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

0 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