HUD-VASH or Tribal HUD-VASH
- Receiving assistance under the Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act of 1996
- Participating in the VA's SSVF program
- Transitioning from incarceration
- Recently released from incarceration

Veterans who are not participating in a partner service may be eligible for HVRP if they are at-risk of homelessness within 60 days.

6. Who is considered at risk of homelessness?

Veterans who are at risk of becoming homeless within 15–60 days after the date of HVRP program enrollment. *Veterans who are within 14 days of homelessness are considered at “imminent risk” and are defined as homeless.* HVRP grantees are limited to 10% of their planned yearly enrollments in this category without prior approval from their GOTR.

Participants in Partner Services/Other Eligible Categories

7. Does the 10% restriction on enrolling veterans who are at risk of homelessness apply to participants in partner services (HUD-VASH, SSVF, etc.)?

No. Once veteran status is established, meeting any aspect of the homeless definition, or participating in partner services (per question 5, above), means that the veteran does not fall within the 10% restriction. The restriction is *only* applied to veterans who are at-risk of homelessness in the next 15–60 days. Eligible veterans who are not included in the 10% restriction include veterans who meet any one of the following:

- Are currently homeless;
- Have been housed in the last 60 days;
- Are a participant in partner services;
- Are transitioning or recently released from incarceration; or
- Are at *imminent* risk (i.e., within 14 days) of homelessness.

8. If a veteran has been housed through HUD-VASH for more than 60 days is, he/she still eligible for HVRP?

Yes, see explanation in questions 5 and 7 above.

9. Are individuals receiving SSVF Prevention services part of the at-risk category?

No, as mentioned above, any veteran who is receiving SSVF (either Prevention or Rapid Rehousing) assistance is eligible as a participant in partner services. These individuals are not considered at risk and do NOT count toward the 10% limit.

10. What do “transitioning” and “recently released” from incarceration mean? Are there time limits?

Yes. Veterans “transitioning from” incarceration are those veterans who are scheduled to be released within 12 months. Veterans who were released from incarceration in the last 12 months are considered “recently released”. Definitions are provided in [VPL 01-21](#).

Documentation

11. How should HVRPs document veteran status? Can a VA Hospital Inquiry (HINQ) or SQUARES 2.0 be used in lieu of a DD-214 for veteran verification? Can enrollment in a VA program be used in lieu of a DD-214?

Per VPL 01-21, HVRP grantees are required to document veteran status with a DD-214 that includes character of discharge (member copies 2-8). Grantees may serve veterans based on self-attestation of veteran status until the DD-214 is obtained but cannot report participation or placement until veteran status is established by a DD-214.

NOTE: [Grant Officer Memo \(GO Memo\) 01-21](#) authorizes the use of either the VA Medical Centers' Hospital Inquiry (HINQ) or SQUARES report to document veteran status, in lieu of the DD-214, through June 30, 2021.

12. How should at-risk status be documented?

HVRP grantees should include documentation to justify the determination of at-risk status. This may include eviction notices, income (as defined in VPL 01-21), and other information relevant to the veteran's situation. Self-attestation can be used as a limited resource. NVTAC is working with VETS to develop additional resources around at-risk determination.

13. Is there any training on these changes for HVRP grantees or VETS staff?

Yes. NVTAC worked closely with VETS National Office to develop and deliver trainings on the new eligibility definitions for VETS' regional staff, HVRP grantees, and partners from the VA and HUD. A recording and related materials from the most recent webinar is available [here](#). If you need additional training, please email contact@nvtac.org.

14. How should veterans at-risk of homelessness be recorded on the Technical Progress Report (TPR)?

For veterans enrolled in the at-risk category, answer "no" for the Technical Progress Report (TPR) homeless element. You should then explain in your Technical Progress Narrative (TPN) that the participant was enrolled in the at-risk category.