



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Administration

Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Program

Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) Workshop

January 2014



- I. SSVF Program Overview
- II. Notice of Fund Availability (NOFA)
Overview
- III. Developing a Program Design
- IV. Basing Design on Current
Knowledge
- V. Understanding VA Programs
- VI. Application Review



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Administration

I. SSVF Program Overview



Goal of SSVF Program

- Provide housing stability to homeless and at-risk Veterans and their families

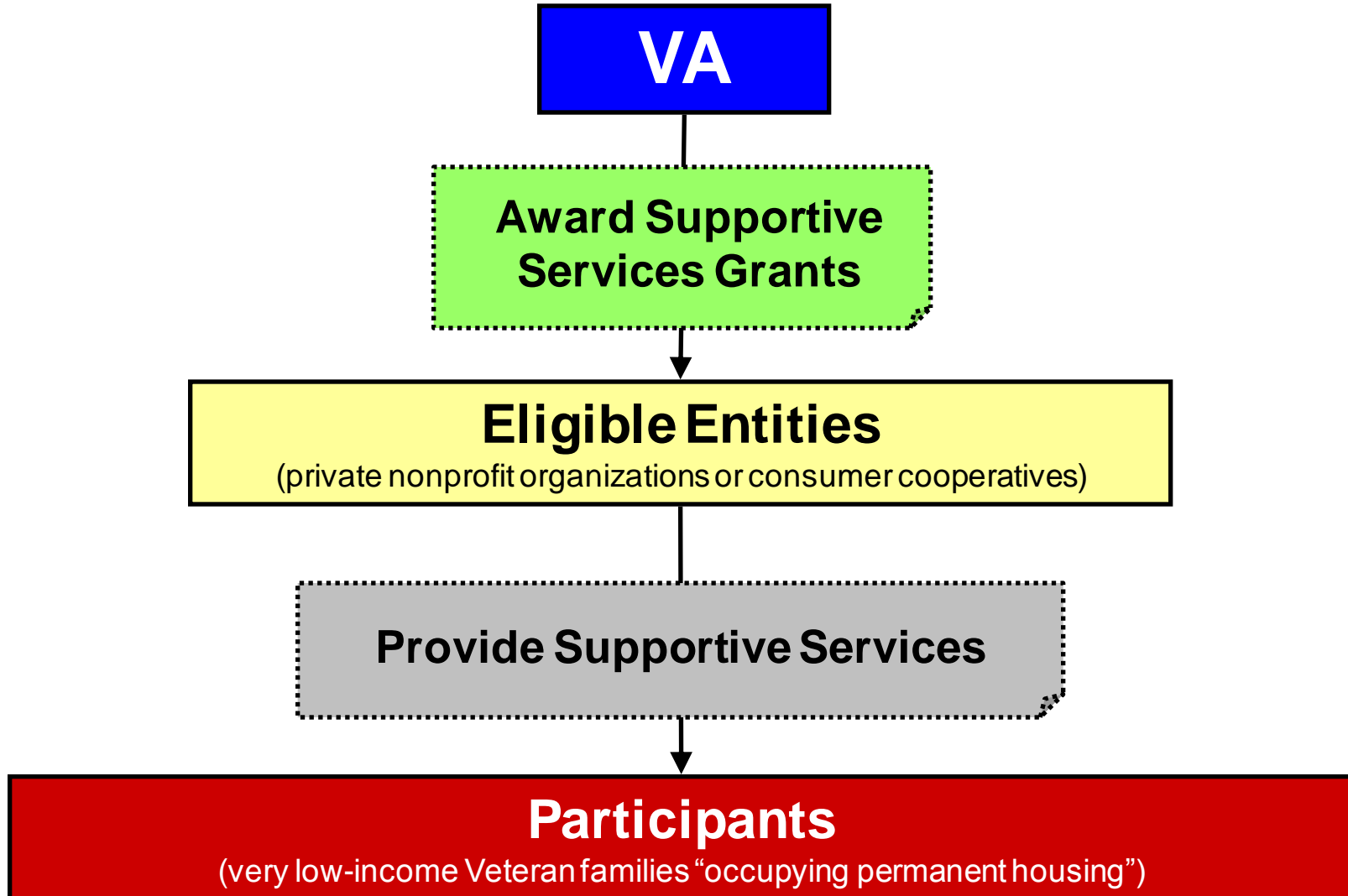
Process

- VA will award grants to eligible entities (private non-profit organizations and consumer cooperatives)
- Grantees will provide supportive services to very low-income Veterans and their families who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness



SSVF Program Overview Background

1. **Authority:** 38 U.S.C. 2044 / Section 604 of Veterans' Mental Health and Other Care Improvements Act of 2008 / P.L. 110-387
2. **Purpose:** To provide grants to eligible entities to facilitate the provision of supportive services to very low-income Veteran families who are "occupying permanent housing"
3. **Status:**
 - a) Final Rule and Notice of Fund Availability published in Federal Register and available on the SSVF website:
<http://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/SSVF.asp>
 - b) Application, webcast recordings, and FAQs available on SSVF website: <http://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/SSVF.asp>
 - c) Application due **4:00 p.m. Eastern on Friday, March 14, 2014**





SSVF Program Overview

“Eligible Entity”

To be eligible for a SSVF grant, the applicant must be either:

Types of Eligible Entity	Documentation Required
<p>Private nonprofit organization means any of the following four entities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An incorporated private institution or foundation that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Has no part of the net earnings that inure to the benefit of any member, founder, contributor, or individual; b) Has a governing board that is responsible for the operation of the supportive services provided under this part; and c) Is approved by VA as to financial responsibility. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. IRS ruling certifying tax-exempt status under the IRS Code of 1986
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. A for-profit limited partnership, the sole general partner of which is an organization meeting the requirements of paragraphs (1)(a), (b), and (c) above. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Partnership Agreement
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. A corporation wholly owned and controlled by an organization meeting the requirements of paragraphs (1)(a), (b), and (c) above. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Articles of Incorporation or By-Laws
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. A tribally designated housing entity (as defined in section 4 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4103)). 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Indian Housing Plan Tribal Certification
<p>Consumer Cooperative has the meaning given such term in section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959 (12 U.S.C. 1701q).</p>	<p>State certification of consumer cooperative status</p>



SSVF Program Overview

Participant Eligibility

1. **Veteran Family:**

- a) Veteran* who is a single person, **or**
- b) Family in which the head of household, or the spouse of the head of household, is a Veteran

2. **Very Low-Income:** <50% area median income (www.huduser.org)

3. **“Occupying Permanent Housing”:**

- a) Category (1): Currently residing in permanent housing
- b) Category (2): Currently homeless, scheduled to become resident of permanent housing within 90 days pending the location or development of suitable permanent housing
- c) Category (3): Currently homeless, exited permanent housing within the previous 90 days in order to seek housing more responsive to needs and preferences

*“Veteran” means a person who served in the active military, naval, or air service, and who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable. Must meet VA eligibility requirements as described in www.va.gov/healthbenefits/resources/epublications.asp.



