



Office of Rental Assistance and Homeless Solutions

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY

2016 Ending Veteran Homelessness Initiative

"The moral and patriotic duty is only part of the reason why ending veteran homelessness is so critical. As we all know, ending homelessness for our veterans can also be a crucial first step, a proof point to show that we can end homelessness for everyone in this country." - Michelle Obama

Due Date: March 4, 2016

2016 Ending Veteran Homelessness Initiative

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MSHDA Timeline for Webinar, Submission and Grant Award

February 8, 2016	Posting of NOFA and Application
February 11, 2016	Webinar 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. To register go to: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8450204628696375554 Webinar questions – Email klinej1@michigan.gov
March 4, 2016	Application Due Date
March 18, 2016	Grant documents mailed to the grantee for signature
April 1, 2016	Grant Begin Date
March 31, 2017	Grant End Date

The 2016 Ending Veteran Homelessness Application must be submitted as a complete package per instructions and postmarked **no later than March 4, 2016**. Failure to submit as instructed may result in a lack of funding to your community. See the application for additional information.

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY (NOFA)

I. Program Description

The Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) will distribute \$925,000 in MSHDA grant funding to house Veterans living in homelessness in Michigan.

As you may know, the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness has a federal strategic plan to prevent and end homelessness known as *Opening Doors*. Through *Opening Doors*, the U.S. Departments of Housing and Urban Development, Veterans Affairs, Management and Budget, et.al set a goal of ending Veteran homelessness in calendar year 2015 and in doing so made additional federal resources available through the SSVF Program and HUD VASH.

During 2015 Michigan Continua of Care and other partnering agencies housed approximately 80% of our Veterans experiencing homelessness. To house the remaining Veterans experiencing homelessness, via these funds, the remaining SSVF funds, and other available federal housing resources, our statewide goal will be to reach a point where all homeless Veterans will be housed. (It is important to note that we are not stating that Veteran homelessness will remain at zero after 12 months nor that we can prevent a Veteran from falling into homelessness, but that we will house all currently homeless Veterans and put systems in-place to ensure that if a Veteran does become homeless in the future, that his/her episode of homelessness will be brief.)

In working to reach this goal of housing all our Veterans experiencing homelessness in Michigan, MSHDA and partnering state departments and non-profit service providers will develop an easily replicated model to be used to rapidly re-house all homeless populations, e.g. chronic and family homelessness.

II. Allocations

The grant allocation amount will be determined by the number of reported homeless Veterans provided to your MSHDA Homeless Assistance Specialist in February 2016 along with data provided by the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).

Based upon the recommendation of the CoC Body/Chair, these funds will be awarded to the ESG fiduciary that will sub-grant them to either the Housing Assessment & Resource Agency (HARA) or the local Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) provider (list attached.)

CoC's will be notified of their available award amount by February 12, 2016. There are **no** matching funds required for this grant.

III. Grant Terms

CoC's that submit an approved 2016 Ending Veteran Homelessness application will receive the amount determined as needed based upon the number of homeless Veterans within the CoC as well as available grant funds. MSHDA is requiring that 100% of the funds be expended within one year of the date that MSHDA signs the grant agreement. In addition, 85% of the total grant amount must be spent within the first nine (9) months of grant issuance. Prior to the end of the first 12 months, the CoC Body and sub-grantee will be evaluated based upon performance, data collection, and use of funds.

MSHDA will require grantees to expend 100% of their funds by March 31, 2017. It is MSHDA's intention to ensure that the Veterans of the State of Michigan receive the full benefit of this funding. Therefore, re-adjustments of these funds will be made when needed to ensure funds are used. CoC Body's must monitor outcomes and expenditures on a monthly basis, thereby preventing loss of funds to the community. Funds may be redistributed based upon this evaluation.

Grantees must request funds monthly via MATT 2.0. Up to two months of funds can be paid in advance and additional funding requests can be made on a monthly basis.

IV. Target Population

This program is targeted to Veterans, either a single Veteran or a Veteran family where the head-of-house is a Veteran.

Veteran – An adult who served on active duty in the armed forces of the United States, including persons who served on active duty from the military reserves or the National Guard. Active duty can be for as little as 1 day. Discharge status does not apply.

Prevention:

Veterans who are currently in housing but are **at risk of becoming homeless** through eviction, or if utility assistance is needed to prevent them from becoming homeless with a household income **at or below 30%** of Area Median Income (AMI), prevention funds are allowed.

Rapid Re-housing:

Sixty percent (60%) of this grant must be used for leasing assistance, i.e. monthly rental payments for Homeless Veterans who are residing in shelters, on the street, or in a place not meant for human habitation and need longer term assistance (1-6 months) in order to obtain and sustain housing (**rapid re-housing**) with incomes **at or below 30% AMI**.

V. Use of the Funds:

These funds cannot be used to supplant existing mainstream resources and services. These Veterans funds must be used for services that are directly related to obtaining or sustaining housing.

Parameters for spending these dollars:

- 1. Administrative Costs:** Limited to five percent (5%) of the total grant amount.
- 2. HMIS Entry:** There are zero (0%) funds set-aside from this grant for HMIS entry; grantees can use ESG funds for HMIS entry.
- 3. Financial Assistance:** Seventy-five percent (75%) of the grant is available to the HARA or SSVF agency (i.e. sub-grantee) and must be used for financial assistance (prevention and re-housing), with a minimum of 60% of the grant going directly to rehousing leasing assistance, i.e. paying a landlord. Fifteen percent (15%) of the grant may be used for Prevention assistance
- 4. Case Management - Housing intake and SPDAT, locating housing and stabilization services,** is available to the sub-grantee and **capped at 20%** of the total grant amount.

