

Conference Call Highlights
Grant and Per Diem Program Operational Call
December 10, 2012

1. The maximum per diem rate has increased to \$41.90. The agency must apply for the increase and have sufficient costs to support the increased rate. The new worksheet and instructions are on the GPD Provider website at http://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/GPD_ProviderWebsite.asp.
2. The Indirect Cost Rate Agreement Guide is now on the GPD Provider website. The GPD Auditor has developed trainings which will be offered December 4-14, 2012 to go over the ICRA process. A copy of the Guide and information on Indirect Rates is available at <http://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/ICRA.asp>.
3. The Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Program Notice of Fund Availability (NOFA) announced \$300 million funding. Applications are due by February 1, 2013. SSVF funding is focused on prevention and rapid re-housing for Veterans and their families. More information about the program is available on their website at <http://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/SSVF.asp>. A participant on the call asked a question about combining SSVF and GPD resources. Jeff Quarles reminded everyone that the programs should not duplicate services. The GPD Program Office will arrange for John Kuhn, Director of SSVF, to attend a future call. Below is additional information on the coordination of GPD and SSVF services.
4. Jeff Quarles reminded all participants that Daniel Eke and Associates (DE&A) is still conducting financial reviews of GPD providers.
 - a) The reviews started about two years and will continue through FY 2013. The reviews will identify high per diem rates. Once our office receives the report from DE&A, we will send that report to the provider. Mr. Quarles reminded everyone to monitor their per diem estimates to ensure they are accurate.
 - b) There were many reviews that indicated the Federal Financial Report (SF 425) needs to be re-completed because the form was not properly filled out. DE&A will be contacting providers directly concerning this issue.
 - c) The DE&A review of capital grant funding was done in FY 2012. The reports are currently being sent out by our office.
 - d) There will also be additional reviews sampling new per diem rate change requests.
5. There will be six Continuing Education Series conference calls starting in February 21, 2013 at 2:00 pm EST. Calls will be held every other month. Some topics to be covered include Substance Abuse and Dual Diagnosis; Legal Issue; and Women Veterans. These training sessions are intended for the front-line staff. Our office will send a reminder via broadcast fax. If your agency is not receiving the faxes, please contact the GPD Program Office and ask for a Contact Sheet so we can update your agency's information.
6. Jeff took questions from the participants.
 - a) There was discussion regarding establishing a separate conference call just for service centers. Service centers have different issues/concerns from Transitional Housing.

The GPD Program Office will schedule this call on a quarterly basis. Providers who operate service centers will be notified via broadcast fax.

- b) There was a question regarding families in the GPD program and whether or not agencies can be paid more per diem to serve families. Mr. Quarles mentioned that the per diem is tied to legislation and it can't exceed the state domiciliary rate.
 - c) There was a question regarding buying furniture for the new TIP projects. There are statutory limits on what per diem can help pay for. The cost of furniture may be an operational expense built into the overall budget, but that needs to be accounted for during the FY reporting period once the project is operational.
 - d) There was a question regarding security deposits in the TIP projects. Security deposits are not allowed to be charged to the Veteran. Once the Veteran is transitioned into permanent housing and no longer in the GPD Program, he/she may be charged the deposit.
 - e) For information concerning sub-leases, please contact Susan Langer.
7. The next GPD Provider Operational Call is scheduled for January 14, 2013 at 3:00 pm EST. Call in number is 1-800-767-1750; access code 17663. Our office does send a broadcast fax reminding providers of the monthly call.

Coordination of SSVF and GPD services

- I. SSVF support for GPD participants when GPD *Length of Stay* is less than 3 months
 - a. GPD will continue to provide case management as described in their grant agreement.
 - b. SSVF providers should coordinate care with GPD with a focus on identifying housing, negotiating leases with landlords, and providing services allowed under SSVF (such as legal services).
 - c. SSVF can develop a housing plan with supports that include financial assistance.

- II. Appropriate uses of SSVF support for GPD participants whose *Length of Stay* exceeds 3 months
 - a. For GPD discharges with lengths of stay exceeding 3 months, the focus of SSVF should be limited. GPD participants are expected to save sufficient funds while in GPD to facilitate their move into housing. SSVF services can begin as GPD participants are discharged.
 - b. For those participants facing particularly high housing barriers, SSVF may provide limited, “bridge” financial assistance to GPD participants moving into housing. Since these funds are limited, SSVF grantees are encouraged to set aside a specific amount from their temporary financial assistance budget for this need and communicate this budget to local GPD providers. This will help GPD prioritize referrals. For example, the SSVF might budget enough funds to “bridge” 10 moves in full or 20 moves at a half rate with the Veteran or other sources paying the difference.
 - 1) Remember “but for” criteria – “but for” the provision of SSVF assistance, the Veteran would be homeless. Financial assistance is only provided if other available resources are insufficient to pay for move in expenses.
 - 2) SSVF temporary financial assistance can only be provided to third parties. GPD will need to provide the name of the landlord along with an executed lease agreement for any rental assistance.
 - 3) GPD service plan should include a sustainability plan demonstrating that Veteran has or will have sufficient resources to maintain housing.

- III. Inappropriate uses of SSVF support for GPD participants
 - a. GPD case management services include verifying eligibility, developing a plan for transition to the community including providing assistance to obtain permanent housing, acting as a liaison with other VA services, and linking Veterans to community resources – in short responsibilities very similar to SSVF case management.
 - 1) SSVF should accept GPD confirmation of eligibility. It is not necessary for SSVF to again prove eligibility. GPD referrals should still come to SSVF agency with documentation of eligibility, such as the DD214, proof of income eligibility, and a copy of the existing service plan (homeless status can be assumed for all GPD referrals).
 - 2) GPD will assess participants and develop service plans; SSVF should not recreate these.
 - 3) Service plans for Veterans, including all linkages to benefits and needed community referrals are the responsibility of GPD case managers and should not be duplicated by SSVF grantees.
 - b. The GPD provider is responsible for identifying and securing housing. SSVF grantees should not be involved with
 - 1) Unit identification and housing search
 - 2) Negotiating security deposits, arrears, etc.