Chapter 18

VETERANS AFFAIRS SUPPORTIVE HOUSING (VASH)

**INTRODUCTION**

This chapter describes HUD regulations and RHA policies related to the HUD Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) program in four parts:

Part I: General Requirements-This part provides an overview of the VASH program and the basic requirements of the program

Part II: Eligibility-This part describes the basic eligibility requirements

Part III: Voucher Issuance-This part describes the term of the voucher and lease

Part IV: Portability-This part describes the rules related to portability

Part V: Denial of Assistance-The part describes the rules related to denial of assistance

**PART I: GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

**18-I.A. OVERVIEW [24 CFR 982.201]**

The HUD veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) program combines HUD HCV rental assistance for homeless veterans with case management and clinical services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Ongoing case management, health and other supportive services will be made available to homeless veterans.

The VASH program will be administered in accordance with regular HCV program requirements (24 CFR 982), except as described in this chapter.

**PART II: ELIGIBLITY**

**18-II.A. FAMILY ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION**

RHASNC will receive referrals from the Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC). VAMC will select families and determine initial family eligibility. RHA will accept VAMC’s referral and conduct a criminal sex offender screening.

**18-II.B. INCOME ELIGIBILITY**

RHA must determine income eligibility for VASH families in accordance with 24 CFR 982.201. Families whose income exceeds the applicable income limit will be denied admission.

**PART III: VOUCHER ISSUANCE**

**18-III.A. VOUCHER ISSUANCE**

Since VASH vouchers are for Homeless Veterans, the VASH vouchers must always remain with a Veteran. In the case of divorce or separation, the voucher remains with the eligible Veteran. If the Veteran dies, the VASH voucher could remain with the remaining members of the tenant family and the family may continue to utilize the HUD-VASH voucher. If VASH case management services are no longer needed, and if a tenant-based voucher is available, the remaining family members(s) may be offered a tenant-based voucher in order to allow the VASH voucher to be utilized for another Veteran.

**18-III.B. INITIAL TERM OF THE VOUCHER**

VASH vouchers are issued with an initial search term of 120 days. Extensions, suspensions, and progress reports will be consistent with the tenant-based voucher program, but will apply after the minimum 120-day initial search term.

**18-III.C. INITIAL LEASE TERM**

As with the tenant-based HCV program, VASH participants must enter into an initial lease term with the owner of one year.

**PART IV: PORTABILITY**

**18-IV.A. OVERVIEW**

An eligible VASH voucher holder wishing to exercise portability to another jurisdiction must choose a location where there is a VAMC with an available VASH voucher to provide case management services or portability is not allowed.

**18-IV.B. PORTABILITY WITH ORIGINAL VAMC CASEMANAGEMENT**

At times, RHA’s partnering VAMC will still be able to provide case management. If the family moves under portability, and RHA’s partnering VAMC will still be able to provide the necessary case management services due to its proximity of the partnering VAMC, the receiving PHA must process the move in accordance with the portability procedures of 24 CFR 982.355. If the receiving PHA has VASH vouchers available, they may absorb or administer the voucher. Both the VAMC and RHA must be in support of the family’s relocation before approving the family to port.

**18-IV.C. PORTABILITY WITH RECEIVING PHA’S PARTNERING VAMC**

 If a family wants to move to another jurisdiction where it will not be possible for RHA’s partnering VAMC to provide case management services, the VAMC must first approve the family’s relocation and then determine that the VASH family could be served by another VAMC that is participating in the VASH program. The receiving PHA must have a VASH voucher available for this family. In these cases, the family must be absorbed by the receiving PHA’s VASH program either as a new admission or as a portability move-in. When the VASH voucher is absorbed by the receiving PHA, RHA’s VASH voucher will become available to lease to a new VASH eligible family, as determined by the partnering VAMC.

**PART V: DENIAL OF ASSISTANCE**

**18-V.A. DENIAL AT INTAKE**

At initial intake, the VASH family can only be determined ineligible due to:

* Income limitations or
* Having any member of the household subject to a lifetime registration requirement under a state sex offender registration program.

RHA cannot deny assistance to a Veteran that previously participated in a HUD program and still owes money.

In any case where RHA decides to deny assistance to the family, RHASNC must give the family written notice which states:

* The reason(s) for the denial of assistance.
* The family’s right to request an informal review
* The date by which a request for an informal review must be received by RHASNC

Once the applicant becomes a resident, the resident must follow all of RHA’s rules including the family obligations of the tenant-based HCV program.

As a condition of HCV rental assistance, a VASH family must receive case management services from the VAMC. If a VASH family fails to participate in case management with the VAMC, RHASNC must terminate the HCV rental assistance. A VAMC determination that the family no longer requires case management is not grounds for termination of assistance.