

## HUD-VASH PHAs as DSPs

### Questions and Answers for PHAs

The [HUD-VASH Operating Requirements](#), published September 27, 2021, contained language to allow public housing agencies (PHAs) to act as United States Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) Designated Service Providers (DSPs):

*The VA may approve a PHA with unleased HUD-VASH vouchers as a DSP for the purposes of veteran selection and intake. This DSP approval allows a PHA to issue a HUD-VASH voucher to a veteran without a referral from the VA. The PHA is responsible for determining the veteran is eligible for VA HUD-VASH case management. The PHA must refer the veteran to the VA for case management and must provide temporary case management until the VAMC has completed intake of the veteran. PHAs approved under this authority must ensure that while using unleased HUD-VASH vouchers, they maintain sufficient HUD-VASH vouchers available to immediately issue a HUD-VASH voucher to veterans referred by the VA. (section II.a.)*

In 2024, VA published the applicable [guidance and application materials](#) necessary to fully implement the HUD-VASH PHAs as DSPs option. To support PHAs acting as DSPs, HUD is publishing answers to the following Frequently Asked Questions: **\*\*December 9, 2024\*\***

#### **Use of Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Administrative Fees and Other Special Fees for DSPs**

**Can PHAs use their HCV administrative fees, administrative fee reserves, or HUD-VASH additional administrative fees (awarded under Notice PIH 2024-10) to pay for case management activities if they are approved to act as a DSP?**

No. While PHAs may continue to perform the traditional HCV and HUD-VASH activities that you would normally perform, you may not use HCV administrative fees to pay for new or different activities related to your status as a DSP. PHAs must use other, outside funding sources to cover the temporary provision of case management.

If this changes, HUD will issue updated guidance.

#### **Case Management Services**

**How long can PHAs provide the temporary case management as a DSP?**

As described in the [materials](#), “temporary” is defined as no more than 180 days. However, PHAs and VAMCs may design their local program to be for fewer than 180 days. PHAs and their partnering VAMC will detail the agreed term in their Memorandum of Agreement (MOA).

#### **Service Provision**

**Can a PHA contract out the PHA’s DSP activities?**

Yes, PHAs may choose to contract out the approved DSP activities. However, if this is the case, PHAs should consider if the PHA as DSP model is the most appropriate option or if a regular HUD-VASH DSP relationship should be explored with the third-party provider. Materials for the regular third-party DSP process can also be found on [the VA website](#).

HUD-VASH PHAs that are interested in becoming a DSP should send any additional questions to [vash@hud.gov](mailto:vash@hud.gov).