



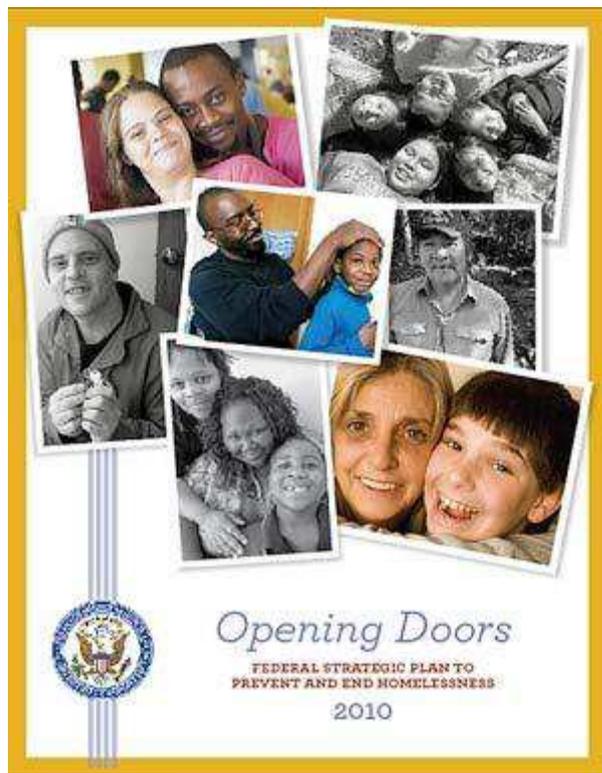
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration

Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF)

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National Center on Homelessness Among
Veterans*



Federal Strategic Plan



VA Five-Year Plan



Built upon 6 strategic pillars:

1. Outreach/Education
2. Treatment
3. Prevention
4. Housing/Supportive Services
5. Income/ Employment/ Benefits
6. Community Partnerships



- **National Call Center**
 - 1-877-4AID VET (877-424-3838).
- **Health Care for Re-Entry**
- **Veteran Justice Outreach**
- **Supportive Services for Veteran Families**

**For more information on any of these
programs visit VA's prevention website:**

<http://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/prevention.asp>



Challenge is to effectively target these services to engage those most at-risk.

- 1 in 10 impoverished Veterans become homeless at some point during the year (HUD, 2009).
- 1.3 million Veteran households have very low income, less than 50% of the area median income (GAO, 2007).
- Homeless Veterans may be more isolated from family and other social supports compared to the general homeless population.
- Veterans over the age of 51 are over-represented among the homeless.



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration

SSVF Program Background



1. **Goal:** Enhance housing stability of homeless and at-risk Veterans and their families
2. **Method:** Provide grants to eligible entities to facilitate the provision of supportive services to very low-income Veteran families who are “occupying permanent housing”
3. **Authority:**
 - 38 U.S.C. 2044 / Section 604 of Veterans’ Mental Health and Other Care Improvements Act of 2008 / P.L. 110-387
 - 38 CFR Part 62



- **Prevent and reduce homelessness**
- **Offer critical new element to continuum of care, a time-limited intervention focused on housing stability (not contingent on treatment and rehabilitation).**
- **Identify best practices and promising approaches; using HMIS to collect comparable data; Implementation and impact assessed by National Center on Homelessness Among Veterans.**
- **Improve targeting/outreach.**



How SSVF Differs from Other VA Programs

- Grantees will be community-based organizations.
- Grantees will serve Veterans *and their families*.
- Homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing focus.
- Temporary financial assistance payments may be provided to third parties on behalf of participants.

