

Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program (HVRP) Eligibility Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Background

In February 2023, the Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS) issued the Veterans' Program Letter (VPL) 02-23 to update and rescind VPL 01-21. In March 2023, VETS held a listening session on the updated eligibility requirements. This document consolidates the questions received during the VETS listening session and presents a summarized process for determining eligibility for HVRP.¹

Process for Determining HVRP Eligibility

Step 1: Veteran Status

The definition of a veteran is different for other programs (e.g., Supportive Services for Veteran Families [SSVF] and Grant and Per Diem [GPD]), so HVRP grant recipients must verify veteran status first:

“The term ‘veteran’ means a person who served in the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Space Force, Coast Guard, or Reserve Component (National Guard and Reserve), who meet the following criteria:

- Received a discharge or release under conditions other than dishonorable (see [38 U.S.C. §101\(18\)](#)); and
- At least one day of active duty (see [38 U.S.C. § 101\(21\)](#)) to include time spent in basic training for active-duty members; or
- Federal active duty for National Guard or Reserve members (does not include inactive or active duty for training (e.g., basic training or Advanced Individualized Training [AIT], state active duty, weekend drills, etc.), see [38 U.S.C. § 101\(22\), \(23\)](#)); or
- Any period of inactive duty or active duty for training during which National Guard and Reserve members received a service-connected disability resulting from a disease or injury incurred or aggravated in line of duty (see [38 U.S.C. § 101\(24\)](#))” (VPL 02-23 [Attachment 1: Eligibility Definitions](#)). For example, consider a National Guard or Reservist who gets injured during annual training. Even if they have never been on Title 10 orders, the service member could file a claim, and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) could still provide a service-connected disability rating. If the veteran receives this rating, they are considered an eligible veteran under HVRP.

¹ Includes HVRP, Incarcerated Veterans' Transition Program (IVTP) and Homeless Women Veterans and Homeless Veterans with Children Reintegration Grant Program (HWVHWC), collectively referred to as HVRP.

Step 2: Homeless or Participant in Partner Services

If the individual meets the HVRP definition of a veteran, the next step is to see if they meet any of the following:

- Homeless per the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing ([HEARTH](#)) Act of 2009
 - Includes individuals who were homeless but found housing during the 60-day period preceding the date of HVRP enrollment (recently housed);
 - Includes those at imminent risk (within 14 days) of homelessness; or
- Participant in Partner Services
 - Housing and Urban Development-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH); Tribal HUD-VASH
 - Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act of 1996
 - Transitioning from Incarceration
 - SSVF Rapid Re-Housing (RRH)

If the veteran meets one of these categories, move on to Step 4. If not, continue to Step 3.

Step 3: At Risk of Homelessness

Under HVRP, there are two categories of “at risk of homelessness” veterans:

1. Veterans who, at program entry, are at risk of homelessness within 15–60 days (Note: Veterans who are within 14 days of homelessness are considered at “imminent risk” and are defined as homeless); and
2. Veterans recently released (within the last 12 months) from incarceration who are at risk of homelessness.

In order to determine if the veteran is “at risk of homelessness,” the HVRP grant recipient is required to assess the veteran’s current situation to determine their risk using the criteria listed below. Losing a job or separating from a spouse is insufficient to justify enrollment in HVRP. If unsure, contact your Grant Officer’s Technical Representative (GOTR) or the National Veterans’ Technical Assistance Center (NVTAC) for assistance. Individuals who are not eligible for HVRP should be referred to other services, including the American Job Center (AJC).

