

# HUD-VASH Vouchers

## Contents

1	Chapter Overview.....	3
2	HUD-VASH Voucher Awards.....	3
3	HUD-VASH Roles and Responsibilities .....	4
3.1	The United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).....	4
3.2	Public Housing Agencies .....	5
3.3	Program Participants.....	5
4	Differences Between HUD-VASH and Regular HCV Rules.....	5
4.1	Participant Eligibility .....	6
4.2	Waiting Lists and Preferences .....	7
4.3	Housing Quality Standards Inspections.....	7
4.4	Leasing.....	7
4.5	Case Management.....	7
4.6	Portability.....	7
4.7	Termination of Assistance.....	8
4.8	Voucher Reassignment Upon Family Break-Up .....	9
4.10	Voucher Turnover.....	9
4.11	Section Eight Management Assessment Program (SEMAP).....	10
5	HUD-VASH Funding and Leasing.....	10
5.1	Moving to Work (MTW) PHAs.....	10
5.2	Reallocation of HUD-VASH vouchers .....	10
5.3	PHA Income Targeting.....	10
5.4	PHA Funding and Leasing .....	11
6	Project-Basing HUD-VASH Vouchers.....	11
6.1	Differences between HUD-VASH and Regular PBV Rules.....	12

7 HUD-VASH Reporting Requirements..... 13

7.1 Form-HUD 50058..... 13

7.2 IMS/PIC and Portability..... 13

7.3 Voucher Management System (VMS) ..... 13

8 Chapter Glossary..... 14

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## 1 Chapter Overview

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This chapter provides information on the HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) program, which is a joint effort between HUD and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to move Veterans and their families out of homelessness and into permanent housing. Through the HUD-VASH program, eligible homeless veterans receive housing assistance from local Public Housing Agencies (PHAs) to rent privately owned housing while receiving case management and clinical and supportive services from the VA. The combination of intensive case management and long-term housing assistance makes HUD-VASH a robust resource.

Generally, the HUD-VASH program is administered in accordance with regular HCV program requirements. However, the 2008 Consolidated Appropriations Act (Pub. L. No. 110-161) and subsequent Appropriations Acts allow HUD to waive or specify alternative requirements for any provision of any statute or regulation affecting the HCV program in order to effectively deliver and administer HUD-VASH voucher assistance. These waivers and alternative requirements are outlined via Federal Register notices; the most recent notice can be found at FR-5596-N-01, “Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers: Revised Implementation of the HUD-VA Supportive Housing Program.” This Federal Register notice is more commonly known as the “HUD-VASH Operating Requirements.”

The HUD-VASH program is administered in accordance with applicable fair housing requirements, including, but not limited to, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, the Fair Housing Act, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, as applicable, and HUD’s Equal Access Rule. When HUD-VASH recipients include veterans with disabilities or family members with disabilities, reasonable accommodation standard requirements apply. Civil rights requirements cannot be waived.

Veterans interested in the HUD-VASH program are recommended to contact the National Call Center for Homeless Veterans at 1-877-4AID-VET. Callers will be connected to a trained VA responder who will ask a few questions to assess needs. Veterans may then be connected with the Homeless Program point of contact at the nearest VA facility.

## 2 HUD-VASH Voucher Awards

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Since 2008, HUD and VA have awarded HUD-VASH vouchers based on geographic need and PHA administrative performance. The allocation process for HUD-VASH vouchers is a collaborative approach between HUD and VA that relies on several key pieces of data including:

- VA’s Gap Analysis, which combines need data and availability of applicable resources. This data set uses:
  - HUD’s point-in-time data submitted by Continuums of Care (CoCs);
  - VA Medical Center (VAMC) data on the number of contacts with homeless veterans
- Performance data from PHAs

<sup>1</sup> See 24 CFR § 5.105(a).

## 3 HUD-VASH Roles and Responsibilities

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This section describes the different roles and responsibilities of the VA facility, partnering PHA, and program participants.

### 3.1 The United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

The VA provides case management services for participating veterans through its health care system at VA medical centers (VAMCs) and community-based outreach clinics (CBOCs) across the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and Guam.

