

Nantucket Veterans contact

Jeanne Smith 401-639-3639 or David Gaeta 781-760-2068

Office of Patient Care Services
Office of Mental Health Services



Department of
Veterans Affairs

Fact Sheet

May 2010

Housing and Urban Development – Veterans Affairs Supported Housing (HUD-VASH) Program

Homelessness is a significant national problem and there are many reasons individuals become homeless. Homelessness is an economic problem often caused by unemployment, disability or such low income that housing is not affordable. Some homeless individuals have disabling mental health, substance abuse or disabling physical health challenges which may lead to and/or compound their homeless situation. Homeless families are a growing part of the homeless population.

It is currently estimated that there are 107,000 homeless Veterans on any given night and twice as many Veterans experience homelessness during a year. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has implemented a Five Year Plan to end homelessness which includes an array of services that offer a full continuum of care to VA eligible homeless Veterans. HUD-VASH is one of the service programs within the VA homeless continuum of care and is a program that specifically ends homelessness among our nation's Veterans.

The HUD-VASH Program is a collaborative partnership between the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Department of Veterans Affairs with the goal of providing permanent supported housing to homeless Veterans. The HUD-VASH program began in 1992 at 19 VA medical centers (VAMC) and nearly 600 vouchers were issued. In 1994 and 1995, 16 additional sites were added, and the program received approximately 1200 more vouchers.

On December 26, 2007, Congress authorized 10,000 Housing Choice Section 8 Vouchers under the 2008 Consolidated Appropriations Act, Public Law 110-161 Congress also authorized 10,000 vouchers in FY 2009 and yet another 10,000 vouchers in 2010. These vouchers are allocated to local Public Housing Authority (PHA) partners connected to VA Medical Facilities. Additionally, VA has been authorized to hire as many as 900 case managers to provide supportive services to Veterans participating in the program.

Housing Choice vouchers provided by HUD permits affordable supported permanent housing for homeless Veterans and their families. Homeless Veterans must meet HUD-VASH criteria and be willing to actively participate in their program of recovery

from homelessness with a case manager, who delivers supportive, housing focused services. Case management services may include activities as care coordination with the VA Medical Center, money management skill development, apartment search assistance, and other services focused on the Veteran's housing stability. The HUD-VASH program particularly targets the most vulnerable, chronically homeless Veterans, but when appropriate, also includes homeless Veterans with dependents, and other vulnerable homeless Veterans.

The case manager and PHA work together to lower potential barriers and make the process as streamlined as possible. The goal of the program is to help the Veteran live independently in safe community housing with his or her family and assist the Veteran family in recovery from homelessness and factors contributing to homelessness.

The HUD-VASH program's approach has been statistically proven to maintain previously homeless Veterans in safe, permanent, independent housing situations in the community while concurrently addressing those concerns that threaten the stability of the Veteran's housing. Veteran participants are encouraged to return to gainful employment, to develop new social connections, and to remain permanently housed, either with the support of the HUD-VASH vouchers or, potentially, completely independent of the program. Vouchers no longer needed by the Veteran family are returned to the program for another homeless Veteran's use.

HUD- VASH Programs

- Approximately 310 VA facilities (including Community Based Outpatient Clinics) have HUD-VASH programs
- HUD-VASH vouchers are "portable" as long as the Veteran is able to receive VA case management services
- Case management is a requirement of the program. Eligible homeless Veterans agree to case management service as a condition of participation in the program
- A HUD-VASH voucher serves the homeless Veteran and his or her immediate family members
- Apply with the Health Care for Homeless Veterans Program or with the HUD-VASH Program

Web links for more information:

<http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/programs/hcv/vash/>

<http://www1.va.gov/HOMELESS/index.asp>

Nantucket Veterans contact

Jeanne Smith 401-639-3639 or David Gaeta 781-760-2068

What is HUD/VASH?

- A joint program between the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that provides housing and case management services.
- VA Medical Centers (VAMC) provide:
 - Full range long term clinical and case management services
- The Public Housing Agencies (PHA) provide:
 - Housing assistance in the form of a Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher.

