

<b>Streamlined Annual PHA Plan</b> <i>(High Performer PHAs)</i>	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Office of Public and Indian Housing	OMB No. 2577-0226 Expires 03/31/2024
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**Purpose.** The 5-Year and Annual PHA Plans provide a ready source for interested parties to locate basic PHA policies, rules, and requirements concerning the PHA's operations, programs, and services, including changes to these policies, and informs HUD, families served by the PHA, and members of the public of the PHA's mission, goals and objectives for serving the needs of low- income, very low- income, and extremely low- income families

**Applicability.** The Form HUD-50075-HP is to be completed annually by **High Performing PHAs**. PHAs that meet the definition of a Standard PHA, Troubled PHA, HCV-Only PHA, Small PHA, or Qualified PHA do not need to submit this form.

**Definitions.**

- (1) **High-Performer PHA** - A PHA that owns or manages more than 550 combined public housing units and housing choice vouchers and was designated as a high performer on both the most recent Public Housing Assessment System (PHAS) and Section Eight Management Assessment Program (SEMAP) assessments.
- (2) **Small PHA** - A PHA that is not designated as PHAS or SEMAP troubled, that owns or manages less than 250 public housing units and any number of vouchers where the total combined units exceed 550.
- (3) **Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Only PHA** - A PHA that administers more than 550 HCVs, was not designated as troubled in its most recent SEMAP assessment and does not own or manage public housing.
- (4) **Standard PHA** - A PHA that owns or manages 250 or more public housing units and any number of vouchers where the total combined units exceed 550, and that was designated as a standard performer in the most recent PHAS or SEMAP assessments.
- (5) **Troubled PHA** - A PHA that achieves an overall PHAS or SEMAP score of less than 60 percent.
- (6) **Qualified PHA** - A PHA with 550 or fewer public housing dwelling units and/or housing choice vouchers combined and is not PHAS or SEMAP troubled.

PROPOSED PLAN

<b>A.</b>	<b>PHA Information.</b>				
A.1	PHA Name: <u>Housing Authority of the City of Aurora</u> PHA Code: <u>IL090</u> PHA Type: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> High Performer  PHA Plan for Fiscal Year Beginning: (MM/YYYY): <u>04/2025</u> PHA Inventory (Based on Annual Contributions Contract (ACC) units at time of FY beginning, above) Number of Public Housing (PH) Units <u>502</u> Number of Housing Choice Vouchers (HCVs) <u>1499</u> Total Combined <u>2001</u> PHA Plan Submission Type: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Annual Submission <input type="checkbox"/> Revised Annual Submission				
<p><b>Availability of Information.</b> In addition to the items listed in this form, PHAs must have the elements listed below readily available to the public. A PHA must identify the specific location(s) where the proposed PHA Plan, PHA Plan Elements, and all information relevant to the public hearing and proposed PHA Plan are available for inspection by the public. Additionally, the PHA must provide information on how the public may reasonably obtain additional information of the PHA policies contained in the standard Annual Plan but excluded from their streamlined submissions. At a minimum, PHAs must post PHA Plans, including updates, at each Asset Management Project (AMP) and main office or central office of the PHA. PHAs are strongly encouraged to post complete PHA Plans on their official website. PHAs are also encouraged to provide each resident council a copy of their PHA Plans.</p> <p><b>How the public can access this PHA Plan:</b> The Aurora Housing Authority will post its proposed PHA Annual Plan and its 5 Year Plan on the agencies website. In addition, the agency will post copies of the plan at each of its public housing developments offices as well as provide copies to our Resident Advisory Board and the Board of Directors.</p>					
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>PHA Consortia:</b> (Check box if submitting a Joint PHA Plan and complete table below)					
Participating PHAs	PHA Code	Program(s) in the Consortia	Program(s) not in the Consortia	No. of Units in Each Program	
				PH	HCV

<b>B.</b>	<b>Plan Elements.</b>
<b>B.1</b>	<p><b>Revision of Existing PHA Plan Elements.</b>  (a) Have the following PHA Plan elements been revised by the PHA since its last <b>Annual PHA Plan</b> submission?</p> <p>Y N</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Statement of Housing Needs and Strategy for Addressing Housing Needs.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deconcentration and Other Policies that Govern Eligibility, Selection, and Admissions.</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Financial Resources.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rent Determination.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Homeownership Programs.</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Safety and Crime Prevention.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pet Policy.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Substantial Deviation.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Significant Amendment/Modification.</li> </ul> <p>(b) If the PHA answered yes for any element, describe the revisions for each revised element(s):</p> <p><b>Statement of Housing Needs and Strategy for Addressing Housing Needs.</b>  The Aurora Housing Authority will utilize the following strategies and resources to address the housing needs of our community: a. Maximize lease-up rates and monitor per unit cost trends in order to serve the maximum number of individuals and families; b. Continue to promote and maintain a positive image of the Housing Choice Voucher program in our community in order to encourage landlord participation; c. Open the HCV Wait List during the first quarter of our fiscal year; d. Continue to maintain and provide a current listing of available rentals within our community, accessible in our office and online at our website; e. Collaborate with local governments, private developers and non-profits to promote development of new affordable housing stock; f. Apply for additional project-based vouchers should they become available.</p> <p><b>Deconcentration and Other Policies that Govern Eligibility, Selection, and Admissions.</b>  Please see Attachment A</p> <p><b>Financial Resources.</b>  Please see Attachment B</p> <p><b>Safety and Crime Prevention.</b>  The Aurora Housing Authority has updated its VAWA Policy in both its ACOP and HCV Admin Plans. Attached are the updated policies as well as the amendment to the VAWA Policy. Please see Attachment C</p> <p>(c) The PHA must submit its Deconcentration Policy for Field Office review.</p>
<b>B.2</b>	<p><b>New Activities.</b>  (a) Does the PHA intend to undertake any new activities related to the following in the PHA's current Fiscal Year?</p> <p>Y N</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hope VI or Choice Neighborhoods</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mixed Finance Modernization or Development.</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Demolition and/or Disposition.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conversion of Public Housing to Tenant Based Assistance.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conversion of Public Housing to Project-Based Rental Assistance or Project-Based Vouchers under RAD.</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Project Based Vouchers.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Units with Approved Vacancies for Modernization.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Capital Grant Programs (i.e., Capital Fund Community Facilities Grants or Emergency Safety and Security Grants).</li> </ul> <p>(b) If any of these activities are planned for the current Fiscal Year, describe the activities. For new demolition activities, describe any public housing development or portion thereof, owned by the PHA for which the PHA has applied or will apply for demolition and/or disposition approval under section 18 of the 1937 Act under the separate demolition/disposition approval process. If using Project-Based Vouchers (PBVs), provide the projected number of project-based units and general locations, and describe how project basing would be consistent with the PHA Plan</p> <p><b>Demolition and/or Disposition.</b>  On June 27, 2024, the Aurora Housing Authority received approval from HUD for the Demolition/Disposition application for our Eastwood Apartment family site. This site consists of fifty-eight (58) units comprised of 12 - 2 Bedrooms, 20 - 3 Bedroom, 20 - 4 bedroom and 6 - 5bedroom units. The PHA plans to demolish the 58-unit family site currently in our portfolio. The site is outdated and no longer meets the current needs of the community in terms of quality, accessibility, and efficiency. The demolition is a part of the PHA's ongoing commitment to improving the quality of public housing stock and ensuring that our residents have access to safe, high-quality, and sustainable housing.</p> <p><b>Project Based Vouchers.</b>  Project-Based Vouchers (PBVs): Following the demolition of our 58 unit site, the PHA intends to rebuild 60 new affordable housing units at the same location by applying for Low Income Housing Tax Credits through IHDA. These new units will be designed to provide modern amenities, improved energy efficiency, and accessibility features. The development will contribute to meeting the growing demand for affordable housing in our area while addressing the critical need for housing that is safe and sustainable for our families. In connection with the redevelopment, the PHA plans to attach Project-Based Vouchers (PBVs) to the 60 new units. These PBVs will provide long-term housing assistance for eligible families, ensuring that the units remain affordable over the long term. By project-basing these vouchers, the PHA will maintain the affordability and stability of the newly built units, offering permanent housing solutions for families.</p>
<b>B.3</b>	<p><b>Progress Report.</b>  Provide a description of the PHA's progress in meeting its Mission and Goals described in the PHA 5-Year and Annual Plan.</p> <p><b>B.3 Progress Report. The Aurora Housing Authority is steadily advancing toward its mission of offering affordable housing options and assistance to low-income families, individuals with disabilities, and seniors, while ensuring fiscal responsibility and promoting the well-being of families, communities, and economic independence. Some of the most significant accomplishments include the following: DEMO/DISPO The demo/dispo application for our Eastwood family site was approved in June 2024. The AHA applied for tenant protection vouchers to assist our families in relocating to other affordable housing units. To date, we have twenty (20) families who have relocated and our agency is continuing to assist the remaining families in their relocation process. Our goal is to have all families relocated within the first quarter of 2025. Once the residents are relocated and the site is vacant, we will begin the</b></p>