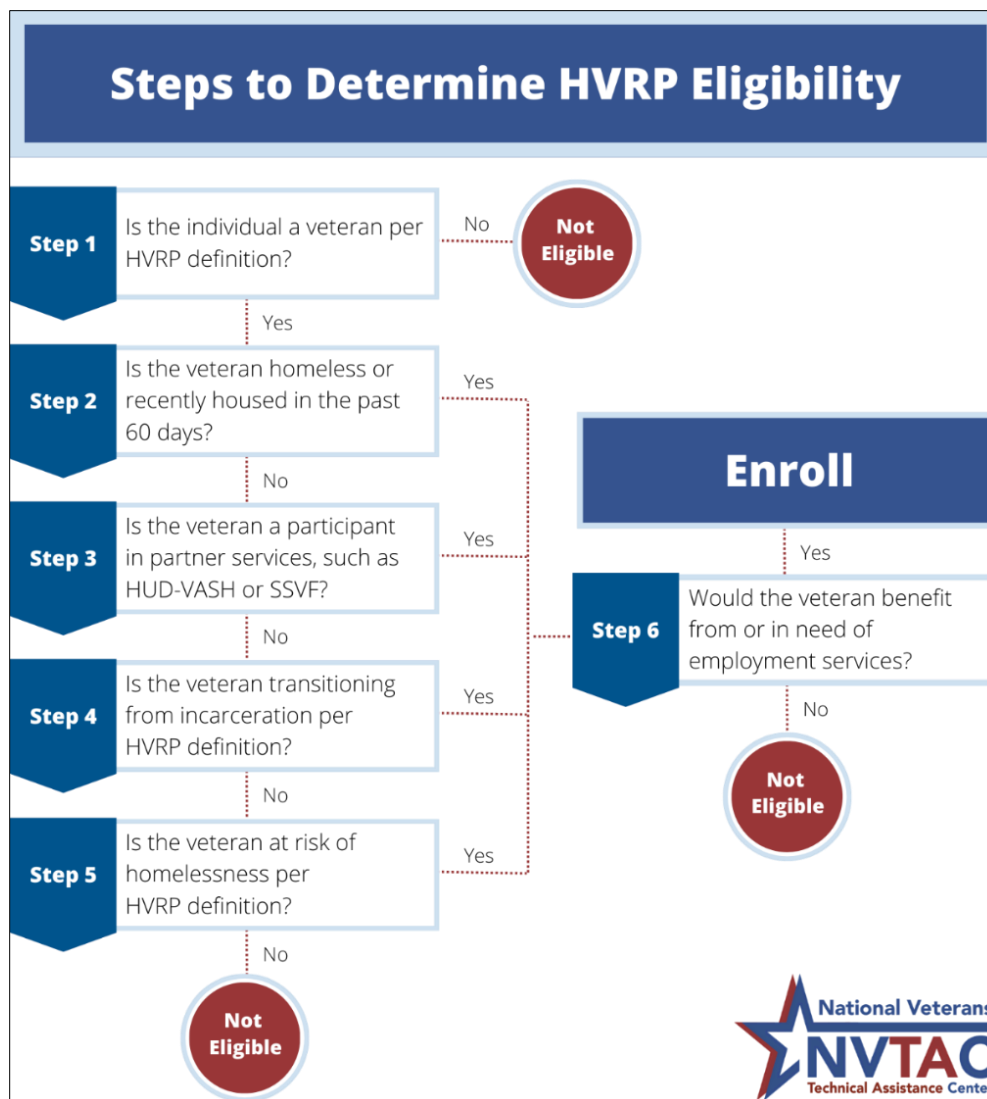
The criteria found in VPL 02-23, Attachment 1 for “at risk of homelessness” comes directly from statute, as stated in [42 U.S.C. § 11360](#). To align with other federal entities, please refer to [HUD’s Criteria for Defining At Risk of Homelessness](#) for clarification on the “at risk of homelessness” criteria, as defined as an individual or family who:

- (i) Has an annual income below 30% of median family income for the geographical area;
AND

- (ii) Does not have sufficient resources or support networks immediately available to prevent them from moving to an emergency shelter or another place defined in Category 1 of the “homeless” definition; **AND**
- (iii) Meets **one** of the following conditions:
 - (A) Has moved because of economic reasons two or more times during the 60 days immediately preceding the application for assistance; **OR**
 - (B) Is living in the home of another because of economic hardship; **OR**
 - (C) Has been notified that their right to occupy their current housing or living situation will be terminated within 21 days after the date of application for assistance; **OR**
 - (D) Lives in a hotel or motel and the cost is not paid for by charitable organizations or by Federal, State, or local government programs for low-income individuals; **OR**
 - (E) Lives in a single room occupancy (SRO) or efficiency apartment unit in which there reside more than 2 persons or lives in a larger housing unit in which there reside more than one and a half persons per room; **OR**
 - (F) Is exiting a publicly funded institution or system of care; **OR**
 - (G) Otherwise lives in housing that has characteristics associated with instability and an increased risk of homelessness.

Step 4: Needs 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.



Frequently Asked Questions

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

VPL 02-23 was effective as of posting on February 10, 2023.

2. *Who is eligible to participate in HVRP?*

To participate in HVRP, an individual must be a veteran *and* either homeless *or* participating in a partner service, *or* at risk of homelessness *and* in need of or would benefit from employment services (explanations provided in Steps 1-4 above).

3. *Has the definition of veteran changed? What is the current definition of veteran homelessness according to the VPL?*

National Guard and Reserve with a service-connected disability was added in VPL 02-23. See Step 1 above.

