



HUD-VASH Update

Veterans Administration and
HUD Public Housing Office with the
Virgin Islands Housing Authority (VIHA) and
VI Community Partners

Overview of the HUD-VASH Program

HUD-VASH

- Partnership between the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
- Provides long-term case management supportive services, and permanent housing support for chronically homeless Veterans.



TARGET POPULATION

- Veteran must be homeless and meet VA health care eligibility as defined by law and regulation.
- The target population needs to include the chronically homeless Veteran, who is the most vulnerable and often has severe mental or physical health problems and/or Substance Use Disorder (SUD).
- Other Veterans who are homeless with diminished functional capacity and resultant need for case management are also eligible for the program.
- The HUD-VASH Case Manager assess each case on an individual basis, based on clinical judgment and resource availability.



Referrals

- Referral sources may include any of the following:
 - The local Continuum of Care (CoC), community partners or other community based stakeholders.
 - VA'S National Homeless Call Center : 1-877-4AID VET
or 1-877-424-3838
 - Veteran self-referral
 - Other VA Homeless Programs, and
 - Other VA or community medical facilities and programs, including Community Based Outpatient Clinics' (CBOC) and Vet Centers.



VA Eligibility

- Eligible for VA Health Care
- Homeless per Hearth Act definition
- Identified need for case management to successfully live in community housing.
- Agreement to participate in case management services and to comply with rental responsibilities.



PARTICIPANT'S ELIGIBILITY

- Veterans Administration Medical Center (VAMC) or Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOC) determines homeless status, screens participant for eligibility, and refers HUD-VASH eligible families to the participating Public Housing Authority (PHA). VIHA is our local PHA.
- PHA partners with VA in the screening and identification of those Veterans who do not qualify for their lifetime sex offender status and eligibility for income.



SCREENING AND EVALUATING

- The screening process determines a Veteran's appropriateness and need for HUD-VASH
- Clinical determination for admission needs to be made as quickly and safely as possible
- Vulnerability Scales must be used to evaluate referrals



ADMISSION/ASSESSMENT/ HOUSING PLAN

- Admission is a clinical decision of HUD-VASH staff.
- Newly accepted Veteran is assigned to a HUD-VASH Case Manager
- The Case Manager must ensure that there is a homeless initial assessment completed through the HOMES system.
- Veterans are encouraged to work with the Case Manager to develop a housing plan with specific individualized goals.



CASE MANAGER ROLE

- HUD-VASH Case Manager partner with PHA and assisting the Veteran to obtain a voucher from PHA through:
 - Working with PHA to streamline the voucher application process;
 - Assisting the Veteran to obtain the needed documentation;
 - Supporting the Veteran during appointment(s) at PHA and other community resources



CASE MANAGER ROLE

- Obtain the Veteran's signed release of Information indicating permission for information exchange with PHA and other community agencies.
- Coordinates with the local PHA to inspect and approve the dwelling and coordinate to sign the housing contract.
- Coordinate with local voluntary and community programs to assist the Veteran with the necessary steps for moving.



HOUSING PLACEMENT

- The Veteran is responsible for:
 - Finding a suitable apartment with the help of the HUD-VASH Case Manager.
 - Participate in the unit inspection
 - Attend the lease execution with landlord
 - Moving into the housing unit, assisted by the Case Manager.
 - Paying the security deposit and to pay a portion of the monthly rent directly to the landlord.



VIHA's Role

Virgin Islands Housing Authority (VIHA)

- Accept VA referred families
- Conduct intake process for families
- Verify income
- Determine PHA rent subsidy amount
- Inspect housing units
- Provide subsidy payments to landlords
- Annual income re-certification and unit re-inspection



VIHA's Role

- VIHA will contact the VA case manager to discuss the reasons for any veteran's potential termination.
- VIHA does not have any role in determining or verifying the veteran's homeless status.

Income Verification

- PHAs must verify income of family in order to determine whether they meet income limitations of the program.
- HUD's Enterprise Income Verification (EIV) system verifies income information supplied by applicant
- HUD has guidance on calculating income (earned income, benefit income).
- *Income limitation applies to the initial application to enter the program.
- VA staff can help veterans assemble original, third-party income documentation



Unit Selection

- Standard Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCVP) requirements regarding unit size, Housing Quality Standards Inspection (HQS) and payment standards apply to each veteran household.
- VA owned units on the grounds of a VA Medical Clinic are eligible housing for the VASH program.
- VIHA and VA case manager staff will assist the veteran in identifying available units.
- If a homeless veteran dies the voucher would remain with the remaining members of the tenant family.



Leasing a Unit

- Veterans must comply with **ALL** terms of lease, including portion of rent
- Rent charged must be “reasonable”, i.e., rent is comparable to similar non-luxury housing unit in a similar location with similar amenities
- Initial Lease **may** be less than 12 months
- Family can live on grounds of a VAMC in units owned by the VA



How Long does HUD-VASH program last?

As long as Veterans needs the program to last

- However:
 - Assistance must be terminated for failure to participate in case management, without good cause, as verified by the Veteran Administration Medical Center (VAMC).
 - If VAMC determines that case management is no longer needed, participant is not terminated from program. PHA may issue a regular voucher, if available.



NETWORKING

- HUD-VASH

- VIHA
- Supported Services for Veterans Families
- Local private and public agencies
- Vet Centers
- Faith Based Organizations
- Rehabilitation Centers
- Continuum of Care
- Social Services Agencies
- Local Assistance Services



Progress Update

- VA Case Worker was assigned
- Identification of potential candidates from 3 Islands
- Coordination with VIHA's HCVP Staff
- Currently there are 10 applicants in preparation for vouchers, with one discharge.
- Coordination with several organizations, such as:
 - Methodist Outreach and Training Center
 - Catholic Charities
 - St. Thomas and St. Croix VA clinics
 - Continuum of Care organizations
 - Department of Human Services
 - Bethlehem Shelter



Progress Update

- Participated in the Point-In-Time count on St. Croix
- Prepared orientation flyer for distribution to bring awareness to the program
- Program was presented to the Catholic Charities Permanent Supportive Program
- VIHA Section 8 program Office has implemented an expedited application process



Participants' profile

N-10

GENDER

Male	Female
9	1

Average Age

59

Average Income

\$810.00



Participants' profile

Era		
Vietnam	Post Vietnam	OEF/OIF
5	4	1

Referral Source					
ST. Thomas CBOC	ST. Croix CBOC	Methodist Outreach Center	Bethlehem Shelter	St. John Foundation	Housing Authority
1	4	1	2	1	1



Participants' profile

Homelessness Chronicity	
Chronic Homeless	Homeless
8	2



Local VASH Contacts

- VIHA: Akala Anthony, Housing Choice Voucher Program Director: 340-714-0174
- Veteran Administration: Marangeli Hendricks
HUD-VASH Case Manager: 340-778-5553