	<p>demolition process. Once completed, the AHA will apply for 9% tax credits through Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA). The goal is to develop 60 ground-up affordable town homes at the former Eastwood site consisting of 6.7 acres. These townhomes will be two, three and four bedroom homes. MODERNIZATION The AHA has finalized the modernization of our Indian Trail site. Modernization included all new interiors, new exterior siding and roofs and new windows. The final project at this site will be the installation of a new parking lot in 2025. In addition, the agency has begun the interior modernization of our Southwind Family Site. This site consists of 34 units. The goal is to have all units completed by Spring 2025. This modernization included new floors, new kitchen cabinets, interior and exterior doors, new toilets, tubs, tub surrounds, light fixtures, vanities and all units will be completely painted. PROJECT-BASED VOUCHERS The AHA has committed seventy (70) project-based vouchers to its new senior housing development for residents 62 years of age and older. Construction started in May 2023 and will be completed in December 2024. The goal is to begin the move-in process in the middle of December 2024. UNITS WITH APPROVED VACANCIES FOR MODERNIZATION The AHA will place any unit in need of substantial modernization work on Units with Approved Vacancy for Modernization. We will have a 90 day turnaround time to have the units complete and ready for leasing. CRIME AND SAFETY GOAL The safety and crime reduction goals of our agency have been successfully achieved, thanks in large part to the strong partnership between our Housing Authority and the local police department. This collaborative relationship has significantly contributed to maintaining a secure environment for our residents and fostering a sense of safety within our communities. In 2024, the local police department aided our agency at our Centennial House site by arresting multiple people for criminal activity which assisted us in evicting the people who created problems at our site. The COP's of the police department attend our resident meetings on a monthly basis. During the meetings, they provide information regarding safety issues and decrease in crime and anti-social behavior at the properties. The Executive Director and LIPH Director meet with our local police department police officers and the police sergeant to discuss safety and crime prevention at our public housing sites. In 2024, AHA installed new security cameras at two of our sites. The police department has been provided with access to the cameras and they consistently review the security cameras to ensure the sites are safe. In effect, the partnership we have with the local police has reduced the crime at all of our sites.</p>
<p><b>B.4</b></p>	<p><b>Capital Improvements.</b> Include a reference here to the most recent HUD-approved 5-Year Action Plan in EPIC and the date that it was approved.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The most recent HUD-approved 5-Year Action Plan in EPIC was on 09/25/2024 .</p>
<p><b>B.5</b></p>	<p><b>Most Recent Fiscal Year Audit.</b>  (a) Were there any findings in the most recent FY Audit?  Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  (b) If yes, please describe:</p>
<p><b>C.</b></p>	<p><b>Other Document and/or Certification Requirements.</b></p>
<p><b>C.1</b></p>	<p><b>Resident Advisory Board (RAB) Comments.</b>  (a) Did the RAB(s) have comments to the PHA Plan?  Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>  (b) If yes, comments must be submitted by the PHA as an attachment to the PHA Plan. PHAs must also include a narrative describing their analysis of the RAB recommendations and the decisions made on these recommendations.</p>
<p><b>C.2</b></p>	<p><b>Certification by State or Local Officials.</b>  <u>Form HUD 50077-SL</u>, <i>Certification by State or Local Officials of PHA Plans Consistency with the Consolidated Plan</i>, must be submitted by the PHA as an electronic attachment to the PHA Plan.</p>
<p><b>C.3</b></p>	<p><b>Civil Rights Certification/ Certification Listing Policies and Programs that the PHA has Revised since Submission of its Last Annual Plan.</b>  <u>Form HUD-50077-ST-HCV-HP</u>, <i>PHA Certifications of Compliance with PHA Plan, Civil Rights, and Related Laws and Regulations Including PHA Plan Elements that Have Changed</i>, must be submitted by the PHA as an electronic attachment to the PHA Plan.</p>
<p><b>C.4</b></p>	<p><b>Challenged Elements.</b> If any element of the PHA Plan is challenged, a PHA must include such information as an attachment with a description of any challenges to Plan elements, the source of the challenge, and the PHA's response to the public.  (a) Did the public challenge any elements of the Plan?  Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  If yes, include Challenged Elements.</p>
<p><b>D.</b></p>	<p><b>Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH).</b></p>
<p><b>D.1</b></p>	<p><b>Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH).</b>  Provide a statement of the PHA's strategies and actions to achieve fair housing goals outlined in an accepted Assessment of Fair Housing (AFH) consistent with 24 CFR § 5.154(d)(5). Use the chart provided below. (PHAs should add as many goals as necessary to overcome fair housing issues and contributing factors.) Until such time as the PHA is required to submit an AFH, the PHA is not obligated to complete this chart. The PHA will fulfill, nevertheless, the requirements at 24 CFR § 903.7(o) enacted prior to August 17, 2015. See Instructions for further detail on completing this item.</p>

### **B.3 Progress Report (CONTINUED)**

Provide a description of the PHA's progress in meeting its Mission and Goals described in the PHA 5-Year Plan

#### **OPERATIONS/MANAGEMENT GOAL:**

The Aurora Housing Authority continues to maintain its day to day operations of its Public Housing and HCV Program goals. The agency manages 502 units of Public Housing and has been designated a “High Performer”. The agency received high scores in its financials, occupancy, physical and capital funds. Holding monthly resident meetings at each of our sites has allowed us to discuss with the residents the importance of occupancy, recertifications, rent collection, maintenance, and work orders. In addition, the residents are provided important information regarding services and programs that are available to them as well as upon request. The agency’s HCV Program has also received the “High Performer” designation in 2023 and 2024. Our SEMAP score was 135 out of 145 which was 93% out of 100%. In February, 2024, the AHA held a Landlord Symposium for current and prospective landlords which will help us reach our goal of providing more affordable housing to our HCV participants. The symposium was a successful in allowing us to create a partnership with many new landlords. One of the biggest goals our agency met was the updating of both our Admissions and Continued Occupancy Policy (ACOP) and HCV Administrative Plans. The plans will be finalized in December 2024 and will be effective January 1, 2025.

#### **DEVELOPMENT**

The AHA and its instrumentality, Northern Lights Development Corporation, is nearing completion of its new senior housing development, Fourteen Forty Nine Senior Estates. The project began in May 2023 and will be completed in December 2024. The new development is seventy (70) single family homes and duplexes for seniors aged sixty-two and older. As of December 2, 2024, sixty-three of the homes are completed and ready for move-in. The construction company is nearing the completion of the remainder of the units by December 20, 2024. The agency will provide its residents with project-based vouchers making this an affordable senior living community. The agency is in the process of purchasing the adjacent vacant land next to the senior living development. The agency will develop Phase II of Fourteen Forty Nine Senior Estates. The plans are to build 50 single family homes for seniors aged 62 and older. The agency has submitted the pre-application to IHDA for the 9% tax credit grant to enable the agency to continue to provide affordable housing to the seniors of our community.

In 2025, the AHA will submit a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the development of our 127-unit Centennial House site. The agency’s goal is to redevelop the interior of each unit and remodel the common areas, community room, install new windows, new roof, new heating and air conditioning systems, exterior modernization, and new parking lots. Our plan will be to partner with a developer or a developer consultant to assist in creating the plan for this project. The second goal is to apply for funding from IHDA through either 4% or 9% low income housing tax credits and bonds.

The AHA will also work with a developer on the re-development of our 188-unit Maple Terrace site in 2025. In addition, we will begin the Faircloth to RAD implementation for the 156 units that we

currently have in our portfolio. The Eastwood family site, due to be demolished in 2025, will consist of 60-unit townhomes. This will move to Faircloth and to RAD once demolished.

### **ASSET MANAGEMENT**

Since converting our agency into an asset management model, the agency has significantly improved its financial performance. From a score of zero in 2018 to becoming a “High Performing” agency with zero findings in our fiscal year end audits is due to this conversion.

### **OCCUPANCY**

Substantial progress has also been made in our occupancy rate for public housing. The agency has successfully increased its occupancy rate monthly, allowing us to meet our goal of 98% annually. The only challenge has been recently, due to the relocation of our families living at our Eastwood site, which will be demolished later next year. Our standing goal is to lease vacant units within a 30-day period.

### **PHAS SCORE**

The agency is currently a High Performer with a score of 93 in 2023.

### **CUSTOMER SERVICE**

The Aurora Housing Authority continues to improve its customer service goals by providing our families with excellent customer service. This is achieved through monthly resident meetings. The Executive and LIPH Directors provide the residents with an opportunity to discuss all housing needs and issues they may be experiencing. This includes maintenance, services from outside agencies and updates from the police department. The meetings are attended by the AHA Staff, Police, State’s Attorney representative, the Property Management team, and Resident Services Coordinator.



**AURORA HOUSING AUTHORITY  
HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PROGRAM  
PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAM  
DECONCENTRATION POLICY**

**Purpose**

The purpose of the Aurora Housing Authority's Deconcentration Policy is to create a basis for staff to follow in order to ascertain the agency follows the requirements to expand housing opportunities as detailed in 24 CFR 982.54, CFR 982.301, and the Administrative Plan of the Housing Choice Voucher Program and the Admissions and Continued Occupancy Policy.

