Grant & Per Diem (GPD) Program
VHA Homeless Programs

Helpful Practices: Decreasing Length of Stay/Increasing Exits to Permanent Housing

- Initiate permanent housing planning with the Veteran immediately upon program admission.

- Work closely with Veterans to remove barriers to permanent housing attainment (e.g., ordering credit report and working to resolve issues, linking to financial resources, clearing any outstanding criminal background errors, or outstanding issues).

- Secure birth certificate, Social Security card, income statements and other documents necessary for securing permanent housing upfront.

- Enhance and improve housing navigation and landlord engagement services with training and specialized support from the liaison as needed.

- Employ intentional case management techniques to assist the Veteran with attaining permanent housing. This might include taking the Veteran apartment viewing, assisting with application completion, helping make calls to landlords.

- Collaborate with VA resources to accelerate transitions to permanent housing. Strategies include:

    - SSVF Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) and Shallow Subsidy

    - HUD-VASH Case Management Collaborative

    - Bridge Housing model coordination with HUD-VASH and SSVF

    - Identify barriers and engage in proactive planning with your GPD liaison to coordinate increased engagement with HUD-VASH, SSVF, and other prospective housing opportunities

- Collaborate with coordinated entry systems to:

    - Transitionally house literally homeless Veterans on the BNL

    - Ensure Veterans in GPD have a pathway to permanent housing

- Establish flexible exit policies with a Housing First Approach; ongoing substance use and/or lack of engagement does not mean the Veterans is not "housing ready".

- Engage in frequent case conferencing (to include the liaison and grantee staff), particularly on Veterans who are facing barriers with moving on from GPD in a timely manner. Discuss barriers and strategies.

Please email the GPD National Program Office at gpdgrants@va.gov with questions.