



## Status Query and Response Exchange System (SQUARES) Overview

### A Veteran-Status Lookup Service for Homeless Assistance Providers

#### *The Need for SQUARES*

Ending homelessness among veterans is a major priority of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH), and other Federal agencies, most particularly the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Identifying the population of homeless Veterans is an essential first step in targeting services to them as well as well as monitoring progress toward this goal.

Non-VA service providers and Continuum of Care (CoC) staff currently rely on client self-reporting their Veteran status, which is not always reliable. Therefore, these **providers may be unaware that a homeless client is a Veteran**, and are thus unable to refer them to the rich array of resources targeted to serve homeless Veterans. While SQUARES provides a reliable and quick determination of presumptive veteran status, it must not be used as documentation of a prospective participant's program eligibility determination.

#### *SQUARES' Capabilities*

SQUARES is a web-based lookup system that **allows registered users to check their clients' Veteran status in real-time**. SQUARES acts as a verification source for the homeless service providers and CoCs to check client data with the VA Defense Information Repository (VADIR), which **contains authoritative Veterans status data**.

#### *Registering for SQUARES*

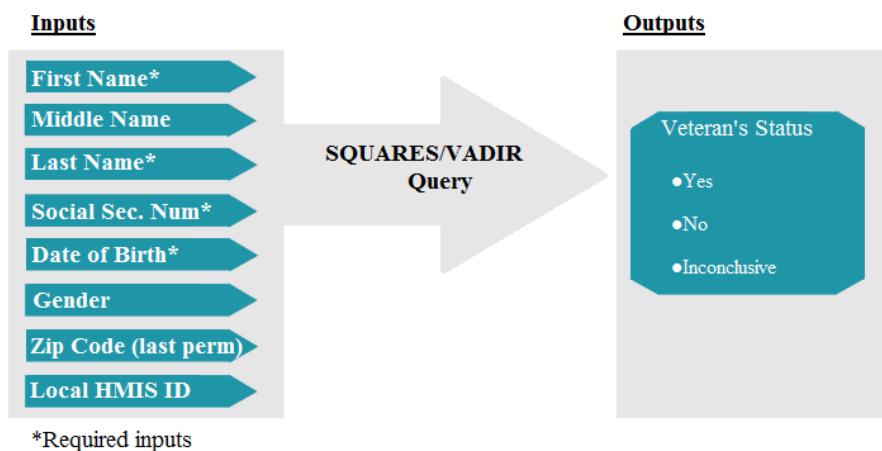
The registration process for SQUARES is easy. Use the following link to sign-up:

[hmisrepository.va.gov/register\\_sq.php](https://hmisrepository.va.gov/register_sq.php)

Persons with HMIS Repository accounts can already access SQUARES via that system.

#### *Using SQUARES*

Log into SQUARES at [hmisrepository.va.gov](https://hmisrepository.va.gov). Once logged in, select the "SQUARES" from the User Options menu. Next, complete the Veteran Status Lookup Query and click the "Submit Query" button. SQUARES will then authenticate and validate the request, pass valid queries on to VADIR and then pass the result back to the user within a few minutes.



#### *Protecting Veterans Privacy*

SQUARES is designed to protect Veterans' **security and privacy**. Transmissions to and from SQUARES are encrypted. The VA only returns a response as to whether a client is a Veteran. It will not return any additional information about the Veteran, their discharge status, service history or eligibility for any particular program. In addition, the VA does not retain the personally identifying information after it is used for the query. Only de-identified information for system monitoring and analysis are retained for auditing purposes.