In addition, prior to each fiscal year, the AHA will analyze the income levels of families residing in each of our developments, the income levels of census tracts in which the AHA developments are located and the income levels of the families on the waiting list. Based on this analysis, the AHA will determine the level of marketing strategies and deconcentration incentives it will implement.

# PROPOSED PLAN

**Summary**

The Aurora Housing Authority (AHA) is responsible for ensuring that very-low-income households have access to all types and ranges of affordable housing in the AHA's jurisdiction, particularly housing outside areas of hardship or minority concentration. A critical element in fulfilling this responsibility is for the AHA to enlist a sufficient number of landlords, representing all types and ranges of affordable housing in the AHA's jurisdiction, to participate in the Housing Choice Voucher Program and provide information to program participants about this initiative.

**Landlord Procedures**

The Aurora Housing Authority (AHA) will conduct regular landlord outreach seminars to encourage property owners outside of areas of hardship and/or minority concentration to lease units to Housing Choice Voucher participants. Educational information will be provided to familiarize owners with the program and how they benefit from participation.

**Participant Procedures**

The AHA will inform participants of our jurisdiction coverage areas at all briefings/orientations. HCV participants will not be steered toward specific landlords or areas. Participants will receive information regarding the entire jurisdiction coverage area of the AHA, be advised of the HUD deconcentration initiatives, provided information which reflects areas of deconcentration, and encouraged to make informed housing decisions.



Attachment B

Statement of Financial Resources  
FY2025 PHA Plan

Financial Resources: Planned Sources and Uses

SOURCES	PLANNED \$	PLANNED USES
1. Federal Grants		
a. Public Housing AMP 1 Operating Funds	\$1,313,982.00	Management/Operations
b. Public Housing AMP 2 Operating Funds	\$1,472,791.00	Management/Operations
c. Public Housing Capital Fund	\$2,064,809.00	Capital Improvements and CF Eligible Activities
d. Hope VI Revitalization	\$0	n/a
e. Hope VI Demolition	\$0	n/a
f. Annual Contributions for HCV Tenant-based assistance	\$12,494,690.00	HAP Funding
g. Public Housing Drug Elimination Program (including any Technical Assistance Funds)	\$0	n/a
h. Resident Opportunity and Self-sufficiency Grant	\$ 239,250.00	Program Activities
i. Community Development Block Grant	\$0	n/a
j. HOME	\$0	n/a
2. Prior Year Federal Grants (unobligated funds only) (List below)	\$0	n/a
	\$0	n/a
	\$0	n/a
3. Public Housing Dwelling Income		
AMP 1	\$ 570,548.73	Management/Operations
AMP 2	\$ 791,854.91	Management/Operations

## Violence Against Women Act Policy

The AHA has adopted the following language as part of the AHA Admissions and Continued Occupancy Policy (ACOP) in response to the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA):

### Certification of Domestic Violence, Dating or Stalking

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response. This includes the time for collecting, reviewing, and reporting the data. Information provided is to be used by the AHA and Section 8 owners or managers to request a tenant to certify that the individual is a victim of domestic violence, dating violence or stalking. The information is subject to the confidentiality requirements of the HUD Reform Legislation. This agency may not collect this information, and you are not required to complete this form unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

**Purpose of Form:** The Violence Against Women and Justice Department Reauthorization Act of 2005 protects qualified tenants and family members of tenants who are victims of domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking from being evicted or terminated from housing assistance based on acts of such violence against them.

**Use of Form:** A family member must complete and submit this certification, or the information that may be provided in lieu of the certification, within 14 business days of receiving the written request for this certification by the AHA, owner or manager. The certification or alternate documentation must be returned to the person and address specified in the written request for the certification. If the family member has not provided the requested certification or the information that may be provided in lieu of the certification by the 14th business day or any extension of the date provided by the AHA, manager and owner, none of the protections afforded to victims of domestic violence, dating violence or stalking (collectively “domestic violence”) under the Section 8 or public housing programs apply.

Note that a family member may provide, in lieu of this certification (or in addition to it):

- (1) A Federal, State, tribal, territorial, or local police or court record; or
- (2) Documentation signed by an employee, agent or volunteer of a victim service provider, an attorney or a medical professional, from whom the victim has sought assistance in addressing domestic violence, dating violence or stalking, or the effects of abuse, in which the professional attest under penalty of perjury (28 U.S.C. 1746) to the professional’s belief that the incident or incidents in question are bona fide incidents of abuse, and the victim of domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking has signed or attested to the documentation.

The AHA provides referrals to Mutual Grounds, assistance agency for domestic violence cases and the Aurora Police Department. Mutual Ground (MGI) operates a shelter for women and their minor children who are victims of domestic violence. Here victims are provided safety, shelter and support services while they learn they have the power to change their lives.

Mutual Ground provides:

- professional staff available 24 hours a day
- specialized support services
- thirty-two bed capacity
- serving southern Kane and Kendall counties

Domestic Violence Counseling For Women



- The term *domestic violence* includes felony or misdemeanor crimes committed by a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim under the family or domestic violence laws of the jurisdiction receiving grant funding, and in the case of victim services, includes the user or attempted use of physical abuse or sexual abuse, or a pattern of any other coercive behavior committed, enabled, or solicited to gain or maintain power and control over a victim, including verbal, psychological, economic, or technological abuse that may or may not constitute criminal behavior, by a person who is:
  - The current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim, or person similarly situated to a spouse or intimate partner of the victim
  - A person who is cohabitating or has cohabitated with the victim as a spouse or intimate partner
  - A person with whom the victim shares a child in common
  - A person who commits acts against an youth or adult victim who is protected from those acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction
- The term *economic abuse* means behavior that is coercive, deceptive, or unreasonably controls or restrains a person's ability to acquire, use, or maintain economic resources to which they are entitled, including using coercion, fraud, and manipulation to:
  - Restrict a person's access to money, assets, credit, or financial information
  - Unfairly use a person's personal economic resources, including money, assets, and credit, for one's own advantage
  - Exert undue influence over a person's financial and economic behavior or decisions, including forcing default on joint or other financial obligations, exploiting powers of attorney, guardianship, or conservatorship, or to whom one has a fiduciary duty
- The term *sexual assault* means:
  - Any nonconsensual sexual act proscribed by federal, tribal, or state law, including when the victim lacks the capacity to consent
- The term *stalking* means:
  - To engage in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for their safety or the safety of others, or suffer substantial emotional distress.

- The term *technological abuse* means an act or pattern of behavior that occurs within domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking and is intended to harm, threaten, intimidate, control, stalk, harass, impersonate, exploit, extort, or monitor another person, except as otherwise permitted by law, that occurs using any form of technology, including but not limited to:
  - Internet enabled devices
  - Online spaces and platforms
  - Computers
  - Mobile devices
  - Cameras and imaging programs
  - Apps
  - Location tracking devices
  - Communication technologies
  - Any other emergency technologies

#### **16-IX.C. NOTIFICATION [24 CFR 5.2005(a)]**

##### **Notification to Public**

The PHA adopts the following policy to help ensure that all actual and potential beneficiaries of its HCV program are aware of their rights under VAWA.

##### PHA Policy

The PHA will post the following information regarding VAWA in its offices and on its website. It will also make the information readily available to anyone who requests it.

A copy of Form HUD-5380, Notice of Occupancy Rights under VAWA, to housing choice voucher program applicants and participants who are or have been victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking (Exhibit 16-1)

A copy of Form HUD-5382, Certification of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, or Stalking and Alternate Documentation (Exhibit 16-2)

A copy of the PHA's emergency transfer plan (Exhibit 16-3)

A copy of Form HUD-5383, HUD's Emergency Transfer Request for Certain Victims of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, or Stalking (Exhibit 16-4)

The National Domestic Violence Hot Line: 1-800-799-SAFE (7233) or 1-800-787-3224 (TTY) (included in Exhibits 16-1 and 16-2)

Contact information for local victim advocacy groups or service providers

## **Notification to Program Applicants and Participants [24 CFR 5.2005(a)(1)]**

PHAs are required to inform program applicants and participants of their rights under VAWA, including their right to confidentiality and the limits thereof, when they are denied assistance, when they are admitted to the program, and when they are notified of an eviction or termination of housing benefits.

### PHA Policy

The PHA will provide all applicants with information about VAWA at the time they request an application for housing assistance, as part of the written briefing packet, and at the time the family is admitted to the program. The PHA will also include information about VAWA in all notices of denial of assistance (see section 3-III.H).

The PHA will provide all participants with information about VAWA at the time of admission (see section 5-I.B) and at annual reexamination. The PHA will also include information about VAWA in notices of termination of assistance, as provided in section 12-II.F.

The VAWA information provided to applicants and participants will consist of the notices in Exhibits 16-1 and 16-2.

