

Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program (HVRP) Information Session: Wednesday, November 13, 2024

Questions and Answers (Q&A)

Overview

The following Q&A document provides responses to questions posed at the HVRP Information Session intended for organizations serving justice-involved individuals held on November 13, 2024. Questions have been synthesized for clarity.

Q&A

Q: Does basic training count as active duty?

A: To qualify for services, an individual must meet the HVRP definition of a “veteran,” which includes the requirement to have served at least one day of active duty. For active-duty members, this **does** include time spent in basic training. For National Guard and Reserve members, federal active duty **does not** include inactive or active duty for training. However, any period of inactive duty or active duty for training during which National Guard and Reserve members received a service-connected disability rating resulting from a disease or injury incurred or aggravated in the line of duty would meet this criterion. Complete HVRP definitions of key terms including “veteran,” are available in [Veterans' Program Letter \(VPL\) 06-24](#).

Q: Does a veteran have to be justice-involved to qualify for HVRP?

A: No. A veteran **does not** have to be justice-involved to qualify for HVRP, which serves all eligible populations of veterans.

To qualify for HVRP, an individual must meet the definition of a “veteran” AND “homeless” or “at-risk of homelessness.” Categories of HVRP eligibility for “homeless” and “at-risk of homelessness” include, but are not limited to, veterans who are transitioning from being incarcerated and veterans recently released (within the last 18 months from the date of HVRP enrollment) from incarceration who are at risk of homelessness.

However, VETS funds three types of competitive grants on a three-year period of performance (PoP), one of which is the Incarcerated Veterans' Transition Program (IVTP). These grant recipients work exclusively with justice-involved veterans and veterans transitioning from certain institutions. Justice-involvement would be a requirement for eligibility if a veteran is referred to an IVTP grant recipient.

Q: Are legal services aimed at homelessness prevention and removing barriers for employment for homeless or at-risk veterans allowable under this grant?

A: Supportive services are provided to assist enrolled HVRP participants with reintegration back into the labor force. A participant support cost must be reasonable and necessary to enable a participant to take part in services and activities related to the employment plan, and to assist the participant in overcoming a barrier to obtain or retain employment.

Justice-involvement can be considered a barrier to employment and as such, legal services may sometimes be an allowable expense. However, this assistance could only be provided on a case-by-case basis, as allowed by the grant recipient's approved budget, and for a limited time as recurring participant support costs are limited to 90 days. Prospective applicants should not expect to provide legal services as a regular part of HVRP service provision.

Organizations seeking funding to provide legal services should not apply for the HVRP grant. HVRP is an employment-focused grant that requires grant recipients to deliver job training and placement services. While reasonable and necessary legal expenses may be covered if they directly support a participant's employment goals and if other options for support have been exhausted, such expenses are not considered a core component of HVRP funding or services. The primary purpose of HVRP is to support employment-related activities.

Q: As a legal service provider, would I need to be the sub-grantee of an organization that provides the full wrap around HVRP services?

A: Legal service providers interested in serving homeless or at-risk veterans, but not providing employment services directly, are encouraged to collaborate with existing HVRP grant recipients to refer eligible clients for employment-related services and, if applicable, receive referrals for veterans in need of legal aid. You can identify current HVRP grant recipients in your area using the [Active HVRP Grants](#) map. An organization does not need to be a sub-grantee to work with and support the efforts of an HVRP service provider.

Q: How does HVRP define "formerly incarcerated?"

A: Formerly incarcerated veterans can qualify for HVRP if they are "veterans recently released (within the last 18 months from the date of HVRP enrollment) from incarceration who are at risk of homelessness."