

Chapter 17

VETERAN AFFAIRS SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

17.1-A INTRODUCTION

Veteran Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) Program services and targets chronically homeless Veterans that are identified by the local HUD-VASH service provider or Veteran Administration Medical Center (VAMC).

This Chapter cites policies that are inclusive to the VASH vouchers only. All regulatory and administrative policies specified in the previous Chapters of this Administrative Plan apply, but may not supersede HUD-VASH Rules and Regulations found in this Section or any future regulatory Code of Federal Regulation connected to the VASH Program.

Family Eligibility and Selection

The Muskegon HUD-VASH Case Manager or the VAMC selected local service provider will determine homelessness and clinical eligibility of a VASH applicant. The HUD-VASH Case Manager or the VAMC selected service provider will refer the HUD-VASH eligible families to the Housing Commission for the issuance of vouchers. The Housing Commission will determine income eligibility and screen for lifetime sex-offender registrants before the briefing orientation.

In accordance with HUD-VASH regulations the Housing Commission does not maintain a waiting list or apply local Preferences for HUD-VASH vouchers.

The Housing Commission shall not deny HUD-VASH applicants for any grounds listed in 24 CFR 982.552 or 24 CFR 982.553 with the exception of the denial of sex offenders who have a life time registration requirement (24 CFR 982.553(a)(2)(i)).

If a family member other than the Veteran is subject to a lifetime registration requirement under a state sex offender registration program, the Veteran's family must agree in writing to remove this family member from the household composition to receive rental assistance.

Income Eligibility

The Housing Commission will determine income eligibility prior to the issuance of a voucher for HUD-VASH assistance. If the family is over income based on the most recently published income limits for family size, the family will be ineligible for HCV assistance. After admission, income limits do not apply.

The Housing Commission may not deny assistance to a HUD-VASH family that owes money to any PHA in connection with the Section 8 or Public Housing Program.

Voucher Term

The initial term of a HUD-VASH voucher is at least 120 calendar days. The initial term must be stated on the voucher.

Initial Lease Term

To provide a greater range of housing opportunities for the HUD-VASH voucher holders, initial leases may be less than 12 months.

Portability of HUD-VASH Vouchers

If the family initially leases up and decides to move under the portability provisions and Housing Commission's partnering VAMC will still be able to provide the necessary case management services, the receiving PHA must process the move in accordance with the Portability procedures of 24 CFR 982.355 and those in Chapter 19. However, the receiving PHA must bill the initial PHA. The receiving PHA does not have the option to absorb the HUD-VASH Family.

When the receiving PHA completes the HUD 50058 under the scenarios above, the action type that must be recorded on line 2a is "1" for a new admission (a Family that is new to the HCVP) or "4" for a portability move-in (A Family that was previously leased up in the jurisdiction of the initial PHA). Whether the Family is a new admission or a portability move-in, in Section 12 of the HUD-50058, line 12d is marked "Y", 12e must have an amount recorded, and 12f must include the initial PHA's code.

If a Family moves where it will not be possible for the initial PHA's partnering VAMC local servicer to provide case management services, the VAMC must first determine whether the HUD-VASH Family could be served by another VAMC that is participating in the program and the receiving PHA must have a HUD-VASH voucher available for this Family. If the above conditions are met, the Families must be absorbed by the receiving PHA either as a new admission (upon initial participation in the HUD-VASH Program) or as a portability move-in (after an initial leasing in the initial PHA's jurisdiction).

When the receiving PHA completes the HUD 50058 under the scenarios above, the action type that must be recorded on line 2a is "1" for a new admission (a Family that is new to the HCVP) or "4" for a portability move-in (a Family that was previously leased up in the jurisdiction of the initial PHA). Whether the Family is a new admission or a portability move-in, in Section 12 of the HUD-50058, line 12d is marked "Y", 12e must be 0 since the Family must be absorbed, and 12f must be left blank.

If a Family moves where it will not be possible for the initial PHA's partnering VAMC local servicer to provide case management services, the VAMC must first determine whether the HUD-VASH Family could be served by another VAMC that is participating in the program and the receiving PHA must have a HUD-VASH voucher available for

this Family. If the above conditions are **not** met, the Housing Commission may offer the family a regular Housing Choice Voucher, if available. If a regular Housing Choice Voucher is not available the family may select to delay their portability option until conditions change or seek an alternate porting location that meets the conditions.

Transfer from HUD-VASH to Tenant-Based Assistance

If the Muskegon HUD-VASH Case Manager or VAMC Service Provider determines the HUD-VASH voucher holder no longer requires case management **and** provides a graduation letter verifying the same or the Veteran will no longer reside with the Family, the Housing Commission may offer the Family a regular tenant-based voucher, if available, in the regular Housing Choice Voucher program to free up the HUD-VASH voucher for another Family. The offer of a regular Housing Choice Voucher is pending funding availability. Receipt of a regular tenant-based voucher is subject to the eligibility requirements set forth in Chapter 2.

Project-Based Assistance

Although HUD-VASH is tenant based rental assistance, HUD will consider on a case by case basis, requests from the Housing Commission (with the support of the VAMC Service Provider) to project-base these vouchers in accordance with 24 CFR part 983.

Housing Commission Policy

The Muskegon Housing Commission does not, at this time, administer any project-based vouchers.

Section Eight Management Assessment Program (SEMAP)

Unit months and budget authority associated with the HUD-VASH vouchers will not be included in the SEMAP leasing indicator denominator because vouchers will be monitored separately.

Reporting Requirements

The code "VASH" must be used in section 2n of the HUD-50058 form to indicate that the Family is a HUD-VASH Participant. The "VASH" code must remain on the HUD-50058 for the duration of the Family's participation in the HUD-VASH Program.

Informal Reviews and Hearings

If a HUD-VASH family is denied assistance or has its assistance terminated it is entitled to an informal review or hearing respectively. Families are entitled to this review in accordance with Chapter 17. This includes denial of admission due to the limited reasons noted in the Operating Requirements (over-income and the homeless veteran is a sex offender subject to lifetime registration under state law) and termination of assistance for failure to comply with program requirements including compliance with case management as determined by the VAMC Service Provider. If an applicant is denied, Housing Commission must inform the applicant, HUD-VASH Case Manager or VAMC that the applicant is not eligible.

Additional Requirements

- If a homeless Veteran dies, the voucher would remain with the remaining members of the tenant family. The Housing Commission will use its own voucher, if available, to continue assisting this family and free up a voucher for another HUD-VASH eligible family. If a regular voucher is not available, the family would continue utilizing the HUD-VASH Voucher.
- If there is a case of separation or divorce, the voucher must remain with the Veteran. This, in effect overrides the Housing Commission policies on how to determine who remains in the program if a family breaks up (24 CFR Section 982.54(d) (11)).
- If the VA service provider verifies to the Housing Commission that the family has failed to participate in services without good cause, then the KCHC must terminate the voucher.