The PHA is not limited to providing VAWA information at the times specified in the above policy. If the PHA decides to provide VAWA information to a participant following an incident of domestic violence, Notice PIH 2017-08 cautions against sending the information by mail, since the abuser may be monitoring the mail. The notice recommends that in such cases the PHA make alternative delivery arrangements that will not put the victim at risk.

### PHA Policy

Whenever the PHA has reason to suspect that providing information about VAWA to a participant might place a victim of domestic violence at risk, it will attempt to deliver the information by hand directly to the victim or by having the victim come to an office or other space that may be safer for the individual, making reasonable accommodations as necessary. For example, the PHA may decide not to send mail regarding VAWA protections to the victim's unit if the PHA believes the perpetrator may have access to the victim's mail, unless requested by the victim.

When discussing VAWA with the victim, the PHA will take reasonable precautions to ensure that no one can overhear the conversation, such as having conversations in a private room.

The victim may, but is not required to, designate an attorney, advocate, or other secure contact for communications regarding VAWA protections.

## **Notification to Owners and Managers**

While PHAs are no longer required by regulation to notify owners and managers participating in the HCV program of their rights and obligations under VAWA, the PHA may still choose to inform them.

### PHA Policy

The PHA will provide owners and managers with information about their rights and obligations under VAWA when they begin their participation in the program and at least annually thereafter.

The VAWA information provided to owners will consist of the notice in Exhibit 16-5 and a copy of Form HUD-5382, Certification of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, or Stalking and Alternate Documentation.

# PROPOSED PLAN

## **16-IX.D. DOCUMENTATION [24 CFR 5.2007]**

A PHA presented with a claim for initial or continued assistance based on status as a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, human trafficking, or criminal activity related to any of these forms of abuse may—but is not required to—request that the individual making the claim document the abuse. Any request for documentation must be in writing, and the individual must be allowed at least 14 business days after receipt of the request to submit the documentation. The PHA may extend this time period at its discretion. [24 CFR 5.2007(a)]

The individual may satisfy the PHA’s request by providing any one of the following three forms of documentation [24 CFR 5.2007(b)]:

- (1) A completed and signed HUD-approved certification form (HUD-5382, Certification of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, or Stalking), which must include the name of the perpetrator only if the name of the perpetrator is safe to provide and is known to the victim. The form may be filled out and submitted on behalf of the victim.
- (2) A federal, state, tribal, territorial, or local police report or court record, or an administrative record
- (3) Documentation signed by a person who has assisted the victim in addressing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, human trafficking, or the effects of such abuse. This person may be an employee, agent, or volunteer of a victim service provider; an attorney; a mental health professional; or a medical professional. The person signing the documentation must attest under penalty of perjury to the person’s belief that the incidents in question are bona fide incidents of abuse. The victim must also sign the documentation.

The PHA may not require third-party documentation (forms 2 and 3) in addition to certification (form 1), except as specified below under “Conflicting Documentation,” nor may it require certification in addition to third-party documentation [FR Notice 11/16/16].

### PHA Policy

Any request for documentation of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking will be in writing, will specify a deadline of 14 business days following receipt of the request, will describe the three forms of acceptable documentation, will provide explicit instructions on where and to whom the documentation must be submitted, and will state the consequences for failure to submit the documentation or request an extension in writing by the deadline.

The PHA may, in its discretion, extend the deadline for 10 business days. In determining whether to extend the deadline, the PHA will consider factors that may contribute to the victim’s inability to provide documentation in a timely manner, including cognitive limitations, disabilities, limited English proficiency, absence from the unit, administrative delays, the danger of further violence, and the victim’s need to address health or safety issues. Any extension granted by the PHA will be in writing.

Once the victim provides documentation, the PHA will acknowledge receipt of the documentation within 10 business days.

### **Conflicting Documentation [24 CFR 5.2007(e)]**

In cases where the PHA receives conflicting certification documents from two or more members of a household, each claiming to be a victim and naming one or more of the other petitioning household members as the perpetrator, the PHA may determine which is the true victim by requiring each to provide acceptable third-party documentation, as described above (forms 2 and 3). The PHA may also request third-party documentation when submitted documentation contains information that conflicts with existing information already available to the PHA. Individuals have 30 calendar days to return third-party verification to the PHA. If the PHA does not receive third-party documentation, and the PHA will deny or terminate assistance as a result, the PHA must hold separate hearings for the tenants [Notice PIH 2017-08].

The PHA must honor any court orders issued to protect the victim or to address the distribution of property.

#### PHA Policy

If presented with conflicting certification documents from members of the same household, the PHA will attempt to determine which is the true victim by requiring each of them to provide third-party documentation in accordance with 24 CFR 5.2007(e) and by following any HUD guidance on how such determinations should be made.

When requesting third-party documents, the PHA will provide contact information for local domestic violence and legal aid offices. In such cases, applicants or tenants will be given 30 calendar days from the date of the request to provide such documentation.

If the PHA does not receive third-party documentation within the required timeframe (and any extensions) the PHA will deny VAWA protections and will notify the applicant or tenant in writing of the denial. If, as a result, the applicant or tenant is denied or terminated from the program, the PHA will hold separate hearings for the applicants or tenants.

### **Discretion to Require No Formal Documentation [24 CFR 5.2007(d)]**

The PHA has the discretion to provide benefits to an individual based solely on the individual's statement or other corroborating evidence—i.e., without requiring formal documentation of abuse in accordance with 24 CFR 5.2007(b). HUD recommends documentation in a confidential manner when a verbal statement or other evidence is accepted.

#### PHA Policy

If the PHA accepts an individual's statement or other corroborating evidence (as determined by the victim) of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking, the PHA will document acceptance of the statement or evidence in the individual's file.

### **Failure to Provide Documentation [24 CFR 5.2007(c)]**

In order to deny relief for protection under VAWA, a PHA must provide the individual requesting relief with a written request for documentation of abuse. If the individual fails to provide the documentation within 14 business days from the date of receipt, or such longer time as the PHA may allow, the PHA may deny relief for protection under VAWA.

### **16-IX.E. CONFIDENTIALITY [24 CFR 5.2007(b)(4)]**

All information provided to the PHA regarding domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking, including the fact that an individual is a victim, must be retained in confidence. This means that the PHA (1) may not enter the information into any shared database, (2) may not allow employees or others to access the information unless they are explicitly authorized to do so and have a need to know the information for purposes of their work, and (3) may not provide the information to any other entity or individual, except to the extent that the disclosure is (a) requested or consented to by the individual in writing, (b) required for use in an eviction proceeding, or (c) otherwise required by applicable law.

#### PHA Policy

If disclosure is required for use in an eviction proceeding or is otherwise required by applicable law, the PHA will inform the victim before disclosure occurs so that safety risks can be identified and addressed.

# PROPOSED PLAN

**EXHIBIT 16-1: SAMPLE NOTICE OF OCCUPANCY RIGHTS UNDER THE  
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT, FORM HUD-5380**

**[Insert Name of Housing Provider]**

**Notice of Occupancy Rights under the Violence Against Women Act<sup>1</sup>**

**To all Tenants and Applicants**

The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) provides protections for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. VAWA protections are not only available to women, but are available equally to all individuals regardless of sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation.<sup>2</sup> The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is the federal agency that oversees that the housing choice voucher program is in compliance with VAWA. This notice explains your rights under VAWA. A HUD-approved certification form is attached to this notice. You can fill out this form to show that you are or have been a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, and that you wish to use your rights under VAWA.”

**Protections for Applicants**

If you otherwise qualify for assistance under the housing choice voucher program, you cannot be denied admission or denied assistance because you are or have been a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

**Protections for Tenants**

If you are receiving assistance under the housing choice voucher program, you may not be denied assistance, terminated from participation, or be evicted from your rental housing because you are or have been a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

Also, if you or an affiliated individual of yours is or has been the victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking by a member of your household or any guest, you may not be denied rental assistance or occupancy rights under the housing choice voucher program solely on the basis of criminal activity directly relating to that domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

Affiliated individual means your spouse, parent, brother, sister, or child, or a person to whom you stand in the place of a parent or guardian (for example, the affiliated individual is in your care, custody, or control); or any individual, tenant, or lawful occupant living in your household.

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<sup>1</sup> Despite the name of this law, VAWA protection is available regardless of sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation.

<sup>2</sup> Housing providers cannot discriminate on the basis of any protected characteristic, including race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, disability, or age. HUD-assisted and HUD-insured housing must be made available to all otherwise eligible individuals regardless of actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status.



## Removing the Abuser or Perpetrator from the Household

The PHA may divide (bifurcate) your lease in order to evict the individual or terminate the assistance of the individual who has engaged in criminal activity (the abuser or perpetrator) directly relating to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

If the PHA chooses to remove the abuser or perpetrator, the PHA may not take away the rights of eligible tenants to the unit or otherwise punish the remaining tenants. If the evicted abuser or perpetrator was the sole tenant to have established eligibility for assistance under the program, the PHA must allow the tenant who is or has been a victim and other household members to remain in the unit for a period of time, in order to establish eligibility under the program or under another HUD housing program covered by VAWA, or, find alternative housing.

