

FUNDING FOR VETERAN-SPECIFIC SERVICES: A Quick Guide on Funding Opportunities for HCH Grantees



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Why this guide?

Veterans compose an important subset of consumers receiving care from Health Care for the Homeless (HCH) grantees. The purpose of this quick guide is to outline funding opportunities available from federal agencies to assist HCH grantees in their efforts to serve veterans.

Who is this guide for?

This quick guide is useful for anyone working in an organization that serves veterans experiencing homelessness. Although it may be most applicable to the work of HCH administrators and grants managers, this content is valuable for anyone interested in obtaining additional financial resources to support services provided to veterans.

What does this guide include?

This quick guide provides an overview of federal programs offering funding for veteran services. Highlighted programs include Community-Based Outpatient Clinics, the Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program, the VA Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program, the HUD-VA Supportive Housing program, and the Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program.

What can you expect to gain from this guide?

- You will be able to identify federal programs offering funding for veteran services.
- You will be able to describe the types of veteran-specific services funded by federal programs.
- You will be able to identify online resources that offer a breadth of veteran funding opportunities.

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Introduction

HRSA-supported Health Center Program (HCP) grantees are important safety net providers for veterans.^[1] The veteran population receiving care from HCP grantees increased by 11% between 2010 and 2012, with 251,188 veterans served in 2012.^[2] HCP grantees with Health Care for the Homeless (HCH) funding provided care to 20,579 unstably housed veterans in 2012.^[2]

A [2012 National HCH Council needs assessment](#) of HCH grantees revealed that just 10% of grantees received veteran-specific funding from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) or other federal agencies offering such funding opportunities.^[3] For grantees that did not receive funding for veteran-specific services, the cost of serving veterans impacted the financial resources of their health centers slightly (29%) to moderately (14%).^[3]

Though few HCH grantees currently receive veteran-specific funding, numerous opportunities exist for community-based organizations to contract with the VA, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL). Some of the major opportunities include designation as Community-Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs), the Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program (SSVF), the VA Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program (GPD), the HUD-VA Supportive Housing program (HUD-VASH), the Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program (HVRP), and the Emergency Solutions Grants Program (ESG).

As part of the robust federal initiative to end veteran homelessness in the United States by 2015, significant funds have been dedicated to developing and expanding programs serving unstably housed veterans. These programs present HCH and other HCP grantees with the opportunity to maintain and expand the services they offer to veterans. This quick guide will provide an overview of these funding opportunities and identify resources for grantees interested in pursuing them.

Funding Opportunity Overview

Community-Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs)

The CBOC program allows non-profits to contract with the VA to provide specific services to a defined group of veterans, a pursuit encouraged by HRSA (<http://www.hrsa.gov/veterans/>). CBOCs improve access to care for veterans, providing additional service sites in rural or other areas without proximate VA access. With a history of providing culturally competent care to those experiencing homelessness, HCH grantees are well-equipped to provide services to veterans without stable housing, an activity most already do without CBOC designation and funding. To find CBOC contracting opportunities in your area, visit <https://www.fbo.gov/> and search "CBOC."

¹ Brownell, J., et al. (2012). Geographic proximity of HRSA, VA, and DOD clinics: Opportunities for interagency collaboration to improve quality. *Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved*, 23, 125-135.

² Health Resources and Services Administration. (2013). *2012 Health center data: National program grantee data*. Retrieved from <http://bphc.hrsa.gov/uds/datacenter.aspx?year=2012>

³ National Health Care for the Homeless Council. (2013). *Health and homelessness among veterans: A needs assessment of HCH grantees*. Retrieved from http://www.nhchc.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Vets-Final-Report_1-25-13.pdf

Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Program

Another avenue for funding is the SSVF program, which awards grants to non-profit organizations to provide supportive services to very low-income veteran families living in or transitioning to permanent housing. Supportive services include outreach, case management, and assistance obtaining VA or public benefits and may span health care, daily living, personal financial planning, transportation, fiduciary and payee, legal, child care, and housing counseling services. To help veterans and their families transition into permanent housing, SSVF grantees may also provide time-limited payments to third parties—including landlords, utility companies, moving companies, and licensed child care providers. Becoming an SSVF grantee would allow HCH grantees to sustain and/or expand support services provided to veterans and their families, as well as build capacity to help this population transition into permanent housing. HCH grantees interested in SSVF funding can visit the VA's [SSVF website](#) to review the latest Notice of Fund Availability (NOFA). The VA's [SSVF Program Guide](#) provides more comprehensive information on this funding opportunity. Pre-award technical assistance (TA) to guide applicants through the process is available. Contact the SSVF program at SSVF@va.gov or 1-877-737-0111 to learn about or pursue these TA opportunities.

