

Department of Veterans Affairs

§ 63.15

Serious mental illness means diagnosed mental illness that actually or potentially contributes to a veteran's homelessness.

Substance use disorder means alcoholism or addiction to a drug that actually or potentially contributes to a veteran's homelessness.

(Authority: 501, 2002, 2031)

§ 63.3 Eligible veterans.

(a) *Eligibility.* In order to serve as the basis for a per diem payment through the HCHV program, a veteran served by the non-VA community-based provider must be:

- (1) Homeless;
- (2) Enrolled in the VA health care system, or eligible for VA health care under 38 CFR 17.36 or 17.37; and
- (3) Have a serious mental illness and/or substance use disorder,
 - (i) That has been diagnosed by a VA clinician,
 - (ii) Is "clinically managed" as determined by a VA clinician (clinical management of a condition may be achieved through non-medical intervention such as participation in a 12-step program), and
 - (iii) Impacts the veteran's ability for self-care and/or management of financial affairs as determined by a VA case-worker (*i.e.*, a clinician, social worker, or addiction specialist).

(b) *Priority veterans.* In allocating HCHV program resources, VA will give priority to veterans, in the following order, who:

- (1) Are new to the VA health care system as a result of VA outreach efforts, and to those referred to VA by community agencies that primarily serve the homeless population, such as shelters, homeless day centers, and soup kitchens.
- (2) Have service-connected disabilities.
- (3) All other veterans.

(c) VA will refer a veteran to a non-VA community-based provider after VA determines the veteran's eligibility and priority.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 501, 2031)

§ 63.10 Selection of non-VA community-based providers.

(a) *Who can apply.* VA may award per diem contracts to non-VA community-based providers who provide temporary residential assistance for homeless persons with serious mental illness, and/or substance use disorders, and who can provide the specific services and meet the standards identified in § 63.15 and elsewhere in this part.

(b) *Awarding contracts.* Contracts for services authorized under this section will be awarded in accordance with applicable VA and Federal procurement procedures in 48 CFR chapters 1 and 8. Such contracts will be awarded only after the quality, effectiveness and safety of the applicant's program and facilities have been ascertained to VA's satisfaction, and then only to applicants determined by VA to meet the requirements of this part.

(c) *Per diem rates and duration of contract periods.* (1) Per diem rates are to be negotiated as a contract term between VA and the non-VA community-based provider; however, the negotiated rate must be based on local community needs, standards, and practices.

(2) Contracts with non-VA community-based providers will establish the length of time for which VA may pay per diem based on an individual veteran; however, VA will not authorize the payment of per diem for an individual veteran for a period of more than 6 months absent extraordinary circumstances.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 501, 2031)

§ 63.15 Duties of, and standards applicable to, non-VA community-based providers.

A non-VA community-based provider must meet all of the standards and provide the appropriate services identified in this section, as well as any additional requirements set forth in a specific contract.

(a) *Facility safety requirements.* The facility must meet all applicable safety requirements set forth in 38 CFR 17.81(a).

(b) *Treatment plans and therapeutic/rehabilitative services.* Individualized treatment plans are to be developed through a joint effort of the veteran, non-VA community-based provider