In removing the abuser or perpetrator from the household, the PHA must follow federal, state, and local eviction procedures. In order to divide a lease, the PHA may, but is not required to, ask you for documentation or certification of the incidences of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

## Moving to Another Unit

Upon your request, the PHA may permit you to move to another unit, subject to the availability of other units, and still keep your assistance. In order to approve a request, the PHA may ask you to provide documentation that you are requesting to move because of an incidence of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. If the request is a request for emergency transfer, the housing provider may ask you to submit a written request or fill out a form where you certify that you meet the criteria for an emergency transfer under VAWA. The criteria are:

**1. You are a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.**

If your housing provider does not already have documentation that you are a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, your housing provider may ask you for such documentation, as described in the documentation section below.

**2. You expressly request the emergency transfer.** Your housing provider may choose to require that you submit a form, or may accept another written or oral request.

**3. You reasonably believe you are threatened with imminent harm from further violence if you remain in your current unit.** This means you have a reason to fear that if you do not receive a transfer you would suffer violence in the very near future.

**OR**

**You are a victim of sexual assault and the assault occurred on the premises during the 90-calendar-day period before you request a transfer.** If you are a victim of sexual assault, then in addition to qualifying for an emergency transfer because you reasonably believe you are threatened with imminent harm from further violence if you remain in your unit, you may qualify for an emergency transfer if the sexual assault occurred on the premises of the property from which you are seeking your transfer, and that assault happened within the 90-calendar-day period before you expressly request the transfer.

The PHA will keep confidential requests for emergency transfers by victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, and the location of any move by such victims and their families.

The PHA's emergency transfer plan provides further information on emergency transfers, and the PHA must make a copy of its emergency transfer plan available to you if you ask to see it.

### **Documenting You Are or Have Been a Victim of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault or Stalking**

The PHA can, but is not required to, ask you to provide documentation to "certify" that you are or have been a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. Such request from the PHA must be in writing, and the PHA must give you at least 14 business days (Saturdays, Sundays, and federal holidays do not count) from the day you receive the request to provide the documentation. The PHA may, but does not have to, extend the deadline for the submission of documentation upon your request.

You can provide one of the following to the PHA as documentation. It is your choice which of the following to submit if the PHA asks you to provide documentation that you are or have been a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

- A complete HUD-approved certification form given to you by the PHA with this notice, that documents an incident of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. The form will ask for your name, the date, time, and location of the incident of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, and a description of the incident. The certification form provides for including the name of the abuser or perpetrator if the name of the abuser or perpetrator is known and is safe to provide.
- A record of a Federal, State, tribal, territorial, or local law enforcement agency, court, or administrative agency that documents the incident of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. Examples of such records include police reports, protective orders, and restraining orders, among others.
- A statement, which you must sign, along with the signature of an employee, agent, or volunteer of a victim service provider, an attorney, a medical professional or a mental health professional (collectively, "professional") from whom you sought assistance in addressing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, or the effects of abuse, and with the professional selected by you attesting under penalty of perjury that they believe that the incident or incidents of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking are grounds for protection.
- Any other statement or evidence that the PHA has agreed to accept.

If you fail or refuse to provide one of these documents within the 14 business days, the PHA does not have to provide you with the protections contained in this notice.

If the PHA receives conflicting evidence that an incident of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking has been committed (such as certification forms from two or more members of a household each claiming to be a victim and naming one or more of the other petitioning household members as the abuser or perpetrator), the PHA has the right to request that you provide third-party documentation within thirty 30 calendar days in order to resolve the conflict. If you fail or refuse to provide third-party documentation where there is conflicting evidence, the PHA does not have to provide you with the protections contained in this notice.

## **Confidentiality**

The PHA must keep confidential any information you provide related to the exercise of your rights under VAWA, including the fact that you are exercising your rights under VAWA.

The PHA must not allow any individual administering assistance or other services on behalf of the PHA (for example, employees and contractors) to have access to confidential information unless for reasons that specifically call for these individuals to have access to this information under applicable Federal, State, or local law.

The PHA must not enter your information into any shared database or disclose your information to any other entity or individual. The PHA, however, may disclose the information provided if:

- You give written permission to the PHA to release the information on a time limited basis.
- The PHA needs to use the information in an eviction or termination proceeding, such as to evict your abuser or perpetrator or terminate your abuser or perpetrator from assistance under this program.
- A law requires the PHA or your landlord to release the information.

VAWA does not limit the PHA's duty to honor court orders about access to or control of the property. This includes orders issued to protect a victim and orders dividing property among household members in cases where a family breaks up.

## **Reasons a Tenant Eligible for Occupancy Rights under VAWA May Be Evicted or Assistance May Be Terminated**

You can be evicted and your assistance can be terminated for serious or repeated lease violations that are not related to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking committed against you. However, the PHA cannot hold tenants who have been victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking to a more demanding set of rules than it applies to tenants who have not been victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

The protections described in this notice might not apply, and you could be evicted and your assistance terminated, if the PHA can demonstrate that not evicting you or terminating your assistance would present a real physical danger that:

1. Would occur within an immediate time frame, and
2. Could result in death or serious bodily harm to other tenants or those who work on the property.

If the PHA can demonstrate the above, the PHA should only terminate your assistance or evict you if there are no other actions that could be taken to reduce or eliminate the threat.

## **Other Laws**

VAWA does not replace any federal, state, or local law that provides greater protection for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. You may be entitled to additional housing protections for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking under other Federal laws, as well as under State and local laws.

### **Non-Compliance with The Requirements of This Notice**

You may report a covered housing provider's violations of these rights and seek additional assistance, if needed, by contacting or filing a complaint with **[insert contact information for any intermediary, if applicable]** or **[insert HUD field office]**.

### **For Additional Information**

You may view a copy of HUD's final VAWA rule at: <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-11-16/pdf/2016-25888.pdf>.

Additionally, the PHA must make a copy of HUD's VAWA regulations available to you if you ask to see them.

For questions regarding VAWA, please contact **[insert name of program or rental assistance contact information able to answer questions on VAWA]**.

For help regarding an abusive relationship, you may call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-7233 or, for persons with hearing impairments, 1-800-787-3224 (TTY). You may also contact **[Insert contact information for relevant local organizations]**.

For tenants who are or have been victims of stalking seeking help may visit the National Center for Victims of Crime's Stalking Resource Center at <https://www.victimsofcrime.org/our-programs/stalking-resource-center>.

For help regarding sexual assault, you may contact **[Insert contact information for relevant organizations]**

Victims of stalking seeking help may contact **[Insert contact information for relevant organizations]**.

**Attachment:** Certification Form HUD-5382 **[form approved for this program to be included]**

# PROPOSED PLAN

**EXHIBIT 16-2: CERTIFICATION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, DATING VIOLENCE,  
SEXUAL ASSAULT, OR STALKING AND ALTERNATE DOCUMENTATION,  
FORM HUD-5382**

**CERTIFICATION OF  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE,  
DATING VIOLENCE,  
SEXUAL ASSAULT, OR STALKING,  
AND ALTERNATE DOCUMENTATION**

**U.S. Department of Housing  
and Urban Development**

OMB Approval No. 2577-0286  
Exp. 06/30/2017

**Purpose of Form:** The Violence Against Women Act (“VAWA”) protects applicants, tenants, and program participants in certain HUD programs from being evicted, denied housing assistance, or terminated from housing assistance based on acts of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking against them. Despite the name of this law, VAWA protection is available to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, regardless of sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation.

**Use of This Optional Form:** If you are seeking VAWA protections from your housing provider, your housing provider may give you a written request that asks you to submit documentation about the incident or incidents of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

In response to this request, you or someone on your behalf may complete this optional form and submit it to your housing provider, or you may submit one of the following types of third-party documentation:

- (1) A document signed by you and an employee, agent, or volunteer of a victim service provider, an attorney, or medical professional, or a mental health professional (collectively, “professional”) from whom you have sought assistance relating to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, or the effects of abuse. The document must specify, under penalty of perjury, that the professional believes the incident or incidents of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking occurred and meet the definition of “domestic violence,” “dating violence,” “sexual assault,” or “stalking” in HUD’s regulations at 24 CFR 5.2003.
- (2) A record of a Federal, State, tribal, territorial or local law enforcement agency, court, or administrative agency; or
- (3) At the discretion of the housing provider, a statement or other evidence provided by the applicant or tenant.

**Submission of Documentation:** The time period to submit documentation is 14 business days from the date that you receive a written request from your housing provider asking that you provide documentation of the occurrence of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. Your housing provider may, but is not required to, extend the time period to submit the documentation, if you request an extension of the time period. If the requested information is not received within 14 business days of when you received the request for the documentation, or any extension of the date provided by your housing provider, your housing provider does not need to grant you any of the VAWA protections. Distribution or issuance of this form does not serve as a written request for certification.