VA Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem (GPD) Program

The GPD program is offered annually by the VA to fund community agencies that provide supportive housing and/or services to unstably housed veterans. Programs that provide either supportive housing and/or supportive service centers (including case management, crisis intervention, education, counseling, and/or services targeted toward specialized populations including women veterans) are eligible for GPD funding. GPD funding is provided in two streams: the Grant Component and the Per Diem Component. Grant funding can go toward up to 65% of the costs of construction, renovation, or acquisition of a building to be used for transitional housing and/or a service center. Grants cannot be used for operational costs. Grant recipients receive priority for Per Diem funding, which can go toward operational costs, including salaries. Currently, the maximum amount payable under the per diem is \$43.32 per day per veteran housed. Meanwhile, the maximum hourly per diem rate for a service center is 1/8 the daily cost of care. According to the National HCH Council needs assessment, only 5% of HCH grantees received GPD funding; however, services to be provided through GPD funding are often already part of HCH services, making the program a viable funding opportunity. To view the latest NOFA or learn more about this program, visit the VA's [GPD site](#).

HUD–VA Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) Program

The HUD-VASH program is a joint effort between HUD and the VA to provide unstably housed veterans with Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) rental assistance, case management, and clinical and supportive services. HCVs are administered by Public Housing Agencies (PHAs), while VAMCs provide case management and clinical services. VAMCs may contract with or provide linkage to community-based organizations for assistance with supportive services. A few HCH grantees reported participation in HUD-VASH in the National HCH Council needs assessment. To learn how your local VAMC is administering the HUD-VASH program and utilizing community partnerships to provide supportive services, contact your VAMC's Homeless Coordinator using the VA's [facilities locator](#) tool. More comprehensive information on the HUD-VASH program can be found [here](#).

Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program (HVRP)

The DOL's Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS) administers the HVRP to help unstably housed veterans reintegrate into the labor force. HVRP grantees provide job training, counseling, and placement services (including job readiness, literacy, and skills training). HVRP awards are directed toward both urban and non-urban areas, including Native American tribal lands. No mandatory program model exists, so applicants must develop and propose their own delivery systems tailored to local needs and resources. Further information regarding this funding opportunity can be found on DOL's [HVRP site](#).

Additional Resources

This quick guide highlights a few of the diverse funding opportunities available to HCH grantees to maintain and/or expand the services provided to unstably housed veterans. The following resource links provide information on other funding opportunities, which are constantly evolving.

- The [National Resource Directory](#) provides a listing of grant opportunities for homeless service providers.
- [FedBizOpps.gov](#) provides a complete listing of active federal funding opportunities. Utilize the search tool to find opportunities using the keyword search, place of performance, set-aside code, type, and/or agency search options.
- The Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) Program, funded through HUD's Office of Community Planning and Development (CPD), provides grants for street outreach, emergency shelter, homelessness prevention, rapid re-housing, and HMIS. Although the program is not specific to veterans, funds could be used to support veteran-specific activities. For more information on the ESG Program, consult CPD's [fact sheet](#). To learn how to become a sub-recipient, contact your [local Continuum of Care](#) and/or the [local recipient of ESG funds](#).

Embedded Links

A listing of embedded links shared in this quick guide is provided below:

- 2012 National HCH Council Veterans Needs Assessment: http://www.nhchc.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Vets-Final-Report_1-25-13.pdf
- SSVF Program Site: <http://www.va.gov/homeless/ssvf.asp>
- SSVF Program Guide: http://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/docs/SSVF/SSVFUniversity/ProgramRequirementsPage/Program_Guide_Revised_12_19_2013_FINAL.pdf
- GPD Program Site: <http://www.va.gov/homeless/gpd.asp>
- VA Facilities Locator: <http://www.va.gov/directory/guide/home.asp?isflash=1>
- HUD-VASH Program Site: http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/public_indian_housing/programs/hcv/vash
- HVRP Site: <http://www.dol.gov/vets/programs/hvrp/main2013.htm>
- National Resource Directory: https://www.nrd.gov/homeless_assistance/resources_and_grants_for_homeless_service_providers
- ESG Program Fact Sheet: <https://www.onecpd.info/resources/documents/EmergencySolutionsGrantsProgramFactSheet.pdf>
- OneCPD Resource Exchange Organization Search Tool (to locate Continuums of Care and ESG recipients): <https://www.onecpd.info/grantees/>

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