The VA makes the determination as to potential eligibility of identified veterans based on the following criteria:<sup>1</sup>

- Veterans must meet the definition of homelessness defined in the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act as amended by S. 896 The Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act of 2012.
  - Under this definition, a homeless individual or family is one that lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; has a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for regular sleeping accommodation (e.g. car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station); lives in a supervised shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements; or will imminently lose their housing and lacks resources to obtain other permanent housing. (See *the Glossary of this chapter for the comprehensive definition of homeless.*)
- Veterans who are appropriate candidates for this program must need case management services, as determined by VA case workers, in order to obtain and sustain independent community housing.
- Eligible candidates for the program must participate in case management. The VA is responsible for providing appropriate treatment and supportive services to potential HUD-VASH program participants, if needed.
  - Case management is the heart of this program and is a requirement for participation in the HUD-VASH voucher program.

The VA screens potential candidates for the HUD-VASH program to ensure that the veteran meets the qualifications above. If they do, the VA refers the veteran to the PHA. In addition, the VA is responsible for:

- Providing appropriate treatment and supportive services to potential HUD-VASH program participants, if needed, prior to PHA issuance of rental vouchers;
- Providing housing search assistance to HUD-VASH participants with rental vouchers;
- Identifying the social service and medical needs of HUD-VASH participants and providing, or ensuring the provision of, regular ongoing case management, outpatient health services,

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<sup>1</sup> HUD-VASH Operating Requirements, Section A, “Family Eligibility and Selection.”

hospitalization, and other supportive services as needed throughout the veterans' participation period; and

- Maintaining records and providing information for evaluation purposes, as required by HUD and the VA.

### 3.2 Public Housing Agencies

The PHA accepts VA referrals and determines whether the veteran meets HUD's requirements for the program.

The PHA also administers the veteran's voucher and is responsible for:

- Explaining all the rules of the program to all of the families who qualify;
- Issuing a voucher to eligible veterans;
- Approving the unit, the owner, and the tenancy;
- Making housing assistance payments to the owner in a timely manner;
- Ensuring that both the family and the unit continue to qualify under the program; and
- Ensuring that owners and families comply with the HCV program rules.

### 3.3 Program Participants

Participants in the HUD-VASH program are responsible for meeting VA requirements and following all PHA policies. Failure to comply with requirements can result in denial of admission. Prior to being issued a voucher, eligible participants will receive a briefing during which family obligations and agency requirements will be explained.

Participant responsibilities include:

- Providing the PHA with complete and accurate information;
- Making a best effort to find a suitable place to live that qualifies for the program;
- Cooperating by attending all appointments scheduled by the PHA;
- Caring for the housing unit;
- Complying with the terms of the lease; and
- Complying with family program obligations.<sup>2</sup>

## 4 Differences Between HUD-VASH and Regular HCV Rules

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This section describes the alternative requirements where HUD-VASH program rules differ from regular HCV program rules. All of these alternative requirements can be found in the [HUD-VASH Operating Requirements](#).

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<sup>2</sup> 24 CFR § 982.551

## 4.1 Participant Eligibility

Eligible families are homeless veterans and their families that are referred to participating PHAs by the PHAs' partnering VAMCs or CBOCs. Before making referrals to PHAs, VA staff screen families according to the VA's screening criteria and in compliance with federal non-discrimination and civil rights laws.<sup>3</sup> The VA also generally follows the prioritization order outlined in [Notice CPD-14-012](#) when making referrals; veterans experiencing chronic homelessness are the given the highest priority for admission into the program.

When the PHA receives a referral from the VA, the PHA may only screen the family for the criteria below<sup>4</sup>:

- Income eligibility<sup>5</sup>;
- Citizenship; and
- Subjectivity to a lifetime registration requirement under a state sex offender registration program.

For example, a PHA may not screen for criminal background other than to determine if a household member is subject to a lifetime registration requirement under a state sex offender registration program. As another example, PHAs cannot deny admission to an otherwise eligible HUD-VASH family that previously participated in the PHA's HCV or public housing program that left owing money or otherwise not in good standing.

