

Grant/Per Diem Provider Call Highlights
February 8, 2016; 3:00 pm EST

1-800-767-1750, 17663#

- 1) Jeffery Quarles, Director, Grant and Per Diem Program presided over the Call regarding Bridge Housing. This Operations Call was dedicated to answering questions submitted by Providers and Liaisons.
- 2) Bridge Housing is a temporary short-term stay; up to 90 days. Veterans must have been offered and accepted permanent housing, but can't enter into that housing right away. The ISP and goals are short term and focused on moving the Veterans into permanent housing. Veterans should have resources available to assist them.
- 3) Why are Providers limited to 50% of their allowed beds? Legally, providers need to stay within GPD guidelines and not have a major deviation from the original application. The number of beds is flexible, but cannot exceed 50%. Agencies need to submit a Change of Scope. The Change of Scope is a letter on agency letterhead explaining what the provider wants to do.
- 4) Is Bridge Housing considered GPD? Yes. Bridge Housing is GPD, but Veterans are on a short-term track into permanent housing. The Veteran must have received and accepted permanent housing arrangements within two weeks of admission into a GPD Program.
- 5) What is the per diem rate? The current maximum per diem rate for GPD is \$43.32 per Veteran per day. The per diem is 100% of the cost of care minus other income up the maximum allowed.
- 6) If an Agency had a bed reduction, can that Agency get those beds back? No. Per our letter, the bed reduction is permanent.
- 7) When a Veteran is discharged from Bridge Housing, does that count towards the three life-time enrollment guidelines? There is not a three life-time enrollment guideline. The VA will only pay up to three episodes of care. That can be waived based on clinical needs of an individual Veteran.
- 8) If admission criteria is for a Veteran to be drug/alcohol free 60 days before enrollment, can that be criteria be changed? Yes, agencies need to consider lower barriers to admission. Submit a Change of Scope outlining regarding admission.
- 9) What is the role of TIP programs and Bridge Housing? In a TIP program, the Veteran enters GPD and eventually assumes the lease of the apartment. Bridge Housing is short-term up to 90 days. TIP programs are not suitable for Bridge Housing.
- 10) Are sex offenders eligible for Bridge Housing? Yes, as long as they have been offered and accepted a permanent housing arrangement.
- 11) What are the incentives for Agencies to participate in Bridge Housing? The VA mission is to end homelessness. Agencies will be assisting in getting Veterans off the streets and into permanent housing. Nationwide, there is an average of 2000 GPD beds that are empty. Discharge statistics and performance metrics will increase.
- 12) Local guidelines require Medical Center Directors sign any Change of Scope document. That is a lengthy process. Is it possible for the Network Homeless Coordinator (NHC) sign the document? The GPD office has asked all NHCs to provide a list of projects that are suitable for Bridge Housing. Basically, that is the concurrence.
- 13) Does Bridge Housing count as a GPD stay? Yes. The same documentation and same record-keeping must be accomplished for Veterans entering Bridge Housing. There will be a particular area in HOMES for Liaisons to complete regarding Bridge Housing stays.

14) Is there a deadline for submitting the Change of Scope for Bridge Housing? There is no deadline. Agencies can submit the Change of Scope anytime. Once approved, if it isn't working out, the Agency can submit another Change of Scope deleting Bridge Housing.

Here is a list of web pages that you may find helpful:

Main GPD Website: <http://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/GPD.asp>

GPD Regulations: http://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/docs/GPD/GPD_Final_Rule_38CFR61_02-25-2013.pdf

GPD Provider Site: http://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/GPD_ProviderWebsite.asp

CHALENG Site: <http://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/chaleng.asp>

Federal Register Site: <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/browse.html>

Next Operations Call is scheduled for March 14, 2016 @ 3:00 pm EST