Required Supportive Services:

1. Outreach services (Section 62.30)
 - Use best efforts to ensure that hard-to-reach eligible participants are found, engaged, and provided supportive services
 - Active liaison with local VA facilities, State, local, tribal, and private agencies and organizations providing services
2. Case management services (Section 62.31)
 - Careful assessment of participant functions
 - Developing and monitoring case plans
 - Establishing linkages to help participants
 - Providing referrals and performing related activities as necessary
 - Deciding how resources are allocated to participants
 - Educating participants on issues



Required Supportive Services (Cont'd):

3. Assist participants to obtain VA benefits (Section 62.32)

- Vocational and rehabilitation counseling
- Educational assistance
- Employment and training services
- Health care services

4. Assist participants to obtain and coordinate the provision of other public benefits provided by Federal, State, or local agencies, or any eligible entity in the area served by the grantee (provided directly or through referral to partner agencies) (Section 62.33)

- Health care services
- Daily living services
- Personal financial planning services
- Transportation services
- Income support services
- Fiduciary and representative payee services
- Legal services
- Child care
- Housing counseling services



Optional Supportive Services:

1. Other services which may be suggested by an applicant, a grantee, or VA in the future that are consistent with the SSVF Program
2. Temporary financial assistance (TFA) payments
 - Payments must help participants remain in or obtain permanent housing
 - Payments are subject to the restrictions in the Final Rule and the Notice of Fund Availability (NOFA), including time/amount limitations, development of housing stability plan, payments only to third parties
 - TFA **is required** for Priority 1 applicants (between 40 and 50 percent of program budget).



SSVF Program Overview

Supportive Services (cont'd)

Type of Temporary Financial Assistance	Time/Amount Limitation
Rental Assistance*	Max. of 8 months in a 3-year period; no more than 5 months in any 12-month period
Utility-Fee Payment* Assistance	Max. of 4 months in a 3-year period; no more than 2 months in any 12-month period
Security Deposits or Utility Deposits*	Max. of 1 time in a 3-year period for security deposit; Max. of 1 time in a 3-year period for utility deposit
Moving Costs*	Max. of 1 time in a 3-year period
Emergency Supplies*	Max. \$500 during a 3-year period
Child Care**	Max. of 4 months in a 12-month period
Transportation**	Tokens, vouchers, etc. – no time limit Car repairs/maintenance – max. of \$1,000 during 3-year period

*See § 62.34 of Final Rule for additional requirements and restrictions.

**See § 62.33 of Final Rule for additional requirements and restrictions.



Supportive Services Grant Agreements

Selected applicants will execute an agreement with VA which provides that the grantee agrees (and will ensure that each of its subcontractors agree) to:

1. Operate the program in accordance with Final Rule and your application
2. Comply with other terms and conditions, including recordkeeping and reports for program monitoring and evaluation purposes, as VA may establish for purposes of carrying out the SSVF Program in an effective and efficient manner
3. Provide such additional information as deemed appropriate by VA



Changes After Grant Award

- Significant Changes – submit to VA written request BEFORE implementing a significant change; if VA agrees, will issue an amendment. Examples:
 - Change in grantee or any identified subcontractors
 - Change in area or community served
 - Additions or deletions of supportive services being provided
 - Change in category of participants served
 - Change in budget line items more than 10% of grant award
- Key Personnel Changes/Address Changes – inform VA within 30 days
- Corrective Action Plan (CAP) – VA may require CAP if:
 - On a quarterly basis, actual grant expenditures vary from amount disbursed
 - Actual grant activities vary from description in grant agreement



How SSVF Differs from Other VA Programs

- Focus is on housing stability, not treatment.
- Grantees will be community-based organizations
- Grantees will serve Veterans *and their families*
- Homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing focus
- Temporary financial assistance payments may be provided to third parties on behalf of participants



How SSVF Complements Other Programs

- A synergistic complement to DOL's Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program (HVRP). Veterans receive the employment and training services they need in order to re-enter the labor force.
- Find a HVRP grantee at <http://bbi.syr.edu/nvtac/index.htm>
- A services "bridge"/enhancement to permanent supportive housing (e.g. in conjunction with the HUD-VASH Program)
- A stand-alone, short-term, intensive case management model (e.g. in conjunction with a program using a critical time intervention model)
- Can complement a homelessness, eviction, or housing crisis prevention program such as HUD's Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) program or local Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) programs.



How SSVF Complements Other Programs

In addition to VA supports, SSVF grantees access universal prevention services, entitlements, and other available community resources.

- National Foundation for Credit Counseling, www.nfcc.org, a counselor can be reached at (800)388-2227
- Legal Assistance: www.lawhelp.org, <http://statesidelegal.org>
- SOAR (SSI/SSD):
www.prainc.com/SOAR/soar101/states.asp
- National Resource Directory:
www.nationalresourcedirectory.gov
- Available income, health, educational and other **supportive** services benefits: www.govbenefits.gov



II. Notice of Fund Availability (NOFA) Overview



Application Availability

- Application package is posted on the SSVF website (<http://www.va.gov/homeless/SSVF.asp>) – includes PDF file and Excel file (Attachment B)

Application Deadline

- Two copies and two CDs of application (prepared in accordance with NOFA requirements) are due by 4:00 p.m. Eastern on Friday, March 14, 2014



Allocation

- Up to \$600 million available for SSVF grants this year.
 - **Priority 1: Up to \$300 million for 76 target communities**
 - **Priority 2: Renewal of current grantees. May receive up to 2% COLA.**
 - **Priority 3: New applicants. Available funding limited to funds remaining after Priority 1 and 2 allocations.**
- Maximum allowable grant size is \$2 million per year per grantee with a national limit of 7 grants per organization (there are no additional state caps). Caps do not apply to Priority 1.
- Limits do not apply to sub-contractors.
- Propose and justify the appropriate grant amount for your project



- Grants are for 3 years and are non-renewable.
- Available funding in 76 designated CoCs, identified in NOFA. Levels are generally \$3 or \$6 million for entire 3-year term. Exceptions:
 - **LA at \$24 million and NYC at \$12 million**
- Grant applications must be endorsed by both CoC **and** VA. CoC is limited to two endorsements. Optional tool for CoCs to reviewing applications available on www.va.gov/homeless/ssvf.asp.
- Priority 1 not subject to caps on award sizes or number of grants.



- Grant renewals may be eligible for multi-year (3 years) funding if by March 14, 2014 have all of the following:
 - **1 full year of SSVF operations;**
 - **Program in substantial compliance with SSVF grant agreement;**
 - **Appropriate level of CARF or COA accreditation.**
- Current multi-year grantees may be awarded a third year with proof of accreditation.
- A separate training will be conducted on renewal applications.



- Funding not committed to Priority 1 or 2 will be made available to new applicants.
- New SSVF grants awarded will be for a one-year period
- If funding allows, future NOFAs may continue to be issued to enable grantees to renew their grant through a simplified application process and longer terms.



- TFA budget can be 50% of overall budget.
- TFA optional for priority 2 and 3 (**priority 1 must budget at least 40% for TFA**), but all successful grantees have included it in their proposals
- Appropriate to ask for co-pays. Payments to third party only.
- Limits on time described in Final Rule

For TFA funding:

- *60% or more* can be spent on Rapid Re-Housing (categories 2 and 3)
- *A maximum* of 40% can be spent on prevention (category 1).