If a family member is subject to lifetime registration under a state sex offender registration program, the remaining family members may be served if the family agrees to remove the sex offender from its family composition. This is true unless the family member subject to lifetime registration under a state sex offender registration program is the homeless veteran, in which case the family would be denied admission to the program.

When new family members are added after the veteran is a participant, regular PHA eligibility criteria apply. Other than the birth, adoption or court-awarded custody of a child, the addition of any other family member must be approved by the PHA in accordance with the PHA's policies.<sup>6</sup>

PHAs must also accept DD-214 certificates and VA-verified Applications for Health Benefits as verification of social security numbers and birthdates. VA identification cards must be accepted as government-issued photo identification, and they can also be used to verify social security numbers and birthdates.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> See 24 CFR § 5.105(a) and 24 CFR § 982.53

<sup>4</sup> HUD-VASH Operating Requirements, Section A, "Family Eligibility and Selection."

<sup>5</sup> PHAs may not deny admission to a family with zero income.

<sup>6</sup> HUD-VASH Operating Requirements, Section A, "Family Eligibility and Selection."

<sup>7</sup> HUD-VASH Operating Requirements, Section A, "Family Eligibility and Selection."

## 4.2 Waiting Lists and Preferences

VA HUD–VASH case managers will refer HUD–VASH-eligible families to the PHA for the issuance of vouchers. The PHA must accept referrals from their VA partner. Written documentation of these referrals must be maintained in the tenant file by the PHA. Therefore, the PHA will not have the authority to maintain a waiting list or apply local preferences for HUD–VASH vouchers.<sup>8</sup>

## 4.3 Housing Quality Standards Inspections

PHAs may pre-inspect units that veterans may be interested in leasing. If a family selects a unit that passed an HQS inspection (without intervening occupancy) within 45 days of the date of the Request for Tenancy Approval, the unit may be approved.<sup>9</sup>

## 4.4 Leasing

Families issued a HUD-VASH voucher:

- Have at least 120 days to search for a unit (whereas families in the regular voucher program have at least 60 days);<sup>10</sup>
- May enter into an initial lease with an owner for less than 12 months (whereas families in the regular voucher program must enter an initial lease of 12 months unless a shorter term is the prevailing market practice and would improve housing opportunities);<sup>11</sup> and,
- May live on the grounds of a VAMC in units owned by the VA (whereas families in the regular voucher program are prohibited from using vouchers for units on the grounds of medical, mental, or similar public or private institutions).<sup>12</sup>

## 4.5 Case Management

Veterans must agree to participate in case management in order to receive a HUD-VASH voucher.<sup>13</sup> HUD-VASH voucher assistance must be terminated if the family refuses, without good cause, to participate in required case management as verified by the VAMC.

A VAMC's determination that case management is no longer needed is not grounds for termination of HCV assistance. In such cases, a family may be offered a regular voucher to free up the HUD-VASH voucher, or they may keep their HUD-VASH voucher.

## 4.6 Portability

Allowing participants to live where they choose is a critical feature of the voucher program, including HUD-VASH. However, under HUD-VASH, there are additional guidelines related to portability in order

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<sup>8</sup> HUD-VASH Operating Requirements, Section A, “Family Eligibility and Selection.”

<sup>9</sup> HUD-VASH Operating Requirements, Section N, “HQS Initial Inspection.”

<sup>10</sup> HUD-VASH Operating Requirements, Section D, “Initial Term of the HCV.”

<sup>11</sup> HUD-VASH Operating Requirements, Section E, “Initial Lease Term.”

<sup>12</sup> HUD-VASH Operating Requirements, Section F, “Ineligible Housing.”

<sup>13</sup> HUD-VASH Operating Requirements, Section H, “Case Management Requirements.”

to ensure that participants can continue to receive case management.<sup>14</sup> Specifically, if case management is still required, families will be limited to moving to jurisdictions where VAMC or CBOC case management services are available. The initial VA facility must be consulted prior to any move to determine if portability is allowed.

