



# Chicago Housing Authority Demonstration Program and Special Initiatives Overview

## Housing Choice Voucher Homeless Veterans Initiative (Approved November 2015)

### Overview

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CHA will provide up to 150 vouchers per year for 2015 through 2017 (a total of up to 450 vouchers) to house veterans enrolled in Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF). The SSVF program is funded by the United States Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) and is administered through various local non-profit organizations to provide supportive services for low or very low-income veteran families residing in or transitioning to permanent housing. These services are designed to increase the housing stability of veteran families that are at-risk of or experiencing homelessness.

SSVF providers offer the following services:

- Housing stability case management and housing location and inspection
- Emergency financial assistance to acquire or maintain permanent housing
- Tenant rights and responsibilities education and support
- Asset development and financial literacy
- Job readiness and employment placement services
- Referral for health care, daily living, wellness, transportation, legal, and child care services

### Purpose Why was this program created?

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In 2014, the City of Chicago and the Chicago Continuum of Care committed to ending veteran homelessness in Chicago by the end of 2015. CHA participates in the working group that is leading this effort. As of October 2015, there are approximately 1,100 homeless veterans remaining to be housed in Chicago, and of those, more than 700 have been referred to SSVF providers. In discussions with the SSVF providers, the working group learned that one of the most significant barriers to housing homeless veterans is the lack of long-term rental subsidy for these individuals and families. CHA believes providing vouchers for this effort will make a major impact on achieving a “functional zero” homeless veteran population.

### Eligibility Who can participate?

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To be eligible for this project, applicants must reside in Chicago and must be enrolled with a Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) provider and must be referred to CHA by their SSVF provider.

### Process

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- Veterans enrolled in SSVF are referred to CHA by their SSVF providers.
- CHA processes HCV application and conducts the appropriate background check.
- CHA has the discretion to exclude any potential participant.
- The typical HCV leasing process is followed (inspection, lease, HAP, etc.).

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**Housing Where and how will CHA house participants?**

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Participants will be housed in units using a tenant-based Housing Choice Voucher.

**Requirements What do participants have to do?**

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Participants must comply with their lease and with all HCV requirements as outlined in the CHA's Administrative Plan.

**Timeline When will the program take place?**

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- The HCV Homeless Veterans Initiative will run from 2015 through 2017.