



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

Federal Policy to Prevent and End Homelessness among Veterans

July 2008

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 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 provide \$75 million for Section 8 vouchers for the HUD-VASH program in fiscal year 2009, enough to house approximately 10,000 veterans.

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.)

In 2007 (fiscal year 2008), Congress increased the HUD-VASH program by \$75 million to house approximately 10,000 veterans. Prior to last year, there were 1,780 HUD-VASH vouchers, and Congress has not provided any additional funding for five years.

We urge Congress to make ending homelessness among veterans a top priority. No veteran should be homeless.

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