4. *Has the definition of homeless changed?*

No, the HVRP definition of homeless uses the [HEARTH Act](#) criteria. As detailed above, the definition of homeless also includes 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 definition of homeless eligible for HVRP?*

It depends. Veterans who are not homeless are eligible for HVRP if they meet one of the following criteria:

- Veterans who were homeless but found housing during the 60-day period preceding the date on which the veteran begins to participate in a program under this section
- Participant in the VA HUD-VASH or Tribal HUD-VASH
- Receiving assistance under the Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4101 *et seq.*)
- Participating in the VA's SSVF program
- Transitioning from incarceration (scheduled to be released from incarceration within 12 months)
- Veterans recently released from incarceration (within the last 12 months) and meet the "at risk of homelessness" criteria (see Step 3 above)
- Veterans who, at program entry, are "at risk of homelessness" (see Step 3 above) within the next 15-60 days (Note: Veterans who are within 14 days of homelessness are considered at "imminent risk" and are defined as homeless.)

6. *Who is considered at risk of homelessness?*

For the criteria needed to meet the "at risk of homelessness" category, refer to Step 3 of the eligibility criteria above.

7. *Is there a minimum service-connected disability or can it be a rating of zero percent?*

The statute does not state the disability must be compensable, only that the veteran received a service-connected disability rating. This would include a zero percent rating.

8. *Why does one day in bootcamp count for Active Military, but the same does not apply to National Guard or Reserve members?*

The determination is based on the definitions found in [38 U.S.C. § 101](#)(2), (21), and (22). Basic training is considered “active duty for training.” The definition of “active duty for training” pertains to the reserve component of the Armed Forces. Therefore, time spent in basic training by National Guard and Reserve members, as well as any other active or inactive duty for training, would not meet the definition of “veteran” per [38 U.S.C. § 101](#).

9. *Can a grant recipient enroll veterans while they are incarcerated but about to be released?*

Grant recipients may serve an eligible veteran transitioning from incarceration who is scheduled to be released from incarceration within 12 months, if they meet the following definition per [38 U.S.C. § 2023](#):

- A veteran who is a resident of a penal institution or an institution that provides long-term care for mental illness; and
- Is at risk of homelessness absent referral and counseling services provided under the program.

Per VPL 02-23, Attachment 1, VETS considers an “at risk” determination to involve factors deemed appropriate by the grant recipient; however, VETS does not permit grant recipients to determine that a veteran is “at risk” if the veteran is not scheduled to be released from incarceration within 12 months. Also, please note that the veterans transitioning from incarceration (scheduled to be released from incarceration within 12 months) do not need to meet the “at risk of homelessness” criteria defined in [42 U.S.C. § 11360](#).

Another category eligible under HVRP are veterans that have been released from incarceration (within the last 12 months) who are considered at risk of homelessness. These participants must meet the “at risk of homelessness” criteria defined in [42 U.S.C. § 11360](#).

10. *The definition of a veteran transitioning from incarceration is a veteran who is a resident of a penal institution or an institution that provides long-term care for mental illness. What is a penal institution?*

A penal institution includes federal, state, county, and city facilities such as prisons, correctional centers, detention centers, reentry centers, penitentiaries, and jails unless specified otherwise.

Here are some other helpful definitions under [28 CFR § 115.5 - General definitions](#):

“*Resident* means any person confined or detained in a juvenile facility or in a community confinement facility.”

“*Jail* means a confinement facility of a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency whose primary use is to hold persons pending adjudication of criminal charges, persons committed to confinement after adjudication of criminal charges for sentences of one year or less, or persons adjudicated guilty who are awaiting transfer to a correctional facility.”

“*Prison* means an institution under Federal or State jurisdiction whose primary use is for the confinement of individuals convicted of a serious crime, usually in excess of one year in length, or a felony.”

Documentation

11. How should HVRP grant recipients document veteran status? Can a VA HINQ or SQUARES 2.0 be used in lieu of a DD-214 for veteran verification?

HVRP grant recipients are required to document veteran status with a DD-214 that provides the character of discharge. For National Guard and Reserve members who received a service-connected disability resulting from a disease or injury incurred or aggravated in line of duty and were not issued a DD-214, the grant recipient must obtain a VA Summary of Benefits letter to verify the service-connected disability.

