

# HUD VASH Program



# Purpose of HUD VASH Program



- Collaboration between the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
- HUD provides the vouchers for permanent housing to homeless veterans while VA provides the case management and supportive services

Goal  to move veterans and their families out of homelessness

# VASH Vouchers in IL

PHA	VAMC/CBOC	Targeted Area	Total
Chicago	Jesse Brown VAMC	Chicago	520
Peoria	Illiana HCS/Peoria CBOC	Peoria	25
Greater Metro	Iowa City VAMC	Quad Cities	10
Danville	Illiana HCS	Danville	60
Rockford	William S. Middleton VAMC	Madison	60
Cook	Edward Hines Jr. VAMC	Hines	245
Cook	Edward Hines Jr VAMC/Elgin CBOC	Elgin	35
Waukegan	Captain James A. Lovell Federal HCC	Waukegan	25
DeKalb	Edward Hines Jr VAMC/Elgin CBOC	DeKalb	25
North Chicago	Captain James A. Lovell Federal HCC	North Chicago	70
McHenry	Lovell Federal HCC/ McHenry CBOC	McHenry	15
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>1090</b>

# VA Eligibility



- Eligible for VA healthcare: Honorable Discharge only
- Continuously homeless for a year or more OR at least four episodes of homelessness in the past 3 years
- Needs and agrees to participate in case management
- Priority given to:
  - ❖ Veterans who are chronically homeless
  - ❖ Veterans serving in Iraq or Afghanistan
  - ❖ Veterans with dependent children
  - ❖ Female veterans
  - ❖ Homeless veterans at high risk (vulnerability index)

# VA Eligibility



- Eligibility criteria do NOT include:
  - ❖ Prior treatment or other homeless program
  - ❖ Period of sobriety



# HUD VASH Process



- Veteran is referred to Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC)
  - ❖ List of VAMCs and participating PHAs on the HUD VASH website: <http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/programs/hcv/vash>
- VA Aid Line
  - ❖ 877-424-3838
  - ❖ Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

# HUD VASH Process



- VAMC confirms initial eligibility
  - ❖ VAMC defines what is “homeless” for the purpose of VASH
- VAMC assesses veteran for suitability
- If accepted, an individualized treatment plan is developed by the case manager and veteran
- Case manager helps to obtain items required to secure housing (credit history, identification, income, etc)

# HUD VASH Process



- VA Case Manager refers veteran in writing to PHA
- PHA determines if the veteran meets their/HUD criteria
  - ❖ Screens for income eligibility
    - ❖ Family income
    - ❖ Assets
    - ❖ Family composition
  - ❖ Screens for lifetime sex-offender status
    - ❖ If family member is the lifetime registrant, the family may be eligible if that family member is removed from the household



# HUD VASH Process



- PHA may NOT determine eligibility nor deny assistance based on:
  - ❖ If the family meets the PHA's definition of homeless. The VA defines what is homeless for this program.
  - ❖ Money owed to the PHA
  - ❖ Criminal or drug activity



These apply to ALL family members at the time of admission

# HUD VASH Process



- If the PHA deems the veteran eligible, the veteran is advised of the unit size based on family size and composition
- The veteran is responsible for finding a suitable housing unit where the owner agrees to rent under the program. The unit may include the family's present residence.
- Rental units must meet minimum Housing Quality Standards (HQS) of health and safety, as determined by the PHA.

# HUD VASH Process



- VA case manager:
  - ❖ Assists veteran in locating suitable housing
  - ❖ Requests PHA inspection and approval of selected unit
  - ❖ Helps complete the lease
  - ❖ Assists with turning on utilities
  - ❖ Obtains furniture for the unit
  - ❖ Makes regular home visits
  - ❖ Facilitates communication between PHA and veteran

# HUD VASH Process



- Veteran will pay 30% of its monthly adjusted gross income for rent and utilities.
- The housing subsidy is paid to the landlord directly by the PHA on behalf of the participating family.
  - ❖ PHAs must grant exemptions to minimum rent requirements if veteran is unable to pay rent due to ‘financial hardship.’



# Case management

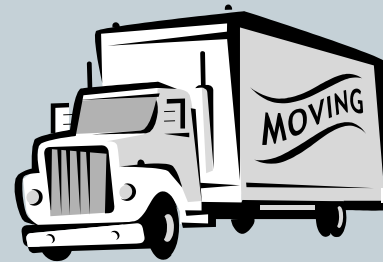


- HUD VASH assistance may be terminated if the family refuses, without good cause, to participate in case management
- If case management is no longer needed, a family may be offered a regular voucher to free up the VASH voucher for another eligible homeless veteran

# Portability



- A HUD VASH family can move within the referring VAMC's catchment area if the same VAMC continues to provide case management (within ~60 miles of the VAMC)
- A HUD VASH family can move to a new catchment area if the new VAMC has an available case management slot



## Q & As



**Q:** What if the veteran no longer needs case management?

**A:** If the PHA has a regular Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) available for the veteran, then the veteran will convert to the HCV program and the HUD VASH voucher will become available for another eligible homeless veteran.\* If the PHA does not have a regular voucher available, the veteran continues using the HUD VASH voucher until it is longer needed.

\*The family is not subject to the PHA's waiting list.

## Q & As



**Q:** If a HUD VASH family is denied assistance or has its assistance terminated, is it entitled to an informal review and informal hearing?

**A:** Yes. Families are entitled to an informal review or hearing in accordance with the PHA's administrative policies for denial and termination of assistance.



## Q & As



**Q:** What happens to the voucher if there is a divorce?

**A:** The voucher remains with the veteran.

**Q:** What happens to the voucher if the homeless veteran dies?

**A:** The voucher remains with the surviving members of the family. The family could move to a regular voucher to free up the VASH voucher, or could continue utilizing the VASH voucher.

## Q & As



Q: Can a HUD VASH family participate in the Family Self-Sufficiency Program?

A: Yes.

# Helpful Resources



- PIH Notice 2009-11
- PIH Notice 2010-12
- PIH Notice 2010-23
- PIH Notice 2010-40
- PIH Notice 2011-05
- <http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/programs/hcv/vash>



# Questions?



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