**Confidentiality:** All information provided to your housing provider concerning the incident(s) of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking shall be kept confidential and such details shall not be entered into any shared database. Employees of your housing provider are not to have access to these details unless to grant or deny VAWA protections to you, and such employees may not disclose this information to any other entity or individual, except to the extent that disclosure is: (i) consented to by you in writing in a time-limited release; (ii) required for use in an eviction proceeding or hearing regarding termination of assistance; or (iii) otherwise required by applicable law.

**TO BE COMPLETED BY OR ON BEHALF OF THE VICTIM OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE,  
DATING VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT, OR STALKING**

1. Date the written request is received by victim: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Name of victim: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Your name (if different from victim's): \_\_\_\_\_

4. Name(s) of other family member(s) listed on the lease: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Residence of victim: \_\_\_\_\_

6. Name of the accused perpetrator (if known and can be safely disclosed): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. Relationship of the accused perpetrator to the victim: \_\_\_\_\_

8. Date(s) and times(s) of incident(s) (if known): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

10. Location of incident(s): \_\_\_\_\_

PROPOSED PLAN

In your own words, briefly describe the incident(s):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

This is to certify that the information provided on this form is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and recollection, and that the individual named above in Item 2 is or has been a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. I acknowledge that submission of false information could jeopardize program eligibility and could be the basis for denial of admission, termination of assistance, or eviction.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Signed on (Date) \_\_\_\_\_

**Public Reporting Burden:** The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response. This includes the time for collecting, reviewing, and reporting the data. The information provided is to be used by the housing provider to request certification that the applicant or tenant is a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. The information is subject to the confidentiality requirements of VAWA. This agency may not collect this information, and you are not required to complete this form, unless it displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget control number.

**EXHIBIT 16-3: EMERGENCY TRANSFER PLAN FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC  
VIOLENCE, DATING VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT, OR STALKING  
(HCV VERSION)**

Attachment: Certification form HUD-5382

[Insert name of covered housing provider]

**Emergency Transfer Plan for Victims of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual  
Assault, or Stalking  
Housing Choice Voucher Program**

**Emergency Transfers**

The PHA is concerned about the safety of its tenants, and such concern extends to tenants who are victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. In accordance with the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA),<sup>3</sup> the PHA allows tenants who are victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking to request an emergency transfer from the tenant's current unit to another unit. The ability to request a transfer is available regardless of sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation.<sup>4</sup> The ability of the PHA to honor such request for tenants currently receiving assistance, however, may depend upon a preliminary determination that the tenant is or has been a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, and on whether the PHA has another dwelling unit that is available and is safe to offer the tenant for temporary or more permanent occupancy.

This plan identifies tenants who are eligible for an emergency transfer, the documentation needed to request an emergency transfer, confidentiality protections, how an emergency transfer may occur, and guidance to tenants on safety and security. This plan is based on a model emergency transfer plan published by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the federal agency that oversees that the **public housing and housing choice voucher (HCV) programs** are in compliance with VAWA.

**Eligibility for Emergency Transfers**

A tenant who is a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, as provided in HUD's regulations at 24 CFR part 5, subpart L, is eligible for an emergency transfer if the tenant reasonably believes that there is a threat of imminent harm from further violence if the tenant remains within the same unit. If the tenant is a victim of sexual assault, the tenant may also be eligible to transfer if the sexual assault occurred on the premises within the 90-calendar-day period preceding a request for an emergency transfer.

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<sup>3</sup>Despite the name of this law, VAWA protection is available to all victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, regardless of sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation.

<sup>4</sup>Housing providers cannot discriminate on the basis of any protected characteristic, including race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, disability, or age. HUD-assisted and HUD-insured housing must be made available to all otherwise eligible individuals regardless of actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status.



A tenant requesting an emergency transfer must expressly request the transfer in accordance with the procedures described in this plan.

Tenants who are not in good standing may still request an emergency transfer if they meet the eligibility requirements in this section.

### **Emergency Transfer Request Documentation**

To request an emergency transfer, the tenant shall notify the PHA's management office and submit a written request for a transfer to **any PHA office**. The PHA will provide reasonable accommodations to this policy for individuals with disabilities. The tenant's written request for an emergency transfer should include either:

1. A statement expressing that the tenant reasonably believes that there is a threat of imminent harm from further violence if the tenant were to remain in the same dwelling unit assisted under the PHA's program; OR
2. A statement that the tenant was a sexual assault victim and that the sexual assault occurred on the premises during the 90-calendar-day period preceding the tenant's request for an emergency transfer.

### **Confidentiality**

The PHA will keep confidential any information that the tenant submits in requesting an emergency transfer, and information about the emergency transfer, unless the tenant gives the PHA written permission to release the information on a time-limited basis, or disclosure of the information is required by law or required for use in an eviction proceeding or hearing regarding termination of assistance from the covered program. This includes keeping confidential the new location of the dwelling unit of the tenant, if one is provided, from the person or persons that committed an act of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking against the tenant. See the Notice of Occupancy Rights under the Violence against Women Act for All Tenants for more information about the PHA's responsibility to maintain the confidentiality of information related to incidents of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

### **Emergency Transfer Timing and Availability**

The PHA cannot guarantee that a transfer request will be approved or how long it will take to process a transfer request. The PHA will, however, act as quickly as possible to move a tenant who is a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking to another unit, subject to availability and safety of a unit. If a tenant reasonably believes a proposed transfer would not be safe, the tenant may request a transfer to a different unit. If a unit is available, the transferred tenant must agree to abide by the terms and conditions that govern occupancy in the unit to which the tenant has been transferred. The PHA may be unable to transfer a tenant to a particular unit if the tenant has not or cannot establish eligibility for that unit.

If the PHA has no safe and available units for which a tenant who needs an emergency transfer is eligible, the PHA will assist the tenant in identifying other housing providers who may have safe and available units to which the tenant could move. At the tenant's request, the PHA will also assist tenants in contacting the local organizations offering assistance to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking that are attached to this plan.

## **Emergency Transfers: Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program**

Tenant-based assistance: If you are a participant in the tenant-based HCV program and request an emergency transfer as described in this plan, the PHA will assist you to move to a safe unit quickly using your existing voucher assistance. The PHA will make exceptions to program regulations restricting moves as required.

At your request, the PHA will refer you to organizations that may be able to further assist you.

Project-based assistance: If you are assisted under the project-based voucher (PBV) program, you may request an emergency transfer under the following programs for which you are not required to apply:

- Tenant-based voucher, if available
- Project-based assistance in the same project (if a vacant unit is available and you determine that the vacant unit is safe)
- Project-based assistance in another development owned by the PHA

Emergency transfers under VAWA will take priority over waiting list admissions for these types of assistance.

You may also request an emergency transfer under the following programs for which you are required to apply:

- Public housing program
- PBV assistance in another development not owned by the PHA
- **[Insert other programs the PHA provides, such as LIHTC or HOME]**

Emergency transfers will not take priority over waiting list admissions for these programs. At your request, the PHA will refer you to organizations that may be able to further assist you.

## **Safety and Security of Tenants**

Pending processing of the transfer and the actual transfer, if it is approved and occurs, the tenant is urged to take all reasonable precautions to be safe.

Tenants who are or have been victims of domestic violence are encouraged to contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-7233, or a local domestic violence shelter, for assistance in creating a safety plan. For persons with hearing impairments, that hotline can be accessed by calling 1-800-787-3224 (TTY).

Tenants who have been victims of sexual assault may call the Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network's National Sexual Assault Hotline at 1-800-656-HOPE, or visit the online hotline at: <https://ohl.rainn.org/online/>.

Tenants who are or have been victims of stalking seeking help may visit the National Center for Victims of Crime's Stalking Resource Center at: <https://www.victimsofcrime.org/our-programs/stalking-resource-center>.

**Attachment:** Local organizations offering assistance to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

# PROPOSED PLAN

**EXHIBIT 16-4: EMERGENCY TRANSFER REQUEST FOR CERTAIN VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, DATING VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT, OR STALKING, FORM HUD-5383**

**EMERGENCY TRANSFER  
REQUEST FOR CERTAIN  
VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC  
VIOLENCE, DATING VIOLENCE,  
SEXUAL ASSAULT, OR STALKING**

**U.S. Department of Housing  
and Urban Development**

OMB Approval No. 2577-0286  
Exp. 06/30/2017

**Purpose of Form:** If you are a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, and you are seeking an emergency transfer, you may use this form to request an emergency transfer and certify that you meet the requirements of eligibility for an emergency transfer under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). Although the statutory name references women, VAWA rights and protections apply to all victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking. Using this form does not necessarily mean that you will receive an emergency transfer. See your housing provider's emergency transfer plan for more information about the availability of emergency transfers.

**The requirements you must meet are:**

**(1) You are a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.**

If your housing provider does not already have documentation that you are a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, your housing provider may ask you for such documentation. In response, you may submit Form HUD-5382, or any one of the other types of documentation listed on that Form.

**(2) You expressly request the emergency transfer.** Submission of this form confirms that you have expressly requested a transfer. Your housing provider may choose to require that you submit this form, or may accept another written or oral request. Please see your housing provider's emergency transfer plan for more details.