Payments of Supportive Services Grant Funds

- Payments will be made to grantees electronically via the Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Payment Management System
- Grantees may request payments as frequently as they choose, subject to the following limitations:

Time Period	Limitation on Cumulative Requests for Grant Funds
During 1st Qtr of Grant Award Period	May not exceed 35% of the total grant award without written approval by VA
End of 2nd Qtr of Grant Award Period	May not exceed 60% of the total grant award without written approval by VA
End of 3rd Qtr of Grant Award Period	May not exceed 80% of the total grant award without written approval by VA
End of 4th Qtr of Grant Award Period	May not exceed 100% of the total grant award



Approach – Insight into VA’s Expectations

- SSVF funding to be used under “but for” criteria
- Leverage grant funds to enhance housing stability of very low-income Veteran families occupying permanent housing
- Veterans should contribute co-pays whenever possible
- Encouraged to establish relationships with Continuum of Care
- SSVF Program not intended to provide long-term support for participants, nor will it be able to address all the financial and supportive services needs of participants that affect housing stability; partnerships and referrals are critical (e.g. HUD-VASH, HUD’s Housing Choice Voucher programs, McKinney-Vento funded supportive housing programs, TANF)



Goals and Objectives for Awards under NOFA

- Enhance the housing stability and independent living skills of very low-income Veteran families occupying permanent housing across geographic regions
- Rapidly re-house or prevent homelessness among the following target populations who also meet all requirements for being part of a very low-income Veteran family occupying permanent housing:
 1. Veteran families earning less than 30% of area median income (AMI) as most recently published by HUD (<http://www.huduser.org>)
 2. Veterans with at least one dependent family member
 3. Veterans returning from Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, or Operation New Dawn.
 4. Veteran families located in a community, as defined by HUD CoCs, not currently served by a SSVF grantee.
 5. Veterans located in a rural area.
 6. Veteran families located on Indian Tribal Property.



Guidance

- When serving participants in category 1 (prevention), ask: “Would this individual or family be homeless but for this assistance?”
 - Review risk factors in NOFA
 - May want to focus on: housing stabilization; linking to community resources and mainstream benefits; development of a plan to prevent housing instability; temporary financial assistance
- When serving participants in categories 2 and 3 (homeless), may want to focus on:
 - Housing counseling
 - Assisting participants to understand leases
 - Securing utilities
 - Making moving arrangements
 - Third party financial representative to pay rent and utilities
 - Mediation and outreach to property owners related to locating or retaining housing
 - Rental assistance, deposits, moving costs, emergency supplies



Monitoring and Reporting

- Grantees will have VA liaison (SSVF Regional Coordinator) who will provide oversight and monitor supportive services provided to participants.
- Monitoring (site visits) will also be conducted by VA contractor.
- Grantees must submit quarterly and annual financial and performance reports.
- Grantees must transmit HMIS data monthly.
- Grantees must provide each participant with satisfaction surveys (to be provided by VA), which will be submitted directly to VA, 45-60 days after entry and within 30 days of exit from the grantee's program.



Cost Plan and Budget

- Grantees must specify (in both the narrative and budget form) what program costs will be used for the direct provision and coordination of supportive services [to be included in Section I of the budget] and which costs are associated with the management of the program [to be included in Section II of the budget].
- Grantees should research and include estimated costs related to utilization of HMIS (system access and training, if necessary).
- Line items in each budget should be clearly specified in Section D narrative, including estimated cost and time commitments of SSVF personnel.
- Consider costs for training of SSVF personnel (beyond VA-sponsored events). VA training costs already included in budget template.



Entering Data into HMIS

- Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) is a computerized data collection tool specifically designed to capture individual-level, system-wide information over time on the characteristics and service needs of men, women, and children experiencing homelessness.
- HMIS is typically web-based software applications that communities implement to enter and share individual-level data across agencies about homeless persons served in shelters or other homeless service agencies.
- Makes standard data collection procedures easier.
- Able to compare broader range of programs, helping to identify best practices.
- Better understand the needs of all homeless persons and unique characteristics of Veterans.
- Opportunity to better coordinate services across VA and community run programs.



Entering Data into HMIS

- Grantees must enter data into a Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) web-based software application. Client-level data must be exported to VA on a regular basis.
- SSVF programs must participate in their local Continuum of Care Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)
- SSVF program grantees should work with HMIS administrators to set up the SSVF program in HMIS as soon as their grants are executed
- HMIS allows the aggregation of client-level data across homeless service agencies to generate unduplicated counts and service patterns of clients served.



- SSVF requirements described in new HMIS data collection standards.
- SSVF will be required to collect data from all 3 of the data element categories
 - Program Descriptors
 - Universal Data Elements
 - Program-Specific Data Elements
- All data will be collected in HMIS, but data analysis and reporting will be facilitated by VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

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III. Developing A Program Design



- Most important focus is housing stability. SSVF is a housing first model.
- Goal is to provide sufficient resources to stabilize housing or end homelessness.
- SSVF serves the entire household.
- Intervention is a short-term, crisis intervention.
- SSVF services are offered on a “but for” basis.
- Intensity and scope of services must match identified needs.
- Services integrated with community resources.



- How to apply the “But For” rule?
 - Who would become homeless “but for” intervention?
 - Even rapid re-housing can be unnecessary; one-third of Veterans stay in shelters less than 1 week & generally leave without special intervention.
- How to determine appropriate (and efficient) responses to support housing stability
 - Mainstream services
 - VA services
 - SSVF Intensive case management
 - SSVF Financial supports (TFA)
- Sustainability - will the intervention prevent homelessness or just postpone it?



Elements necessary to stabilize housing

1. Strong relationships with landlords
2. Linkages to mainstream resources for benefits such as TANF, Medicaid, and SNAPs
3. Services that aid stabilization
 - Legal assistance
 - Landlord mediation
 - Financial assistance
 - Transportation assistance
 - Child Care
4. Case management
5. Long-term income resources
 - Employment & training
 - Disability benefits (SSI/SSD, VBA)



Case Management

- Supports housing stability as a priority. Housing not contingent on treatment.
- Define intensity required to meet housing stability, not treatment, goals.
- Strength-based approach both to engage successfully and reflect program priorities.
- Must include planning for housing stability after short-term SSVF intervention is complete.
- When collaborating with other programs, cannot duplicate efforts.



- Outreach to target population – serve those identified as at-risk.
- Shelter diversion efforts should be a focus.
- Establish referral relationships with agencies appropriate to target population: shelters, food pantries, VA, TANF offices, housing courts, criminal justice, hospitals, substance use treatment facilities, schools, etc.
- Outreach, screening & assessment must be done quickly – offering *rapid* re-housing or prevention in a response to a crisis.



