Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Overview

Housing Homeless and Imminently At-Risk Veteran Families

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Grantees are responsible to work with household on what services to provide. Program office provides guidance & oversight.
Tailor Plans to Individual Needs

- Young Veterans
- Women
- Dependent children
- Disabled
Serve Entire Household

Which Household Members Have Needs Impacting Housing Stability?

• Address needs of non-Veterans to support housing stability

• 20% of participants are dependent children

• Able to serve family members if household separates
  ➢ DV provision resets TFA clock
SSVF: A Culture of Learning, Partnerships, & Innovation

2011-2013
Start Up & Advancement
- SSVF Begins
- Accreditation
- Practice Standards

2014-2017
Community Planning to End Veteran Homelessness
- Surge Grants
- Community Plans
- CoC Support
- Fed CB

2018-2020
Addressing the Affordable Housing Crisis
- Integration in CES
- Returning Home
- Rapid Resolution
- Shallow Subsidies

2020-2022
Responding to COVID & Increasing Coordination
- Rapid Expansion of Motel Sheltering
- SSVF & HUD-VASH Coordination
- SSVF Housing Navigation NOFA
- Health Navigation and Legal
Tools Available to Grantees

- Outreach
- Case management
- Benefits Assistance
  - Specialized position
  - Active involvement, not just a list
- Housing Navigation
- Financial assistance (TFA)
  - More than rent and utilities
- Transportation
- Link to health care
- Employment and training
- Credit counseling
- Legal Assistance
  - National service expansion
• Landlord incentives worth up to 2-months rent.

• Tenant move-in support an additional $1000 for consumer selected quality of life items.

• Expanded eligibility to 80% AMI (up from 50%).
Priority One: Rapid Re-housing

- Triage priority
  Literally homeless

- Budget sufficient resources,
  Demand = BNL (or PIT) + inflow

BNL or By-Name-List. Used to assign and track individual services.

PIT is annual Point-in-Time count of homelessness.

U.S. Navy photo by Seaman Imani N. Daniels
Priority Two: Homelessness Prevention

• Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) limited to 40% without a waiver (can be just services).

• Targets **imminent** risk of homelessness

• Use Diversion/Rapid Resolution – may straddle into early shelter intervention. Should be part of initial conversation at time of housing crisis.

• HP or Diversion clients a great target group for HVRP referrals
A note about Homelessness Prevention...

- Homelessness Prevention (HP) is NOT the same as eviction prevention. Grantees use limited HP resources focused on those most likely will become homeless.

- HP Service are not limited to TFA – Grantees offer case management or other services to help stabilize the household.
Rapid Resolution (Family Reunification)

• Divert from homeless system, preventing trauma and opening alternative housing resources

• Conflict Mediation and reduction in social isolation

• Modest financial assistance

• Household members (Veteran’s family) eligible for services

• May be a good target group for HVRP or employment services
RENTAL HOMES AFFORDABLE AND AVAILABLE PER 100 EXTREMELY LOW-INCOME RENTER HOUSEHOLDS BY STATE

Note: Extremely low-income (ELI) renter households have incomes at or below the poverty level or 30% of the area median income. Source: NLIHC tabulations of 2020 5-Year ACS PUMS Data.
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https://nlihc.org/gap
How Do We Increase Supply?

- Build new units
  - Expensive
  - Takes years

- Identify “new” housing within existing supply
  - Shallow Subsidy
  - Shared Housing

- Increase income to meet market needs with support
  - HVRP and Employment
  - SOAR
Tools to Ensure Participant Safety

• Housing First is SSVF policy

• Same Day Screening and Enrollment

• Emergency Housing Assistance

• General Housing Stability Assistance

• HVRP Grantees should be aware of emergency needs of Veterans and link to VA/SSVF if Veteran in danger
Housing First

• Serve without pre-condition

• Evidence-based

• Not Housing Only

• Income not a requirement for program but a strong emphasis to promote stability long term
Same Day Screening and Enrollment

• Those eligible for services face higher mortality and morbidity risks.

• SSVF is a social services ER.

• Use SQUARES and if necessary self-certification of income to begin services.
4. General Housing Stability Assistance

- Items necessary for safety

- Employment assistance: uniforms, tools, certifications, licenses

- Kitchen utensils, bedding, supplies

- Housing applications, tenant screening reports, background checks, inspection fees
Finding/Keeping Housing

• Plans address household barriers

• Housing Specialists with local knowledge of market

• Sustainability means affordability
  – Likely still rent burdened
  – Income
  – Housing costs
Shallow Subsidies

• Offers 50% rental subsidy for 2-years, increasing supply of affordable units
  – Subsidy does not change even if income increases
  – No income recertification for 2 years

• Partnership with DOL’s Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program (HVRP) to provide boost to income and potential for self-sufficiency
Shallow Subsidies cont.

