



# 2021 HUD VASH Registration of Interest PIH Notice 2021-21

July 14, 2021



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# HUD-VASH Background

- The goal to end veteran's homelessness calls for coordinated, collaborative efforts with community partners, including local, state, and federal government agencies.
- HUD-VASH vouchers are authorized under section 8(o)(19) of the US Housing Act of 1937, as modified by the requirements in The Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (Public Law 116-133, approved January 3, 2021)(the Act).
- HUD-VASH is administered in partnership with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and enables homeless veterans and their families to access safe affordable housing with an array of services.



# HUD-VASH Background

- HUD VASH is the nation's largest supported permanent housing initiative and combines HUD Housing Choice Vouchers with VA case management services that promote and support housing stability.
- Since FY 2008, Congress has provided new funding annually for additional HUD-VASH voucher. Every year, communities receiving HUD-VASH vouchers are selected based on geographic need, using homeless veteran data provided by HUD's and the VA.



# HUD-VASH Registration of Interest

- **HUD VASH 2021-21**
  - Announces the availability of \$49 million in HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) funding to support approximately 6,000 new VASH vouchers.
  - Normal HCV requirements of 24 CFR 982 apply if not waived/no alternative requirement specified.



# HUD-VASH PHA Eligibility

- PHAs who currently administer an HCV program that meet the threshold criteria (outlined in Section 6.a. of PIH Notice 2021-21; slide 7) are eligible to submit a Registration on Interest.
- PHAs that do not currently administer the HUD-VASH program do not have to meet the threshold requirements outlined in Section 6.a of PIH Notice 2021-21 and are eligible to submit a Registration of Interest if the threshold requirements in Section 6.b. are met.
- PHAs must consult with their partnering VA facility to discuss their intentions of submitting a Registration of Interest and request a Letter of Support for HUD-VASH vouchers under the Notice.
- PHAs are encouraged to consult with the Continuum of Care (CoC) lead agency to discuss their intention of submitting a Registration of Interest.



# Threshold Criteria

The threshold criteria used to determine PHA eligibility is based on HUD-VASH utilization and PHA administrative performance as detailed in Section 6 of this notice.

- a. PHAs must have at least a 70% HUD-VASH unit utilization rate. –

Unit utilization rate will be defined as Voucher Management System (VMS) reported HUD-VASH April 2021 Unit Months Leased (UML) divided by total HUD-VASH awards to date.(note that this is total awards, not effective awards).

**NOTE: If a PHA is uncertain about whether it meets the threshold criteria, the PHA should send an inquiry to [VASH@hud.gov](mailto:VASH@hud.gov)**

- b. In addition to the utilization threshold, PHAs must not have any major unresolved program management findings from an Inspector General audit, HUD management review, or Independent Public Accountant (IPA) audit for the PHA's HCV program, or other significant program compliance issues that were not resolved, or in the process of being resolved, as determined by HUD, prior to this notice's application deadline. Additionally, applicants must resolve all outstanding civil rights matters to HUD's satisfaction prior to this notice's Registration of Interest deadline, provided that all applicable legal processes have been satisfied.

**NOTE: If a PHA is unsure whether these criteria are met, they should contact the PHA's HUD Office of Public and Indian Housing (PIH) Field Office point of contact.**

- c. All Registrations of Interest must include a signed Letter of Support from the partnering VA facility. There is no cure period after the deadline has passed, and incomplete submissions will not be considered.



# Allocation Formula

- Approximately 6,000 new HUD-VASH vouchers are available to participating communities.
- The allocation of HUD-VASH vouchers will be awarded based on a relative need formula using the VA Gap analysis, which incorporates data from the annual Point-in-Time (PIT) count and Housing Inventory (HIC) data using a crosswalk of VAMC and Continuum of Care jurisdictions. This data takes into consideration utilization of existing resources to estimate current and future need at each VAMC.
- Consistent with the Act, HUD-VASH funding must be awarded based on geographic need, PHA administrative performance, and other factors specified by HUD.



# 2021 HUD-VASH Allocation Process

- PHAs must self –identify to HUD their interest in receiving an allocation by following a two-step process:
  - Eligible PHAs must respond to the notice with an email and a VA Letter of Support (See Section 8 of the Notice for detailed instructions).
  - Based on a relative need formula registered PHAs will receive an invitation to apply for a specific number of HUD-VASH vouchers.

\*Please note: The threshold criteria used to determine PHA eligibility is based on HUD-VASH utilization and PHA administrative performance as detailed in Section 6 of the Notice.



# Registration of Interest Requirements

- PHAs must consult with their partnering VA facility to discuss their intentions of submitting a Registration of Interest and request a Letter of Support for HUD-VASH vouchers under this notice.
  - PHAs must send an email to [VASH\\_ROI@hud.gov](mailto:VASH_ROI@hud.gov) identifying interest in receiving vouchers.
  - The Subject Line of the email must be “Registration of Interest” followed by the PHA Code (i.e. AL001).
  - The body of the email must identify the name of the partnering VAMC (or CBOC), the Veterans Integrated Services (VISN) number and the facility’s Station ID.
  - All Registrations of Interest must include a signed Letter of Support from the partnering VA facility.
  - All Registrations of Interest must be transmitted no later than midnight in the time zone of the PHA on August 31, 2021.



# Invitation of PHAs

- Selected PHAs will receive an invitation via email to apply for a specific number of HUD-VASH vouchers.
- This number is the maximum number of vouchers being offered. PHAs may choose to apply for fewer vouchers based on the community's need and capacity to administer.



# Conversion to Project Based Vouchers (PBV)

- In accordance with Federal Register Notice (82 FR 5458) all tenant-based HUD VASH awards can be converted to Project-Based Vouchers (PBV) at any time after award without HUD approval. PHAs are now free to project-base their tenant-based HUD-VASH vouchers as they would any other HCV. PHAs must still ensure the support of their partnering VA facility.
- PIH Notice 2017-21 additionally provides considerations a PHA should contemplate before making the decision to PBV HUD-VASH vouchers.



# Conversion to Project Based Vouchers (PBV)

The following resources are available for additional information on PBV:

## **Project Based Vouchers Overview:**

[https://www.hud.gov/program\\_offices/public\\_indian\\_housing/programs/hcv/project](https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/public_indian_housing/programs/hcv/project)

## **PBV 101 Training Series:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=SkrQS5Qhmv8>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=MGKqJ\\_wDvqw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=MGKqJ_wDvqw)

## **HUD VASH PBV Guidance Handout:**

Coming soon to HUD-VASH Website

([https://www.hud.gov/program\\_offices/public\\_indian\\_housing/programs/hcv/vash](https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/public_indian_housing/programs/hcv/vash))



# PHA Next Steps

- Review PIH Notice 2021-21.
- Decide if your PHA is interested and has the capacity to administer HUD-VASH vouchers.
- PHAs are encouraged to consult with your Continuum of Care (CoC) lead agency to discuss your intention of submitting a Registration of Interest.
- Consult with your partnering VA facility to discuss intentions of submitting a Registration of Interest and request a Letter of Support for HUD-VASH vouchers.
- Draft an email to [VASH\\_ROI@HUD.gov](mailto:VASH_ROI@HUD.gov) in accordance with the guidelines outlined in the notice.
- Submit Registration of Interest to HUD by midnight in the time zone of the PHA on August 31, 2021.



# Questions, Comments, Concerns, Suggestions?

Email questions to:

[VASH@hud.gov](mailto:VASH@hud.gov)