The additional guidelines for portability associated with the HUD-VASH program are described below:

- *Portability: With Case Management and Within Initial VAMC's Catchment Area.* A HUD-VASH family can move within the VAMC's catchment area as long as case management can still be provided, as determined by the VA. The VA must always be consulted prior to a move to ensure that case management will continue to be provided. If the receiving PHA does not have a HUD-VASH program, the receiving PHA must bill the initial PHA. If the receiving PHA does have a HUD-VASH program, they may absorb the family or bill the initial PHA.
- *Portability: With Case Management and Outside Initial VAMC's Catchment Area.* A HUD-VASH family can move if the referring VAMC confirms that the new VAMC has an available case management slot. The receiving PHA must have a HUD-VASH program and the HUD-VASH family must be absorbed.
- *Portability: Case Management is No Longer Required.* If a HUD-VASH family wishes to move under portability and the veteran no longer requires case management, the family can move to a community where case management is not provided. The receiving PHA does not need to be a HUD-VASH PHA, and the receiving PHA may choose to bill the initial PHA or absorb the veteran with a regular voucher. If the receiving PHA choose to bill the initial PHA, they must enter and maintain "VASH" on line 2n of form HUD-50058.

Lastly, under the regular voucher program, PHAs may restrict portability if neither the head of household nor the spouse or co-head of a family were legal residents in the jurisdiction of the initial PHA when they applied to the voucher program. Under HUD-VASH, a family must be allowed to move even if the family did not have legal residency in the jurisdiction of the initial PHA when they applied.

## 4.7 Termination of Assistance

Although HUD has not established any alternative requirements for termination of assistance for HUD-VASH participants, PHAs are strongly encouraged to consider all relevant circumstances of the specific case, and must grant reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities when they may be necessary. PHAs are also encouraged to contact the VA case manager to determine if there are extenuating circumstances that could be considered to avoid the termination, and to consider the impact that ongoing case management services can have on mitigating the conditions that led to the potential termination.

A HUD-VASH participant may not be terminated after admission for a circumstance or activity that occurred before admission but could not be considered at the time of admission due to the HUD-VASH Operating Requirements.

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<sup>14</sup> HUD-VASH Operating Requirements, Section G, "Mobility and Portability Requirements of HUD-VASH Vouchers."

The PHA can terminate the family's assistance only for program violations that occur after the family's admission to the voucher program. For example, if prior to admission, the family owes rent or other amounts to the PHA or another PHA, or if any family member recently engaged in criminal activity (other than a lifetime sex offense), the family would still be eligible for admission to the HUD-VASH program and could not be terminated later for these events that occurred prior to admission. However, if either of these events occurred after admission, the PHA could terminate the family's assistance in accordance with PHA policies.

#### 4.8 Voucher Reassignment Upon Family Break-Up

Because the HUD-VASH program is targeted to provide housing to homeless veterans, in most cases of family break-up, the voucher must remain with the veteran.<sup>15</sup> This requirement overrides any PHA policies to the contrary on how to determine who remains in the program in the event of a family break up.

The major exception to this rule is if a veteran's family member is receiving protection as a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, stalking or sexual assault and the veteran is the perpetrator of such violence, the victim must continue to be assisted.

Upon termination of a veteran-perpetrator's HUD-VASH voucher due to the veteran-perpetrator's acts of domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, or sexual assault, the victim receiving VAWA protections may be given a regular HCV if one is available, and the perpetrator's HUD-VASH voucher can be used to serve another eligible veteran family. If a regular HCV is not available for the victim, the victim will continue to utilize the HUD-VASH voucher and the perpetrator must be removed from the household. In the case of the victim utilizing the HUD-VASH voucher upon termination of the perpetrator, the HUD-VASH voucher must be issued to another eligible veteran family upon the voucher's turnover.

If the veteran dies or is incarcerated, the voucher remains with the remaining members of the tenant family. The PHA may use one of its own vouchers 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 will continue utilizing the HUD-VASH voucher. Once the HUD-VASH voucher turns over, however, it must go to a homeless veteran family.