VA Hospital Inquiry (HINQ) or the VA web application Status Query and Response Exchange System (SQUARES) documentation are acceptable as provisional source documents to expedite enrollment; however, a DD-214 (or the VA Summary of Benefits letter for National Guard and Reserve members with a service-connected disability who were not issued a DD-214 as they may not have served on active duty) must be requested within three business days of enrollment and must be included in the participant case file prior to the participant exiting the program. It is the grant recipient’s responsibility to follow up on requests for DD-214s (or the VA Summary of Benefits letter, when appropriate). Failure to include this documentation in the participant case file may result in disallowed costs for these participants, and grant recipients must immediately remove these participants from the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) performance reporting forms (i.e., Technical Performance Report [TPR]). In rare circumstances, if the grant recipient has requested the eligibility documentation within three business days of enrollment, followed up on the request, and made reasonable efforts to obtain the documentation, but does not receive the DD-214 by the time the participant exits, the grant recipient should reach out to their Grant Officer’s Training Representative (GOTR) to discuss these situations when they arise.

Note: Veterans Benefits Management System (VBMS) recently replaced HINQ. However, the term “HINQ” is used in this document to align with VPL 02-23.

12. Why can’t grant recipients use the results of the SQUARES advanced search for documentation of eligibility instead of a DD-214?

The DD-214 (or the VA Summary of Benefits letter for National Guard and Reserve members with a service-connected disability who were not issued a DD-214, as they may not

have served on active duty) is the official document to verify eligibility. HINQ and SQUARES documentation are acceptable as provisional source documents to expedite enrollment.

13. Is there a time limit when a grant recipient must remove a participant from the program if the DD-214 is not received in a timely manner?

DD-214 requests should not be taking as long as they were previously. If a grant recipient is concerned about the length of time it is taking to receive a requested DD-214 for a participant, the grant recipient should contact their GOTR to discuss the situation. Per VPL 02-23, a DD-214 (or the VA Summary of Benefits letter, when appropriate) must be requested within three business days of enrollment and must be included in the participant case file prior to the participant exiting the program. Failure to do so may result in disallowed costs for these participants, and grant recipients must immediately remove these participants from the DOL performance reporting forms (i.e., TPR).

14. If a veteran was enrolled in HVRP and then placed into employment prior to the DD-214 coming in, does the grant recipient need to wait until the DD-214 comes in to count them as a placement? If so, would we then retroactively exit them to placement once the DD-214 comes in or would their placement date be considered the date the DD-214 comes in?

DD-214 requests should not be taking as long as they were previously. The date of exit for placement should reflect the true date of placement into unsubsidized employment. If a grant recipient has a situation where a DD-214 has been requested but not yet received for a participant being hired by an employer, the grant recipient should reach out to their GOTR to discuss the situation.

15. What should a grant recipient do if they have spent money on a provisionally enrolled participant but the DD-214 later shows the participant is ineligible for HVRP?

The grant recipient may be responsible for repaying any associated costs for an individual they enroll but later discover is not eligible for HVRP based on their DD-214. If a grant recipient suspects they may be in this situation, the grant recipient should reach out to their GOTR to discuss how to proceed.

16. Are there best practices for getting DD-214s quickly?

Here are some options:

- Go to the [National Archives Veterans' Service Records site](#). Under "Start Request Online," select "DD 214/Separation Documents." Then, select "Make a new request." When you get to the section that asks, "Which of these categories best describes why you're requesting the records?", select "Emergency Request" and then "Homeless Seeking Shelter." Using this option, you will be required to verify that the individual

you are seeking documentation for meets their definition of homelessness before proceeding.

- Submit a military records request to get the DD-214 or other military service records through the milConnect website. See the VA’s [instructions for navigating milConnect](#) for more information.
- Contact your state Department of Veterans Affairs, county’s veterans service office, or local veteran service organization, i.e., VFW, DAV, etc.

Per VPL 02-23, Attachment 2, other resources include:

- [eVetRecs Request Veterans Records Online Service Records Requests](#)
- [SF-180 Request Pertaining to Military Records form download](#)

17. How should “at risk of homelessness” status be documented?

HVRP grant recipients must include documentation to justify the determination of “at risk of homelessness” status in the participant’s case file. Examples of “at risk of homelessness” documentation include eviction notices, exit documentation from an institution, income statements, and other information relevant to the veteran’s “at risk of homelessness” situation. If no documentation exists, self-attestation can be used in rare circumstances to document a participant’s “at risk of homelessness” status.

