

Who is Eligible to Participate?

In order to participate in HUD-VASH, Veterans must be currently homeless, must be eligible for VA medical care, and must have an identified clinical need for case management. Veterans in transitional housing or residential treatment programs may also be considered for admission.

HUD-VASH is designed to help Veterans living with a disability, mental illness, addiction, chronic homelessness, or other issues who can be helped by participating in ongoing case management. Veterans who have spouses and dependent children are also eligible to participate.

Veterans who are required to register on any Lifetime Sex Offender Register or who exceed income thresholds are *not* eligible for the program.

How are Veterans referred?

Referrals may be made from any source for any homeless Veteran thought to be eligible and appropriate for the program. Referrals will be screened by HUD-VASH staff to ensure eligibility and clinical need, and to determine vulnerability factors. When appropriate, other VA clinicians may be consulted regarding the appropriateness of individual Veterans for the program.

If a referred Veteran is found to be ineligible or inappropriate for the program, referral to other resources will be made.

Background Information

The HUD-VASH Program was originally started as a nation-wide, limited-scale program in 1992, to address the needs of homeless Veterans with mental illness and/or substance abuse. In 2008, the program was expanded to primarily address the needs of chronically homeless Veterans, but including all homeless Veterans as the target population. Additionally, the criteria were broadened to allow Veterans with physical disabilities who need case management assistance. The program also provides supportive permanent housing for Veterans with dependents.

VETERANS

Please call with questions
or for more information.

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You'll be Glad to Call It Home!

HUD-VASH PROGRAM



*Supported Housing for
Homeless Veterans*

VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System
Healthcare for Homeless Veterans

and

Allegheny County Housing Authority

What is the HUD-VASH Program?

The HUD-VASH program is a partnership between the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to provide case management, supportive services, and subsidized housing vouchers for eligible homeless Veterans.

In the area served by VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System, HUD-VASH "Housing Choice" Vouchers are administered through Allegheny County Housing Authority. Ongoing case management is provided by social work staff from the Healthcare for Homeless Veterans Program.

The HUD-VASH program allows eligible Veterans to obtain safe, affordable, accessible, permanent housing in a location of their choice. The primary goal of the program is to help move Veterans and their families out of homelessness.

A key component of the program is case management provided by VA social workers. Program participants formulate treatment plans with their social workers and receive ongoing support to attain their goals. Referrals are also made to additional community-based supports.

Where can Vouchers be Used?

HUD-VASH Vouchers can be used to subsidize rental units from any landlord willing to accept a Section-8 housing voucher. Landlords enter into an agreement with the Allegheny County Housing Authority to obtain rental subsidies. Vouchers are also portable, within specific limitations.

What does the Case Manager do?

Veteran participation in ongoing, long-term case management is a core program requirement.

HUD-VASH case managers will:

- work with Veterans to develop individualized treatment plans
- assist with the voucher application process and housing search
- coordinate access to needed services and supports
- provide limited counseling services or referrals when more in-depth support is needed
- complete program documentation with input from Veterans as needed
- monitor progress and follow up as needed

After demonstrating appropriate progress, the case manager may decide to discontinue case management. Veterans may graduate from the program in this manner, but can still continue to receive rental assistance as long as it is needed.

What do Veterans Need to Get a Housing Voucher?

Some documents are required as part of the housing authority application process. Veterans can begin ahead of time to gather these items:

- Photo ID for all adults
- Social Security Cards for all household members
- Birth Certificates for children ages 0-18

Other income/asset verifications are also required at time of application.

What Cost is Involved?

Veterans are responsible to pay approximately 30 percent of their gross monthly income directly to their landlords. The housing authority pays the remaining portion of the rent.

Security deposits and utility deposits, along with any other up-front fees, are the responsibility of the Veteran. Some community resources may be available to assist with these expenses.

Other incidental and monthly expenses will need to be considered, such as:

- Food & transportation
- Utilities
- Household supplies
- Basic home furnishings
- Phone, cable, internet, etc.

LANDLORDS

**Please call with questions
or for more information.**

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