#### 4.10 Voucher Turnover

Upon turnover, HUD-VASH vouchers must be issued to eligible veteran families as identified by VAMCs.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> Pub. L. No. 110-161 and subsequent appropriations acts and HUD-VASH [FAQs](#)

<sup>16</sup> HUD-VASH Operating Requirements, Section I, "Turnover of HUD-VASH Vouchers."

## 4.11 Section Eight Management Assessment Program (SEMAP)

HUD-VASH vouchers are excluded from the SEMAP leasing indicator.<sup>17</sup>

# 5 HUD-VASH Funding and Leasing

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This section describes HUD-VASH requirements around program funding and voucher leasing.

## 5.1 Moving to Work (MTW) PHAs

HUD-VASH vouchers must be administered in accordance with HUD-VASH notices and are not eligible for fungibility.<sup>18</sup> An MTW agency may submit a request to the Office of Public Housing and Voucher Programs to operate HUD-VASH vouchers in accordance with their MTW administrative flexibilities. The request will be approved if the flexibilities do not conflict with HUD-VASH requirements and will not harm the veteran.

HUD-VASH vouchers must be reported on separately from MTW vouchers using the regular form HUD-50058, unless an MTW agency requests and is granted a waiver by HUD headquarters.

## 5.2 Reallocation of HUD-VASH vouchers

Due to changes and shifts in the population of homeless veterans over time, it may become necessary for HUD to reallocate HUD-VASH vouchers between PHAs regardless of the jurisdictional boundaries of the PHAs, in order to better address the current need of homeless veterans.<sup>19</sup> In addition, HUD may reallocate vouchers due to poor performance by the PHA and/or the VAMC in serving this population, as evidenced by a lack of adequate referrals or inadequate voucher utilization rates after sufficient warning and cure time has been provided by HUD and/or the VA.

## 5.3 PHA Income Targeting

The HCV program income target requirements which requires that 75 percent of a PHA admissions in each PHA fiscal year are families whose income are at or below the extremely low income limit<sup>20</sup> does not apply to HUD-VASH. The PHA may, however, choose to include the admission of extremely low-income VASH families in its income targeting numbers.

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<sup>17</sup> HUD<sup>17</sup> See HUD's VAWA regulations and PIH regulations for more information on VAWA protections. 24 CFR part 5, Subpart L. HUD-VASH Operating Requirements, Section L, "Section Eight Management Assessment System."

<sup>18</sup> HUD-VASH Operating Requirements, Section J, "Moving-to-Work (MTW) Agencies."

<sup>19</sup> HUD-VASH Operating Requirements, Section M, "Reallocation of HUD-VASH Vouchers."

<sup>20</sup> HUD-VASH Operating Requirements, Section C, "Income Eligibility."

## 5.4 PHA Funding and Leasing

All initial funding for HUD-VASH families must be used to lease the number of homeless veterans for which the funds were awarded. This funding cannot be used for any other purpose.<sup>21</sup>

HUD has developed leasing schedule templates to assist partnering PHAs and VAMCs with estimating and planning the number of referrals, issuances, and lease-ups needed on a monthly basis in order to fully utilize all HUD-VASH vouchers awarded within 12-months.<sup>22</sup> HUD-VASH sites are not required to use one of these templates to develop and submit required leasing schedules. Sites are free to develop and use their own formats.

## 6 Project-Basing HUD-VASH Vouchers

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The HCV project-based voucher (PBV) program allows PHAs that already administer a tenant-based voucher program under an annual contributions contract (ACC) with HUD to project-base up to 20 percent of its authorized units which attaches the funding to specific units rather than using it for tenant-based assistance. In addition, PHAs may project-base an additional 10 percent of its units above the 20 percent program unit limit if the unit is dedicated to homeless families, families with disabilities or elderly persons, or in areas where vouchers are difficult to use.<sup>23</sup>

PHAs must<sup>24</sup> operate HUD-VASH PBVs under the regulations for the PBV except in cases where the VASH operating requirements supersede these regulations, such as regulations referring to admissions and waiting lists.

