Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Program

CoC Monthly Meeting
Program Presentation
July 2, 2015
Presenters

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Veterans Assistance Center
Program Manager

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Society of St. Vincent de Paul
SSVF Program Manager
Hillsborough
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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Household Size</th>
<th>2015 Income Limit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Person</td>
<td>$20,650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Person</td>
<td>$23,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Person</td>
<td>$26,550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Person</td>
<td>$29,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Person</td>
<td>$31,900</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 Person</td>
<td>$34,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Person</td>
<td>$36,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Person</td>
<td>$38,950</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.
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?
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?

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THANK YOU!!