- Subsidy amount is fixed over the 24-month commitment
  - Differentiating it from Rapid Rehousing which can be a deeper subsidy but is shorter term
  - No income recertification required for entire Shallow Subsidy period so no disincentive to increase income

- Veterans have the ability to be re-certified at the end of the 24 month assistance period, if income eligible and still need assistance

- Can be used in typical one-bedroom, multi-bedroom families, and shared Housing situations
Shallow Subsidies Targeting

• Must be income eligible for SSVF when transitioning to Shallow Subsidy

• **Generally** requires minimal supportive services/tenancy supports. May rely on more community connections (HVRP for instance)

• Has the ability to pay the balance of rent. Only **needs** moderate rental assistance differentiating it from HUD-VASH services.
Veteran may be transitioned from traditional SSVF RRH or Prevention services to Shallow Subsidy

- Generally expected to be part of a progressive engagement approach, employed after initial Rapid Re-housing or Homeless Prevention assistance.
- All Veterans must be enrolled as either RRH or Prevention for purposes of eligibility, HMIS, and grant management – Shallow Subsidy is a new service not a new enrollment.

In some cases, Veterans begin utilizing at initial intake if they do not need rental assistance or deposits from traditional SSVF

- For literally homeless Veterans consider providing traditional SSVF RRH first to help them move into housing
- Veterans needing Prevention may be more likely to refer directly to Shallow Subsidy
- Tradition flexibilities of SSVF Rental Assistance not available once Shallow Subsidy begins – subsidy is set for two year period
Veterans who may be a good candidate for Shallow Subsidy could be but not limited to:

- Employed with the ability to build income (work or non-work) over time
- Potentially a good candidate for or already enrolled HVRP or other employment service (not required)
- On fixed incomes such as retired seniors or disabled Veterans - effective prevention tool
- On the waiting list for affordable housing opportunities or engaged in pursuing shared housing opportunities
Implications for HVRP and Other Employment

• Veterans who can or are willing to work can now continue to receive ongoing assistance for at least two years even if income increases significantly during enrollment.

• Connections for employment services should be considered as soon as Veteran is housed or expresses interest.
  
  o Can use normal SSVF assistance to offer deeper or more flexible subsidy while Veteran is gaining training or employment.
  
  o Once Veteran can pay 50% of rent (assuming still under AMI cap) can offer Shallow Subsidy service commitment while continuing to maintain or build income.

• HVRP and SSVF should be actively coordinating cross referrals for Veterans willing or wanting to work to expedite income growth.

• Communication critical between SSVF, HVRP and Veteran to time transition to Shallow Subsidy as income begins to increase.

• Veteran is still enrolled in same SSVF program so does not effect HVRP eligibility.

• New SSVF Legal Services may pair well with income supports for justice involved Veterans.
Potential Next Steps

• Meet with your SSVF grantee counterparts to discuss their progress in implementing Shallow Subsidy services, including overall targeting of service and other program decisions

• Review HVRP capacity to take new enrollments from SSVF and timing of employment outcomes to help plan referrals

• Discuss a referral process for Veterans seeking employment or training, including overall demand, equity considerations for historically marginalized groups and program requirements

• Establish a regular communication plan to review make/review outstanding referrals, update on income trajectory of those enrolled in both programs and other coordination matters
Shallow Subsidy Services

• While providing Shallow Subsidy services
  – Lighter level of case management generally expected for Veterans
    • Monthly check-ins
      – Verify tenancy in assisted housing unit
      – Verify household is able to make rental assistance payments
    – Grantees must still have the ability to elevate supportive services for Veterans as needed

• Connection to HVRP and other employment and income supports seen as critical given 2-year certification flexibilities

• Document Check Ins
  – Client Files
  – HMIS
Transitions from Shallow Subsidy

• After 24 months of Shallow Subsidy Veteran needs to be recertified as eligible for SSVF:
  – If Veterans have increased household income through employment, benefits or other options, they will be exited from SSVF
  – If Veterans still need assistance maintaining, re-certification is possible for an additional two years, if income eligible

• At any time, Veterans can transition to Permanent Housing Subsidy
  – Site based subsidized unit
  – Voucher (HUD VASH, Section 8)
  – Section 811 Project Based Assistance
• Termination from SSVF – Abandoned Unit or Unknown Whereabouts
  – Abandoned unit, unable to locate Veteran
  – SSVF provider may terminate Veteran after 90 days
  – May pay SSVF portion of rent unless lease is terminated

• Termination from SSVF – Absence from Unit
  – Incarceration for longer than 90 days

• Eviction alone is not a reason for termination from SSVF
Progressive Assistance

• NOT one size fits all. Policies describing “what everyone gets” will only lead to failure.

• Begin with least amount of assistance needed and scale up from there when required.

• The Services are JUST AS or MORE important than the financial assistance.