

US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Grant & Per Diem (GPD) Program

Background

The GPD Program is VA's largest transitional housing program for Veterans experiencing homelessness and is permanently authorized under Public Law 109-461.

Since 1994, the GPD Program has awarded grants to community-based organizations to provide transitional housing with wraparound supportive services to assist vulnerable Veterans move into permanent housing. The grants are designed to meet Veterans at various stages as they move to stable housing. Community-based organizations receiving GPD grants offer focused transitional housing services through a variety of housing models targeted to different populations and needs of Veterans. The GPD program plays a vital role in the continuum of homeless services by providing supportive services to those Veterans who would otherwise be among the unsheltered homeless population. The result of GPD programs is that Veterans achieve residential stability, increase their skill levels and/or income, and obtain greater self-determination.

Types of GPD Grants

- Transitional housing grants:
 - **Per Diem Only** grants provide funding in the form of per diem payments to reimburse grantees for the cost of care provided to Veterans in transitional supportive housing
 - **Special Need** grants target housing and services to specific populations of Veterans (e.g., women, Veterans with chronic mental illness, frail elderly Veterans, Veterans caring for minor dependents, terminally ill Veterans)
 - **Transition-In-Place (TIP)** grants offer Veteran residents housing in which supportive services transition out of the residence over time, rather than the resident. Upon completion of the TIP services, the resident retains the unit as their permanent housing with no requirement to move
- Other types of grants:
 - **Case Management** grants support Veterans who were previously experiencing homelessness or who are at risk for homelessness so that they may obtain or retain permanent housing
 - **Capital grants** support the costs of acquiring, renovating, or constructing facilities and are only offered intermittently to improve existing facilities or to develop new transitional housing depending on the needs of the Department and funding availability

Transitional Housing Models

- **Bridge Housing:** Intended to be used for short-term stays in transitional housing by Veterans with pre-identified permanent housing destinations (e.g., HUD-VASH, SSVF, community options)
- **Clinical Treatment:** Designed for Veterans experiencing homelessness who have a specific diagnosis related to a substance-use disorder and/or mental-health diagnosis
 - Veterans actively choose to engage in clinical services
 - GPD grantees provide clinically focused treatment and services to help Veterans secure permanent housing and increase income through benefits and/or employment
- **Low Demand:** Uses a high engagement/harm reduction model to better accommodate Veterans experiencing chronic homelessness and Veterans who were unsuccessful in traditional treatment settings
 - Programming does not require sobriety or compliance with mental health treatment as a condition of admission or continued stay
 - Overall demands are kept to a minimum; however, services are made widely available and are actively promoted by program staff
 - The goal is to establish permanent housing while providing for the safety of staff and residents
- **Hospital to Housing:** Addresses the housing and recuperative care needs of Veterans experiencing homelessness who have been hospitalized
- **Service-Intensive:** Provides transitional housing and robust services that facilitate individual stabilization, increased income, and movement to permanent housing as rapidly as clinically appropriate
- **Transition In Place:** Offers Veteran residents housing in which supportive services transition out of the residence over time, rather than the resident. Upon completion of the TIP services, the resident retains the unit as their permanent housing with no requirement to move

Veteran Populations Served

Under GPD grants, the needs of many populations of Veterans experiencing homelessness are addressed, including but not limited to:

- Women Veterans
- Veterans with a chronic mental illness
- Frail elderly Veterans
- Veterans who have care of minor dependents
- Terminally ill Veterans

How to Apply for Funding

- Eligible applicants include:
 - 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(19) nonprofit organizations,
 - State or local government agencies, and/or
 - Recognized Indian Tribal governments.
- Not all grant types are available annually; when available, notices of funding opportunity (NOFOs) can be found at the following locations:
 - www.GRANTS.gov
 - <https://www.va.gov/homeless/gpd.asp>
- Application instructions are provided in each NOFO
- Each NOFO will clarify specific application criteria, funding limitations and other requirements

NOFOs & Additional Resources

Current announcements, open NOFOs (if available), and lists of current GPD awards are available on the GPD website: <https://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/GPD.asp>

Past NOFOs from prior fiscal years are available on the GPD provider website: https://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/GPD_ProviderWebsite.asp. Other resources on the GPD provider website include:

- GPD grant recipient guides
- GPD general terms and conditions of award

Regulations applicable to GPD and Federal grants are also accessible through the electronic Code of Federal Regulations:

- GPD regulations: <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-38/chapter-I/part-61>
- Federal-wide grants regulations: <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/subtitle-A/chapter-II/part-200>