

Operational Call Highlights
January 12, 2009
VA Grant/Per Diem (GPD) Program

- Participants were reminded that this call is for the organizations that were awarded funding under the GPD Program and are operational. The call is scheduled for the second Monday of the month, 3:00 Eastern Time.
- It is expected that VA will publish NOFA's for the following in 2009: Capital Grant, Technical Assistance Grant and Special Need Renewal funding. VA hopes to announce the NOFA's early in the calendar year.
- The current maximum per diem rate is \$34.40. Agencies must submit the Per Diem Rate Request Form in order to apply for an increase. If the increase is approved your agency will be sent a Per Diem Action Sheet indicating the approved rate and effective date. Providers may not bill at the increased rate until the Per Diem Action Sheet is issued.
- Agencies were reminded that they are required to submit their SF 269's within 90 days after the end of their fiscal year to document incurred costs. In order to receive a per diem rate increase agencies must be current on all SF 269 submissions. All of these forms and instructions are available on the GPD Provider Website at <http://www1.va.gov/homeless/page.cfm?pg=35>.
- Providers should be coordinating with their liaison to schedule their annual program inspections between January and March. Please review your proposals, especially regarding the data demonstrating that you've met program objectives. Additionally, part of the inspection this year will include a review of emergency response plans. These plans should be in-line with your area emergency response and the designated city, county, or state Emergency Management Coordinator.
- Reviewed regulations regarding resident rent. Rent payments may not exceed 30 percent of the resident's monthly income after deducting medical expenses, child care expenses, court ordered child support payments, or other court ordered payments. Additionally programs should have written policies and procedures with regard to the charging of rent and what the maximum rent payment is. This maximum rent should typically not exceed the HUD FMR for that type of housing in your area.
- Utilization rates at several programs have been low. Participants on the call discussed methods to increase utilization through outreach to community agencies and coordination with VA medical centers. Providers were reminded that as part of their original grant application they outlined their outreach plan for how they would fill the beds with veterans. While the local VA medical center may make referrals to your program it is not their responsibility to fill your beds. Programs should engage a variety of community resources to outreach to homeless veterans.
- The call on February 9th is canceled. The next call is scheduled for March 9th, 2009 at 3:00 Eastern Time. You will receive a fax reminder of the call and the dial-in number.