<p>At Risk of Homelessness Criteria (the criterion in this table uses the HUD definitions that provide clarity to the criteria listed in VPL 02-23 and 42 U.S.C. § 11360)</p>	<p>Types of potential documentation sufficient to document the criteria (listed below are examples only and are not inclusive as the individual’s situation may determine that other documentation is reasonable)</p>
<p>Has an annual income below 30 percent of median family income for the geographic area (see questions 29-32 for details)</p>	<p>Paycheck, bank statement, termination letter, unemployment, etc. to document income Screen shots of the results from the Census Bureau website, or the income calculator tool referenced in question 32, used during income determination</p>
<p>Does not have sufficient resources or support networks immediately available to prevent them from moving to an emergency shelter or another place defined in Category 1 of the “homeless” definition</p>	<p>Documentation to demonstrate the resources available to the veteran including bank statements, documentation from other programs, etc. While not considered income, VA disability compensation may be considered a resource to prevent the veteran from moving to emergency shelter.</p>

<p>At Risk of Homelessness Criteria (the criterion in this table uses the HUD definitions that provide clarity to the criteria listed in VPL 02-23 and 42 U.S.C. § 11360)</p>	<p>Types of potential documentation sufficient to document the criteria (listed below are examples only and are not inclusive as the individual’s situation may determine that other documentation is reasonable)</p>
<p>Has moved because of economic reasons two or more times during the 60 days immediately preceding the application for assistance</p>	<p>Changes of address, state identification, cross-reference work history, enrollment within other programs in varying locations</p>
<p>Is living in the home of another because of economic hardship</p>	<p>Attestation from the homeowner, document/bill to verify the address, etc.</p>
<p>Has been notified that their right to occupy their current housing or living situation will be terminated within 21 days after the date of application for assistance</p>	<p>Attestation from the homeowner, eviction notice</p>
<p>Lives in a hotel or motel and the cost is not paid for by charitable organizations or by Federal, State, or local government programs for low-income individuals</p>	<p>Receipt from hotel or motel showing payment method</p>
<p>Lives in a single room occupancy (SRO) or efficiency apartment unit in which there reside more than two persons or lives in a larger housing unit in which there reside more than one and a half persons per room</p>	<p>Document to confirm the address, attestation from others living in the home, etc.</p>
<p>Is exiting a publicly funded institution or system of care</p>	<p>Documentation indicating the veteran is being released from the institution or system of care, attestation from the point of contact/case manager releasing the veteran, etc.</p>
<p>Otherwise lives in housing that has characteristics associated with instability and an increased risk of homelessness</p>	<p>Documentation to support factors that may result in characteristics associated with instability and an increased risk of homelessness such as unsafe or unstable housing</p>

Note: Per VPL 02-23, for the “at risk of homelessness” category, self-attestation should only be used in rare instances if no documentation exists or can be obtained.

Participants in Partner Services

18. Which partner programs make an individual eligible for HVRP?

Veterans participating in HUD-VASH, Tribal HUD-VASH, VA SSVF programs, or veterans who are receiving assistance under the Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act of 1996 (NAHASDA) (25 U.S.C. § 4101 *et seq.*) are eligible for HVRP. If the grant recipient has documentation from the partner program to support the veteran's homelessness or at risk of homelessness status, the grant recipient does not need to collect additional documentation, but veteran status documentation, such as the DD-214, is still required. HINQ and SQUARES documentation are acceptable as provisional source documents to expedite enrollment.

19. Are individuals enrolled in the GPD and HUD's RRH programs eligible for HVRP?

GPD is considered transitional housing; therefore, it meets the definition of homelessness under the HEARTH Act ([42 U.S.C. § 11302](#)). RRH rapidly connects families and individuals experiencing homelessness to permanent housing. It is not listed in 38 U.S.C. § 2021 as a partner program, such as VA SSVF and, therefore, is not eligible for HVRP.

As a reminder, veterans are eligible for HVRP if they were experiencing homelessness but found housing during the 60-day period preceding the date on which the veteran began to participate in a program under this section.

20. Does enrollment in public assistance programs, such as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), automatically make someone eligible for HVRP?

No. The only categories authorized to be served under HVRP are the categories listed in VPL 02-23, Section V. Please see steps 1-4 above.

21. Persons in SSVF, SSVF Shallow Subsidy, GPD HUD-VASH, and NAHASDA are classified as homeless. If someone has been receiving that assistance for 12 months or longer, would they be classified as "episodically homeless," as this is a critical HVRP category?

If the program is considered "transitional housing," it meets the definition of homeless under the HEARTH Act ([42 U.S.C. § 11302](#)). The veteran experiencing homelessness would be considered "episodically homeless" if they meet the following definition from VPL 02-23, [Attachment 1](#): "An episodically homeless person is an individual who has been continuously homeless for one (1) year or more or has experienced at least four (4) episodes of homelessness in the last three (3) years with a combined length of time homeless of at least 12 months." Please note that the definition of episodically homeless differs from the chronically homeless definition used by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, as the individual is not required to have a verified disability.