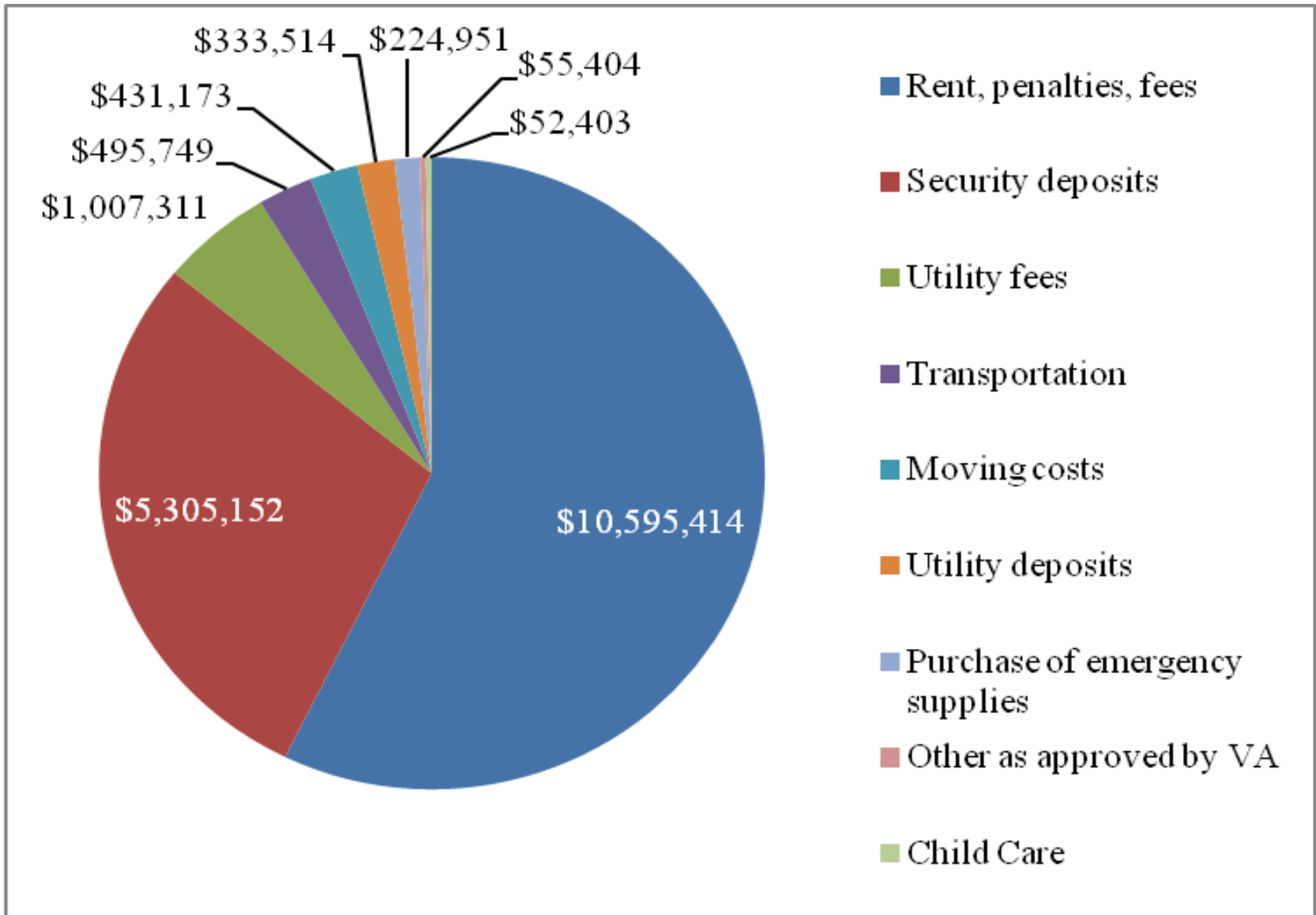
- 100 million Americans face civil justice problems that can impact housing, jobs, income, and children.
- Many poor Americans do nothing in response or try to avoid, likely due to lack of access to legal assistance or lack of knowledge about their rights
- In light of continued funding cuts for legal aid, the practical reality for local programs is that without a sub-award their vets won't get the help they need with just a referral.



- 80 percent of all rapid re-housing and 90 percent of all prevention discharges placed are permanently housed.
- Over 62,000 served, including over 14,000 dependent children.
- Approximately 75 percent of all those served had AMI below 30 percent.
- 15 percent of Veterans served women.



Temporary Financial Assistance





SSVF FY 12 Benefits Assistance

<i>All Adult Leavers by Mainstream Benefit Sources</i>	<i>All household types</i>			
<i>Category</i>	<i># at Entry</i>	<i># at Exit</i>	<i># Change</i>	<i>% Change</i>
<i>Income Sources: Mainstream Health Benefits</i>				
Veteran's disability payment (\$)	631	2,174	1,543	244.50%
SSDI (\$)	455	1,388	933	205.10%
SSI (\$)	381	1,358	977	256.40%
Worker's compensation (\$)	13	33	20	153.80%
<i>Income Sources: Other Public Benefits</i>				
Veteran's pension (\$)	229	1,049	820	358.10%
Unemployment insurance (\$)	250	778	528	211.20%
General assistance (\$)	235	400	165	70.20%
Retirement income from Social Security (\$)	122	347	225	184.40%
TANF (\$)	60	217	157	261.70%



SSVF FY 12 Benefits Assistance

<i>Non-Cash: Mainstream Health Benefits</i>	<i># at Entry</i>	<i># at Exit</i>	<i># Change</i>	<i>% Change</i>
VA medical services	1,219	4,060	2,841	233.10%
Medicaid	354	870	516	145.80%
Medicare	167	411	244	146.10%
State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP)	5	12	7	140.00%
<i>Non-Cash: Other Public Benefits</i>				
SNAP / food stamps	1,458	4,549	3,091	212.00%
Section 8, public housing, or other ongoing rental assistance	398	1,038	640	160.80%
WIC	144	224	80	55.60%
Temporary rental assistance	5	39	34	680.00%
Other TANF-funded services	-	24	24	n/a
TANF child care services	6	16	10	166.70%
TANF transportation services	2	10	8	400.00%



SSVF is built on YOUR expertise

- Show us your knowledge of your community.
- Show us your knowledge of the needs of the homeless Veterans in your area.
- Show us how YOU will work with SSVF to end Veteran homelessness in your community.

BUT...



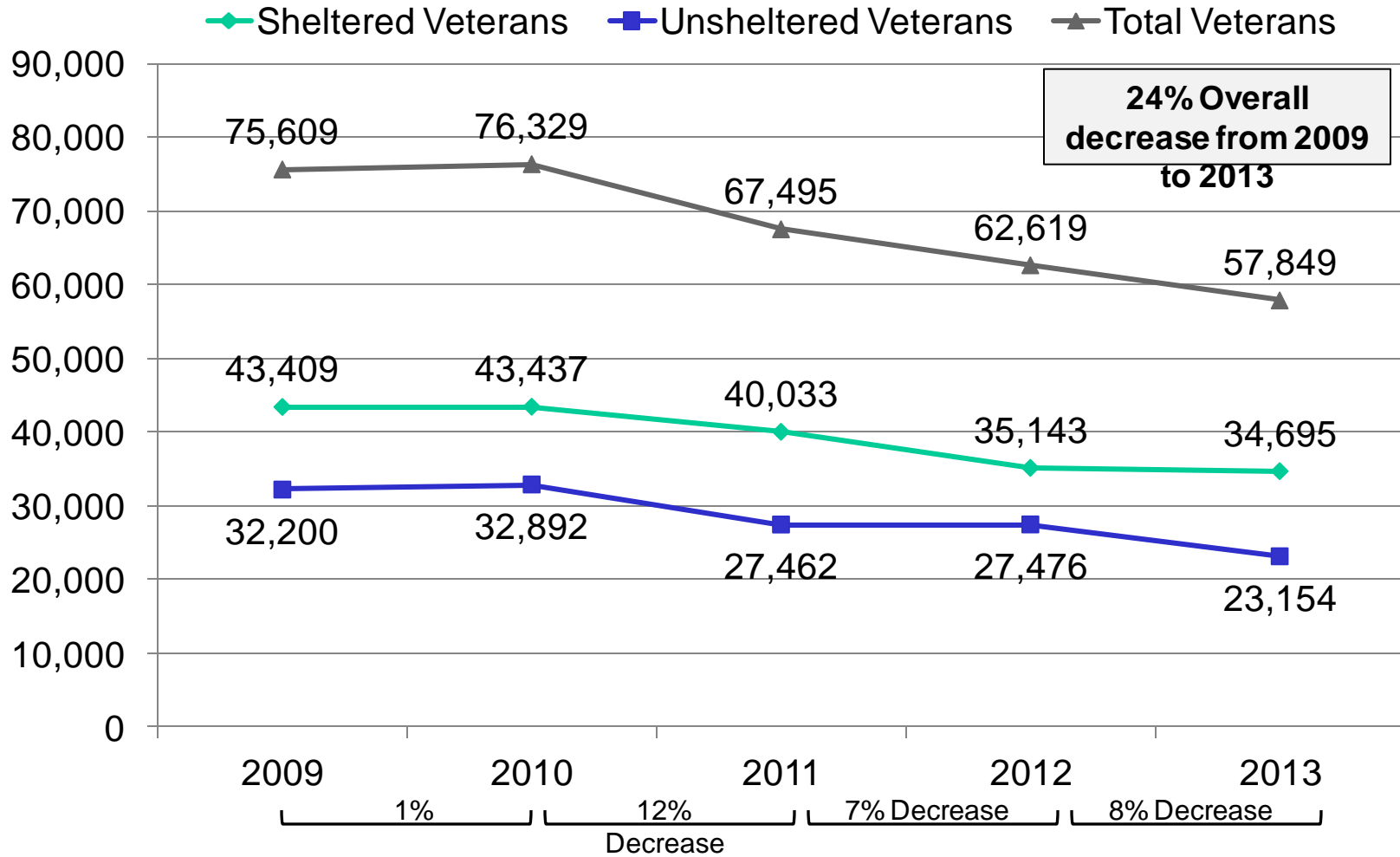
- We begin with a recognition that every person/family who is homeless or at-risk has different concerns and needs to be addressed. These concerns may not match agency/provider interests. May need partners or bring in new expertise.
- To offer Veteran appropriate options, must know what they are. Essential to coordinate with VA in service area. All VA funded providers have a responsibility to help Veterans get the right service at the right time.
- To get to Zero requires the development of a broad coordinated continuum of care that can address the needs identified by Veterans. Services need to be delivered both effectively and efficiently for this goal to be met.



