

## **Chapter 18**

### **VASH**

#### **(Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing voucher program Section XXIV.)**

#### **INTRODUCTION/OVERVIEW**

The HUD-VASH program combines HUD HCV rental assistance for homeless veterans with case management and clinical services provided by the Veterans Administration (VA). Twenty-five VASH vouchers were awarded to Racine County Housing Authority (RCHA) and Appleton Housing Authority (AHA), who has indicated they will port these vouchers to BCHA to administer in Brown County.

Normal BCHA Administrative Plan policies apply to HUD-VASH vouchers unless the local policy conflicts with the requirements HUD-VASH requirements identified in Federal Register notices. Currently FR-5213-N-01 cites the HUD -VASH program requirements. Items A through F below detail any differences from the HCV Program.

#### **18-1.A. ADMISSIONS**

The VA will refer participants for eligibility determination to Racine County or Appleton Housing Authority for the issuance of a VASH voucher. RCHA and AHA have indicated they will then exercise portability to transfer the vouchers to the BCHA, who will then bill RCHA or AHA for the vouchers. BCHA does not have the authority to maintain a waiting list or apply local preferences for the VASH voucher program (nor does RCHA). The VA will screen all VASH families. BCHA relinquishes its authority to determine the eligibility of VASH families in accordance to the regular HCV program rules and BCHA policies. BCHA does not have the authority to screen VASH families or deny assistance for any grounds permitted under 24 CFR 982.552 and 982.553, with one exception. *BCHA is still required to prohibit admission if any family member of the household is subject to a lifetime registration requirement under a state sex offender registration program.*

#### **18-1.B. INCOME ELIGIBILITY**

The initial PHA and BCHA will determine income eligibility for VASH families in accordance to 24 CFR 982.201. Income targeting requirements do not apply.

#### **18-1.C. VOUCHER ISSUANCE**

The initial PHA will issue a 120 day voucher and issue any extensions in accordance with federal and local policy.

#### **18-1.D. INITIAL LEASE TERMS**

The initial lease term must be established for at least a 12 month period unless otherwise recommended by the VA.

### **18-1.E. PORTABILITY**

HUD-VASH participants must reside in jurisdictional areas that are accessible to case management services as determined by partnering VA.

### **18-1.E. CASE MANAGEMENT**

As a condition of rental assistance the HUD-VASH family must receive case management services from the VA. The VA has indicated they will require Family Self Sufficiency Program case management as part of their case management requirements as appropriate. The BCHA will provide the FSS case management in accordance with federal regulations and local policy in that area. The BCHA will work in partnership with the VA to case manage VASH participants. Failure to participate without good cause in case management will result in termination of HUD-VASH voucher assistance as verified by VA. However, if the VA determines the family no longer requires case management service the family will be offered continued HCV assistance and transferred to a Housing Choice Voucher, pending funding availability. To complete the voucher transfer an annual re-exam must be completed.