

the risk for ensuring a timely submission; that is, if, because of these mail problems, the Department does not receive an application or receives it too late to give proper consideration, even if it was timely mailed, the Department is not required to consider the application.

III. Participant Eligibility

To be eligible for participation under HVRP, an individual must be homeless and a veteran defined as follows:

A. The term "homeless or homeless individual" includes persons who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. It also includes persons whose primary nighttime residence is either a supervised public or private shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations; an institution that provides a temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized; or a private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings. [42 U.S.C. 11302 (a)].

B. The term "veteran" means a person who served in the active military, naval, or air service, and who was discharged or released therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable. [38 U.S.C. 101(2)]

IV. Related HVRP Program Development Activities

Community Awareness Activities

In order to promote linkages between the program and local service providers (and thereby eliminate gaps or duplication in services and enhance provision of assistance to participants), the grantee must provide project orientation and/or service awareness activities that it determines are the most feasible for the types of providers listed below. Project orientation workshops conducted by grantees have been an effective means of sharing information and revealing the availability of other services; they are encouraged but not mandatory. Rather, the grantee will have the flexibility to attend service provider meetings, seminars, conferences, outstation staff, develop individual service contracts, and involve other agencies in program planning. This list is not exhaustive. The grantee will be responsible for providing appropriate awareness, information sharing, and orientation activities to the following:

A. *Providers of hands-on services to the homeless veteran*, such as shelter and soup-kitchen operators, to make them fully aware of services available to homeless veterans to make them job-ready and place them in jobs.

B. *Federal, State and local entitlement services* such as the Social Security

Administration (SSA), Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA), State Employment Security Agencies (SESAs) and their local Job Service offices, One-Stop Centers (which integrate WIA, labor exchange, and other employment and social services), detoxification facilities, etc., to familiarize them with the nature and needs of homeless veterans.

C. *Civic and private sector groups*, and especially veterans' service and community-based (including faith-based organizations), to describe homeless veterans and their needs.

D. *Stand Down Support:*

A "Stand Down," as it relates to homeless veterans, is an event held in a locality usually for three days where services are provided to homeless veterans along with shelter, meals, clothing, and medical attention. This type of event is mostly volunteer effort, which is organized within a community and brings service providers together such as the DVA, Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program Specialists, Local Veterans' Employment Representatives from the State Employment Service Agencies, veteran service organization, military personnel, civic leaders, and a variety of other interested persons and organizations. Many services are provided on-site with referrals also made for continued assistance after the event. This can often be the catalyst that enables the homeless veterans to get back into mainstream society. The Department of Labor has supported replication of this event. Many such events have been held throughout the nation.

In areas where an HVRP is operating, the grantees are encouraged to participate fully and offer their services for any planned Stand Down event. Towards this end, up to \$5,000 of the currently requested HVRP grant funds may be used to supplement the Stand Down effort where funds are not otherwise available, and should be reflected in the budget and budget narrative.

V. Program Summary

A. *Program Concept and Emphasis*

The HVRP grants under Section 5 of the Homeless Veterans' Comprehensive Assistance Act of 2001 (HVCAA) are intended to address two objectives:

(1) To provide services to assist in reintegrating homeless veterans into meaningful employment within the labor force; and (2) to stimulate the development of effective service delivery systems that will address the complex problems facing homeless veterans. These programs are designed

to be flexible in addressing the universal as well as local or regional problems barring homeless veterans from the workforce. The program in PY 2003 will continue to strengthen the development of effective service delivery systems, to provide comprehensive services through a case management approach that will address the complex problems facing eligible veterans trying to transition into gainful employment, and improve strategies for employment and retention.

B. *Scope of Program Design*

The project design must provide for the following services:

1. Outreach, intake, assessment, counseling to the degree practical and employment services. Outreach must be provided at shelters, day centers, soup kitchens, VA medical centers, and other programs for the homeless. Program staff providing outreach services should be a veteran who has experience in dealing with, and an understanding of the needs of the homeless.

2. Coordination with veterans' services programs and organizations such as:

- Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program (DVOP) Specialists, Local Veterans' Employment Representatives (LVERs) in the State Employment Security/Job Service Agencies (SESAs) or in the workforce development system's One-Stop Centers, and Veterans' Workforce Investment Programs (VWIPs);
- Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) services, including its Health Care for Homeless Veterans, Domiciliary, and other programs, including those offering transitional housing; and
- Veteran service organizations such as The American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Vietnam Veterans of America, and the American Veterans (AMVETS);

3. Referral to necessary treatment services, rehabilitative services, and counseling including, but not limited to:

- Alcohol and drugs;
- Medical;
- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder;
- Mental Health;
- Coordinating with McKinney Homeless Assistance Act (MHAA) Title VI programs for health care for the homeless [health care programs under the HVCAA];

4. Referral to housing assistance provided by, for example:

- Local shelters;
- Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) food and shelter programs;
- Transitional housing programs and single room occupancy housing