IV. Basing Design on Current Knowledge



Veteran PIT Counts





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Location of Homeless Veterans*

- Almost half, 44 percent, of homeless Veterans on a given night were located in three states: California, Florida, and New York.
- 17 percent of all homeless Veterans are in either Los Angeles or New York City.

U.S. Department of HUD and U.S. Department of VA. *The Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress. 2013.*



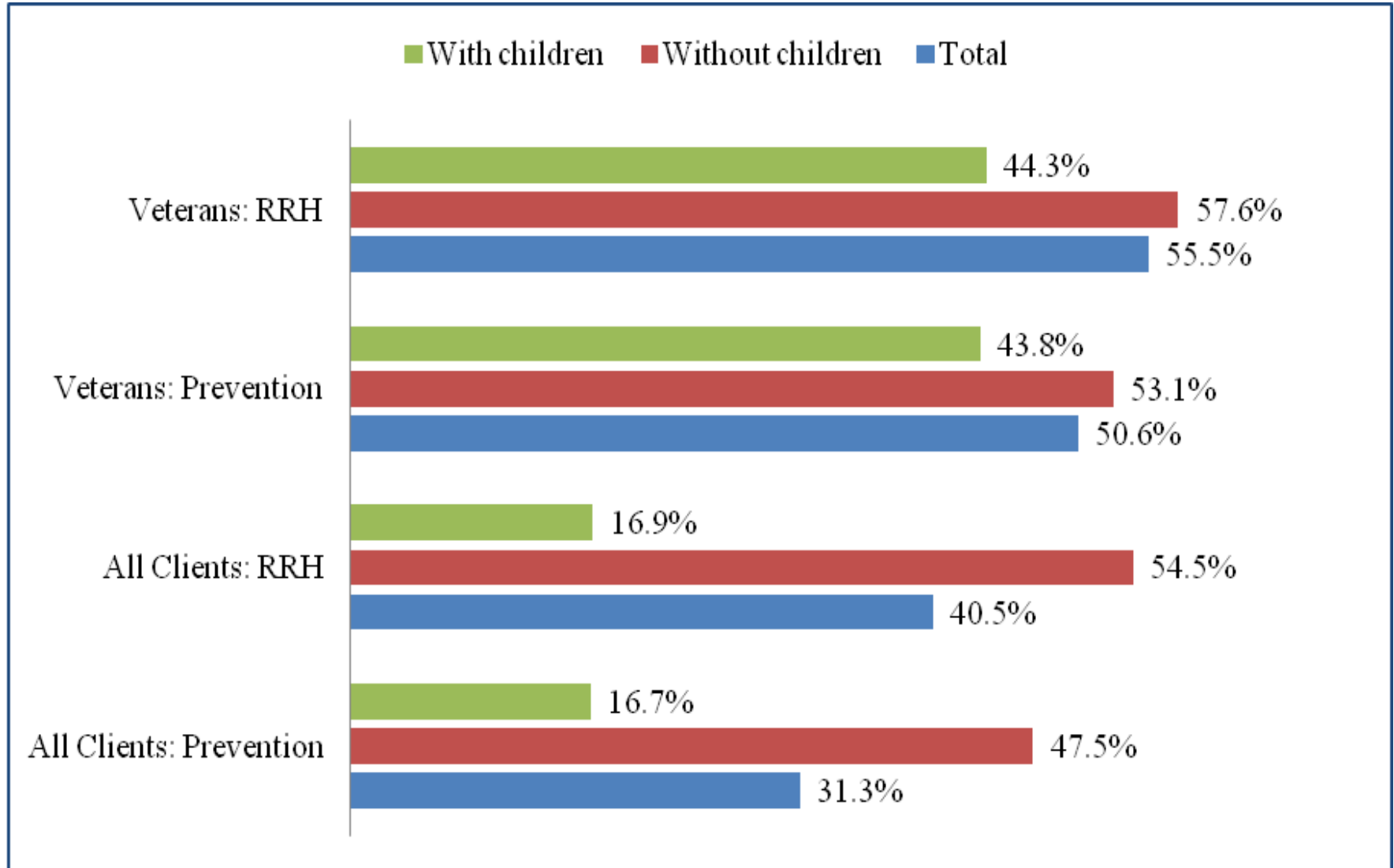
- Assessing need not simply a matter of counting homeless and at-risk populations.
- How do existing resources match need?
 - Use data, not anecdotal information based on HIC, HMIS, shelter capacity reports, etc.
- Areas with relatively low numbers of homeless and at-risk populations may have high need due to few available resources.



- Veterans served in SSVF are generally skewed younger than those typically found in the homeless Veteran population. Driving this trend were the larger proportion of Veterans who were between the ages of 18-34 (16 percent) and between 35-54 (48.3 percent). This contrasts with the 9.1 percent aged 18-30 and the 39.1 percent aged 31-50 of all homeless Veterans.
- Approximately 20 percent of all Veteran households served have dependent children.

