

**The following questions and answers are provided to understand implementation of the HUD-VASH program. For your convenience, they are grouped together by topic.**

<b>Eligible Veterans to be Served in HUD-VASH</b>	
<b>Question</b>	<b>Answer</b>
1. Who is eligible to be served by HUD-VASH?	<p>Veterans who meet VA health care eligibility requirements and who meet HUD's definition of "homeless", <u>with their families</u>, are eligible to apply for housing choice voucher assistance through the HUD-VASH program.</p> <p>Eligible veterans must need and agree to participate in case management services provided by the VA in order to maintain adequate independent living in the community.</p> <p>Participants can be homeless veterans who have been living on the streets, in emergency shelters, referred from Mc-Kinney-Vento funded transitional housing or from other VA homeless residential programs.</p>
2. Who is considered homeless?	<p>A person is considered homeless only when he/she resides in one of the three places described below:</p> <p>(1) places not meant for human habitation, such as cars, parks, sidewalks, and abandoned buildings;</p> <p>(2) an emergency shelter; or</p> <p>(3) transitional housing for homeless persons and who originally came from the streets or emergency shelter.</p> <p>If a person is in one of the three categories listed above, but most recently spent less than 30 days in a jail or institution, he/she continues to qualify as coming from one of these categories.</p> <p>In addition to coming from the above three categories, HUD-VASH may also serve veterans experiencing the following circumstances:</p> <p>(4) eviction within a week from a private dwelling unit and no subsequent residence has been identified and the person lacks the resources and support networks needed to obtain housing;</p> <p>(5) discharge within a week from an institution in which the person has been a resident for 30 or more consecutive days, no subsequent residence has been identified and he/she lacks resources and support networks that would be available to assist with securing housing.</p>
3. Does HUD-VASH serve persons at risk of becoming homeless?	<p>No, except for situations 4 and 5 described in Question 1 above.</p> <p>By law, only those persons who are homeless may be served by the HUD-VASH program.</p> <p>Persons at risk of becoming homeless, including persons who are "doubled up," or persons who are "near homelessness," should be referred to another funding source.</p> <p>HUD administers the Emergency Shelter Grants (ESG) program that can fund homelessness prevention activities. A variety of other programs, such as Section 8, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME, serve low-income persons who may be at risk of becoming homeless due to poor housing conditions, overcrowding or other reasons.</p> <p>Contact your local HUD field office for more information on these programs.</p>

<p>4. Will a homeless veteran be denied assistance to obtain a HCV rental unit if the veteran has a criminal history or spent time in jail or prison?</p>	<p>The VA Medical Center will screen all veteran families in accordance with its screening criteria (which includes eligibility and appropriateness for participation).</p> <p>By agreeing to administer the HUD-VASH program, the PHA is relinquishing its authority to determine the eligibility of families in accordance with regular HCV program rules and PHA policies.</p> <p>It should be noted that PHAs will still be required to prohibit admission if any household member is subject to a lifetime registration requirement under a state sex offender registration program.</p> <p>However, under the HUD-VASH program, PHAs will not have the authority to screen potentially eligible families or deny assistance for any grounds such as broad denial for violations of the HCV program requirements or specific denial for those with a criminal or substance abuse history.</p>
<p>5. Are veterans served under this program required to have chronic mental illnesses or chronic substance abuse disorders?</p>	<p>No, this HUD-VASH program <b>does not</b> require a chronic mental illness or chronic substance abuse disorder in order to qualify.</p> <p>This is in contrast to the earlier version of the HUD-VASH program of the early 1990s.</p> <p>HUD has waived the requirement that only homeless veterans with chronic mental illness or chronic substance use disorders are eligible for VASH vouchers, and that treatment for these disorders is a condition of receiving assistance.</p> <p>However, eligible homeless veterans must need and participate in a case management program designed to support independent living skills and recovery from the issues that led to homelessness.</p> <p>All homeless veterans are eligible for this program, including returning veterans who participated in Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation Enduring Freedom (OIF/OEF), excluding homeless veterans that are subject to a lifetime registration requirement under a state sex offender registration program.</p>
<p>6. How do I apply for HUD-VASH?</p>	<p>HUD-VASH case managers take referrals from all sources – self-referral of the Veteran, referral from community organizations, agencies or private citizens, referral from other VA programs, and referral from HUD-VASH outreach contacts.</p> <p>Most VA programs have a Homeless Program. The HUD-VASH Program is one component of Homeless Programs at most VA Medical Centers.</p>
<p><b>Allocation of Vouchers</b></p>	
<p><b>Question</b></p>	<p><b>Answer</b></p>
<p>1. How did VA and HUD determine the allocation of vouchers?</p>	<p>VA, in consultation with HUD, took into account the population of homeless veterans needing services in the area, the number of homeless veterans served by the homeless programs at each VA Medical Center (VAMC) during FY 2006, FY 2007, and FY 2008, the geographic distribution, and VA case management resources.</p> <p>The number of HUD-VASH vouchers awarded to each PHA was determined by HUD and VA.</p> <p>Approximately 35 rental vouchers were awarded for each professional, full-time HUD-VASH case manager either already in place or to be hired at the local VAMC.</p> <p>HUD-VASH vouchers may be reallocated in the future based on need and usage.</p>

