



THE HOMELESS VETERANS CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE ACT OF 2020

The Homeless Veterans Coronavirus Response Act of 2020 brings much-needed relief to the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) Homeless Program Office by expanding its authorities to provide food, transportation, and communications technologies to homeless veterans and waiving requirements that are especially onerous during the COVID-19 pandemic.

INCREASES FLEXIBILITY OF FUNDING

- Expands the use of Grant and Per Diem (GPD) and Health Care for Homeless Veterans (HCHV) funds to provide homeless veterans food, clothing, blankets, hygiene items, transportation to appointments, communications equipment and other vital supplies
- Sets the new maximum GPD nightly rate at nearly \$150 during the COVID-19 pandemic, giving local homeless shelters the extra cash they need to continue caring for homeless veterans

EXPANDS ACCESS TO CARE

- Allows VA to fund additional GPD beds without going through the time-consuming "Notice of Funding Availability" process
- Waives inspection requirements so homeless shelters can expand their bed space and get more veterans into shelter as quickly as possible
- Gives VA the authority to collaborate with community organizations to manage VA land that homeless veterans might be using as temporary shelter. This will help those veterans safely social distance and get access to services and supplies
- Allows VA to provide communications equipment to homeless veterans, VA case managers, and community-based service providers to facilitate homeless veterans' participation in VA telehealth programs

In addition to the Homeless Veterans Coronavirus Response Act, Senator Tester has fought for additional funding and flexibilities for VA's homeless program. In the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, Tester secured \$300 million in additional funding for the program, including \$202 million for the Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program, \$88 million for the GPD program, and \$10 million for the HCHV program. Along with additional funding, Tester fought for provisions in the CARES Act that waived funding caps for the GPD and SSVF programs and ensured HUD-VASH case workers and veterans received telehealth equipment.