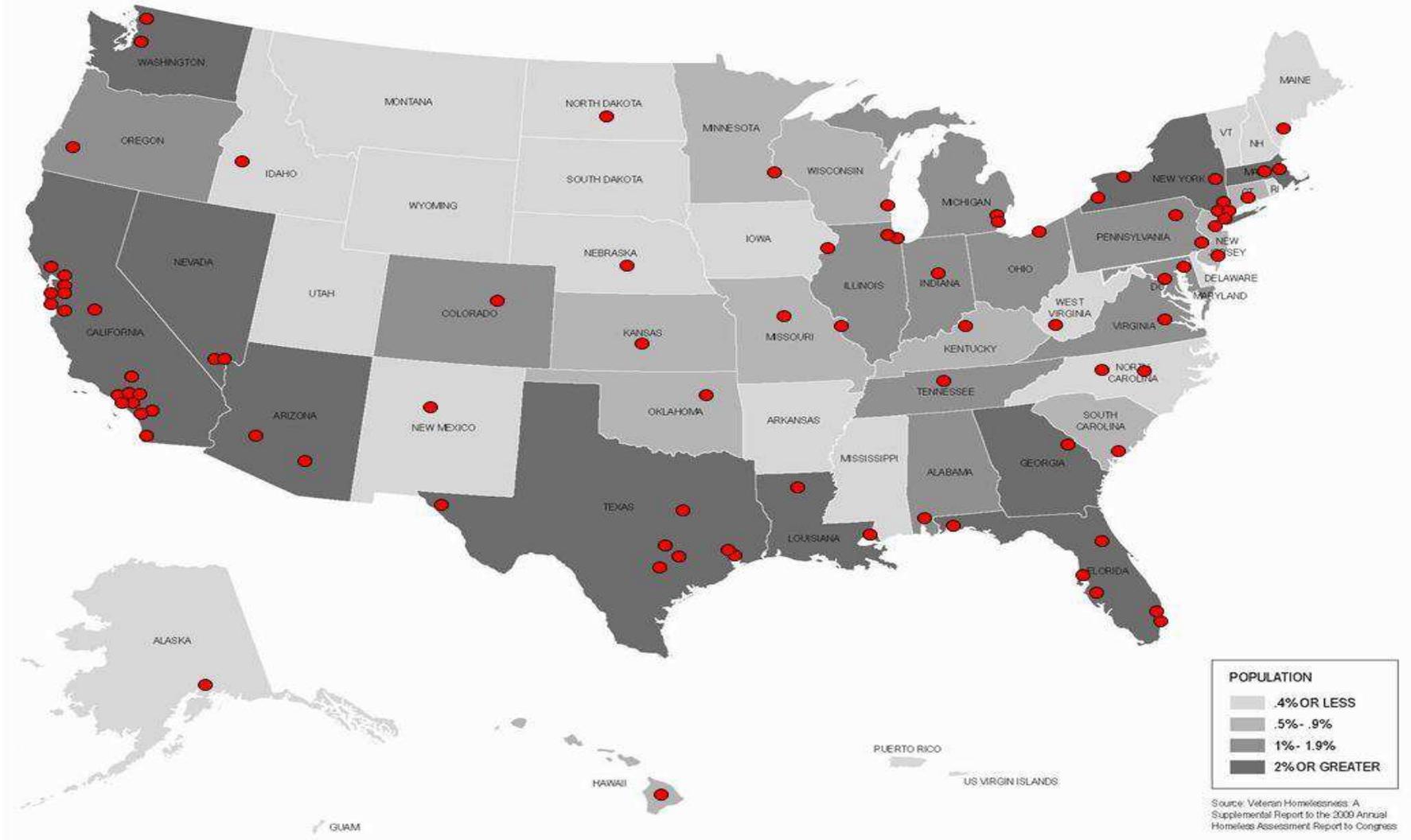


How SSVF Complements Other Programs

- A services “bridge”/enhancement to permanent supportive housing (e.g. in conjunction with the HUD-VASH Program).
- A stand-alone, short-term, intensive case management model (e.g. in conjunction with a program using a critical time intervention model).
- A homelessness, eviction, or housing crisis prevention program (e.g. in conjunction with a program such as HUD’s HPRP initiative).



Map of SSVF Program Grantees





Participant Eligibility



1. **Veteran Family:**
 - a) **Veteran* who is a single person, or**
 - b) **Family in which the head of household, or the spouse of the head of household, is a Veteran**
2. **Very Low-Income: < 50% area median income (www.huduser.org)**
3. **“Occupying Permanent Housing”:**
 - a) **Category (1): Currently residing in permanent housing**
 - b) **Category (2): Currently homeless, scheduled to become resident of permanent housing within 90 days pending the location or development of suitable permanent housing**
 - c) **Category (3): Exited permanent housing within the previous 90 days in order to seek housing more responsive to needs and preferences**

*“Veteran” means a person who served in the active military, naval, or air service, and who was discharged or released therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable.



