



SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FOR VETERAN FAMILIES (SSVF)

Washington-Morgan Community Action

THE GOAL OF SSVF

- The goal of the SSVF Program is to promote housing stability among low-income Veteran families who reside in or are transitioning to permanent housing.

SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

- Outreach
- Case management
- Connection to VA benefits and programs
- Connection to public benefits and mainstream community resources
- Temporary financial assistance (TFA)

ELIGIBILITY

- 1) Member of a “Veteran Family”
 - Either a Veteran or a member of a family in which the head of household (or spouse), is a Veteran.
- 2) “Low-Income” Household
 - Income does not exceed 80% of the area median income
- 3) Occupying Permanent Housing: A Veteran family is considered to be occupying permanent housing if it falls into one of three categories:
 - Is residing in permanent housing and at risk of becoming literally homeless without SSVF assistance
 - Is literally homeless and at risk to remain in this situation but for SSVF assistance
 - Is literally homeless after exiting 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.

VETERAN STATUS

- Veteran- A person who served in the active military, naval, or air service, or reserves, regardless of length of service, and who was discharged or released therefrom.
- National Guard- Have to have been activated
- Excludes a person who who received a dishonorable discharge
- Anyone with a bad conduct discharge from a General court-martial is ineligible. Anyone with a bad conduct discharge from a Special court-martial is eligible.

SSVF HOUSING CATEGORIES

- Homeless Prevention (HP)
- Rapid Re-Housing (RRH)

HOMELESS PREVENTION

- Veteran families residing in permanent housing at imminent risk (within 30 days) of losing housing and becoming literally homeless.
- Must meet HP Screening threshold score to receive temporary financial assistance

RAPID RE-HOUSING

- Veteran families staying in a place not meant for human habitation (car, park, abandoned building, etc.)
- Veteran families staying in a supervised publicly- or privately-operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements
- Exiting an institution where s/he resided for 90 days or less and who resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution (hospital, treatment facility, jail, etc.)
- Fleeing or attempting to flee a domestic violence situation

HOUSING FIRST

- A consumer-driven approach that provides immediate access to permanent housing, in addition to flexible, community-based services for people who have experienced homelessness.
- Emerged as an alternative to the linear approach in which people experiencing homelessness were required to first participate in and graduate from short-term residential and treatment programs before obtaining permanent housing.

TEMPORARY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE (TFA)

- Security and utility deposits
- Rent and utility assistance
- Emergency housing assistance
- General housing stability assistance
- Transportation
- Moving Costs
- Child Care
- Shallow Subsidy rental assistance
- Landlord/tenant incentives

DEPOSITS

- Maximum of one security deposit in a 2-year period
- Maximum of one utility deposit in a 2-year period
- May only be provided if the payment of such assistance will directly allow the participant to obtain permanent housing.

RENT AND UTILITIES

- Rent and utility assistance limit determined by income
- 0-30% AMI- 9 months in a 12-month period, 12 months in a 2-year period
- 31%-80% AMI- 6 months in a 12-month period, 10 months in a 2-year period
- Shallow Subsidy Rental Assistance- Client pays 50% of their rent, SSVF covers the remaining 50% for up to 24 months with lighter case management.

EMERGENCY HOUSING ASSISTANCE (EHA)

- Hotel/Motel stays for clients when there is no shelter and no other option to avoid literal homelessness
- Maximum of one instance in a 2-year period and for a maximum of 60 days

GENERAL HOUSING STABILITY ASSISTANCE (GHSA)

Four classes of assistance

- Expenses associated with gaining or keeping employment.
 - Uniforms, tools, driver's license fees, license/certification costs, etc.
- Expenses associated with moving into permanent housing.
 - Beds, bedding, basic kitchen utensils, cleaning supplies, etc.
- Expenses necessary for securing appropriate permanent housing.
 - Rental application fees, document acquisition, etc.
- Expenses necessary for a participant's life or safety (\$500 limit).
 - Food, hygiene items, baby formula, diapers, winter clothing, etc.

TRANSPORTATION

Two Categories

- Tokens, vouchers, etc.
 - Public transportation tokens, vouchers
- Car repairs/maintenance (Maximum of \$1,200 in a 2-year period)
 - Only limited car repairs when no public transportation/other options exist and not making repairs would lead to the client losing housing.

MOVING COSTS

- Moving costs may include reasonable costs such as:
 - truck rental
 - hiring a moving company
 - short-term storage fees (maximum of 3 months or until the participant is in permanent housing, whichever is shorter)

CHILD CARE

- SSVF may make payments on behalf of a participant to an “eligible child care provider” providing child care services.
 - An “eligible child care provider” is 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.

SHALLOW SUBSIDY RENTAL ASSISTANCE

- Recently implemented service where SSVF can pay 50% of the clients rent for a period of up to 24 months
- Targets clients who need more rental assistance but not to the level of HUD and without the clinical case management of HUD-VASH
- Eligibility is not reassessed during the 24 month period, which incentivizes clients to increase income

LANDLORD INCENTIVES

- Recently implemented assistance to engage new landlords
- Maximum amount is equal to 2 months of rent
- Can be used in conjunction with a double deposit
- Only used if necessary for more rapid housing placement
- Only for clients entering a new lease of at least 1 year

TENANT INCENTIVES

- Focus on clients who otherwise would not be willing to enter housing without the incentive.
- Available only after move-in from literal homelessness for leases of at least 1-year
- Maximum amount is \$1,000.00
- In addition to, and more flexible than, traditional General Housing Assistance (GHA)
- Items for consideration include: appliances, furniture, electronic equipment, recreational items, educational items, hobby materials, etc.

HEALTH CARE NAVIGATION

- The core function of all health care navigators is to assess and address potential and existing barriers to access care and completing the care needed to improve the veteran's health.
- Complete monthly meetings to address identified barriers
- Facilitate access to care
- Reduce barriers
- Coordination of care
- Patient education/advocate

STAFF SERGEANT PARKER GORDON FOX SUICIDE PREVENTION PROGRAM (SSG FOX)

- Outreach to identify those at risk of suicide
- Baseline mental health screening for risk (required of all grantees for participants ages 18+)
- Education on suicide risk and prevention to families and communities
- Case management services
- Assistance obtaining VA Benefits for eligible individuals and their families
- Assistance with obtaining and coordinating other benefits provided by the federal government, a state or local government, or an eligible entity

(CONTINUED)

- Assistance with emergent needs relating to health care services, transportation services, legal services to assist the eligible individual with issues that may contribute to the risk of suicide, and child care
- Other services necessary for improving the mental health status and well-being and reducing the suicide risk of eligible individuals and their families as VA determines appropriate



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