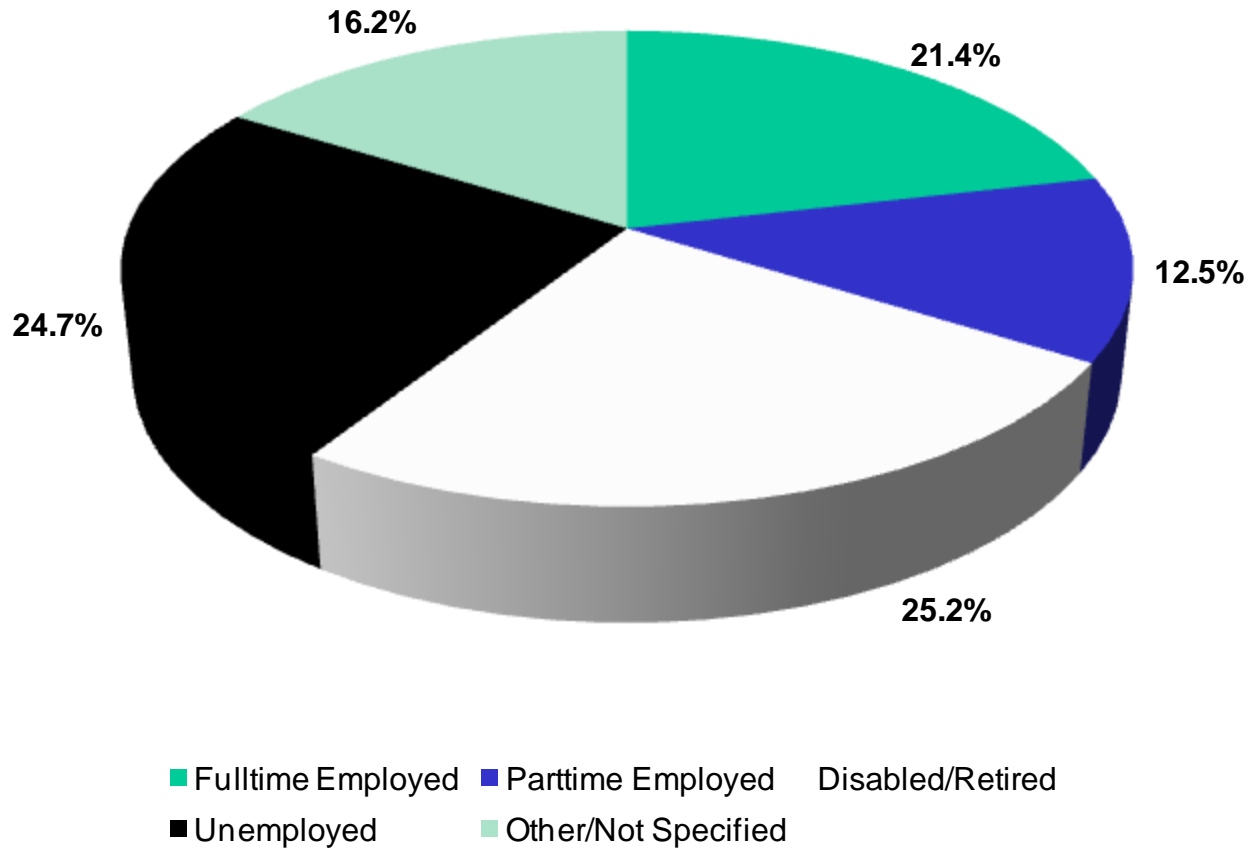


Disability Status





Homeless Veterans Engaged by VA Employment Status





Suicide Among Homeless Veterans

- **Evidence of increased risk for suicidal behaviors among Veterans with risk for or history of homelessness (six times higher than the rate of suicide events among Veterans who use VHA services.)**
- **More than 98 percent of homeless Veterans who attempt or die from suicide have one or more psychiatric diagnoses.**
- **The most common diagnoses among homeless Veterans who attempt suicide were substance abuse disorder (87 percent) and depression (67 percent).**



- SSVF projects to serving 120,000 people in FY 2014 and there are over 1.4 million impoverished Veteran households (and many more people).
- How do we ensure that SSVF is an effective program to end and prevent homelessness, and not suffer “mission creep” and become an anti-poverty program?



- Targeting, who is at-risk of becoming homeless?
- Once at-risk are identified, how do we determine who at-risk would become homeless “but for” intervention. Only 20-25 percent of those evicted become homeless. Important to assess all risk factors.
- Determining the appropriate (and efficient) response to support housing stability
 - Mainstream services
 - Intensive case management
 - Financial supports
 - Sustainability



Threshold is $x+$ points:

- 1 point: rental and/or utility arrears
- 2 points: housing loss in 21 days, significant income loss, applied for shelter, recent military dc, dependent child
- 3 points: housing loss in 14 days, dependent under age 6, 2+ moves in 60 days, living in hotel/motel, friends or family on a temporary basis; dc from institution without housing plan; homeless in past 60 days; income less than 30% AMI
- *Effective Targeting of Homeless Prevention Services for Families.* Marybeth Shinn & Andrew Greer. 2011.



- Target limited Prevention (TFA) dollars to households most likely to become homeless
- Utilize criteria that research has found are associated with increased risk of homelessness
- Allow Grantees to determine how high they want to set their threshold based on local conditions
- Can still offer “light touch” (case management only) prevention services to those short of threshold.

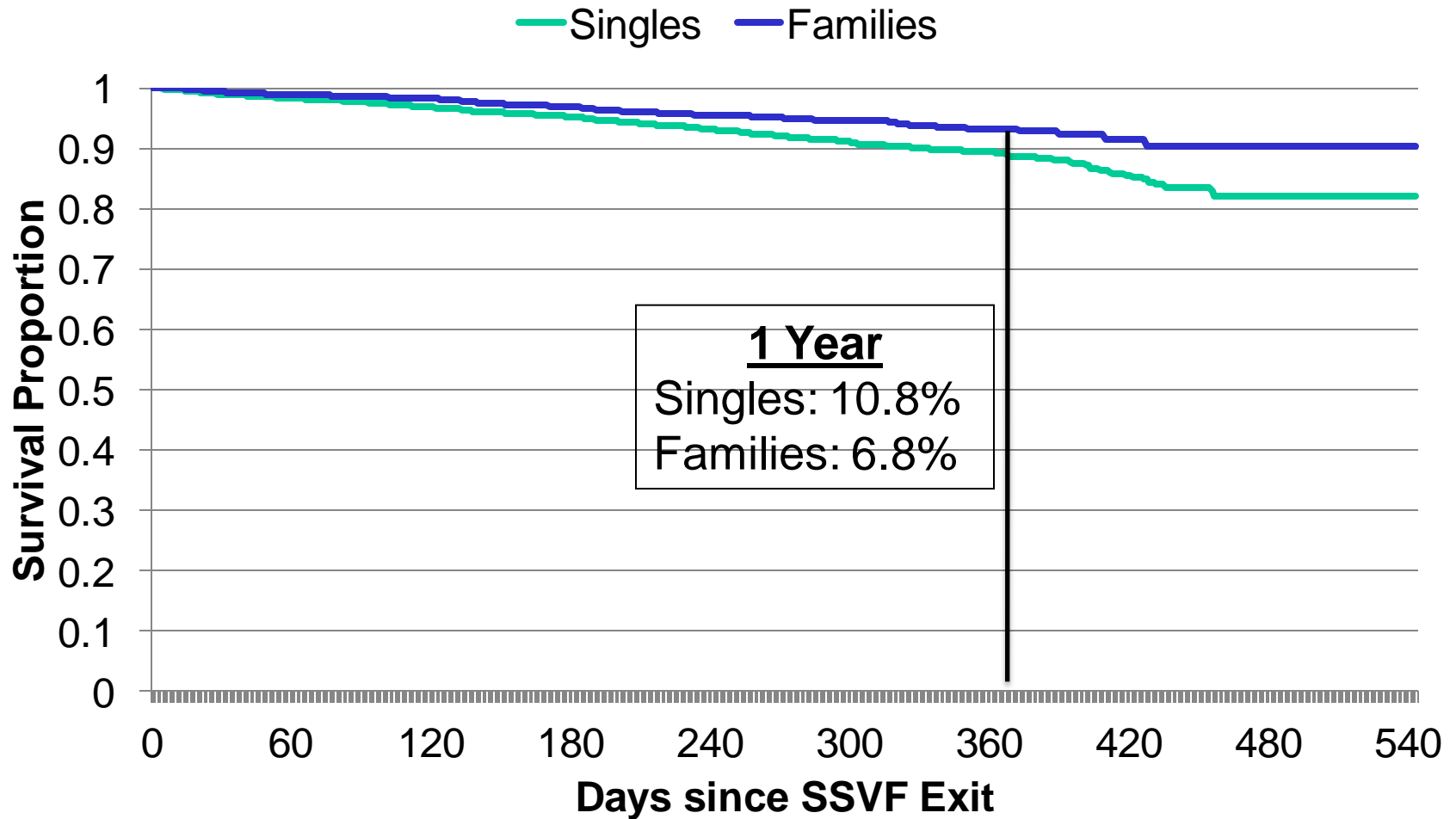


- Most common reason for being refused assistance is in adequate income, i.e. *being too high risk*.
- Yet prevention makes the most difference for those at highest risk. There is no level of risk that is too high.
- Must develop development sustainment plans to support no or very low income Veterans.
- Prevention: use of risk factors to screen in those w/most acute risk, screen out those w/fewer risk factors. Grantee to develop threshold score.
 - Serving smaller pool of families more intensively
 - Light touch services for other families



