



Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Program

CoC Monthly Meeting
Program Presentation
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Presenters

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SSVF PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Tampa/Hillsborough SSVF Funding

Tampa Crossroads was awarded **Priority 1/Surge Funding** beginning October 1, 2014:

- \$3 million / 3 years
- Target: 400 Households/Year
- Priority 1 communities have the highest populations of homeless veterans

St. Vincent de Paul was awarded Priority 3 Funding beginning October 1, 2014:

- \$1.5 million / 1 Year (Renewal Grant)
- Target: 400 Households

What is SSVF?

SSVF is designed to **rapidly re-house** homeless Veteran families and **prevent homelessness** for those at imminent risk due to a housing crisis.

- Short-Term Assistance
- Focus on Housing Stabilization
- Case-Management Driven
 - No Ongoing Subsidy
- Bridge to PSH Programs As Appropriate

National Goal

Homelessness among Veterans is a problem of national importance. While representing only 9% of the U.S. adult population in 2014, Veterans made up **11%** of the U.S. **HOMELESS** adult population.

In 2010, President Barack Obama & the VA announced the federal government's goal to **END** Veteran homelessness by the end of 2015.

Estimates for Veteran homelessness have dropped substantially in the past several years. There has been a **24% REDUCTION** in Veteran homelessness since 2010.

Core Concepts of SSVF

- **Housing First:** Maintain or obtain permanent housing as soon as possible, without pre-conditions.
- **Crisis Response:** Short-term intervention to quickly resolve a housing crisis.
- **Client Choice:** The person in crisis has the choice of addressing or deferring life changes, utilizing referrals, etc.

No Guarantees

Housing First approach requires development of a reasonable plan to sustain housing but it...

- ...Does not **guarantee** that every plan will be successful
- ...Does not **assure/ensure** that participants will no longer be poor or rent-burdened
- ...Does not **promise** an end to future (longer-term) housing risks, housing crises or homelessness



SSVF PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY & SERVICES

Eligibility – Veteran Status

HOH or spouse of HOH must be a **Veteran**.

*Veteran is defined as a person who served **at least 1 day of active duty** in any branch of the United States military, who was discharged or released under any condition other than **dishonorable**.

SSVF provides services to the **ENTIRE FAMILY**, not just the Veteran.

Eligibility – Income

Household annual **INCOME** cannot exceed 50% of AMI
(see chart below)

2015 Income Limit / Household Size:

1 Person = \$20,650	5 Person = \$31,900
2 Person = \$23,600	6 Person = \$34,250
3 Person = \$26,550	7 Person = \$36,600
4 Person = \$29,500	8 Person = \$38,950

Eligibility – Housing Status

Household must be **HOMELESS** or **AT IMMINENT RISK** of becoming homeless.

NOTE: Priority 1/Surge Funding Prioritizes Rapid-Rehousing Assistance Due To Focus on Ending Veteran Homelessness

Eligibility – “But For” Test

Household must have **NO OTHER RESOURCES** available to access or maintain permanent housing stability:

“but for” this assistance household would remain or imminently become homeless.

- No other subsequent housing options
- No financial resources or support networks

SSVF Program Priority

SSVF prioritizes assistance for certain target populations including the following:

- Veteran families earning **less than 30%** AMI
- Veterans with **at least 1 dependent** family member
- Veterans returning from Iraq & Afghanistan (**OEF/OIF**)



SSVF PROGRAM SUPPORTIVE SERVICES & TEMPORARY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

SSVF Supportive Services

SSVF provides a range of supportive services designed to resolve the immediate crisis & promote housing stability:

- **Outreach** services
- **Case Management** services
- Assistance in obtaining **VA benefits**: vocational & rehabilitation counseling, employment & training service, educational assistance, & health care services
- Assistance in obtaining and coordinating provision of other **Public Benefits** available in the community

Linkages to Public Benefits

Public Benefits available in the community may include:

- Health Care Services (including obtaining health insurance)
- Daily Living Services
- Personal Financial Planning
- Transportation Services
- Income Support Services
- Fiduciary & Representative Payee Services
- Legal Services
- Child Care
- Housing Counseling
- Other Services Necessary for Maintaining Independent Living

Temporary Financial Assistance

TFA is paid directly to a third party on behalf of a participant as necessary & within program limits & may include:

- Rental Assistance
- Utility Fee Payment Assistance
- Security or Utility Deposits
- Moving Costs
- Child Care
- Transportation
- Emergency Supplies
- Emergency Housing
- General Housing Assistance



HOW TO REFER TO SSVF

Veteran Takedown List

Acts as a **Centralized Wait List** for homeless Veterans & Veteran families in need of rapid-rehousing assistance.

- It is an extraction of Veteran households referred to the CoC Priority Wait List
- Does NOT include households at-risk of homelessness
- Represents real individuals & provides a real-time list of progress towards meeting monthly housing goals and ultimately declaring functional zero as a community

Coordinated Intake & Assessment

To be included on the **Takedown List** the **Coordinated Intake & Assessment** process must be followed:

- Complete VI-SPDAT – a signed UNITY ROI is required
- Enter UNITY ROI & VI-SPDAT assessment in UNITY
- Enter referral service to CIA Wait List

Refer to THHI detailed instructions for completing this process.

Who Should Be Included on List?

- Actively enrolled in SSVF but not yet permanently housed
- Screened and determined ineligible for SSVF
- Residing in GPD and other transitional housing programs
- Residing in emergency shelter beds / VA contract beds
- Enrolled in HUD-VASH but not yet permanently housed

Direct Referrals to SSVF

Providers are encouraged to send a direct referral to SSVF in order to help track how homeless veterans are being engaged & linked to services:

- 1.Hillsborough County SSVF Referral Form
- 2.Email – when referral to CIA Wait List is completed
- 3.Phone Call / Verbal – to deploy SSVF outreach to field

The primary objective is to ensure all homeless Veterans are included on the Takedown List as a first step towards accessing SSVF.

Takedown List Prioritization

The following factors will be considered when determining SSVF Program prioritization of households on the centralized Takedown List:

- VI-SPDAT Score (highest to lowest)
- Households with Minor Dependents
- Domestic Violence
- Other Discretionary Factors Related to Risk & Program Capacity

Weekly Case Conferencing Meetings

Weekly coordination of **Takedown List** to review the following:

- SSVF capacity for new enrollments / assign highest priority
- Households exited from SSVF but still homeless
- Households recommended for linkage to PSH
- Challenging cases presenting with major barrier to housing

SSVF & VA staff will meet weekly while other community stakeholders are invited to participate . Progress reports on achieving functional zero will be shared at monthly CoC meetings beginning in August.



HOW DO WE ACHIEVE FUNCTIONAL ZERO IN TAMPA / HILLSBOROUGH?

Local Collaboration: Essential Partners

COLLABORATION is key to SUCCESS:

- Among SSVF Grantees
- CoC / CoC Processes & Partners (e.g. CIA)
- VA Partners: Medical, Benefits, VA Funded Programs
- Community-based Housing & Service Partners

Reduce Length of Time Homeless

- Engage & immediately link unsheltered Veterans to emergency shelter, GPD, or other transitional housing
- Ensure CoC-wide screening & linkage to SSVF RRH assistance
- Provide additional support while awaiting permanent housing

Divert from Emergency Shelter

Establish rapid screening & referral protocols to **SSVF Homeless Prevention** assistance & prioritize those diverted for SSVF

SSVF Homelessness Prevention Eligibility Screening Disposition Form

A screening tool for SSVF to determine eligibility based on prevention rating score:

TCR = 9 or above
SVDP = 11 or above

Long-Term Goal: System Optimization

Sustain efforts beyond 2015 and implement system changes to ensure homelessness among Veterans is rare and brief

QUESTIONS????

Want to Know More?

SSVF Program Office

Phone:

1-877-737-0111

Email:

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Website:

www.va.gov/HOMELESS/ssvf.asp

Includes link to ***SSVF University***

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THANK YOU!!