

## SSVF Continuum of Care Endorsement Process

### Background

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has issued a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program. SSVF funding provides assistance for Veterans and their families who are homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless. Eligible applicants include non-profit organizations and consumer cooperatives. The MAG Continuum of Care (AZ-502) has been designated by the VA as a Priority 1 community. Because of this designation, the total grant amount available for SSVF Priority 1 applicants in the MAG CoC is \$3,000,000. As part of the application package, an applicant for Priority 1 funding must provide a letter of support from the Continuum of Care (CoC) where they plan to deliver services. CoC endorsement is required for Priority 1 funding applications. As established in the SSVF NOFA, the CoC can endorse a maximum of two applicants for Priority 1 funding. The intent of this requirement is to ensure applicants are actively participating in CoC planning and coordination efforts and proposing or implementing homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing assistance for Veterans that is consistent with CoC goals and objectives. Continuum of Care endorsement indicates that the CoC formally approves and supports the applicant for SSVF funding. This will be detailed in a letter of support from the CoC that will be submitted to the VA with the funding application.

### Process

All applicants for SSVF funding must complete the SSVF Continuum of Care Pre-Application and submit with a copy of the grant application for review by the Continuum of Care Ranking and Review Panel. All SSVF Continuum of Care Pre-Applications are due by February 26, 2014 by 12:00 noon via email to Brande Mead, Human Services Program Manager at [bmead@azmag.gov](mailto:bmead@azmag.gov) with the subject line "SSVF Pre-Application for Endorsement".

The Ranking and Review Panel will review the application materials and make a recommendation to the MAG Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness to endorse up to two SSVF applications. The Ranking and Review Panel recommendation will be based on the SSVF Continuum of Care Pre-Application, grant application, and project presentation. Project presentations will be held on February 27, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. at Maricopa Association of Governments, 302 N. 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Second Floor, Chaparral room.

By carefully assessing the organizations endorsed, the CoC can ensure that the most qualified organizations receive funding and that the community makes progress toward the goal of ending veteran homelessness. The Ranking and Review Panel will be considering the following in their review of each application and will ask each applicant to respond to the following questions during the project presentation:

- Does the organization have a good working knowledge of Rapid Re-Housing?

- Is the organization capable of implementing this program at the necessary scale?
- Does the organization have a cooperative relationship with the CoC and other community organizations?
- Does the organization work well with the local VA and other veteran organizations?
- Is the organization committed to re-housing vets with high barriers to housing?
- Does the organization use Housing First principles?
- Is the organization fully committed to the goal of ending veterans' homelessness?

The Ranking and Review Panel will make a recommendation to the Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness on Monday, March 3, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. at MAG, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Saguaro Room. Continuum of Care approval will result in letters of support to up to two organizations for SSVF funding.

### **Appeals**

Appeals on the basis of fact on the decision of the Continuum of Care Committee can be made in writing by 5:00 p.m. on March 4, 2014. Written letter of appeal can be addressed to the MAG Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness, 302 N. 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Suite 300, Phoenix, AZ 85003 Attention: Brande Mead, Human Services Program Manager. If there is a basis for an appeal, an appeals meeting will be held March 5 or 6, 2014. The decision made by the appeals panel will be considered final and no further appeals can be requested. The appeals panel will consist of the Continuum of Care Committee Chair, Vice Chair and members of the Ranking and Review Panel.

### **Questions**

Please contact Brande Mead, Human Services Program Manager, at [bmead@azmag.gov](mailto:bmead@azmag.gov) or (602) 254-6300 with questions or additional information about the endorsement process.