



HUD-VA Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) Program Information

Federal Policy to Prevent and End Homelessness among Veterans

Program Overview

A joint program of the Departments of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and Veterans Affairs (VA), the HUD-VASH program provides permanent housing and ongoing treatment services to the harder-to-serve homeless mentally ill veterans and those suffering from substance abuse disorders. The VA screens homeless veterans for program eligibility and provides outreach, clinical care and ongoing case management services to enrollees. HUD allocates rental subsidies from its Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program to the VA, which then distributes them to enrollees.

Rigorous evaluation of the program indicates that this program and the approach of providing permanent housing with case management and other services significantly reduces days of homelessness for veterans plagued by serious mental illness and substance abuse disorders. HUD-VASH is the only housing assistance program within the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development targeted to any veteran population.

Recommendation

The National Alliance to End Homelessness urges Congress to support the recommendation of the Senate Transportation - Housing and Urban Development appropriations bill to provide \$75 million for Section 8 vouchers for the HUD-VASH program in fiscal year 2008, enough to house approximately 8,000 veterans.

In fiscal year 2009, Congress should fund 20,000 Section 8 vouchers for the HUD-VASH program and fund VA Health Care at a level approximately equal to the HUD appropriation. This will enable the VA to deliver the needed services which includes case management, treatment and support services.

Current Status

The HUD-VASH program began in 1992 under a memorandum of agreement between HUD and VA. Congress codified the program in the Homeless Veterans Comprehensive Assistance Act of 2001 (P.L. 107-95.)

Currently there are 1,780 vouchers. Congress has not provided any additional funding for five years. However, the most recent Senate appropriations bill for fiscal year 2008 would provide for \$75 million for this program, enough to house approximately 8,000 veterans.

Thanks to the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans for much of the information contained in this document.