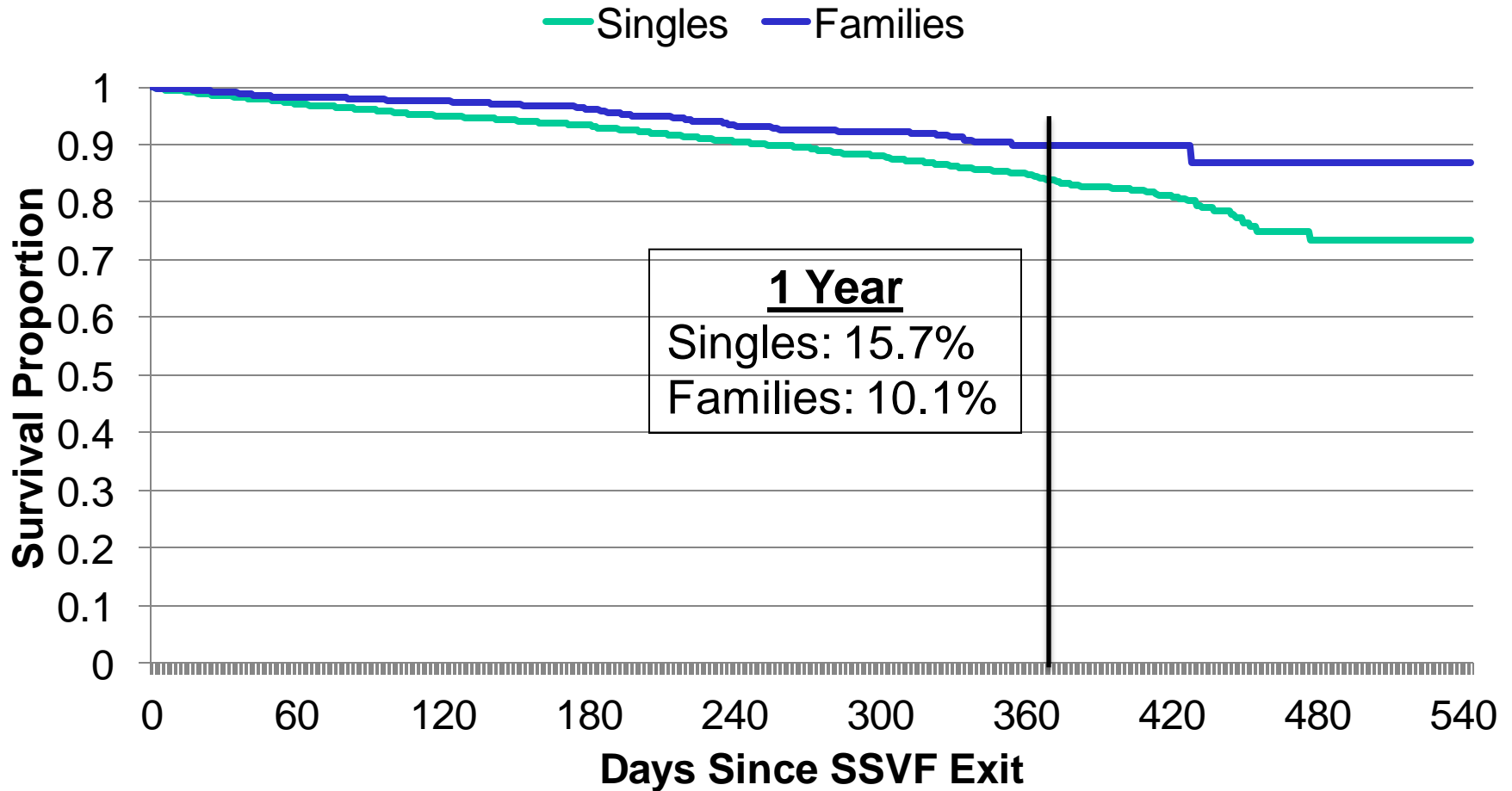
Results: Prevention

Next 2 slides courtesy Tom Byrnes, National Center





Results: Rapid Re-housing

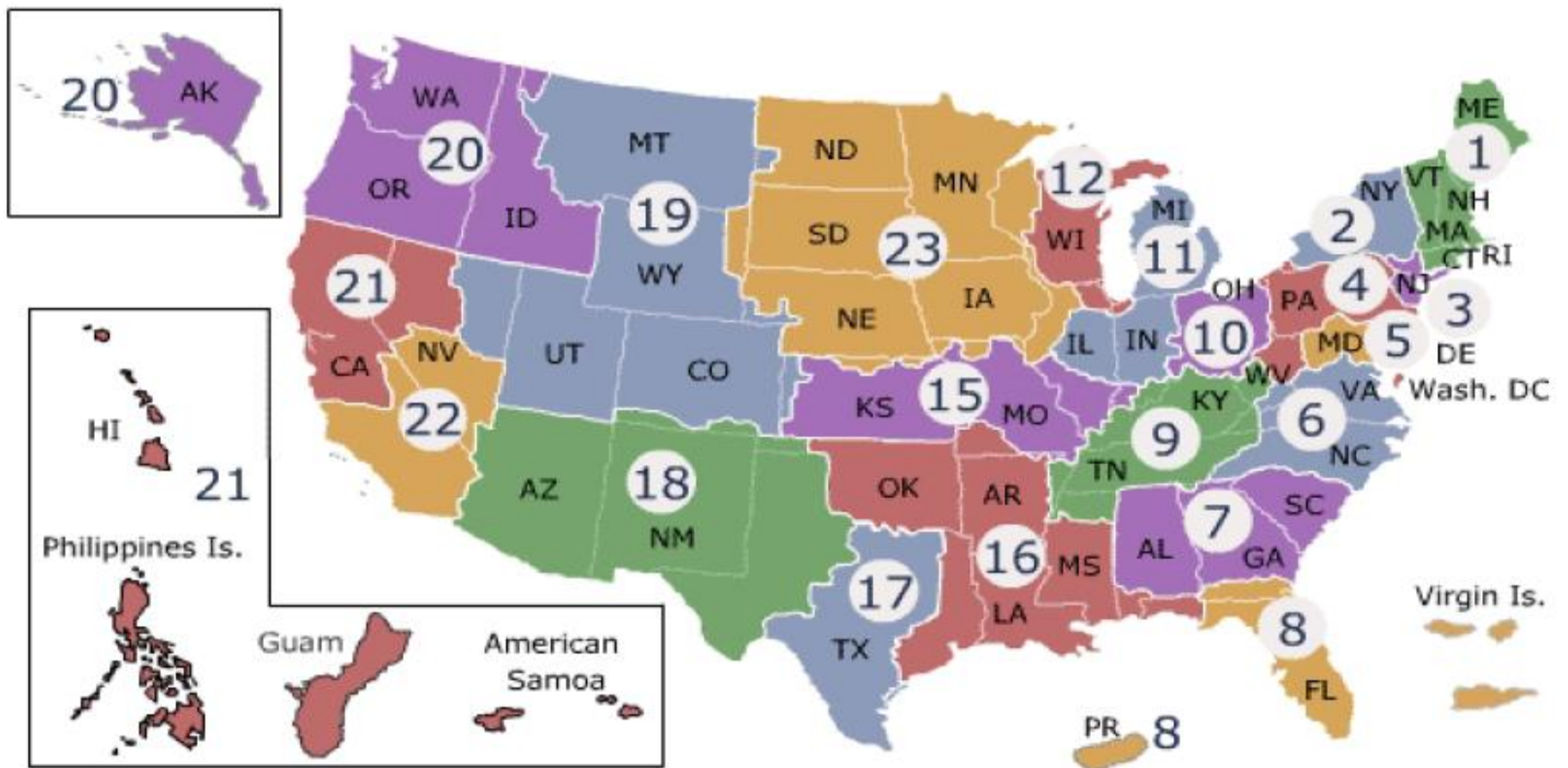




U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

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IV. Understanding VA Programs



