

Chapter 20
HUD -VASH Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing Program
(24 CFR 982.201, 24 CFR 982.202, (Notice PIH 2020-14), (FR-5596-N-02)

The HUD-VASH (VASH) program combines HUD Housing Choice Vouchers for homeless veterans and their families with case management and clinical services provided by the US Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) at its VA Medical Centers and their community-based outreach centers (CBOC). PHAs are invited to administer VASH vouchers in partnership with a prescribed VAMC/CBOC (hereinafter referred to as VAMC.) The VAMC's refer homeless veterans to their partner PHA after the VAMC has determined that the veteran has met its criteria for independent living and the veteran has agreed to accept VAMC case management services for as long as their VASH case manager determines such assistance is required. The goal of the program is to combine Section 8 rental assistance vouchers with case management and clinical services provided by the Veterans Affairs Department at its medical centers to enable homeless veterans to re-integrate in the community to lead healthy, productive lives.

1-II.B. HARC'S PROGRAMS

HARC's administrative plan is applicable to the operation of the Housing Choice Voucher program, including HCV funded project- based, VASH, and Mainstream (NED) vouchers. Upon award of other targeted funding, these policies will also apply.

VASH Eligible Veteran

For the purpose of the Veteran Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) a veteran is a person referred from the Department of Veterans Affairs, who served in any active branch of the US Military; Navy, Marines, Air force, Army, Coast Guard, which is verified on a DD-214 or subsequent Department of Defense documentation

Determining VASH Eligibility

PHA Policy

In accordance to HUD VASH requirements, VASH referred veterans may use a DD-214 as proof of social security number and date of birth. A VASH referred Veteran does not receive a criminal background check but does receive a sex offender screening prior to being determined eligible for a voucher. The PHA must work with the VASH case worker and the veteran to assist in seeking housing that is affordable for the veteran. All other adult family members will be processed according to the already established PHA policies.

3-III.C. OTHER PERMITTED REASONS FOR DENIAL OF ASSISTANCE

HUD permits, but does not require, HARC to deny assistance for the reasons discussed in this section.

Criminal Activity [24 CFR 982.553]

HUD permits, but does not require, HARC to deny assistance if HARC determines that any household member is currently engaged in or has engaged in illegal drug related criminal activity

during the last 6 months before the family would receive assistance. The PHA determines that any household member is currently engaged in criminal activity.

If any household member is currently engaged in or has engaged in any criminal activities, within the past three years, the family will be denied assistance with the exception of a VASH enrolled Veterans:

3-III.D. SCREENING

Screening for Eligibility

HARC will perform a criminal background check through state and local law enforcement for every adult household member except VA referred eligible VASH veterans.

Targeted Funding [24 CFR 982.204(e)]

HUD may award HARC funding for a specified category of families on the waiting list. HARC must use this funding only to assist the families within the specified category. In order to assist families within a targeted funding category, HARC may skip families that do not qualify within the targeted funding category. Within this category of families, the order in which such families are assisted is determined according to the policies provided in Section 4-III.C.

HARC Policy

HARC administers the following types of targeted funding:

- Regular HCV Funding- may be used to assist any eligible family on the waiting list. Families are selected from the waiting list according to the policies provided in Section 4-III.C.
- Mainstream Voucher Funding- Non-Elderly Disabled and 811 Voucher program.
- VASH Voucher Funding – Homeless Veterans referred by the Department of Veterans Affairs. In addition to receiving a VASH voucher, these individuals are required to work with a VA appointed social worker to address personal needs in an effort to prevent homelessness.

5-II.D. VOUCHER TERM AND EXTENSIONS

Voucher Term [24 CFR 982.303]

The initial voucher term will be 60 calendar days except for VASH recipients.

The family must submit a Request for Tenancy Approval and proposed lease within the 60-day period unless the PHA grants an extension.

VASH eligible recipients receive the full extensions allowed.

Initial Billing Deadline [Notice PIH 2016-09]

HARC will allow an exception to this policy if the family includes a person with disabilities and the late billing is a result of a reasonable accommodation granted to the family by the receiving PHA or if the family is a VASH recipient.

Insufficient Funding [24 CFR 982.454]

Families comprising the required number of special purpose vouchers, including nonelderly disabled (NED), HUD-Veteran's Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD- VASH), and family unification program (FUP) will be the last to be terminated.

Units Not Subject to the PBV Program Limitation [FR Notice 1/18/17]

PBV units under the RAD program and HUD-VASH PBV set-aside vouchers do not count toward the 20 percent limitation when PBV assistance is attached to them.

In addition, units that were previously subject to certain federal rent restrictions or were receiving another type of long-term housing subsidy provided by HUD are not subject to the cap. The unit must be covered under a PBV HAP contract that first became effective on or after 4/18/17.

HARC received a HUD-VASH PBV award of 58 Vouchers which will not be subject to the 20 percent cap limitation.

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VI-D. VI-ID. MANDATORY TERMINATION OF ASSISTANCE

While the V controls admission to the program and issuance of the voucher, the vouchers are administered "in accordance with the HCV [(Housing Choice Voucher)] tenant-based...regulations...at 24 C.F.R. part 982.552.

HUD requires the PHA to terminate assistance in the following circumstances.

Eviction [24 CFR 982.552(b)(2), 24 CFR 5.2005(c)(1)]

The PHA must terminate assistance whenever a family is evicted from a unit assisted under the HCV program for a serious or repeated violation of the lease. As discussed further in section 12-II.E, incidents of actual or threatened domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking may not be construed as serious or repeated violations of the lease by the victim or threatened victim of such violence or stalking.

PHA Policy

A family will be considered evicted if the family moves after a legal eviction order has been issued, whether or not physical enforcement of the order was necessary.

If a family moves after the owner has given the family an eviction notice for serious or repeated lease violations but before a legal eviction order has been issued, termination of assistance is not mandatory. In such cases the PHA will determine whether the family

has committed serious or repeated violations of the lease based on available evidence and may terminate assistance or take any of the alternative measures described in section 12-II.C. In making its decision, the PHA will consider the factors described in sections 12-II.D and 12- II.E. Upon consideration of such factors, the PHA may, on a case-by-case basis, choose not to terminate assistance.

Serious and repeated lease violations will include, but not be limited to, nonpayment of rent, disturbance of neighbors, destruction of property, or living or housekeeping habits that

cause damage to the unit or premises and criminal activity. Generally, the criterion to be used will be whether or not the reason for the eviction was the fault of the tenant or guests.