The collaborative nature of the HUD-VASH program makes coordination with partner VAMCs critical to the success of veterans housed in project-based HUD-VASH units. As such, HUD strongly encourages that PHAs considering project-basing HUD-VASH vouchers contact their partner VAMC to discuss the need and any details that should be included in the project selection.

Prior to project-basing HUD-VASH vouchers, PHAs must consult with their partner VAMC to ensure that the VAMC will be able to continue to provide supportive services should the PHA project-base its HUD-VASH vouchers at the location.<sup>25</sup> Other aspects of the project that PHAs may want to consider include any supportive services on or near the project site; accessibility of the proposed site to the VAMC or CBOC, transportation, and social and medical services; and vacancy rates in the area.

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<sup>21</sup> See Pub. L. No. 110-161 and subsequent appropriations acts.

<sup>22</sup> [HUD-VASH Sample Leasing Template](#)

<sup>23</sup> 24 CFR § 983.6

<sup>24</sup> 24 CFR § 983

<sup>25</sup> HUD-VASH Operating Requirements, Section K, “Project-Based Assistance.” and FR-5976\_N-03

## 6.1 Differences between HUD-VASH and Regular PBV Rules

The HUD-VASH program follows PBV rules on allowing a family to move from a PBV unit with continued assistance, with a few exceptions that are described in this section.

In such cases where a HUD-VASH family wishes to move from its PBV unit after the initial year of occupancy, the PHA must offer the family continued HUD-VASH assistance through a tenant-based HUD-VASH voucher.<sup>26</sup> If case management is no longer needed, the PHA may opt to continue assistance through a regular tenant-based voucher to free up the HUD-VASH voucher for another eligible family referred by the VAMC or CBOC.

Similar to the rules for HUD-VASH vouchers that are not project-based, where case management is still required, tenant-based rental assistance is limited to jurisdictions where VAMC or CBOC case management services are available.

To ensure that all PBV units under a housing assistance payments contract remain continuously funded, the following requirements must be implemented when a HUD-VASH family is eligible to move from its PBV unit and there is no other comparable tenant-based rental assistance to offer the family:

- If a HUD-VASH tenant-based voucher is not available at the time the family wants (and is eligible) to move, the PHA could require the family to wait for a HUD-VASH tenant-based voucher for a period not to exceed 180 days.
- If a HUD-VASH tenant-based voucher is still not available after that period of time, the family must be allowed to move with its HUD-VASH voucher and the PHA would be required to replace the assistance in the PBV unit with one of its regular vouchers unless the PHA and owner agree to remove the unit from the HAP contract.
- If after 180 days, a HUD-VASH tenant-based voucher does not become available and the PHA does not have sufficient available funding in its HCV program to attach assistance to the PBV unit, the family may be required to remain in its PBV unit until such funding becomes available. In determining if funding is insufficient, the PHA must take into consideration its available budget authority, which also includes unspent prior year HAP funds in the PHA's Net Restricted Assets account.

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<sup>26</sup> 24 CFR § 983, HUD-VASH Operating Requirements, Section K, "Project-Based Assistance" Section G, "Mobility and Portability of HUD-VASH Vouchers," and Section H "Case Management Requirements."

## 7 HUD-VASH Reporting Requirements

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### 7.1 Form-HUD 50058

The code "VASH" has been established for use on line 2n of HUD-50058 to indicate that the family is a participant. In accordance with the HUD-VASH Operating Requirements, the code must remain on the form throughout the family's participation in the HUD-VASH program.<sup>27</sup>

PHAs must additionally report issuance of a HUD-VASH voucher on form HUD-50058 by entering "VASH" in field 2n and action code "10" (issuance of voucher) in field 2a.

If a HUD-VASH family no longer requires case management and the PHA has the funding and elects to serve them under its regular HCV program, the VASH code is no longer used on 2n. If the PHA elects not to provide them with a regular voucher, the VASH code must continue to be used on 2n.

MTW agencies are required to use the regular form HUD-50058 for HUD-VASH families unless they have received approval from HUD to operate their HUD-VASH program in accordance with the PHA's MTW agreement. HUD-VASH vouchers must be reported separately from vouchers under the agency's MTW Agreement.