<p>2. How can I find out the number of vouchers that were allocated for my jurisdiction?</p>	<p>To find out how many vouchers have been allocated for a jurisdiction, go to <a href="http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/programs/hcv/vash/index.cfm">http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/programs/hcv/vash/index.cfm</a></p> <p>Click on "VA Sites and PHAs"</p>
<p><b>HUD Website Information</b></p>	
<p><b>Question</b></p>	<p><b>Answer</b></p>
<p>1. Where can I get the operating requirements?</p>	<p>(1) PIH HUD-VASH Operating Requirements – Complete Version:  <a href="http://www.hud.gov/utilities/intercept.cfm?offices/pih/programs/hcv/vash/docs/notice512.pdf(2)">http://www.hud.gov/utilities/intercept.cfm?offices/pih/programs/hcv/vash/docs/notice512.pdf(2)</a></p> <p>PIH (Headquarters) HUD-VASH Questions and Answers:  <a href="http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/programs/hcv/vash/docs/hudvashqa.pdf">http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/programs/hcv/vash/docs/hudvashqa.pdf</a></p>
<p>2. Where can I get more information?</p>	<p>MS PowerPoint slides related to HUD-VASH Satellite Broadcasts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• September 19, 2008:  <a href="http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/programs/hcv/vash/docs/brdcst20080919.ppt">http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/programs/hcv/vash/docs/brdcst20080919.ppt</a></li> <li>• May 8, 2008:  <a href="http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/programs/hcv/vash/docs/cm.ppt">http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/programs/hcv/vash/docs/cm.ppt</a>  <a href="http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/programs/hcv/vash/docs/oprq.ppt">http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/programs/hcv/vash/docs/oprq.ppt</a></li> </ul> <p>Please go to HUD's Webcast webpage to view the actual broadcasts.</p>
<p>3. Where can I find out the income limits for my area?</p>	<p>HUD publishes the income limits annually. The link below will provide you with the FY 09 income limits by geographical area.</p> <p><a href="http://www.huduser.org/datasets/il/il09/">http://www.huduser.org/datasets/il/il09/</a></p>
<p>4. What is Special Armed Forces Pay and is it excluded income?</p>	<p><b>“Special Armed Forces Pay, 24 CFR 5.609(c)(7):</b> The special pay to a family member serving in the Armed Forces who is exposed to hostile fire.  <b>Example:</b> Extra pay received for peace keeping duty in Kosovo.” (HUD website, below). This pay is excluded income.</p> <p>Please see the below link for more information on income verification and exclusions.</p> <p><a href="http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/publications/notices/01/pih200-15.pdf">http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/publications/notices/01/pih200-15.pdf</a> 5.609</p>