Verifying Veteran* Status

- Request a copy of the Veteran's DD Form 214 Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (make a copy of that form for the Veteran family's file)
- If the Veteran is not in possession of his or her DD Form 214, the grantee should assist the Veteran in submitting an SF-180, Request Pertaining to Military Records, to confirm the individual's status. Information on how to submit this form can be found on the National Archives website:
<http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/dd-214.html>
- Grant funds cannot be used to help an individual change his or her discharge status.

*"Veteran" means a person who served in the active military, naval, or air service, and who was discharged or released therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable.



Verifying Family Status

- Veteran Family: A Veteran who is a single person or a family in which the head of household, or the spouse of the head of household, is a Veteran.
 - Proof of family status is not required, but may serve as proof of household status in some circumstances.
- Household: All persons who together present for services and identify themselves as being part of the same household.
 - Proof of household status is required. Self- or staff-declarations are acceptable.



II. Participant Eligibility (cont'd)

Determining Eligibility

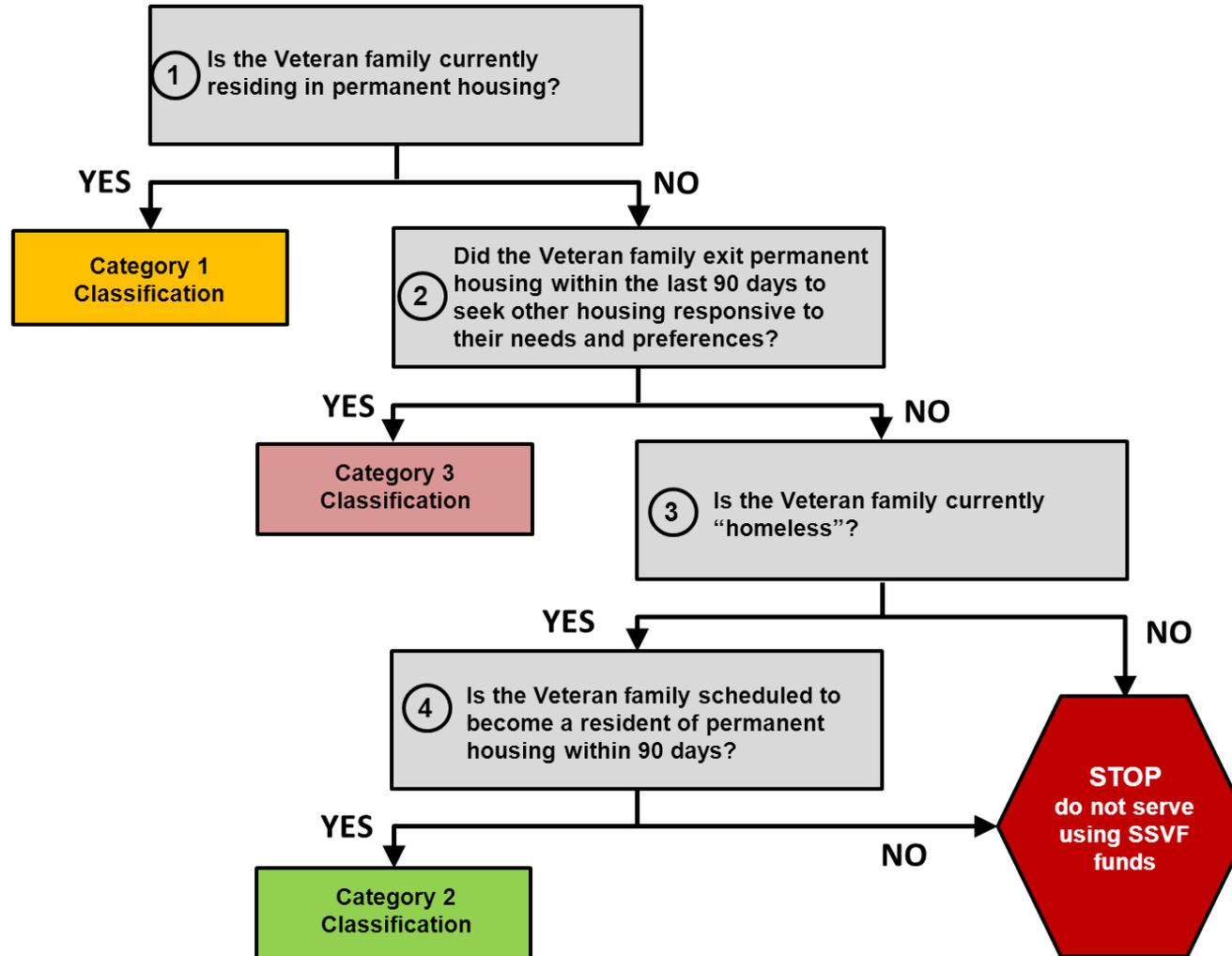
Verifying Income Eligibility

- Very Low-Income Veteran Family: One whose annual income as determined in accordance with 24 CFR 5.609, does not exceed 50% of the area median income (AMI)
- AMI is determined according to the state and local jurisdiction in which a household resides or enters the program and is dependent on the size of the household (i.e., number of household members)
 - AMI for each state and community can be found at: <http://www.huduser.org/DATASETS/il.html>
 - Please note this data set is updated annually. Grantees should be sure to use the most recent data posted.
- See Program Guide (Section VII and Exhibits G and H) for detailed discussion of income definition and calculation



Verifying Housing Status

Occupying Permanent Housing Categories: Key Screening Questions





Verifying Housing Status (cont'd)

Category 1 Eligibility (Homelessness Prevention)

- To qualify under Category 1, the Veteran family must be:
 - Currently residing in permanent housing; AND
 - At risk of losing their housing and becoming literally homeless or remaining literally homeless but for SSVF assistance (strongly encouraged, but not required). Includes persons who at time of application or reassessment are:
 - Losing their housing in 14 days or less
 - Losing their housing in *more* than 14 days
- VA encourages grantees to assess and document that the household would become literally homeless but for the SSVF assistance.