**(3) You reasonably believe you are threatened with imminent harm from further violence if you remain in your current unit.** This means you have a reason to fear that if you do not receive a transfer you would suffer violence in the very near future.

**OR**

**You are a victim of sexual assault and the assault occurred on the premises during the 90-calendar-day period before you request a transfer.** If you are a victim of sexual assault, then in addition to qualifying for an emergency transfer because you reasonably believe you are threatened with imminent harm from further violence if you remain in your unit, you may qualify for an emergency transfer if the sexual assault occurred on the premises of the property from which you are seeking your transfer, and that assault happened within the 90-calendar-day period before you submit this form or otherwise expressly request the transfer.

**Submission of Documentation:** If you have third-party documentation that demonstrates why you are eligible for an emergency transfer, you should submit that documentation to your housing provider if it is safe for you to do so. Examples of third party documentation include, but are not limited to: a letter or other documentation from a victim service provider, social worker, legal assistance provider, pastoral counselor, mental health provider, or other professional from whom you have sought assistance; a current restraining order; a recent court order or other court records; a law enforcement report or records; communication records from the perpetrator of the violence or family members or friends of the perpetrator of the violence, including emails, voicemails, text messages, and social media posts.

**Confidentiality:** All information provided to your housing provider concerning the incident(s) of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, and concerning your request for an emergency transfer shall be kept confidential. Such details shall not be entered into any shared database. Employees of your housing provider are not to have access to these details unless to grant or deny VAWA protections or an emergency transfer to you. Such employees may not disclose this information to any other entity or individual, except to the extent that disclosure is: (i) consented to by you in writing in a time-limited release; (ii) required for use in an eviction proceeding or hearing regarding termination of assistance; or (iii) otherwise required by applicable law.

**TO BE COMPLETED BY OR ON BEHALF OF THE PERSON REQUESTING A TRANSFER**

1. Name of victim requesting an emergency transfer: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Your name (if different from victim's) \_\_\_\_\_

3. Name(s) of other family member(s) listed on the lease: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Name(s) of other family member(s) who would transfer with the victim: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Address of location from which the victim seeks to transfer: \_\_\_\_\_

6. Address or phone number for contacting the victim: \_\_\_\_\_

7. Name of the accused perpetrator (if known and can be safely disclosed): \_\_\_\_\_

8. Relationship of the accused perpetrator to the victim: \_\_\_\_\_

9. Date(s), Time(s) and location(s) of incident(s): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

10. Is the person requesting the transfer a victim of a sexual assault that occurred in the past 90 days on the premises of the property from which the victim is seeking a transfer? If yes, skip question 11. If no, fill out question 11. \_\_\_\_\_

11. Describe why the victim believes they are threatened with imminent harm from further violence if they remain in their current unit.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

12. If voluntarily provided, list any third-party documentation you are providing along with this notice: \_\_\_\_\_

This is to certify that the information provided on this form is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, and that the individual named above in Item 1 meets the requirement laid out on this form for an emergency transfer. I acknowledge that submission of false information could jeopardize program eligibility and could be the basis for denial of admission, termination of assistance, or eviction.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Signed on (Date) \_\_\_\_\_

# PROPOSED PLAN

# PROPOSED PLAN

**EXHIBIT 16-5: MODEL OWNER NOTIFICATION OF RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS**

**[Insert Name of Housing Provider]**

**NOTIFICATION OF YOUR RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS  
UNDER THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT (VAWA)**

VAWA provides protections for Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) and PBV applicants, tenants, and participants from being denied assistance on the basis or as a direct result of being a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking and human trafficking.

**Purpose**

Many of VAWA’s protections to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking involve action by the public housing agency (PHA), but some situations involve action by owners of assisted housing. The purpose of this notice (herein called “Notice”) is to explain your rights and obligations under VAWA, as an owner of housing assisted through **[insert name of housing provider]** HCV program. Each component of this Notice also provides citations to HUD’s applicable regulations.

**Denial of Tenancy**

*Protections for applicants:* Owners cannot deny tenancy based on the applicant having been or currently being a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking. However, the applicant must be otherwise eligible for tenancy. (See 24 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 982.452(b)(1).)

**Eviction**

**PROPOSED PLAN**

*Protections for HCV participants:* Incidents or threats of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking will not be considered a serious or repeated lease violation by the victim, or good cause to terminate the tenancy of the victim (see 24 CFR 5.2005(c)). Protection also applies to criminal activity related directly to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking, conducted by a member of a tenant’s household or any guest or other person under the tenant’s control, if the tenant or an affiliated individual of the tenant is the victim or threatened victim of such domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking (24 CFR 5.2005(b)(2)).

*Limitations of VAWA protections:*

- a. Nothing in VAWA limits the authority of an owner, when notified of a court order, to comply with a court order with respect to (24 CFR 5.2005(d)(1)):
  - 1) The rights of access or control of property, including civil protection orders issued to protect a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking; or
  - 2) The distribution or possession of property among members of a household in a case.
- b. Nothing in VAWA limits an owner from evicting a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking for a lease violation that is not premised on an act of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking, as long as the owner does not subject the victim to more demanding standards than other tenants when deciding whether to evict. (See 24 CFR 5.2005(d)(2).)



c. Nothing in VAWA limits an owner from evicting a tenant (including the victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking) if the owner can demonstrate an actual and imminent threat to other tenants or those employed at or providing services to the HCV property would be present if the tenant or lawful occupant is not evicted. (See 24 CFR 5.2005(d)(3).)

i. In this context, words, gestures, actions, or other indicators will be considered an “actual and imminent threat” if they meet the following standards: An actual and imminent threat consists of a physical danger that is real, would occur within an immediate time frame, and could result in death or serious bodily harm. In determining whether an individual would pose an actual and imminent threat, the factors to be considered include: the duration of the risk, the nature and severity of the potential harm, the likelihood that the potential harm will occur, and the length of time before the potential harm would occur. (See 24 CFR 5.2003.)

ii. Any eviction due to “actual and imminent threat” should be utilized by an owner only when there are no other actions that could be taken to reduce or eliminate the threat, including, but not limited to, transferring the victim to a different unit, barring the perpetrator from the property, contacting law enforcement to increase police presence or develop other plans to keep the property safe, or seeking other legal remedies to prevent the perpetrator from acting on a threat. Restrictions predicated on public safety cannot be based on stereotypes, but must be tailored to particularized concerns about individual residents. (See 24 CFR 5.2005(d)(4).)

### **Documentation of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, Stalking, or Human Trafficking**

If an applicant or tenant requests VAWA protection based on status as a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking, the owner has the option to request that the victim document or provide written evidence to demonstrate that the violence occurred. However, nothing in HUD’s regulation requires a covered housing provider to request this documentation. (See 24 CFR 5.2007(b)(3).)

If the owner chooses to request this documentation, the owner must make such request in writing. The individual may satisfy this request by providing any one document type listed under 24 CFR 5.2007(b)(1):

- a. Form HUD-55383 (Self-Certification Form); or
- b. A document: 1) Signed by an employee, agent, or volunteer of a victim service provider, an attorney, or medical professional or a mental health professional (collectively, “professional”) from whom the victim has sought assistance relating to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking, or the effects of abuse:
  - 2) Signed by the applicant or tenant; and
  - 3) That specifies, under penalty of perjury, that the professional believes in the occurrence of the incident of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking that is the ground for protection and remedies under 24 CFR part 5, subpart L, and that the incident meets the applicable definition of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking under 24 CFR 5.2003; or
- c. A record of a Federal, State, tribal, territorial or local law enforcement agency, court, or administrative agency; or
- d. At the discretion of a covered housing provider, a statement or other evidence provided by the applicant or tenant.

The owner must accept any of the above items (a – c). The owner has discretion to accept a statement or other evidence (d).

The owner is prohibited from requiring third-party documentation of the domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking, unless the submitted documentation contains conflicting information.

If the owner makes a written request for documentation, the owner may require submission of that documentation within 14 business days after the date that the individual received the written request for documentation. (24 CFR 5.2007(a)(2)). The owner may extend this time period at its discretion. During the 14 business day period and any granted extensions of that time, no adverse actions, such as evictions or terminations, can be taken against the individual requesting VAWA protection.

Once a victim provides documentation of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking, the owner is encouraged to acknowledge receipt of the documentation in a timely manner.

If the applicant or tenant fails to provide documentation that meets the criteria in 24 CFR 5.2007 within 14 business days after receiving the written request for that documentation or within the designated extension period, nothing in VAWA may be construed to limit the authority of the covered housing provider to:

- a. Deny admission by the applicant or tenant to the housing or program;
- b. Deny assistance under the covered housing program to the applicant or tenant;
- c. Terminate the participation of the tenant in the covered housing program; or
- d. Evict the tenant, or a lawful occupant that commits a violation of a lease.

An individual's failure to timely provide documentation of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking does not result in a waiver of the individual's right to challenge the denial of assistance or termination, nor does it preclude the individual's ability to raise an incident of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking at eviction or termination proceedings.

Owners may not coerce, intimidate, threaten, interfere with, or retaliate against any person who exercises or assists or encourages a person to exercise any rights or protections under VAWAs (See FR Notice 1/4/23.)

