



**THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**  
**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' SERVICES**  
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Deval L. Patrick  
Governor

JudyAnne Bigby M.D.  
Secretary, EOHS

Timothy P. Murray  
Lieutenant Governor

Coleman Nee  
Secretary

VSOs,

August 10, 2012

In support of the Governor's goal of ending veterans' homelessness, the FY 2013 Budget has two major changes to the way we do business helping homeless VB&S recipients. This will make a big difference to those communities that have homeless shelters and transitional homes located within their jurisdiction and the way we now process First / Last and Security for VASH recipients.

Directive CY 12-01 outlines the process for shelter and transitional assistance and covers two major changes.

The first change is the community where the institution is physically located now assumes responsibility for all new requests for authorization for VB&S recipients residing at the shelter. This is a major revision to past policy, which requires that the community where the recipient previously resided was responsible for benefits for one year. This will make the processing of benefits significantly easier since the VSO is in the same community as the shelter.

The second change to policy is that DVS will reimburse at a rate of 100% for all authorized benefits for Budget #3 and Budget #4 starting July 2012. This will help alleviate the burden of providing benefits to a predominately transient group of VB&S recipients.

Although the Web-VSMIS program is not capable of immediately reflecting this change, your disbursement next year will include the full 100% for the authorized benefits under these two budgets. DVS is in the process of implementing a change to the Web-VSMIS software to reflect these changes.

There are approximately 60 existing cases where the existing policy stays the same. To ease the transition to the new policy, the community currently processing the requests will continue processing these VS-21As for the remainder of the one-year period according to 108 CMR 3.04(1).

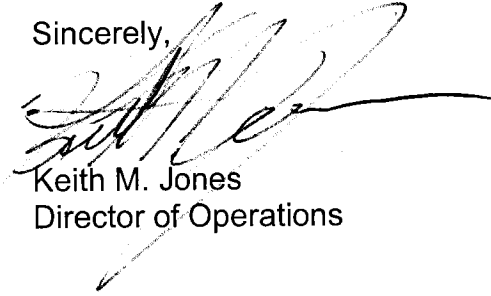
Directive CY 12-02 covers the handling of the First / Last and Security Deposit for those veterans receiving a VASH voucher. Starting July 1, 2012, DVS will reimburse the community 100% for the authorized First / Last and Security Deposit for those VB&S recipients transitioning from an institution to permanent housing.

August 10, 2012

There will be no need for a Prior Approval for the First / Last and Security Deposit for VASH recipients. The VA has performed the preliminary investigation necessary to ensure the shelter has met their standards and that the veteran receives adequate support services.

Please contact Claire Makrinikolas, Manager of the SHARP Team or myself if you have any questions concerning these two directives. Claire can be reached at (617) 210-5928. I can be reached at (617) 210-5481.

Sincerely,



Keith M. Jones  
Director of Operations