



# TRIBAL HUD-VASH LIVE MEETING

**Begins @ 1:00 pm EST**

**For Audio Dial: (877) 873-8017**

**Access Code 7326388**

**PRESS \*6 to mute/unmute your phone**

# Today's Presenter

**Teresa S. Pittman LCSW**

HUD-VASH Region 1 Coordinator

(VISNs 1-5, 9 and 23)

Department of Veterans Affairs Central Office

# HUD-VASH Background

- Created in 2008 as a partnership between **HUD** and **Veterans Affairs** to provide **Supportive Housing** to homeless Veterans.
- Targets the most vulnerable homeless Veterans by combining healthcare and housing:
  - VA provides case management & supportive services
  - HUD provides rental housing assistance vouchers to Public Housing Authorities (PHAs)
- Housing First Approach

# HOUSING FIRST MODEL

- Clinical approach
- House the client First, then wrap supportive services around the client
- Fewer access barriers – treatment not required for housing
- Treatment available – client goals primary
- Goal is housing stability and meeting tenancy
- Expect the client to meet tenancy requirements

# Partnership

- HUD - Housing
  - Invite 30 tribes to participate
  - Award 15 to 25 units per tribe
  - Provide rental assistance (based on Fair Market Rents), and administrative fee
- VA – Case Management
  - Coordinate with tribe on best delivery of case management and supportive services.
  - Obtain 30 case managers
  - Provide continuing assistance and care

# VA's Role

Case Management and Supportive Services

# VA Case Management

VA will have three potential ways to provide the case management and supportive services:

1. Hire the case manager (VA Employee)
2. Enter an Interagency Agreement with the local Indian Health Service facility (IHS Employee)
3. Obtain a contract with the Tribal Health Service (if no IHS facility) - (Tribal Health Service Employee)

# Process

- Local VA Medical Center leadership to consult with tribes and the local IHS (if available) to determine the best way to provide the case management and supportive services.
- VA makes the final determination regarding how VA will meet the case management requirement.
- One case manager per 15-25 vouchers, total of 30 case managers for the Tribal HUD-VASH program (one per tribe invited to participate).



# Benefits

- If there are tribal members who are social workers or nurses with the proper credentialing, then they could be hired by VA:
  - VA would provide salary, car access, laptop, cell phone, etc.
- If IHS or Tribal Health Service provides the case manager, then VA provides:
  - Salary, and
  - A portion of the car lease cost

# Role of the VA Case manager

- Providing outreach services to Veterans experiencing homelessness/at risk of homelessness
- Verifying Veteran's eligibility status
- Assessing Veteran and determining case management needs
- Providing access to appropriate treatment and supportive case management services

# Role of the VA Case Manager

- Helping the Veteran obtain the rental assistance from tribe/TDHE
- Providing housing search assistance
- Connecting with potential landlords
- Home visit check-ins with Veteran
- Connect the Veteran to needed resources
- Build skills – communication, tenancy, others
- Provide support and treatment

# VHA Eligibility

- Complicated – VA has an eligibility department to help determine status
- Generally – before 1980 served 180 days or more; after 1980, served 2 years or more
- Discharged with Honorable or “Under Honorable Conditions” – no Dishonorable
- Verified by DD-214 (Discharge papers)
- VA Medical Center, Community clinics, Vet Centers, IHS facilities can determine VHA eligibility

# Housing Search

- Landlord recruitment
  - Housing Authority list/assistance
  - Landlord Fairs
- Available housing stock
- Veteran preferences
- Unit Size – based on family size
- Case manager helps with viewing the unit, getting the inspection & lease signed

# Housing

- Case manager helps with move-in
  - Plan
  - Deposits (if needed) for utilities/security deposit
  - Furniture (as available)
  - Other items needed – towels, sheets, cleaning supplies, dishes, cooking implements, etc.
    - Donations – some drives specifically for Veteran housing
    - Community supports

# Supportive Services

- Range from connecting with medical, mental health and substance use disorder treatment to providing some of this treatment
- Practical assistance with tenancy requirements
- Assist with independent living
- Engage Veteran with other resources and activities to encourage community

# Q & A

- What is required to be Health Care eligible?
- What type of discharge status is needed?
- What is “at-risk” of homelessness?
- What are supportive services?
- How do we locate private landlords?
- How do we connect with our VAMC contact?
- Does the VA have marketing materials?

Other questions?



# VA Contact

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# HUD/ONAP Contacts

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Updates on [www.hud.gov/codetalk](http://www.hud.gov/codetalk)

Questions?

# DEFINITIONS

# HOMELESS (McKinney-Vento)

- (1) An individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence
- (2) An individual or family with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned buildings, bus, or train station, airport, or camping ground.
- (3) An individual or family living in a supervised publicly or privately-operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including hotels and motels paid for by Federal, state, or local government programs for low-income individuals or by charitable organizations, congregate shelters, and transitional housing).
- (4) An individual who resided in a shelter or a place not meant for human habitation and who is exiting an institution where the individual temporarily resided.

# HOMELESS – cont.

(5) An individual or family who:

(A) **Will imminently lose their housing**, including housing they own, rent, or live in without paying rent, are sharing with others, and rooms in hotels or motels not paid for by Federal, state, or local government programs for low-income individuals or by charitable organizations, as evidenced by:

(i) A court order resulting from an eviction action that notifies the individual or family that they must leave in 14 days;

(ii) The individual or family having a primary residence that is a room in a hotel or motel and where they lack the resources necessary to reside there for more than 14 days; or

(iii) credible evidence indicating that the owner or renter of the housing will not allow the individual or family to stay for more than 14 days, and any oral statement from an individual or family seeking homeless assistance that is found to be credible shall be considered credible evidence for purposes of this clause;

# HOMELESS – cont.

(B) has no subsequent residence identified; and

(C) lacks the resources or support networks needed to obtain other permanent housing; and

(6) Unaccompanied youth and homeless families with children and youth defined as homeless under other Federal statutes who-

# HOMELESS – cont.

- (A) have experienced a long term period without living independently in permanent housing,
- (B) have experienced persistent instability as measured by frequent moves over such period, and
- (C) can be expected to continue in such status for an extended period of time because of chronic disabilities, chronic physical health or mental health conditions, substance addiction, histories of domestic violence or childhood abuse, the presence of a child or youth with a disability, or multiple barriers to employment.



# At Risk of Homelessness

AT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS – The term “at risk of homelessness” means an individual or family, that—

- (A) has income below 30 percent of median income for the geographic area;
- (B) has insufficient resources immediately available to attain housing stability; and
- (C)(i) has moved frequently because of economic reasons;
  - (ii) is living in the home of another because of economic hardship;
  - (iii) has been notified that their right to occupy their current housing or living situation will be terminated;
  - (iv) lives in a hotel or motel;
  - (v) lives in severely overcrowded housing;
  - (vi) is exiting an institution; or
  - (vii) otherwise lives in housing that has characteristics associated with instability and an increased risk of homelessness.