22. *If a veteran has been housed through HUD-VASH for over 60 days, are they still eligible for HVRP?*

Yes, see the explanation provided under question 5 above.

23. *Are individuals receiving SSVF Prevention services part of the “at risk of homelessness” category?*

No, as mentioned above, any veteran who is receiving SSVF (either Prevention or RRH) assistance is eligible as a participant in partner services. These individuals are not considered “at risk of homelessness.”

At Risk of Homelessness

24. *Is there still a limit on the percentage of participants that can be at risk of homelessness?*

There is no limit on the percentage of HVRP participants served by a grant recipient who are at risk of homelessness. The number of enrollments that come from the “at risk of homelessness” category can vary depending on local circumstances. GOTRs will regularly monitor the report of homeless and “at risk of homelessness” participants to ensure enrollments reflect the needs of the grant recipient’s service delivery area.

25. *When determining eligibility for at risk of homelessness, do all three criteria have to be met?*

Yes. The individual or family must have income below 30 percent of median income for the geographic area; **and** have insufficient resources immediately available to attain housing stability; **and** meet **one** of the following conditions: have moved frequently because of economic reasons, or are living in the home of another because of economic hardship, **or** have been notified that their right to occupy their current housing or living situation will be terminated, **or** live in a hotel or motel, **or** live in severely overcrowded housing, **or** are exiting an institution, **or** otherwise live in housing that has characteristics associated with instability and an increased risk of homelessness.

26. *What categories of veterans must meet the “at risk of homelessness” criteria?*

The following two categories must meet the criteria for “at risk of homelessness”:

1. Veterans who, at program entry, are at risk of homelessness within 15–60 days (Note: Veterans who are within 14 days of homelessness are considered at “imminent risk” and are defined as homeless), and
2. Veterans recently released (within the last 12 months) from incarceration who are at risk of homelessness.

27. *Do some of the housing criteria under at risk of homelessness qualify a veteran as experiencing homelessness, such as living in the home of another because of economic hardship or living in a hotel or motel?*

If the veteran meets the definition of homeless under the HEARTH Act, there is no requirement to meet the criteria of “at risk of homelessness.”

28. *Is the new income threshold for at risk of homelessness eligibility lower than the previous threshold?*

[VPL 01-21](#) referred to the income requirements for “at risk of homelessness” as “low income”. The guidance found in VPL 02-23, [Attachment 1](#) for the “at risk of homelessness” definition brings it into alignment with [42 U.S.C. § 11360](#). The median income requirement is “income below 30 percent of median income for the geographic area.” VPL 01-21 has been rescinded; therefore, the guidance within that VPL is no longer applicable. Grant recipients must adhere to the current guidance, [VPL 02-23 HVRP Participant Eligibility](#), and attachments [1](#) and [2](#).

29. *The “at risk of homelessness” criteria require annual income below 30 percent of median income for the geographic area. What is a geographic area?*

VETS defines a geographic area as the city/town or zip code¹ in which the participant resides and is the most localized. The “most localized” geographic option may differ depending on the population density and the location boundaries established by U.S. Census Bureau. For example, using the city or town for a more rural area may be more “localized.” Alternatively, using a zip code for an urban area may provide a more localized result.

30. *When determining whether a veteran meets the income threshold for at risk of homelessness eligibility, does the threshold adjust by family size or is it static?*

It is static. Census data is the annual median household income regardless of family size. Grant recipients should use the “Median household income” data source from the [U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts](#), as referenced in [Attachment 1](#) of VPL 02-23. Note: The QuickFacts dashboard only displays statistics for cities and towns with a population of 5,000 or more. If you are unable to find the city or town in the dashboard, you can find it here: [Table S1903](#), listed in the Median Income in the past 12 months (in 2021 inflation-adjusted dollars) table under Households.

See instructions below for details:

¹When the ZIP code aligns with the ZIP code Tabulation Areas (ZCTA) used by the U.S. Census Bureau. ZCTAs are generalized area representations of the United States Postal Service ZIP code service areas but are not the same as ZIP codes.