### 7.2 IMS/PIC and Portability

If the HUD-VASH family never leased up in the initial PHA's jurisdiction, the receiving PHA must enter code 1 (new admission) on line 2a. If the HUD-VASH family did lease up in the initial PHA's jurisdiction, the receiving PHA must enter code 4 (port-in) on 2a.<sup>28</sup>

The receiving PHA must submit a 50058 report in PIC for action code 10 (issuance of voucher) on line 2a. Receiving PHAs that have not been awarded VASH vouchers must bill the initial PHA for tracking purposes.

The code VASH must be entered and maintained on line 2n by both the initial and receiving PHA.

### 7.3 Voucher Management System (VMS)

In the Voucher Management System (VMS), the PHA must report all families that are supported by HAP funds under its own annual contributions contract (ACC), including those for which the PHA is billed under portability.

The unit months leased (UML) and HAP of a HUD-VASH voucher that has ported out (for which the PHA is billed) should be reported in the VASH field, not the port-out field.<sup>29</sup>

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<sup>27</sup> HUD-VASH Operating Requirements, Section III, "Reporting Requirements."

<sup>28</sup> PIH Notice 2016-09.

<sup>29</sup> VMS Users' Manual.

## 8 Chapter Glossary

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The following terms are used in this Chapter:

**Annual Contributions Contract (ACC)** means a written contract between HUD and a PHA. Under the ACC, HUD agrees to make payments to the PHA, over a specified term, for housing assistance payments to owners and for the PHA administrative fee. The ACC specifies the maximum payment over the ACC term. The PHA agrees to administer the program in accordance with HUD regulations and requirements.

**VA Catchment Area** is defined as the geographical area served by a specific VA facility.

**Community-Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOC)** are authorized health care facilities that provide medical services to veterans enrolled in the VA's health care system. There are more than 800 CBOCs across the country and VA continues to expand the number of CBOCs in its network, including in more rural areas. These clinics provide the most common outpatient services, including health and wellness visits.

**Continuums of Care (CoC)** is a local planning body for a defined geographic area that is responsible for establishing and operating a system to prevent and end homelessness for that area and to apply for grants under HUD's CoC Program annual grant competition

**Chronically Homeless** (defined by The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act as amended by S. 896 The Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act of 2012) means:

- A "homeless individual with a disability," as defined in section 401(9) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11360(9)), who:
  - Lives in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter; and
  - Has been homeless and living as described in paragraph (1)(i) of this definition continuously for at least 12 months or on at least 4 separate occasions in the last 3 years, as long as the combined occasions equal at least 12 months and each break in homelessness separating the occasions included at least 7 consecutive nights of not living as described in paragraph (1)(i). Stays in institutional care facilities for fewer than 90 days are not considered a break in homelessness, but rather such stays are included in the 12-month total, as long as the individual was living or residing in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or an emergency shelter immediately before entering the institutional care facility;
  - An individual who has been residing in an institutional care facility, including a jail, substance abuse or mental health treatment facility, hospital, or other similar facility, for fewer than 90 days and met all of the criteria in paragraph (1) of this definition, before entering that facility; or
  - A family with an adult head of household (or if there is no adult in the family, a minor head of household) who meets all of the criteria in paragraph (1) or (2) of this definition, including a family whose composition has fluctuated while the head of household has been homeless.

**DD Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty** refers to a Report of Separation that is generally issued when a service member performs active duty or at least 90 consecutive days of active duty training. The Report of Separation contains information normally needed to verify military service for benefits, retirement, employment and membership in veterans' organizations. The Report of Separation form used in most recent years is the DD Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty.

**Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)** is the payment made by the PHA to the owner of a unit under lease by an eligible Family, as provided under a Housing Assistance Payment Contract. The payment is the difference between the Contract Rent and the tenant rent.

**Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program** is a program through which a voucher is issued to eligible families to allow the families to lease an eligible rental unit in the community. Based on the family's income and other factors, the issuing PHA will make HAP payments to the owner on behalf of the family.