These eligible activities are focused on SPDAT intake and services designed to keep people in housing or to obtain housing. Case management should be focused on housing stabilization, linking program participants to community resources and mainstream benefits, and helping participants develop a plan for preventing future housing instability. Each program participant must have a Housing Plan developed that identifies defined goals, outcomes, and timelines that provides a framework for achieving housing stability.

Note: clients **cannot** be denied rapid re-housing because of zero income.

Allowable Costs/Activities

	<u>PREVENTION</u> <i>(Prevention targets Veterans that are currently housed.)</i>	<u>RAPID RE-HOUSING</u> <i>(Rapid Re-housing targets those who are homeless.)</i>	<u>GUIDANCE</u> <i>(Payment always goes to a third party. Lead based paint policy applies to all categories.)</i>
Short Term Leasing Assistance 1-3 Months	Not Available	Available (Income up to <u>30% AMI</u> . At monthly review if the household income exceeds 50% AMI, no further assistance can be provided.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Units cannot exceed HUD FMR's. • HMIS & SPDAT required. • Leasing payments must be made directly to landlords. • Grantees will be required to utilize MATT 2.0 for payments and must maintain verification of need, income, and all other pertinent information as required by HUD and MSHDA in the participant's file. • Rent comparable required. • Participants must be assisted to apply MSHDA's HCV HP, Project Based vouchers, and other public housing programs.
Medium Term Leasing Assistance 4-6 Months	Not Available	Available (Income up to <u>30% AMI</u>) At quarterly review if the household income exceeds 50% AMI, no further assistance can be provided.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Units must meet Habitability Standards & Lead- Based Paint requirements. • Units cannot exceed HUD FMR's • Leasing assistance must be paid directly to landlords. • Grantees will be required to utilize MATT 2.0 for payments and must maintain verification documenting eligibility and reimbursement of leasing assistance. • Agencies must prepare a

			<p>Housing Plan for the household.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rent comparable required.
Rental Arrearages	<p>Available</p> <p>(2 month maximum – only if it prevents an eviction.)</p>	Not Available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants must be assisted to apply for resources available through the State Emergency Relief Program administered through DHHS. If a denial letter is received from DHHS, these funds can be used. The denial letter must be kept in the participant's folder. • Lead Based Paint requirements apply.
Security Deposits	N/A	<p>Available</p> <p>(Cannot exceed one month's rent.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants must be assisted to apply for resources available through the DHHS). • If a denial letter is received from DHHS, these funds can be used. The denial letter must be kept in the participants' folder. • Lead Based Paint requirements apply. • Rent comparable required.
Utility Deposits	N/A	<p>Available</p> <p>(\$200 limit per occurrence)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants must be assisted to apply for resources available through the DHHS. • If a denial letter is received from DHHS, these funds can be used. The denial letter must be kept in the participants' folder. • Lead Based Paint requirements apply.
Utility Payments & Utility Arrearages	<p>Available</p> <p>(\$500 per household maximum)</p>	<p>Available</p> <p>(\$500 per household maximum)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants must be assisted to apply for resources available through the State Emergency Relief Program administered through the DHHS. • If a denial letter is received from DHS, HPRP funds can be used. The denial letter must be kept in the participants' folder. • Lead Based Paint requirements apply.

VI. Ineligible Activities

- Serving homeless populations other than Veterans
- Shelter focused case management
- Mortgage payments or mortgage refinancing costs to make it affordable
- Rental assistance payments cannot be made on behalf of eligible individuals or families for the same period of time and for the same cost types that are being provided through another federal, state, or local housing subsidy program.
- Moving Expenses (Funding for this activity is available through State Emergency Relief (SER))
- Motel/hotel Vouchers (Funding for this activity is available through the statewide DHHS shelter contract with The Salvation Army)
- Furniture (Grantees are encouraged to use existing community sources)
- Pet Care
- Construction or rehabilitation
- Credit card bills or other consumer debt
- Car repair or other transportation costs
- Travel costs
- Food
- Medical or dental care and medicines
- Clothing and grooming
- Entertainment activities
- Work or education related materials
- Cash assistance to program participants
- Payment of licenses, certifications, and general classes (classes not specifically related to these funds)
- An assisted property may not be owned by the grantee, sub-grantee or the parent, subsidiary or affiliated organization of the sub-grantee.

VII: Selection Criteria

Grant Fiduciary: The fiduciary will be the current ESG fiduciary.

Sub-grantee: Will be the HARA **OR** the local SSVF Agency; the CoC will make that determination.

VIII. CoC's Role:

Continuum of Care (CoC) Body:

- Provide a monthly summary of Veteran homelessness to your MSHDA Specialist in the format provided.
- Determine whether the HARA or the local SSVF agency will be the sub-grantee, note that there is only one sub-grantee.
- Designate a lead contact to coordinate local efforts to end Veteran homelessness within your community.
- Work to ensure that Veterans living in homeless are entered on the Housing Choice Voucher Homeless Preference waiting list (as well as determining if eligible for HUD VASH).
- Work to ensure that Veterans are referred to Project Based Vouchers within the community, if available.

- Make active efforts to continuously recruit landlords/management companies and educating them on the veteran initiative. Encourage them to relax leasing qualifications when necessary.
- Explore partnerships with mental health and substance abuse providers to provide the “support” for permanent supportive housing.
- Attend conference calls, webinars, and trainings on the topic during the grant term.
- Partner with programs that serve veterans in your community; link them to VA services and supports.
- Embrace strength-based case management.
- Provide oversight of this grant ensuring funds are used as outlined appropriately and within the grant term.
- Ensure that all data on homeless veterans in your community is being accurately entered into HMIS.