

**National Veterans' Technical Assistance Center (NVTAC)  
Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program (HVRP) Community of Practice (CoP)  
Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program (HVRP): Eligibility Refresher  
Thursday, August 31, 2023, 3 – 4 p.m. ET**

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## **Key Points**

- **Introduction**
  - NVTAC reminded attendees that HVRP best practices would be shared during this session. NVTAC encouraged all grantees to utilize best practices that may improve their service delivery. Before implementing a practice discussed during this session, grantees must review their award statement of work and contact their Grant Officer's Technical Representative (GOTR) to determine if it is an allowable cost or activity or requires an amendment to their approved plan.
- **HVRP Eligibility: Pre-Presentation Scenarios**
  - **Pre-Test Question One:** A veteran has been housed with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development - Veteran Affairs Supportive Services Housing (HUD-VASH) for one year. Would they be considered HVRP eligible as a homeless veteran? (Yes or No)
    - **Answer:** Yes, if a veteran is receiving a HUD-VASH voucher, they maintain their veteran status under the homeless veteran definition.
  - **Pre-Test Question Two:** An honorably discharged veteran has a three-week eviction notice. What HVRP eligibility definition would they fall under? (Homeless veteran or veteran at risk of homelessness)
    - **Answer:** Yes, they are at risk of homelessness.
  - **Pre-Test Question Three:** 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? (Yes or no)
    - **Answer:** No. Active-duty reservists do not qualify.
- **HVRP Eligibility Refresher**
  - [Veterans' Program Letter \(VPL\) 02-23](#) provides the latest eligibility information for HVRP grantees. Within the VPL, you can find information on the changes made to eligibility criteria.
  - As documented in VPL 02-23, the categories of HVRP eligibility are as follows:
    - 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);

- Veterans who, at program entry, are at risk of homelessness within the next 60 days;
  - Veterans participating in the HUD-VASH/Tribal HUD-VASH or Supportive Services for Veterans Families (SSVF) programs;
  - Veterans who are receiving assistance under the Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act of 1996 (25 United States Code [U.S.C.] § 4101 et seq.);
  - Homeless women veterans and homeless veterans with children;
  - Veterans recently released from incarceration who are at risk of homelessness; and
  - Veterans transitioning from incarceration.
- **Verifying Veteran Status**
  - A DD-214, which provides the character of discharge, must be obtained and kept within a participant’s file for eligibility documentation. A VA Summary of Benefits letter verifying a veteran’s service-connected disability may be used in applicable situations.
    - A VA Hospital Inquiry (HINQ) or the VA Status Query and Response Exchange System (SQUARES) may be used as a provisional source if a DD-214 or VA Summary of Benefits letter is not immediately available.
    - If either HINQ or SQUARES is used as provisional eligibility documentation, a DD-214 must be obtained and kept in the participant’s file by the time they exit HVRP.
- **Determining Homeless Status**
  - HVRP utilizes the definition of homelessness from 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 are
    - Participants in Partner Services
      - HUD-VASH; Tribal HUD-VASH
      - Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act of 1996
      - Transitioning from Incarceration
      - SSVF Rapid Re-Housing (RRH)
- **At Risk Status**
  - According to the [HVRP Eligibility FAQ](#), under HVRP, there are two categories of veterans who would be considered “at risk” of homelessness:
    - 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**
    - Veterans recently released (within the last 12 months) from incarceration who are at risk of homelessness.

- In addition to meeting one of the two categories above for veterans at risk of homelessness, they must meet one of the following criteria as well:
  - Has income below 30 percent of the median income for the geographic area;
  - Has insufficient resources immediately available to attain housing stability; and
    - Has moved frequently because of economic reasons;
    - 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;
    - Lives in a hotel or motel;
    - Lives in severely overcrowded housing;
    - Is exiting an institution; or
    - Otherwise lives in housing that has characteristics associated with instability and an increased risk of homelessness.
- **Eligibility Determination Tips**
  - With a proper release of information (ROI) in place, sharing information with partner providers who have shared participants may be helpful. By doing so, both partners can work together to best serve the veteran.
    - It is also helpful to have participation from both partner programs at the initial meeting with the veteran. Doing so ensures everyone is on the same page with the veteran’s goals.
- **HVRP Eligibility: Post-Presentation Scenarios**
  - **Post-Test 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 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? (Yes or no)
    - **Answer:** No, the veteran has a dishonorable discharge.
  - **Post-Test Two:** John is currently sleeping at a local shelter for individuals experiencing homelessness. He has not had a job for the last year but is 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? (Yes or no)
    - **Answer:** No, the veteran has a dishonorable discharge.
- **Discussion Questions**
  - **Question:** What has successfully helped you make timely HVRP eligibility determinations?
    - **Response:** We have a comprehensive client interest form community partners have their clients fill out. The questions include, for example, “What is the client’s housing status?”

- **Response:** Ninety percent of our clients are already vetted through SSVF, HUD-VASH, or Grant and Per Diem (GPD) programs.
  - **Question:** What lingering questions do you have regarding HVRP eligibility?
    - **Response:** We are trying to enroll someone into HVRP who is staying in an apartment and not on the lease. Are they considered at risk?
      - **Response:** This is a perfect example of a question you must ask your GOTR. Please go to your GOTR with any eligibility-specific questions that are not clear.
    - **Response:** Where can we find additional available resources?
      - **Response:** More resources on this topic, and many others, can be found at [nvtac.org](http://nvtac.org).
- **Resources**
  - [VPL 02-23](#)
  - [VPL 02-23 Attachment 1](#)
  - [HVRP Eligibility Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#)
  - [HEARTH Act of 2009](#)

### **Conclusion**

Understanding eligibility criteria is crucial for HVRP grantees. Resources such as [VPL 02-23](#), [VPL 02-23 Attachment 1](#), and [HVRP Eligibility FAQ](#) provide detailed information on HVRP eligibility. When an eligibility determination is unclear, grantees should always discuss it with their GOTR.

*You can review the presentation slides through the following link: [NVTAC August 2023 CoP](#)*