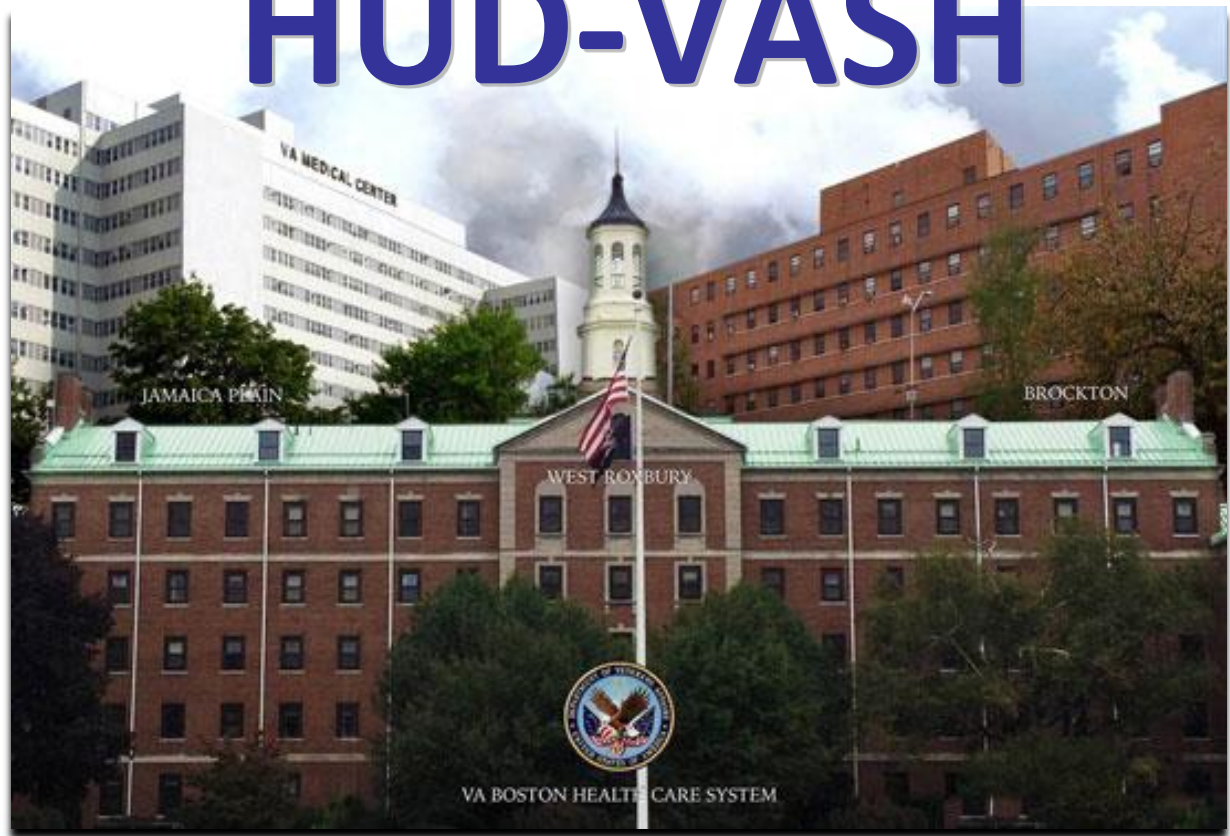




# Boston VA Healthcare System

# HUD-VASH





# What is HUD-VASH?

- HUD-VASH is a national partnership between the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
  - Managed directly by VA case managers (social workers) and Public Housing Authorities (PHAs)
  - VASH = VA Supportive Housing
- HUD-VASH provides case management and supportive services in conjunction with a mobile Housing Choice Voucher (“Section 8”) to VA-eligible veterans experiencing homelessness





# Boston HUD-VASH Program

- Currently there are approximately 986 veterans in housing
- Another 68 veterans are actively looking for housing
- We work with the following PHAs:
  - Boston Housing Authority
  - Cambridge Housing Authority
  - Metro Boston Housing (DHCD)
  - Quincy Housing Authority
  - Milton Housing Authority
  - Brockton Housing Authority
  - Braintree Housing Authority
  - Brookline Housing Authority





# VASH Staff

- Veterans work with a multidisciplinary team including case managers, peer support specialists, subs specialists and occupational therapists
- Every VASH case manager is a licensed social worker
  - Currently over 40 social workers across three campuses
- Evolving phased-based approach, each veteran is assigned a “team” depending on their unique needs





# Housing + Case Management

- VASH case manager completes a psychosocial intake and refers veteran to a local PHA for voucher issuance
- VASH staff assists veteran in renting an apartment in the community of their choice
- VASH staff provides ongoing case management and support by working toward housing and other identified goals
- Reassess needs and goals based on changing conditions

**Ultimate Goal:**

**Veteran can secure and maintain permanent housing**





# Case Management Functions

- Coordinate VA and community interventions
  - Act as a liaison with collateral providers
  - Landlord
  - Other service providers
- Make regular home visits to assess veteran's ongoing needs
- Promote recovery from homelessness
  - Physical health
  - Mental health
  - Community connectedness
- Connect veterans to treatment or services both in and outside of the VA
- Provide access to benefits & vocational services





# Program Requirements

- Veteran is eligible for health care through VA\*
- Homeless status (McKinney Act definition)
- Veteran must agree to participate in case management in order to obtain and sustain independent housing in the community
- PHA determines financial and legal eligibility
  - Meet income requirements, typically under 50% of area median income (FY 2020)

1 person: \$49,100  
2 person: \$56,100  
3 person: \$63,100  
4 person: \$70,100  
5 person \$75,750



# Benefits for Landlords

- HUD-VASH staff are also a resource for landlords, will liaison with the PHA and tenant during lease-up process and throughout tenancy
- HUD-VASH vouchers have their own designated leasing officer at each PHA
- HUD-VASH units are prioritized for inspections – less waiting to lease up
- Initial lease-ups do not have to occur on the 1<sup>st</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> day of the month, lease can be signed as soon as the apartment passes inspection
- If a veteran's income changes the voucher will adjust to cover the difference, meaning landlords will always get a full month's rent
  - “Pandemic proof”





# Contact Us

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