VISN 1: VA New England Healthcare System
 VISN 2: VA Healthcare Network Upstate New York
 VISN 3: VA NY/NJ Veterans Healthcare Network
 VISN 4: VA Healthcare - VISN 4
 VISN 5: VA Capitol Health Care Network
 VISN 6: VA Mid-Atlantic Health Care Network
 VISN 7: VA Southeast Network
 VISN 8: VA Sunshine Healthcare Network
 VISN 9: VA Mid South Healthcare Network

VISN 12: VA Great Lakes Health Care System
 VISN 15: VA Heartland Network
 VISN 16: South Central VA Health Care Network
 VISN 17: VA Heart of Texas Health Care Network
 VISN 18: VA Southwest Health Care Network
 VISN 19: Rocky Mountain Network
 VISN 20: Northwest Network
 VISN 21: Sierra Pacific Network
 VISN 22: Desert Pacific Healthcare Network



Becoming A Student of Available Services VA's Alphabet Soup

- Veteran Integrated Service Network (VISN)
- Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC)
- Homeless Outreach (HCHV)
- National Call Center (NCCHV)
- Prevention (HCRV, VJO, SSVF, HUD-VA Pilot)
- Transitional Housing (GPD, CWT/TR, HCHV Contract Housing)
- Residential Rehab (RRTP)
- Voc Rehab (CWT)
- Permanent Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH)



A Continuum of Care (cont.)

Prevention	Outreach and Referral	Residential Treatment	Transitional Housing	Permanent Housing
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SSVF Prevention* 2. Veteran Justice Outreach (VJO) 3. Health Care for Re-Entry (HCRV) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Health Care for the Homeless (HCHV) 2. National Call Center (NCCHV) <p>-----</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vet Centers • Veterans Benefits (VBA) • VA Medical Centers (VHA) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. HCHV contracts 2. Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Programs (RRTPs) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Grant & Per Diem (GPD) 2. Compensated Work Therapy Transitional Residences (CWT/TR) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SSVF Rapid Re-housing* 2. HUD-VASH



- VBA provides services for homeless Veterans at all 56 regional offices. Claims expedited for homeless Veterans.
- VBA can provide disability benefits, educational assistance, home loans, insurance, and benefits for dependents.
 - ✓ Disability Benefits/General Information: 1-800-827-1000
 - ✓ Insurance: 1-800-669-8477
 - ✓ Education: 1-888-442-4551
 - ✓ Health Care Eligibility: 1-877-222-8382



- Community-based counseling centers located in all 50 states, DC, Puerto Rico, and Guam
- Provide readjustment counseling & outreach services to all Veterans who served in any combat zone;
- Staffed by small multi-disciplinary teams of dedicated providers, many of which are combat Veterans themselves.
- <http://www.vetcenter.va.gov/index.asp>





U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Administration

VI. Application Review



Application Review Process



* Equitable geographic distribution of grant funds, as practicable



Application Review Threshold Requirements

Threshold requirements:

- A. Application is submitted on time and is complete
- B. Applicant is a non-profit organization or consumer cooperative
- C. Proposed activities are eligible for funding
- D. Proposed participants are eligible to receive supportive services
- E. Applicant agrees to comply with the requirements in the Final Rule
- F. Applicant does not have an outstanding obligation to the Federal government that is in arrears and does not have an overdue or unsatisfactory response to an audit
- G. Applicant is not in default by failing to meet the requirements for any previous Federal assistance

Note: Applicants must receive at least 60 cumulative points and at least one point per category to receive a supportive services grant.



Application Review Scoring Criteria

Scoring Criteria:

Category	Points	Elements
A. Background, Experience, Qualifications and Past Performance	35	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Background and organizational history• Staff qualifications• Organizational qualifications and past performance• Experience working with Veterans
B. Program Concept and Supportive Services Plan	25	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Need for program• Outreach and screening plan• Program concept• Program implementation timeline• Collaboration and communication with VA• Ability to meet VA's requirements, goals, and objectives for the SSVF Program• Capacity to undertake program



Application Review Scoring Criteria (cont'd)

Scoring Criteria (cont'd)

Category	Points	Elements
C. Quality Assurance and Evaluation Plan	15	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Program evaluation•Monitoring•Remediation•Management and reporting
D. Financial Capability and Plan	15	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Organizational finances•Financial feasibility of program
E. Area and Community Linkages and Relations	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Area or community linkages•Past working relationships•Local presence and knowledge•Integration of linkages and program concept



- Follow exact formatting and submission requirements. Be sure to answer the questions in the SSVF application.
- Be as specific as possible, providing data (with citations) to support statements on need and services.
- There is limited response space in the application, so be focused. Use program design and data to demonstrate philosophy.



- Be sure to include required CoC and VA support letters for Priority 1. These letters are also encouraged for Priorities 2 and 3.
- Support letters do not count against page limits. Specificity greatly enhances value of such letters.



Application Advice on Organizational Capacity

- Clearly describe the experience of both your organization and sub-contractors. Include info on types of organizational experiences (ex. HPRP). Describe both breadth of experience, such as years of operation, number served, and success. Remember to demonstrate quality.
- Mention awards, accreditations, area leadership, other funding awards.
- Show that you and your partners have the capacity to meet the need.



Application Advice on Needs and Program Design

- Articulate needs based on data, not sentiment.
- Define both homeless and at-risk populations referencing data from Veterans Supplemental Report to the Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) as well as sources available from a range of sources: VA, HUD, census, and American Community Survey (ACS).
- VA goal is to end homelessness. Will your efforts help address this in your community?



Application Advice on Needs and Program Design

- Clearly link described need to program design. What models are you using to provide services (ex., Housing First, Critical Time Intervention, etc.) and why.
- What is your experience using these models- *be specific.*
- Demonstrate organizational experience directly and through the use of partners.



- What do you plan to measure? *Hint.* It must be measurable!
- Why have you selected the particular measure and target?
- What happens when/if you miss your target? Describe your quality improvement and remediation plan.



Application Advice on Outreach and Linkages

- Consider methods and environments where you can reach target those at-risk: housing courts, food pantries, shelters, TANF offices, etc.
- Outreach plan needs to reach entire service area described in application.
- Need a range of community linkages to have effective outreach and provide mandated services.
- Describe your working relationships with other community providers, providing details on extent. Get support letters with specific content.



- Website:
<http://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/SSVF.asp>
- Resources:
- Final Rule
- SSVF Data Collection Guide
- SSVF Program Fact Sheet
- SSVF FAQs
- SSVF University
- Community Resources:
www.endhomelessness.org & www.nchv.org



Email: SSVF@VA.gov

Phone: [\(877\)737-0111](tel:(877)737-0111)

Website:

www.va.gov/HOMELESS/SSVF.asp