

Frequent Ask Questions

Q1. Is the Grantee responsible for verifying a Veterans need for requesting financial assistance?

Yes, it is the responsibility of the grantee to verify a Veteran's need when requesting financial assistance. The grantee should assess the Veteran's financial situation, eligibility criteria, and supporting documentation to ensure that the requirements outlined in the grant program guidelines are met.

Homeless Veterans Housing Assistance Services

Q2. Is providing a hotel eligible?

Yes, providing hotel accommodations is an allowable expense under the Veteran Homelessness and Transitions Grant (VHT) Program. The VHT Program is designed to support transitional housing needs for Veterans.

Grantees should review the specific guidelines outlined in the Veterans Homeless and Transition Grant Program Manual.

Q3. Is there a limitation on the number of allowed hotel days?

Yes. Grantees are allowed to establish their own limitations on the number of days covered by their organization not to exceed 60 days. During the Veterans initial assessment Grantees are required to develop a sustainability plan, proof of referral, and status for permanent housing should be documented.

Veterans Rental Assistance

Q4. Are eviction fees allowed?

Yes, Rental assistance may include monthly rent, rental deposits, late fees, and payments in arrears (eviction prevention). Service can only be authorized once per grant cycle per Veteran household.

Veteran Participant Eligibility

Q5. If a Veteran cannot provide a DD214 and a new one cannot be provided by the government through systems like VetRecs, will Squares suffice to determine eligibility?

Yes, If a DD214 (Certificate of Release of Discharge from Active Duty) cannot be obtained through the National Archives' Veterans Records (VetRecs) service, the Summary of Military Services (SQUARES) may be an alternative source of Verification.

SQUARES (Service Member Query Resource) is a tool developed by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to help service providers verify veterans' eligibility for various VA services, including healthcare and benefits. Access to SQUARES is typically restricted to authorized VA employees and designated partner organizations.

Grantees should contact their SCDVA representative if they do not currently have access to SQUARES to request verification of an applicant's eligibility.

Q6. The Veteran Participant Eligibility requirements "to desire to lead a clean and sober lifestyle and make meaningful life changes leading to independent living" has been replaced with the implementation of the Behavioral Contract and Internal Policy Guidelines.

Behavioral Contract and Internal Policy Guidelines.

Applies to transitional housing, housing assistance, and employment programs only
To demonstrate commitment to obligations required to remain in the program grantees should implement a behavior contract or internal procedures to ensure the Veterans willingness to abide by program rules.

Q7. Background Checks (Sex Offense Registry)

Grantees must check the applicant's name against the state sex offender registries [South Carolina Public Sex Offender Registry \(sc.gov\)](https://www.sc.gov). Applicants found to be listed on the state sex offender registry are ineligible for housing assistance under the program. This policy applies to all grantees providing housing assistance services to homeless Veterans under the funding and oversight of SCDVA.

Direct funding support allotments for service categories

Q8. Is there a maximum amount per client per grant year that would include all service categories?

No, there is not a maximum amount per Veteran per grant cycle. However, a Veteran cannot receive multiple allotments under the same grant category more than once per year. Example: Veteran A receives temporary housing assistance, this Veteran is still eligible to receive assistance with utilities, rental assistance, and employment assistance.

Note: Grantees can establish internal maximum amounts per Veteran per grant year (July 1, 2024- June 30, 2024) per service category. Veterans cannot receive duplicate services from the same category.

Q9. Allowable costs

Administrative costs as defined by the SCDVA is related only to liability insurance; however, we categorize administrative costs as coordinating and processing direct funding payments, payroll, etc. Are these allowable admin costs or are they considered program costs?

Program Costs

1. Staff Salaries and Benefits: Wages and benefits for staff directly involved in program delivery.
2. Training: for staff to improve service delivery.
3. Supplies and Equipment: Office supplies, computers, software, communication tools, and other equipment necessary for program operations.
4. Travel: Expenses for staff to attend SCDVA grant manager trainings and meetings.

5. Administrative Costs: Liability insurance related to the program

Q10. Is there 10% wiggle room between categories like federal grants?

If you anticipate needing to reallocate funds between categories (e.g., from direct costs to administrative costs), its essential to keep detail records and ensure that any changes align with the grant's objectives and are within allowable expenses.

Monthly Program Plan Status Report

Q11. Deidentified data

" Are you looking for deidentified data or not?

All referrals must be entered into the South Carolina Veteran Coalition System and assigned to the organization assisting the Veteran. Monthly Veterans deidentified reports must be submitted via secure email by the last Friday of each month.

Q12. Do only clients who receive direct support need to be added into the South Carolina Veteran Coalition?

No. Every Veteran that receives assistance needs to be tracked and reported.

Q13. At Risk of Homelessness = Veteran households that have received an evictions notice; or have insufficient financial resources to cover housing cost, leading to the risk of eviction.

Q14. If we provide assistance for groceries under housing assistance, can we purchase a gift card for the veteran since we have to pay the vendor directly or is this something I would need to go with him/her to purchase or complete an online order?

Yes, organizations are allowed to purchase gift cards for groceries. Grantees must maintain proof of the delivery of services (i.e., invoice receipt to include date, the clients name, vendor name, property address, term of lease, periodic amount due, etc.) for a minimum of five years. Proof of delivery documentation must be made available to SCDVA upon request. SCDVA may recoup payment for services that do not have documented proof of payment.

Q15. Transportation is mentioned in the Housing Assistance, but can that be a service we provide for Employment Assistance?

Funds may be utilized for employment transportation support; this may include bus passes and rideshare for interviews.

Q16. If so, can we use funds to cover reinstatement of driver's license?

No.

Q17. If veteran is receiving transitional housing assistance, then finds own apartment, can those funds be used to assist with deposit and or first month's rent? If not, can the veteran be eligible for rental assistance?

Veterans participating in the Substance Abuse and Transitional Housing Assistance program can also receive funds from the Veterans Rental Assistance program. However, the dates of service should not overlap.

Q18. If a veteran claims Zero income what kind of proof is expected i.e., zero income affidavit/unemployment documentation?

A Zero Income Attestation Form will be released for the Veterans Substance Abuse and Transitional Housing Assistance program. If your organization already has an income verification form, you may use your preexisting form.

Q19. Eligibility for Utility Assistance states they need to have a disconnection, but under assistance it states we can assist with deposits and connections? If they need to establish service can this be used or does connection mean reconnection?

Yes, Veterans Utility Payments include electric, water, gas, internet, and Veterans primary cell phone to include connections, reconnections, late fees, and payments. The Veteran must be a named person on the utility account or other bill/invoice presented for financial support. Utility payments are not to be made to the Veteran, but to the vendor. Services can only be authorized once per grant cycle per Veteran household.

Q20. The updated manual did not have the maximum allowance for each category do the original amounts still apply.

No, service category funding limits were removed.