

Who is Eligible to Participate?

In order to participate in HUD-VASH,

- Veterans must be chronically homeless,
- 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 medical disability, mental illness, addiction, 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 Registry or who exceed income thresholds are not eligible for the program.

How are Veterans referred?

Referrals are made from the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) a database accessed by the entire City of Chicago. Eligible veterans are referred directly to HUD-VASH staff to ensure clinical need, and to recognize 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.

HUD-VASH PROGRAM



*Supported Housing for
Homeless Veterans*

Jesse Brown VA Medical Center
Healthcare for Homeless Veterans

and

Chicago Housing Authority

What is the HUD-VASH Program?

The Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) program combines HUD's Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) rental assistance for homeless Veterans with case management and clinical services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

The HUD-VASH Program supports eligible Veterans secure safe, affordable, accessible permanent housing in multiple locations throughout the City of Chicago and Northwest Indiana.

The HUD-VASH program utilizes a multidisciplinary team approach to include social workers, peer support specialists, nurses, occupational therapists, physical therapists, and recreation therapists with the primary goal of moving Veterans and their families from homelessness to permanent housing.

The key component of the program is ongoing case management provided by VA HUD-VASH social workers. Participating Veterans formulate treatment plans with their assigned social worker, who assist Veterans in meeting collaboratively identified goals by providing supportive counseling, referrals, and ongoing assessment of treatment needs. Referrals are also initiated by case managers to other VA and Non-VA community-based programs for assistance with other housing needs related to household items, rental assistance, food, and transportation

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 that is in the CHA catchment area. Landlords enter into an agreement with the CHA to obtain rental subsidies. Vouchers may also be 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 continue to receive rental assistance as long as it is needed.

What Documents Do I Need?

Once a Veteran has been referred, 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, however some community resources may be available to assist with these expenses.

Other household expenses will need to be considered, such as:

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

VA Can't End Homelessness Alone.

We're all partners in VA's fight to end Veteran homelessness. If you know a Veteran who is homeless or at risk of homelessness, contact VA's National Call Center for Homeless Veterans at 1-877-4AID-VET (1-877-424-3838) to access free VA services.