



# HUD-VASH & HOMELESS NATIVE VETERANS

# Overview

- HUD VASH Appropriations Language
- Traditional HUD VASH
- HUD VASH Demonstration Program for Native Veterans
  - Participant questions
  - Feedback

# **2015 APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE**

HUD VASH Demonstration Program

for Native Veterans [HR83, Title II, 603(5)(6)]

# FY 2015 Appropriation Language

- Language seeks to fix the challenges of HUD VASH by
  - Creating an **undetermined** set aside for tribes
  - Demonstration program provides for homeless or ***at risk of homelessness Native Veterans “on or near” reservation***
  - Includes rental assistance and associated administrative costs for recipients eligible under NAHASDA

# Appropriations Language – cont.

- Funds to be awarded based on **administrative capacity, need or other options** identified in:
  - Implementation notice published in Federal Register v. NOFA within 180 days
- Sec. of HUD & VA will coordinate with block grant recipients, any other appropriate tribal orgs on:
  - Design of such Demonstration project
  - Ensure the delivery of supportive services

# Appropriations Language – cont.

- Secretary of HUD and VA shall coordinate with block grant recipients and other tribal organizations on the design
- Emphasis on ability to access supportive services
- Regular reporting
- Assistance made available will continue upon turnover

# **OVERVIEW OF CURRENT HUD VASH**

# HUD VASH Background

- Began in 2008 and created a partnership between HUD & VA.
- It targets the most vulnerable Homeless Veterans by combining healthcare and housing for homeless Veterans:
  - VA provides case management and supportive services
  - HUD provides rental housing assistance
- Housing First Approach

# ELIGIBILITY

Current HUD-VASH requires:

- Be eligible for VA Health Care/honorably discharged
- Be determined homeless by VA Caseworker
- Veteran must need and agree to participate in VA Case Management/Supportive Services
- Meet HUD income limits
- Not be registered as lifetime sex offender

# PROCESS

- Veteran is seen by a VA Case Manager for eligibility:
  - to be homeless
  - to need supportive services
- VA then refers Veteran to a nearby PHA that manages the HUD-VASH vouchers.
- PHA determines eligibility and issues a housing choice voucher to Vet for rental assistance.

# Process

## VA Case Management Eligibility

Is Vet eligible for VA services? Is the Vet a vulnerable population? Are they homeless?

If yes, then referred to local participating PHA

## PHA Determines Eligibility

Is Vet income eligible? Is Vet on the national sex offender registry?

If vet meets income requirements and is not on registry, then

## Voucher Issued

Veteran searches for unit

# How HUD-VASH Assistance is Currently Allocated to PHAs

- HUD uses the Point-In-Time (PIT) count of homeless and VA case management data to determine a level of need.
- VAMCs are awarded HUD-VASH based on this need.
- PHAs meeting administrative requirements are invited to participate in HUD-VASH and partner with local VAMC.

# Barriers to HUD-VASH in Indian Country

- Native American Vets living in tribal areas are eligible but HUD VASH is not reaching them.
- NAHASDA prohibits tribes from receiving housing choice vouchers.
- NAHASDA rents don't allow for voucher subsidy.
- VAMC and PHA may be a distance away from tribal area.
- Vet has to meet the definition of chronically homeless or homeless.

# Native HUD VASH

Demonstration Program

# Native HUD VASH Demonstration

- Authorized by the FY 2015 Appropriations Act (CROMNIBUS)
- HUD has allocated \$4 million
- Tribes/TDHE's eligible to receive HUD-VASH assistance
- Funds awarded on administrative capacity, need, and other criteria
- Vets can be "at-risk" of homelessness

# Native HUD-VASH Demonstration

- Vets must live “on or near” reservation
- Regular reporting
- HUD has waiver authority
- Implementation notice published in Federal Register by June 14, 2015

# Tribal Comment Period

- Dear Tribal Leader signed January 26, 2015
- 30-day comment period ending February 25, 2015
- Submit electronic comments to:  
[tribalHUDVASHcomments@hud.gov](mailto:tribalHUDVASHcomments@hud.gov)

# Mailing Address

Written comments can be mailed to:

Nick Zolkowski

HUD – Office of Native American Programs

451 Seventh Street SW – Room 4126

Washington, DC 20410

# QUESTIONS

- How do tribes want to use vouchers: Tenant Based or Project Based?
- What data can be used to determine need?
- What criteria should be used to determine funding?
- What medical providers – other than VA and IHS – exist in tribal areas that currently or could potentially care for Veterans?
- Should tribes be invited to participate based on national need data or compete for funds?

# QUESTIONS

- How should assistance be targeted in a way that creates new housing?
- What rent structures should be used - FMR, Operating costs, or other indicators?
- Does your tribal currently work with the VAMC – in what ways? Are there obstacles that your Veterans face in getting treatment or care?

# QUESTIONS

- What role can IHS, IHS Funded hospitals and tribal clinics play in assisting the VA in providing supportive services to Native Veterans?
- What other medical providers or supportive service providers exist in your community to potentially serve Native Veterans?

# QUESTIONS

- Does your tribe have a way to estimate the current number of homeless persons and/or Veterans in your community?
- HUD is required by law to track HUD VASH assistance and how it is used? What is the best way to work with tribes to report on assistance?

# QUESTIONS

- What, if any statutory and regulatory waivers should HUD issue to ensure effective delivery and administration of assistance under this program?
- Please consider another challenges or opportunities you identify with a tribal HUD VASH program?