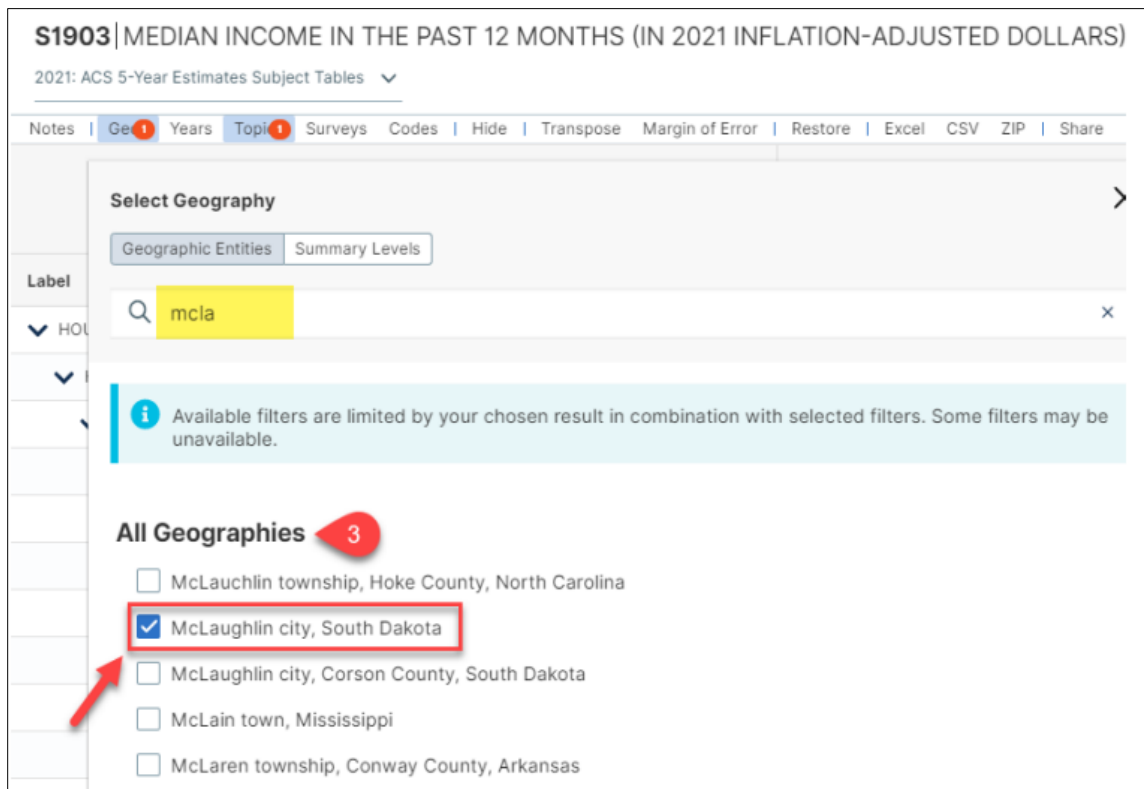
1. Go to [Table S1903](#) and select “Geos” in the ribbon below the table.



2. Enter the name of the city or town in the “Search Geography” field.



3. Select the city/town. Once selected, click the X in the upper right corner of the window.



- The first value listed in the Median income column under the first Households row is the medium income for the city/town.

S1903 MEDIAN INCOME IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS (IN 2021 INFLATION-ADJUSTED DOLLARS)				
2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables				
McLaughlin city, South Dakota				
	Number	Percent Distribution		Median income (dollars)
Label	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate
HOUSEHOLD INCOME BY RACE AND HISPANIC OR LATINO ORIGIN OF HOUSEHOLDER				
Households	157	157		64,375

- Can grant recipients use resources other than the U.S. Census Bureau link listed in Attachment 1 of the VPL?

The U.S. Census Bureau is the official resource to determine median income for a geographic area. HVRP grant recipients may not use the HUD User [Income Limits](#) webpage to determine the 30 percent median income, as HUD’s [methodology for determining median income](#) is not the most recent data available, and the [extremely low-income limits](#) computation includes other factors relevant to Section 8, such as setting the base-level calculation at 50 percent as opposed to 30 percent, fair market rent/housing adjustments, state non-metropolitan median income adjustments, and prior year cap/floor adjustments, that are not authorized under HVRP authorizing legislation, [38 U.S.C. §§ 2021, 2021A](#), and [2023](#).

- The U.S. Census Bureau data is from 2021. Is there a way to include inflation as it pertains to the median income amounts?

Grant recipients should use the [U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts](#) to determine the median household income for the geographic area. Grant recipients may use the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) [Consumer Price Index \(CPI\) Inflation Calculator](#) to adjust the income data to current dollars prior to the 30 percent calculation (see example below).

- Get median household income from the [U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts](#).