Verifying Housing Status *(cont'd)*

Category 2 Eligibility (Rapid Re-Housing)

- To qualify under Category 2, the Veteran family must be:
 - Homeless, per the McKinney-Vento Act, as amended by the HEARTH Act (except those in permanent housing, who qualify under Category 1);

AND

- Scheduled to become a resident of permanent housing within 90 days pending the location or development of suitable permanent housing;

AND

- At-risk of losing their housing and becoming literally homeless or remaining literally homeless but for SSVF assistance (strongly encouraged, but not required).
- “Homeless” includes persons who at time of application or reassessment are:
 - Literally homeless
 - Fleeing domestic violence
 - Unaccompanied youth under 25 years of age, or families with children and youth who meet certain criteria



Verifying Housing Status (cont'd)

Category 3 Eligibility (Rapid Re-Housing)

- To qualify under Category 3, a Veteran family must have:
 - Exited from permanent housing in the last 90 days to seek other housing that is responsive to the Veteran family's needs and preferences



General Guidance

When serving participants in category 1, ask: “Would this individual or family be homeless but for this assistance?”

- Review risk factors in NOFA
- May want to focus on: housing stabilization; linking to community resources and mainstream benefits; development of a plan to prevent housing instability; temporary financial assistance

When serving participants in categories 2 and 3, may want to focus on:

- Housing counseling
- Assisting participants to understand leases
- Securing utilities
- Making moving arrangements
- Representative payee services concerning rent and utilities
- Mediation and outreach to property owners related to locating or retaining housing
- Rental assistance, deposits, moving costs, emergency supplies



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Administration

Supportive Services



Required Supportive Services:

1. Outreach services (Section 62.30)
 - Use best efforts to ensure that hard-to-reach eligible participants are found, engaged, and provided supportive services
 - Active liaison with local VA facilities, State, local, tribal, and private agencies and organizations providing services
2. Case management services (Section 62.31)
 - Careful assessment of participant functions
 - Developing and monitoring case plans
 - Establishing linkages to help participants
 - Providing referrals and performing related activities as necessary
 - Deciding how resources are allocated to participants
 - Educating participants on issues



Required Supportive Services (Cont'd):

3. Assist participants to obtain VA benefits (Section 62.32)
 - Vocational and rehabilitation counseling
 - Educational assistance
 - Employment and training services
 - Health care services



Required Supportive Services (Cont'd):

