



AUDIT OF VETERAN AFFAIRS SUPPORTIVE HOUSING VOUCHER PROGRAM

Community Services Department



OBJECTIVES

This audit was conducted to determine whether effective controls are in place to properly administer the U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing Voucher (HUD-VASH) program in accordance with applicable policies, statutes, and other requirements.

BACKGROUND

The HUD-VASH program combines HUD's Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) rental assistance for homeless veterans with case management and clinical services provided by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The VA provides these services for participating veterans at VA medical centers (VAMCs), community-based outreach clinics (CBOCs), through VA contractors, or through other VA designated entities.

Each year, HUD and VA have collaboratively awarded HUD-VASH vouchers based on current geographic need and public housing agency (PHA) performance. The City of Mesa's Housing Services Division of the Community Services Department is the PHA in charge of administering the HUD-VASH program. The VA submits a referral package for veterans in need of housing assistance to the Housing Services Division, who will complete a review of the package and conduct verifications which include:

- Verification of income
- Verification of citizenship
- Background check

HUD-VASH vouchers are renewed based on actual units leased by the PHA along with all other HCV rental assistance.

The City has been awarded 191 VASH vouchers and 145 of the vouchers were issued to veterans as of December 31, 2021. In calendar year 2021, the Housing Services Division disbursed approximately \$1.2M in housing assistance payments.

CONCLUSION

In our opinion, the Community Services department has effective controls in place to properly administer the HUD-VASH program in accordance with applicable policies, statutes, and other requirements.

SCOPE

The scope of the audit was Community Services HUD-VASH Voucher program participants during the period January 1, 2021, through December 31, 2021.

METHODOLOGY

To accomplish our objective, we performed the following:

- Interviewed personnel from Community Services.
- Reviewed policies and procedures and observed processes to gain an understanding of Community Services' HUD-VASH program operations.
- Reviewed a sample of HUD-VASH participant files to determine if income, citizenship, and background verifications were completed.
- Reviewed a sample of housing inspections to verify they have been completed within the required timeframes set by HUD.
- Verified a sample of rental payments were issued timely in accordance to lease agreements.

AUDIT STANDARDS

We conducted this performance audit in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain sufficient, appropriate evidence to provide a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objectives. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objectives.



The City Auditor's office provides audit, consulting, and investigative services to identify and minimize risk, maximize efficiencies, improve internal controls, and strengthen accountability to Mesa's citizens. We serve as an independent resource to City Management and the City Council, to provide them with timely, accurate, and objective information, assurances, and recommendations pertaining to City of Mesa programs and activities.

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