Dashboard - Los Angeles city, California	
Population Estimates	
Income & Poverty	Los Angeles city, California
Population Estimates, July 1 2021, (V2021)	3,849,297
PEOPLE	
Income & Poverty	
Median household income (in 2021 dollars), 2017-2021	\$69,778
Per capita income in past 12 months (in 2021 dollars), 2017-2021	\$39,378
Persons in poverty, percent	16.6%

2. Go to the [BLS CPI Inflation Calculator](#) and complete Steps 2–5.

The screenshot shows the 'CPI Inflation Calculator' interface. It features a blue header with the title. Below the header, there are input fields for a dollar amount (69778), a month (June), and a year (2021). A text prompt 'has the same buying power as' is followed by another set of input fields for a month (February) and a year (2023). A blue 'Calculate' button is at the bottom. Five numbered callouts (2-5) point to the input fields and the 'Calculate' button. To the right, five red-bordered boxes contain the following instructions: 'Step 2. Enter Median Household Income for Geographic Area from Census QuickFacts', 'Step 3. Select June 2021', 'Step 4. Calculator automatically defaults to most recent CPI value available', and 'Step 5. Click Calculate'.

The calculator provides the adjusted median household income in current dollars.

This screenshot shows the same 'CPI Inflation Calculator' interface, but with the result of the calculation. The dollar amount field now displays '69,778.00'. The adjusted median household income is shown in a yellow box as '\$77,262.87'. A red callout bubble with the number '6' points to this result. To the right, a red-bordered box contains the text: 'Adjusted Median Household Income to current dollars'. The 'Calculate' button is still visible at the bottom.

3. Calculate the HVRP at-risk income limit for the geographic area by multiplying the adjusted median household income (shown in Step 6) by 30 percent.

Step	Geographic Area	Adjusted MHI Estimate (current dollars)	HVRP At-Risk Income Percentage	HVRP At-Risk Income Limit
7	Los Angeles city, CA	\$77,262.87	30%	$\$77,262.87 * 30\% = \$23,178.86$

To capture the manual steps in questions 30 and 32, VETS has created an income calculator tool for determining a veteran’s income level to meet the definitions of at-risk of homelessness in accordance with VPL 02-23 Attachment 1. This tool is an optional resource for grant recipients and its use is not required by policy and guidance. The tool is available on the [HVRP website](#) under “Program Resources and Partners.” If grant recipients choose to use this tool, please read the calculator instructions and methods carefully. To keep current

with the inflation adjustment to household income in current dollars, VETS will update this tool monthly, based on the [BLS CPI Release Schedule](#); therefore, VETS recommends grant recipients check for the most recent version available prior to downloading the tool.

33. Am I required to keep a copy of calculations used to determine “median income” for veterans determined to be at risk of homelessness?

Yes, copies of calculations used should be maintained in the participant’s case file along with other eligibility documentation. Screen shots of the results from the Census Bureau website, or the income calculator tool referenced above in question 32, used during income determination are acceptable.

34. Do SNAP participants automatically meet the income threshold for at risk of homelessness eligibility?

Not necessarily. Income thresholds for SNAP are set nationwide, whereas the income threshold for at risk of homelessness HVRP eligibility varies by geographic area.

35. If a veteran loses their job and has no income from the day they lose their job, would they be eligible for the income bracket? If so, would it begin the day they became unemployed? What documentation can be provided that indicates that a veteran has no income?

Being unemployed does not automatically qualify a veteran as low income. If a veteran is not employed, they may or may not meet the criteria of being below the 30 percent median income. Annual income, as defined in [24 C.F.R. § 5.609](#), includes any income anticipated to be received from a source outside the family during the 12-month period following enrollment and amounts derived (during the 12-month period) from assets to which any member of the family has access. For the purposes of determining income for HVRP participants, VA disability compensation is not included as income. Grant recipients must conduct a comprehensive assessment to determine sufficient documentation, as a participant’s situation may result in different types of documentation being relevant. Documentation for an individual who attests to being unemployed may include a termination notice, unemployment documentation, etc.

36. Are there additional resources for calculating and documenting income when determining eligibility for at risk of homelessness?

Annual income, as defined in [24 C.F.R. § 5.609](#), includes any income anticipated to be received from a source outside the family during the 12-month period following enrollment and amounts derived (during the 12-month period) from assets to which any member of the family has access. Grant recipients should conduct a comprehensive assessment to determine sufficient documentation, as a participant’s situation may result in different types of documentation being relevant. Documentation for an individual who attests to being unemployed may include a termination notice, unemployment documentation, etc.

37. How should veterans who are at risk of homelessness be recorded on the TPR?

HVRP grant recipients will be required to report enrollments of homeless participants and those at risk of homelessness separately on the TPR.

38. Is there any training on these changes for HVRP grant recipients or VETS staff?

Yes, a training was held for eligibility changes with the new VPL, which is posted on the NVTAC website at the following link: [VPL 02-23 Listening Session](#). If you still have questions, please consult with your GOTR.