**Homeless** (defined by The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act as amended by S. 896 The Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act of 2009) means:

- An individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, meaning:
  - An individual or family with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground;
  - An individual or family living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, State, or local government programs for low-income individuals); or
  - An individual who is exiting an institution where he or she resided for 90 days or less and who resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution;
  - An individual or family who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence, provided that:
    - The primary nighttime residence will be lost within 14 days of the date of application for homeless assistance;
    - No subsequent residence has been identified; and
    - The individual or family lacks the resources or support networks, e.g., family, friends, faith-based or other social networks, needed to obtain other permanent housing;
  - Unaccompanied youth under 25 years of age, or families with children and youth, who do not otherwise qualify as homeless under this definition, but who:
    - Are defined as homeless under section 387 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5732a), section 637 of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9832), section 41403 of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14043e-2), section 330(h) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254b(h)), section 3 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2012), section 17(b)

- of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786(b)), or section 725 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a);
- Have not had a lease, ownership interest, or occupancy agreement in permanent housing at any time during the 60 days immediately preceding the date of application for homeless assistance;
- Have experienced persistent instability as measured by two moves or more during the 60-day period immediately preceding the date of applying for homeless assistance; and
- Can be expected to continue in such status for an extended period of time because of chronic disabilities; chronic physical health or mental health conditions; substance addiction; histories of domestic violence or childhood abuse (including neglect); the presence of a child or youth with a disability; or two or more barriers to employment, which include the lack of a high school degree or General Education Development (GED), illiteracy, low English proficiency, a history of incarceration or detention for criminal activity, and a history of unstable employment; or
- Any individual or family who:
  - Is fleeing, or is attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions that relate to violence against the individual or a family member, including a child, that has either taken place within the individual's or family's primary nighttime residence or has made the individual or family afraid to return to their primary nighttime residence;
  - Has no other residence; and
  - Lacks the resources or support networks, e.g., family, friends, and faith-based or other social networks, to obtain other permanent housing.

**Housing Quality Standards (HQS)** are the HUD minimum quality standards for housing assisted under the tenant-based programs.

**Moving to Work (MTW)** is a demonstration program for public housing authorities that provides them the opportunity to design and test innovative, locally-designed strategies that use Federal dollars more efficiently, help residents find employment and become self-sufficient, and increase housing choices for low-income families. MTW gives PHAs exemptions from many existing public housing and voucher rules and more flexibility with how they use their Federal funds. The Office of Public Housing Investments (OPHI), within the Office of Public and Indian Housing (PIH) at HUD headquarters, oversees the MTW Demonstration.

**Project-based Voucher (PBV) Program** is a program administered by a PHA that already administers the tenant-based voucher program under an annual contributions contract (ACC) with HUD. In the PBV program, the assistance is “attached to the structure.” The PHA enters into a HAP contract with an owner for units in existing housing or in newly constructed or rehabilitated housing. Rental assistance is therefore paid for families who live in specific housing developments or units.

**Public Housing Agency (PHA)** means any State, county, municipality, or other governmental entity or public body, or agency or instrumentality of these entities that is authorized to engage or assist in the

development or operation of low-income housing under the 1937 Act.

**Unit Months Leased (UMLs)** refers to the number of cumulative number of units leased each month in the year to date. Example: a unit month is one unit leased for one month. If the PHA has one unit leased all twelve months, the total unit months leased would be 12.

**The United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)** provides a wide range of benefits to Veterans, their dependents, surviving spouses, children, or parents of a deceased Veteran, uniformed service members, and present or former reservists or National Guard members.

**VA Medical Centers (VAMC)** are federally funded entities in place to assist Veterans.

**Voucher Management System (VMS)** is the system that supports the information management needs of the HCV management functions performed by the Financial Management Center (FMC) and the Financial Management Division (FMD) of the Office of Public and Indian Housing and the Real Estate Management Center (PIH-REAC). The system's primary purpose is to provide a central system to monitor and manage the Public Housing Agency (PHAs) use of vouchers. The VMS collects PHA data that enables HUD to fund, obligate, and disburse funding in a timely manner, based on actual PHA use.