4. Assist participants to obtain and coordinate the provision of other public benefits provided by Federal, State, or local agencies, or any eligible entity in the area served by the grantee (provided directly or through referral to partner agencies) (Section 62.33)
 - Health care services*: Referrals for health insurance, medical / mental health care, training in the care of family members, pharmaceuticals, supplies, equipment, etc.
 - Daily living services*: Referrals to an entity that provides services relating to the functions or tasks for self-care
 - Personal financial planning services: Recommendations on day-to-day finances and achieving long-term budgeting and financial goals
 - Transportation services: Provision of tokens, vouchers, etc. for use of public transportation; if public transportation is not an option, vehicle leasing costs are eligible use of funds if included in application; car repairs or maintenance payments also acceptable in certain circumstances

*Health care services and daily living services can be provided by referral only – direct provision is not an allowable use of funds



Required Supportive Services (cont'd):

4. Assist participants to obtain and coordinate the provision of other public benefits provided by Federal, State, or local agencies, or any eligible entity in the area served by the grantee (provided directly or through referral to partner agencies) (Section 62.33) (cont'd)
 - Income support services: Assistance in obtaining Federal, State, tribal and local assistance in the form of (but not limited to) mental health benefits, employment counseling, medical assistance, Veterans' benefits, income support
 - Fiduciary and representative payee services: Acting on behalf of a participant by receiving paychecks, benefits, or other income and using those funds for current and foreseeable needs of participant and saving remaining funds for participant's future use in interest bearing account or savings bonds
 - Legal services: Assist with issues that interfere with participant's ability to obtain or retain permanent housing or supportive services



Required Supportive Services (cont'd):

4. Assist participants to obtain and coordinate the provision of other public benefits provided by Federal, State, or local agencies, or any eligible entity in the area served by the grantee (provided directly or through referral to partner agencies) (Section 62.33) (cont'd)
 - Child care: Referral to eligible child care provider or payment for child care services to an eligible child care provider on behalf of participant
 - Eligible Child Care Provider: A provider of child care services for compensation, including a provider of care for a school-age child during non-school hours, that: (1) is licensed, regulated, registered, or otherwise legally operating, under state and local law, and (2) satisfies the state and local requirements, applicable to the child care services the provider provides.
 - Housing counseling services: Counseling related to the stabilization of a participant's residence in permanent housing, including referrals to appropriate resources and providing counseling, education and outreach on the following (as appropriate): housing search assistance; rental and rent subsidy programs; Federal, State, tribal or local assistance; fair housing; landlord tenant laws; lease terms; rent delinquency; resolution or prevention of mortgage delinquency; home maintenance and financial management



Optional Supportive Services:

1. Other services which may be suggested by an applicant, a grantee, or VA in the future that are consistent with the SSVF Program (must always be approved by VA)

2. Temporary financial assistance payments
 - Payments must help participants remain in or obtain permanent housing
 - Payments are subject to the restrictions in the Final Rule and the Notice of Fund Availability (NOFA), including time/amount limitations, development of housing stability plan, payments only to third parties



SSVF Program Overview

Supportive Services (cont'd)

Type of Temporary Financial Assistance	Time/Amount Limitation
Rental Assistance*	Max. of 8 months in a 3-year period; no more than 5 months in any 12-month period
Utility-Fee Payment* Assistance	Max. of 4 months in a 3-year period; no more than 2 months in any 12-month period
Security Deposits or Utility Deposits*	Max. of 1 time in a 3-year period for security deposit; Max. of 1 time in a 3-year period for utility deposit
Moving Costs*	Max. of 1 time in a 3-year period
Emergency Supplies*	Max. \$500 during a 3-year period
Child Care**	Max. of 4 months in a 12-month period
Transportation**	Tokens, vouchers, etc. – no time limit Car repairs/maintenance – max. of \$1,000 during 3-year period

*See § 62.34 of Final Rule for additional requirements and restrictions.

