

**Department of
Veterans Affairs**

Memorandum

MAR 13 2020

Date:

From: Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Operations and Management (10N)

Subj: Available Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Resources to Place Homeless Veterans at High-Risk of COVID-19 (VIEWS# 02563253)

To: Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) Director (10N1-23)

Thru: Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Clinical Operations (10NC)

1. To highlight the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) ongoing commitment to preventing and ending Veteran homelessness, I am providing guidance on the availability of Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) resources to place homeless Veterans at high-risk of COVID-19.
2. Under 38 CFR Part 62.34, the SSVF Program can place homeless Veteran households in emergency housing (hotels and motels) for up to 45 days pending placement into permanent housing.
3. For the next 30 days, starting from March 17, 2020, or until funding is exhausted, SSVF will be modifying guidance it provides to grantees around these emergency housing placements. Typically, such placements can only occur when no other appropriate Health Care for Homeless Veterans Residential, Grant and Per Diem, or community shelter bed is available.
4. In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, SSVF grantees will now be allowed to offer emergency housing placements even if other temporary housing options are available if those options would place high-risk Veterans into congregate living environments. High-risk Veterans would include those Veterans over the age of 60 and/or Veterans with significant underlying health problems, particularly those with a weakened immune system or health problems that impact lung function.
5. It is important to note that such temporary housing placements are only available to eligible, homeless Veteran households enrolled in SSVF who need placement into permanent housing.
6. Veterans who are symptomatic with COVID-19 should not be referred for these emergency housing placements as SSVF grantees do not have the capacity to place and adequately monitor such patients.

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7. Funding for this emergency housing is very limited. It is critical that VA medical centers actively engage area SSVF grantees to understand available capacity and work collaboratively to prioritize referrals for such emergency housing placements.
8. Should you have additional questions, please contact Mr. John Kuhn, National Director, SSVF Program, by email at John.Kuhn2@va.gov.


for Renee Oshinski