

HUD-VA Providers Information & Networking Event
August 18, 2009
Fresno, CA

HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH)

The HUD-VASH program is a joint effort between the VA and HUD. The VA provides case management services and screens homeless veterans for program eligibility while HUD provides permanent housing subsidies from its Housing Choice (Section 8) program. The VA's case management, social and medical services are designed to improve veterans' physical and mental health and enhance their ability to live in safe and affordable permanent housing in a communities of their choice.

Eligibility

In order to qualify for HUD-VASH, veterans must be eligible for VA services, must participate in case management services, and meet the McKinney Act **definition of homelessness**:

- (1) An individual who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, OR
 - (2) An individual who has a primary nighttime residence that is:
 - (a) A supervised publicly or privately-operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations, including welfare hotels, congregate shelters, and transitional housing for the mentally ill;
 - (b) An institution that provides a temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized; or
 - (c) A public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.
- Note: the terms "homeless" and "homelessness" do not include any individual imprisoned or otherwise detained pursuant to an Act of Congress or a state law.

A referral from VA is required. The local PHA determines income eligibility and screens for lifetime sex offender registrants. Veterans are **not** required to have a period of sustained sobriety or have a chronic mental illness or substance abuse disorder in order to participate. Veterans who are eligible must receive treatment and regular case management in order to retain the voucher (unless the VAMC determines it is no longer needed). Local VAMC case managers will work with local housing agencies to help the veterans find suitable housing.

Amount of Rental Subsidy

Each PHA has developed independent operating procedures that must comply with HUD regulations and the law. The PHA determines a payment standard that is the amount generally needed to rent a moderately-priced dwelling unit in the local housing market and that is used to calculate the amount of housing assistance a family will receive. The housing voucher family must pay 30% of its monthly adjusted gross income for rent and utilities, and if the unit rent is greater than the payment standard the family is required to pay the additional amount.

Available Vouchers

In the Central Valley, the housing authorities in Fresno (City) and Tulare (County) have each been allocated 35 vouchers. However, vouchers are intended for homeless veterans living anywhere within the jurisdiction of the servicing VAMC. Recipients may live in housing authority jurisdictions other than Fresno and Tulare, **so long as the Fresno VAMC is able to provide case management services**. Vouchers may be reallocated in the future based on need and usage.