

HUD- Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH)

The HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) program combines Housing Choice Voucher rental assistance for homeless Veterans with case management and clinical services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). VA provides these services for participating Veterans at VA medical centers (VAMCs) and community-based outreach clinics.

In general, HUD-VASH vouchers are administered in accordance with the HCV tenant-based rental assistance regulations set forth at 24 CFR part 982. However, this section describes the waivers or alternative requirements that are exceptions to the normal HCV requirements.

- **Family Eligibility and Selection:**

HUD- VASH eligible families are homeless veterans and their families. VAHUD-VASH case managers will refer HUD-VASH eligible families to the CHA for the issuance of vouchers. The CHA must accept such referrals. The CHA does not have the authority to maintain a waiting list or apply local preferences for HUD-VASH vouchers.

VA HUD-VASH case managers will screen all families in accordance with VA screening criteria. The CHA relinquishes its authority to determine the eligibility of families in accordance with regular HCV program rules and CHA policies.

The CHA does not have the authority to screen any potentially eligible family members or deny assistance for any grounds permitted under 24 CFR §§982.552 and 982.553. However, the one exception to this is that the CHA is still required to prohibit admission if any member of the household is subject to a lifetime registration requirement under a state sex offender registration program. If the individual that is subject the lifetime registration requirement under a state sex offender program is not the homeless veteran, the family may be served if the family agrees to remove the sex offender from its family composition.

When adding a family member after the HUD-VASH family has been admitted to the program, the rules of 24 C.F.R. § 982.551(h)(2) apply. Other than the birth, adoption, or court-awarded custody of a child, the CHA must approve additional family members and may apply its regular screening criteria in doing so.

In regard to verifying Social Security numbers (SSNs) for homeless veterans and their family members, an original document issued by a federal or state government agency, which contains the name of the individual and the SSN of the individual along with other identifying information of the individual, is acceptable in accordance with 24 C.F.R. § 5.216(g). In the case of the homeless veteran, the CHA shall accept the Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD-214) or the VA-verified Application for Health Benefits (10-10EZ) as verification of SSN and shall not require the veteran to provide a SSN card. These documents shall also be accepted for proof-of-age purposes in lieu of birth

certificates or other CHA-required documentation.

- **Termination of Assistance:**

A HUD–VASH participant family shall not be terminated after admission, for a circumstance or activity that occurred before admission and was known to the CHA, but could not be considered at the time of admission due to the HUD–VASH Operating Requirements. The CHA can terminate the family’s assistance only for program violations that occur after the family’s admission to the voucher program.
- **Income Eligibility:**

The CHA determines income eligibility for HUD–VASH families in accordance with 24 CFR § 982.201. However, income-targeting requirements do not apply.
- **Initial Term of the Voucher:**

HUD-VASH vouchers have an initial search term of at least 120 days.
- **Initial Lease Term:**

To provide a greater range of housing opportunities for HUD–VASH voucher holders, initial leases may be less than 12 months; therefore, both section 8(o)(7)(A) of the 1937 Act (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)(7)(A)) and 24 CFR 982.309(a)(2)(ii) are waived.
- **Ineligible Housing:**

HUD–VASH families will be permitted to live on the grounds of a VA facility in units developed to house homeless veterans. Therefore, 24 CFR 982.352(a)(5) and 983.53(a)(2) which prohibits units on the physical grounds of a medical, mental, or similar public or private institution, is waived for that purpose only.
- **Mobility and Portability of HUD-VASH Vouchers:**

An eligible family that is issued a HUD–VASH voucher must receive case management services provided by the partnering VAMC or Community-Based Outpatient Clinics (“CBOC”). Therefore, special mobility and portability procedures must be established. HUD–VASH participant families may reside only in those jurisdictional areas that are accessible to case management services as determined by VA HUD–VASH case managers at the partnering VAMC or CBOC. If the family no longer requires case management, there are no portability restrictions and normal portability rules apply.
- **Case Management Requirements:**

As a condition of receiving HCV rental assistance, a HUD–VASH-eligible family must receive the case management services as required from the VAMC or CBOC. Therefore, a HUD–VASH participant family’s HCV assistance must be terminated for failure to participate, without good cause, in case management as verified by the VAMC or CBOC. However, a VAMC or CBOC determination that

the participant family no longer requires case management is not grounds for termination of assistance. In such a case, at its option, the CHA may offer the family continued HCV assistance through one of its regular vouchers, to free up the HUD-VASH voucher for another eligible family referred by the VAMC or CBOC. If the CHA has no voucher to offer, the family will retain its HUD-VASH voucher until such time as the PHA has an available voucher for the family.