Who is eligible for HUD/VASH?

Referral to HUD/VASH is through the VAMC Homeless Services Program at the participating VAMC. Veterans must be VA Eligible.

- HUD/VASH participation will be available to veterans – both individuals and families - who meet VAMC health care eligibility and are “homeless.”
- Participants must be homeless veterans who have been: 1) living on the streets; 2) in emergency shelters; 3) referred from McKinney-Vento funded transitional housing programs; 4) referred from other VA homeless residential programs; or are 5) veterans who will soon be evicted from a private dwelling *or* who will be discharged from an institution where the veteran has been a resident for more than 30 or more consecutive days, *and* where no suitable, affordable housing has been identified
- Veterans must agree to accept case management services and actively follow an established treatment

regime over a period of time determined by their VAMC case manager.

- Veteran must meet the HUD voucher income guidelines, and neither the veteran nor a member of his/her household can be on the lifetime sex offender registry.

How does the Voucher help with housing?

- The Housing Choice Voucher provides a rent subsidy that generally covers rental costs in excess of up to 40% of the veteran's income for the first year.

Process:

- The Public Housing Agency (PHA) will verify the veteran's income, issue the voucher, and meet with the veteran and their HUD/VASH case manager to explain how the program works.
- The Case Manager will assist the veteran in locating suitable rental housing in a city or town of the veteran's choice, provided it is located within reasonable distance (generally one hour) of the VAMC.
- The PHA will inspect the apartment to make sure it is in good condition.
- If the landlord agrees to lease the apartment to the veteran, and it meets the standards of their Case Manager, the landlord and the veteran sign the lease.
- The veteran, assisted by their Case Manager, moves into the apartment.
- The Veteran continues to receive services from their Case Manager.

Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH)

Administered in Conjunction with the
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban
Development (HUD)

Program of Massachusetts



HUD/VASH Partner Agencies

Bedford VAMC

Department of Housing and Community
Development (DHCD)

Chelmsford Housing Authority

Boston VAMC

Boston Housing Authority

Cambridge Housing Authority

Braintree Housing Authority

Worcester Housing Authority

Northampton VAMC

Northampton Housing Authority

Providence, RI VAMC

New Bedford Housing Authority



Nantucket Veterans contact

Jeanne Smith 401-639-3639 or David Gaeta 781-760-2068

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

David R. Gaeta, LICSW
VISN 1, HUD/VASH Coordinator

200 Springs Rd, Bldg 16
Bedford VA Hospital
Bedford, MA. 01730

781-687-3436-office

fax-781-687-3300
david.gaeta@va.gov
781-760-2068-cell



CONTACT INFORMATION

Bedford VAMC

Donna Teas, Prgm. Asst. / 781- 687- 2374
Ken Link, LICSW / 781-983-8977

Boston VAMC

Main Number / 857-364-4444
Judith Lipton, Supervisor / 857-364-5433
Edward Fleming / 617-719-2449

Causeway St. CBOC

Stephanie Makary / 617-719-2463

Brockton CBOC

Jason McCall / 617-839-9499

Northampton VAMC

Susan White, LICSW / 413-584-4040, Ex. 2139
Roger Chabot, LICSW / 413-584-4040, Ex. 2612

Worcester CBOC

Michael Durben / 617-839-3029

Pittsfield CBOC

Christie Clovis / 413-584-4040, Ex. 4021

Springfield CBOC

Steve Flynn, LICSW / 413-731-6000, Ex. 6113
Luz Marciano, LICSW / 413-731-6000, Ex. 6114

Providence, RI VAMC

Kerrin Charpentier / 401-265-4114
Natalie Burrows / 401-273-7100, Ex. 1674

Hyannis CBOC

Jeanne Smith / 401-639-3639

VISN 1, HUD/VASH Coordinator

David R. Gaeta, LICSW / 781-760-2068

A program of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban
Development and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

www.hud.gov/offices/pih/programs/hcv/vash/

September 22, 2011

Nantucket Veterans contact

Jeanne Smith 401-639-3639 or David Gaeta 781-760-2068