



# Grant and Per Diem Program

National Coalition for Homeless Veterans Housing  
Summit

# Agenda

- Examine short range opportunities for GPD programs
- Steps to requesting and implementing short range changes in GPD programs
- Review of mid-range change possibilities
- Questions/Comments from the field that are typically long range changes

# Change on a Continuum

## Short Range

- Can be done under current law and regulations

## Mid Range

- Requires regulatory change

## Long Range

- Requires Legislative change
  - Modify existing authority, new legislative authority

# Short Range Changes

- Lowering barriers to services
  - Entrance criteria - are there opportunities to make your program more accessible?
  - Are there ways to engage difficult to serve Veterans and lessen negative discharges?
- Operational changes
  - Individualized care vs. program driven care
  - Opportunities for menu of services driven by Veteran's goals
- GPD with a short term bridge housing track/service
  - GPD as coordinated housing plan focus with SSVF or HUD-VASH

# Short Range Changes

- Broadening populations served by program
- Service model changes
  - GPD with a short term bridge housing track/service
  - Change in staffing focus
    - Devoting staff resource to housing specialist, or employment specialist to adjust service mix

# Short Range Changes

- Changes of scope

- Required to request changes of scope to GPD Office.

- Changes in services provided, staffing, admission criteria, etc...

- Guidance of changes of scope on GPD provider website and described in Recipient Guides also on the website [http://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/GPD\\_ProviderWebsite.asp](http://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/GPD_ProviderWebsite.asp)

- GPD office responds within 30 days in writing

# Short Range Changes

- Get feedback from your local community on transitional housing role and need for your community
- Get feedback from Veterans, your organizational staff, board members, local VA medical center about needs and proposed changes
- Focus groups with Veteran alumni can be helpful in understanding their experiences and offer ideas

# Short Range Changes

- Think about what will be the impact of changes and any training of staff, education of Veterans that would need to occur
  - In-service planning
  - Policy changes that would be needed
  - Follow-up implementation discussions
  - Education with Veterans in the program about changes
- Be sure to submit your change of scope request!

# Frequently Cited Issues with Change of Scope Requests

- Has not been discussed with GPD liaison
- Requests for increasing beds (unallowable)
- Proposed changes not clear
  - Broadening population served but not description as to how this will be accommodated
  - Use of terminology, but no explanation of how services will work (i.e. low-demand)
- Elimination of services without comparable substitution

# Mid-Range Changes

- Changes that require regulatory revision, but still fall under current legislative authority
- GPD exploring regulatory revisions in the program
  - Currently under review by VA
  - Will be subject to public comment (will send notification of public comment period)

# Mid-Range Changes

## ○ Possible changes

- Definition of GPD housing facilitating movement to permanent housing as rapidly as possible
- Ability to have VA require re-application for all grantees if there is insufficient funding or the needs of the Department change
  - Opportunity to re-boot grants to bring them up to date, reset grants such that all per diem awards time limited
- Clarify rules around grant renewals

# Long Range Changes-Legislative Authority Required

- What types of inquiries does the GPD Office receive that require modified or new legislation?

# Inquiries from Grantees

- Can I convert my GPD transitional housing to permanent housing?

# Long Range Changes-Legislative Authority Required

- Challenges associated with request
  - Recovery provisions and real property disposition
  - If seeking to create VA supportive housing, no authority exists- GPD can only create transitional housing

# Inquiries from Grantees

- It sure would be nice to provide some follow-up to Veterans who leave our program and go into permanent housing without supports. What prevents that?

# Long Range Changes-Legislative Authority Required

- Operational costs are which are offset by per diem are limited to the time Veterans are in transitional housing
- Such costs would require new authority and would be come from available funding for GPD

# Inquiries from Grantees

- Can you make Transition In Place so it takes into consideration differences in rental costs nationally?

# Long Range Changes-Legislative Authority Required

- Current TIP projects are done under existing authority for non-capital, Per Diem Only (PDO) awards
- Per diem payments cannot exceed the VA state home rate for domiciliary care

# Final thoughts

○ Progress is impossible without change & those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything.

– George Bernard Shaw