

# Partnership Between HUD and VA



Secretary Shaun Donovan and Secretary Eric K. Shinseki:

- Work to implement President Obama's national imperative to end homelessness
- Served as United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) Chair and are active USICH Members



# Partnership Between HUD and VA



## The Secretaries

- Worked on publication of *Opening Doors – Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness*
- Have a shared vision of ending Veteran homelessness
- Unprecedented involvement with HUD-VASH
- Implement HUD-VASH as one of multiple programs designed to prevent and end homelessness – shared vision

# Challenges and Strengths

- Different Focus and Missions
  - HUD - safe, decent, affordable Housing
  - VA – health care and benefits for eligible Veterans
- Different Perspectives and Knowledge
  - VA Clinical Social Workers – Mental Health, Physical Health and Substance Use Disorder Experts
  - HUD – Housing Experts

# What is HUD-VASH?

- Rental assistance and clinical services
- Eligible Veterans:
  - need case management services in order to obtain and sustain independent community housing (serious mental illness, substance use disorder history, or physical disability)
  - Eligibility for VA Healthcare and no Lifetime Sexual Offender Registry Status
  - **Continuously homeless for longer than one (1) year or, having at least four (4) episodes of homelessness in the past (3) three years (CHRONICALLY HOMELESS)**
- Some other considerations for prioritizing:
  - **Chronically homeless** with children in their custody
  - **Chronically homeless** potentially getting custody of their children
  - **Chronically homeless** Veterans who are either women, disabled or served in recent war (OEF/OIF/OND)
  - Other **chronically homeless** individuals not in the preceding groups
  - Other **non-chronically homeless** Veterans

# How HUD-VASH vouchers are allocated?

- Collaborative approach between VA and HUD
- Relies on three sets of data to determine which areas have the highest number of homeless Veterans:
  - HUD's point-in-time data submitted by Continuums of Care (CoCs),
  - VAMC data on the number of contacts with homeless Veterans,
  - performance data from PHAs and VAMCs.
- Identify VA facilities in the corresponding communities
- HUD identifies Public Housing Authorities near the identified VA facilities
- HUD reviews the PHAs' administrative performance, and if acceptable, HUD sends the PHAs invitations to apply for the vouchers.
- HUD makes the final decision on voucher awards

# Housing Choice Vouchers versus Project Based Vouchers

## Housing Choice Vouchers

- Selects unit of your choice and when you move you transfer the voucher with you
- Regulations are found in **24 CFR Part 982**
- Public Housing Authority receives invitation from HUD
- VA participates in high level discussion, but no formal support is required

## Project Based Vouchers

- Selects unit at a specified area and when you move the voucher remains with the unit
- Regulations are found at **24 CFR Part 983**
- Public Housing Authority submits a proposal
- VA formally supports the project
- Project Based Vouchers – Gainesville and Tallahassee

# Florida

## HUD-VASH Vouchers and Target Communities (2008 -2013)

VA Medical Center	Target Communities
Bay Pines VA Health Care System	Fort Myers, Port Charlotte, Sarasota, Sebring, St. Petersburg, Hendry County
Gulf Coast VA Health Care System	Crestview, Fort Walton, Walton County, Panama City, Fort Walton Beach, Pensacola
Tampa VA Health Care System	Brandon, Tampa, Lakeland, New Port Richey
North Florida South Georgia VA health Care System (Malcolm Randall)	**Tallahassee, ***Gainesville, Lake City, Jacksonville, Ocala, Ormond Beach
Miami VA Health Care System	Miami, Fort Lauderdale, Sunrise, Key West
Orlando VA Medical Center	Orlando, Daytona Beach, Vieira , Titusville
West Palm Beach VA Medical Center	West Palm Beach, Port St. Lucie, Okeechobee, Glade County



# What VA Does – Local Level

VA determines initial eligibility for HUD-VASH

- Eligible for VA Health Care
- Homeless Status – Target Chronic
- Need for case management
  - ✓ Mental Health, Substance Use, and/or Physical Disability
  - ✓ Functional limitations
  - ✓ Vulnerability
- Participation in case management



# **Veterans is admitted to HUD- VASH.....now what?**

- Need to meet Public Housing Authority Guidelines
- Need units to rent
- Deposit assistance
- Utility assistance
- Furniture and other items for a comfortable home
- Moving assistance
- Employment/Training - Income
- Dental Care
- Legal Assistance, etc.

# We Can All Do Something to End Veteran Homelessness



Organizations and individuals are integral to ending and preventing homelessness among Veterans.

**Help for Homeless Veterans 24/7 Hotline**

**1-877-4AID-VET or 1-877-424-3838**