Safe Housing for Survivors: DV/SA Housing First and Rapid Rehousing

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Date: Time
Housing Justice Network
DV & Housing TA Consortium

Four Federal Agencies

• Family Violence Prevention & Services Program/HHS
• Office on Violence Against Women/DOJ
• Office for Victims of Crime/DOJ
• Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs/HUD

Four Technical Assistance Providers

• National Alliance for Safe Housing (NASH)
• Collaborative Solutions, Inc. (CSI)
• National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV)
• National Resource Center on Domestic Violence (NRCDV)
SAFE HOUSING PARTNERSHIPS

The new website for the Domestic Violence and Housing Technical Assistance Consortium

- Data, infographics, literature reviews, and reports that describe the intersections between domestic violence, sexual assault, homelessness, and housing
- Strategies for building effective and sustainable partnerships across systems and case studies of successful collaborations
- In-depth resource collections organized around four key approaches to addressing and preventing housing instability among survivors
- Access to relevant federal laws, regulations, and policies

Have questions? Need TA? Want training? Contact the Consortium directly through the site!

Domestic Violence and Housing Technical Assistance Consortium
www.safehousingpartnerships.org
National Landscape

2017
HEALS Act: Helping End Abusive Relationships Act

2018
HUD CoC DV Set Aside for DV Survivors RRH

2020
End Family & Youth Homelessness
An Array of DV Survivors’ Housing Options

Crisis response and safety
- Emergency Shelter
  - Immediate safety & confidentiality
  - Comprehensive advocacy
  - Exploration of options
  - Supportive services

Recovery and stabilization
- Transitional Housing
  - Financial assistance
  - Economic and employment support and advocacy
  - Specialized services to address impact of abuse

Housing and economic stability
- Permanent Housing
  - Housing First/Rapid rehousing services
  - Affordable and subsidized housing
  - Home purchase assistance
  - Specialized services to address impact of abuse
  - Prevention-help remain safely in homes

Safety Planning, Advocacy, Access to Trauma-Informed Services to increase Housing Stability
Survivors are looking to Both Systems for Housing Help

DV shelters lack capacity; many prioritize high current DV danger

Over half of survivors who identify a need for housing services don’t receive them

Survivors often faced with choice of return to abuse or coping with chronic homelessness with little hope of housing
DV Housing First: wscadv
Partnerships with housing providers

Partnerships with other community resource providers

Systems change

- Establish emotional safety
- Restore control
- Facilitate connections
- Recognize trauma healing is not linear

Mobile Advocacy

Flexible Engagement

- Individualized flexible funding
- Funding not limited to rent assistance
- Engagement is often not linear

Trauma-informed Practice

Community Engagement

- Partnerships with housing providers
- Partnerships with other community resource providers
- Systems change

Meeting survivors where they are
- Accompanying survivors on the journey
- Safety planning
- Holistic focus, not just housing

Facilitate connections
Core Components of Mainstream RRH

1. Housing Identification
   • Recruit landlords, address barriers, help secure a unit

2. Rent and Move-In (Financial) Assistance
   • Support quick move out of homelessness and stabilize in permanent housing; typically six months or less

3. RRH Case Management and Services
   • Make supports available to aid stabilization
RRH for DV/SA Survivors?

Confidentiality: Some survivors need/want confidentially-located shelter; Need for personal data kept confidential

Some face high barriers and may need long-term subsidy or master-leasing

Others want to return to/remain in previous housing once abuser vacates

Many survivors want to establish themselves and their children ASAP in a neighborhood setting – Rapid Re-housing may be a good fit
RRH DV-Specific Considerations

- Landlords may anticipate trouble w/ abuser
- Survivors may have no or negative housing history, bad credit
- Survivors may have pets they can’t leave behind
- Housing in high-crime areas may trigger trauma
- Some locations unsafe due to abuser’s proximity
**DV RRH Services, support and systemic issues: DV-Specific Considerations**

- Trauma impacts (survivor and children)
- Ongoing legal issues
- Fears about child custody, deportation
- Isolation from social supports
- Interrupted/sabotaged employment history
- Ruined credit from abuser, bad credit, inexperience with finances
- Criminal record
- Chemical dependency
- Stalking-prone abuser
- Gender and racial discrimination in housing markets
- Displacement/gentrification and lack of affordable housing
- Employment discrimination and pay inequity
Additional Considerations

• Training for all staff—cross systems training
• Survivor-led safety planning and housing location
• Education/advocacy with landlords
• VAWA housing protections/rights
• Prepare survivor to talk about impact of DV on housing history
• Flexible period of rental subsidy
• Provision for second (or third) placement if safety becomes compromised: Emergency Transfer Process
• Partnerships
• Trauma-informed approach
• Informed consent, opting in around data storage and sharing
Considerations in Working Within Cultural Communities & COCs

• In urban areas, affordable housing may not be available in traditional neighborhoods of some cultural communities due to gentrification.

• Survivor’s ties to cultural community may present housing location challenges; must balance safety with access to natural support systems.

• Relocation to available affordable housing may create displacement and further trauma and loss (such as Native American survivors who must move off-reservation).
Questions and Discussion
Contact

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