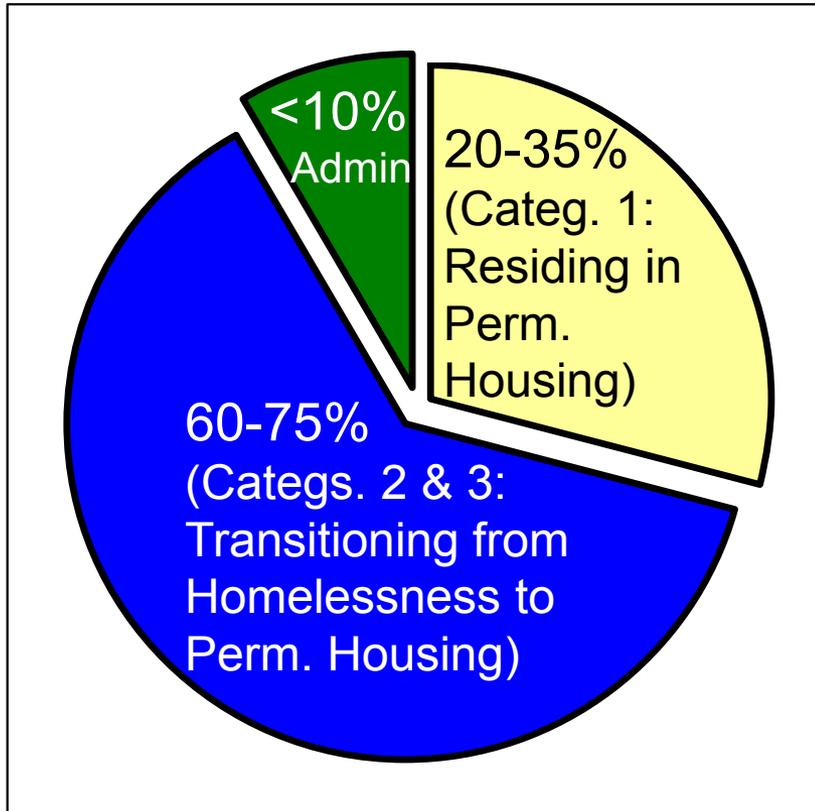
**See § 62.33 of Final Rule for additional requirements and restrictions.



Uses of SSVF Grant Funds



Requirements for the Use of SSVF Grant Funds



- Supportive Services to Very Low-Income Veteran Families in Occ. Permanent Housing Category 1 (20-35%)
- Supportive Services to Very Low-Income Veteran Families in Occ. Permanent Housing Categories 2 and 3 (60-75%)
- Administrative Costs (All direct and indirect costs associated with the management of the program) (Maximum of 10%)

*Note: Maximum of 30% of supportive services costs may be used for temporary financial assistance paid directly to a third party on behalf of a participant for child care, transportation, rental assistance, utility-fee payment assistance, security deposits, utility deposits, moving costs, and emergency supplies in accordance with §§ 62.33 and 62.34 of Final Rule.



Time Restrictions on Provision of Supportive Services

Category of Occupying Permanent Housing	Time Restriction on Grantee's Provision of Services
Category 1 – residing in permanent housing	None, provided participant continues to reside in permanent housing
Category 2 – homeless and scheduled to become a resident of permanent housing within 90 days pending the location or development of housing suitable for permanent housing	None, provided participant continues to meet Category 2 requirements (90-day window), even if the participant does not become a resident of permanent housing within the originally scheduled 90-day period
Category 3 – exited permanent housing within the previous 90 days to seek other housing that is responsive to the very low-income Veteran family's needs and preferences	<p>May continue providing services until the earlier of the following dates:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Participant commences receipt of other housing services adequate to meet the participant's needs; <p>OR</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. 90 days from the date the participant exits permanent housing



Compliance Requirements:

- Grantees are responsible for operating programs in accordance with their grant agreements, which require compliance with the following:
 1. Final Rule
 2. Notice of Fund Availability (NOFA)
 3. Applicable OMB Circulars
 4. Your application
 5. Approved Amendments



Regional Coordinator Roles and Responsibilities

- **Regional Coordinators are first and foremost the Grantees' POC for all things SSVF**
- **Assist in facilitating relationships between VA and Grantees**
- **Help grantees understand how to complete required reports and provide templates for these reports to grantees based on application.**
- **Help with HMIS including connecting with TA provider.**



Regional Coordinator Roles and Responsibilities

- Connect with available resources that can assist in homeless prevention related concepts.
- Coordinate regional updates regarding upcoming events (conferences, stand downs, etc)
- Visiting regional locations at least once a year but could visit more if requested/required.
- Assist with in depth financial audit if applicable
- Track and report progress and inhibitions to SSVF program staff



Website:

<http://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/SSVF.asp>

Resources:

Final Rule

SSVF Data Collection Guide

SSVF Program Fact Sheet

SSVF FAQs

Webinars

Conference Materials



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