



National Veterans'
Technical Assistance Center

Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program (HVRP): Eligibility Refresher

Community of Practice (CoP)
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HVRP Eligibility: Pre-Presentation Scenarios

Pre-Test 1

A veteran has been housed with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development-Department of Veteran Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) for one year.

Would they be considered HVRP eligible as a homeless veteran?

- A. Yes
- B. No

Pre-Test 2

An honorably discharged veteran has a three-week eviction notice.

What HVRP eligibility definition would they fall under?

- A. Homeless veteran
- B. Veteran at risk of homelessness

Pre-Test 3

A former Army reservist is interested in HVRP. She was never called to active duty nor has a U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) service-connected disability.

Are they eligible for HVRP services?


- A. Yes
- B. No

HVRP Eligibility Refresher

Veterans' Program Letter No. 02-23 (VPL 02-23)



U.S. Department of Labor Veterans' Employment and Training Service
Washington, D.C. 20210



VETERANS' PROGRAM LETTER NO. 02-23

TO: ALL VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING SERVICE (VETS) STAFF
ALL VETS COMPETITIVE GRANT RECIPIENTS

FROM: JAMES D. RODRIGUEZ, MA JAMES D. RODRIGUEZ
Assistant Secretary Digitally signed by JAMES D. RODRIGUEZ
Date: 2023.02.08 10:42:36 -0500

SUBJECT: Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program Participant Eligibility

I. Purpose:

This Veterans' Program Letter (VPL) establishes participant eligibility for the Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program (HVRP) to help VETS grantees succeed in their efforts to reintegrate veterans experiencing and at risk of homelessness. The Veterans Benefits and Transition Act of 2018 amended the eligibility requirements and the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2020 (and subsequent appropriations laws) expanded eligibility in the following programs: HVRP; the Incarcerated Veterans' Transition Program (IVTP); and the Homeless Women Veterans and Homeless Veterans with Children reintegration grant program (HWVHWC). Collectively, these programs are referred to as HVRP.

II. Summary of Changes:

The following is a list of changes from VPL 01-21:

- A. Updated the definition of eligible Veteran, to include certain criteria for National Guard and Reserve members;
- B. Explained eligibility documentation required within participant case files;
- C. Clarified that Hospital Inquiry (HINQ) or Status Query and Response Exchange System (SQUARES) documentation is acceptable as provisional source documents to expedite enrollment; however, a DD-214 (or the U.S Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Summary of Benefits letter, only when appropriate) must be requested within three days of enrollment and must be included in the participant case file prior to the participant exiting the program;
- D. Revised the limitation on the number of participants "at risk of homelessness;"
- E. Clarified that grant recipients are required to document the participant's circumstances of homelessness through the participant's self-attestation if no documentation exists or can be obtained. For the "at risk of homelessness"

VPL 02-23

Categories of HVRP Eligibility (1 of 2)



- A. Homeless veterans (including 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);
- B. Veterans who, at program entry, are at risk of homelessness within the next 60 days;
- C. Veterans participating in the HUD-VASH/Tribal HUD-VASH or SSVF programs;
- D. Veterans who are receiving assistance under the Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. § 4101 et seq.);
[\(VPL 02-23\)](#)

Categories of HVRP Eligibility (2 of 2)



- E. Homeless women veterans and homeless veterans with children;
- F. Veterans recently released from incarceration who are at risk of homelessness; and
- G. Veterans transitioning from incarceration.
[\(VPL 02-23\)](#)

HVRP Eligibility

- Determining eligibility is the start of the enrollment process. It entails two activities
 - Verifying veteran status – if not meeting veteran definition, no HVRP services can be offered
 - Verifying eligibility (homeless or “at risk“)

Verifying Veteran Status (1 of 2)

- HVRP grant recipients are required to document veteran status with a DD-214, which provides the character of discharge
- A VA Summary of Benefits letter verifying the service-connected disability must be obtained for National Guard and Reserve members who received a service-connected disability resulting from a disease or injury incurred or aggravated in the line of duty but were not issued a DD-214

([HVRP Eligibility Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#), p. 7)

Verifying Veteran Status (2 of 2)

- In order to expedite enrollment, VA Hospital Inquiry (HINQ) or the VA web application Status Query and Response Exchange System (SQUARES) documentation may be used as **provisional source documents**
- If HINQ or SQUARES is used as provisional source documents, a DD-214 (or VA Summary of Benefits letter when applicable) must be requested within three business days of enrollment and kept in the participant file

([HVRP Eligibility FAQ](#), p. 7)

Determining Homeless Status (1 of 2)



Once the individual meets the HVRP definition of a veteran, the next step is to determine their homeless status:

- 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 is a**

([HVRP Eligibility FAQ](#), p. 2)

Determining Homeless Status (2 of 2)



- Participant in Partner Services
 - HUD-VASH; Tribal HUD-VASH
 - Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act of 1996
 - Transitioning from Incarceration
 - Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Rapid Re-Housing (RRH)

([HVRP Eligibility FAQ](#), p. 2)

“At Risk” Status

- 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.

([HVRP Eligibility FAQ](#), p. 2)

Determining “At Risk” Status Part 1

- An individual or family who meets **both** criteria below:
 - Has an annual income below 30 percent of median family income for the geographical area
 - 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

Determining “At Risk” Status Part 2

(1 of 3)

- In addition to the criteria on the previous slide, the individual or family must also meet **one** of the following criteria:
 - Has moved because of economic reasons two or more times during the 60 days immediately preceding the application for assistance
 - Is living in the home of another because of economic hardship
 - 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

Determining “At Risk” Status Part 2

(2 of 3)

- Lives in a single-room occupancy (SRO) or efficiency apartment unit in which there reside more than two persons
- Lives in a larger housing unit in which there reside more than one and a half persons per room
- Is exiting a publicly funded institution or system of care
- Otherwise lives in housing that has characteristics associated with instability and an increased risk of homelessness

Determining “At Risk” Status Part 2

(3 of 3)

- In addition to the criteria on the previous slide, the individual or family must also meet **one** of the following criteria:
 - Has moved because of economic reasons two or more times during the 60 days immediately preceding the application for assistance
 - Is living in the home of another because of economic hardship
 - 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
 - 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

(Veterans' Program Letter [VPL] 02-23, [Attachment 1](#), p. 4)

Eligibility Determination Tips

In order to reduce gathering information already provided to minimize redundancy, consider:

- If a participant is referred by a partner, ask them to share basic eligibility information using a signed release of information (ROI)
- When possible, have representation from the referring partner at the initial meeting with the veteran
- Educate referral sources about the needed HVRP eligibility documentation

HVRP Eligibility: Post Presentation Scenarios

Eligibility Scenario One

John is currently sleeping at a local shelter for individuals experiencing homelessness. He has not had a job for the last year but is very interested in getting back into the workforce. John reported that he has served in the military and has a dishonorable discharge. He is interested in enrolling in your HVRP. Would he be eligible?

Eligibility Scenario Two

Taylor is a veteran with an honorable discharge who expressed interest in enrolling in your HVRP. For the last month, she has been sleeping in a hotel that has been paid for by a local charity. She has had significant difficulty maintaining a job but is very interested in returning to work. Is Taylor eligible for HVRP? If so, is she considered homeless or at risk?

Discussion Questions

What has successfully helped you make timely HVRP eligibility determinations?

What lingering questions do you have regarding HVRP eligibility?

Thank you!