### **Moves**

A victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking may move in violation of their lease if the move is required to protect their safety. If a move results in the termination of the Housing Assistance Payment Contract, the lease is automatically terminated.

## **Lease Bifurcation**

Owners may choose to bifurcate a lease, or remove a household member from a lease in order to evict, remove, terminate occupancy rights, or terminate assistance to such member who engages in criminal activity directly relating to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking against an affiliated individual or other individual. (See 24 CFR 5.2009(a).) If an owner chooses to bifurcate the lease, the owner must comply with the reasonable time to establish eligibility under the covered housing program or find alternative housing following lease bifurcation provision in 24 CFR 5.2009(b). VAWA protections, including bifurcation, do not apply to guests or unreported members of a household or anyone else residing in a household who is not a tenant.

Eviction, removal, termination of occupancy rights, or termination of assistance must be effected in accordance with the procedures prescribed by federal, state, or local law for termination of leases.

To avoid unnecessary delay in the bifurcation process, HUD recommends that owners seek court-ordered eviction of the perpetrator pursuant to applicable laws. This process results in the underlying lease becoming null and void once the owner regains possession of the unit. The owner would then execute a new lease with the victim.

## **Evictions Due to “Actual and Imminent Threat” or Violations Not Premised on Abuse**

VAWA generally prohibits eviction on the basis or as a direct result of the fact that the applicant or tenant is or has been a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking, if the applicant or tenant otherwise qualifies for assistance, participation or occupancy. (See 24 CFR 5.2005.)

However, VAWA does not prohibit an owner from evicting a tenant for any violation not premised on an act of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking that is in question against the tenant or an affiliated individual of the tenant. Nor does VAWA prohibit an owner from evicting a tenant if the owner can demonstrate an actual and imminent threat to other tenants or those employed at or providing services to property of the owner would be present if that tenant or lawful occupant is not evicted or terminated from assistance. (See 5.2005(d)(2) and (3).)

In order to demonstrate an actual and imminent threat to other tenants or employees at the property, the covered housing provider must have objective evidence of words, gestures, actions, or other indicators that meet the standards in the following definition:

Actual and imminent threat refers to a physical danger that is real, would occur within an immediate time frame, and could result in death or serious bodily harm. In determining whether an individual would pose an actual and imminent threat, the factors to be considered include:

- The duration of the risk;
- The nature and severity of the potential harm;
- The likelihood that the potential harm will occur; and
- The length of time before the potential harm would occur.

(See 24 CFR 5.2003 and 5.2005(d)(2).)

## Confidentiality

Any information submitted to a covered housing provider under 24 CFR 5.2007, including the fact that an individual is a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking, must be maintained in strict confidence by the covered housing provider. (See 24 CFR 5.2007(c).)

Employees of the owner (or those within their employ, e.g., contractors) must not have access to the information unless explicitly authorized by the owner for reasons that specifically call for these individuals to have access to this information under applicable federal, state, or local law (e.g., the information is needed by an employee to provide the VAWA protections to the victim).

The owner must not enter this information into any shared database, or disclose this information to any other entity or individual, except to the extent that disclosure is:

- a. Requested or consented to in writing by the individual (victim) in a time-limited release;
- b. Required for use in an eviction proceeding or hearing regarding termination of assistance from the covered program; or
- c. Otherwise required by applicable law.

When communicating with the victim, owners must take precautions to ensure compliance with these confidentiality requirements.

## Service Providers

[insert name of housing provider] has extensive relationships with local service providers. [insert name of housing provider] staff are available to provide referrals to shelters, counselors, and advocates. These resources are also provided in [insert name of housing provider] Annual and 5-Year Plan, Administrative Plan, VAWA Notice of Occupancy Rights, and Emergency Transfer Plan. A list of local service providers is attached to this Notice.

## Definitions

**Actual and imminent threat** refers to a physical danger that is real, would occur within an immediate time frame, and could result in death or serious bodily harm. In determining whether an individual would pose an actual and imminent threat, the factors to be considered include: the duration of the risk, the nature and severity of the potential harm, the likelihood that the potential harm will occur, and the length of time before the potential harm would occur.

**Affiliated individual**, with respect to an individual, means:

- (1) A spouse, parent, brother, sister, or child of that individual, or a person to whom that individual stands in the place of a parent or guardian (for example, the affiliated individual is a person in the care, custody, or control of that individual); or
- (2) Any individual, tenant, or lawful occupant living in the household of that individual.

**Bifurcate** means to divide a lease as a matter of law, subject to the permissibility of such process under the requirements of the applicable HUD-covered program and State or local law, such that certain tenants or lawful occupants can be evicted or removed and the remaining tenants or lawful occupants can continue to reside in the unit under the same lease requirements or as may be revised depending upon the eligibility for continued occupancy of the remaining tenants and lawful occupants.

**Dating violence** means violence committed by a person:

- (1) Who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; and
- (2) Where the existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on a consideration of the following factors:
  - (i) The length of the relationship;
  - (ii) The type of relationship; and
  - (iii) The frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.

**Domestic violence** includes felony or misdemeanor crimes of committed by a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim under the family or domestic violence laws of the jurisdiction receiving grant funding, and in the case of victim services, includes the user or attempted use of physical abuse or sexual abuse, or a pattern of any other coercive behavior committed, enabled, or solicited to gain or maintain power and control over a victim, including verbal, psychological, economic, or technological abuse that may or may not constitute criminal behavior, by a person who is:

- The current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim, or person similarly situated to a spouse or intimate partner of the victim
- A person who is cohabitating or has cohabitated with the victim as a spouse or intimate partner
- A person with whom the victim shares a child in common
- A person who commits acts against an youth or adult victim who is protected from those acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction

**Sexual assault** means any nonconsensual sexual act proscribed by Federal, tribal, or State law, including when the victim lacks capacity to consent.

**Stalking** means engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to:

- (1) Fear for the person's individual safety or the safety of others; or
- (2) Suffer substantial emotional distress.

**VAWA** means the Violence Against Women Act of 1994, as amended (42 U.S.C. 13925 and 42 U.S.C. 14043e et seq.).

**Attached:**

Legal services and the domestic violence resources for the Metro area  
Form HUD-5382 Certification of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, or Stalking  
[insert name of housing provider] VAWA Notice of Occupancy Rights



Domestic violence is the physical abuse, threat of physical abuse, or the emotional abuse by a relative or person with whom the victim resides. Not all domestic violence victims need shelter. Some need to assess and explore their options before making a decision. Some need continuing support regarding their decision.

Some need group interaction to break down feelings of isolation, and promote healing.

- individual counseling available by appointment
- weekly support groups
- parenting group to encourage non-violent behavior
- referrals and advocacy with local social service agencies

#### For Children

Children are victims too, directly or indirectly. Understanding the violence is necessary to break this cycle of abuse.

- individual counseling
- support groups
- education about cooperative, non-violent problem solving
- activity and play groups

#### Sexual Assault Counseling

Sexual assault refers to all types of sexual violence with or without a weapon: rape, incest, molestation, child sexual assault/abuse and sexual harassment. Services are provided to all victims regardless of age or gender.

- 24 hour crisis intervention at hospitals and police stations
- individual counseling by professional staff
- support groups for rape, incest, children, adolescents, non-offending parents, and significant others
- specialized services for teens
- specialized services for children
- play and art therapy

#### Victim Advocacy

Mutual Ground provides critical advocacy services for both domestic violence and sexual assault victims. MGI supplies information, emotional support, and sound technical understanding of the legal and social systems involved. These systems can be frightening and frustrating to both adults and children who must then deal with numerous institutions during their crisis.

#### Domestic Violence Victims

- 24 hour availability for advocacy at hospital emergency rooms
- information on protection available through the Illinois Domestic Violence Act
- Advocacy with social service agencies and the criminal justice system
- support in criminal and civil court proceedings



- advocacy with obtaining Orders of Protection
- transportation to court

#### Sexual Assault Victims

- 24 hour availability for intervention at hospitals and police stations
- information about medical exams and evidence collection
- court preparation for adult or child victims
- information about legal procedures
- transportation to court

#### 24-Hour Crisis Lines

It takes courage for those devastated by domestic violence or sexual assault to reach out for help. Their first contact can be crucial. MGI operates a 24-hour hot line for domestic violence and sexual assault victims.

- NO LINES HAVE CALLER ID
- All calls confidential
- Calls taken by professional staff
- Crisis intervention counseling
- Support for families and friends of victims
- Informed, non-judgmental support
- Sensitive, accurate information

#### Community Education

Mutual Ground believes education is the key in prevention of domestic violence and sexual assault. MGI has several pro-active programs that are tailored to fit our philosophy that social change is necessary to prevent these crimes. Please click on the Community Education link for more information.

Domestic Violence: Sexual Assault:

Hotline 630.897.0080 Hotline 630.897.8383

Office 630.897.0084 Office 630.897.8989

FAX (all) 630.897.3536

Mailing Address:

Mutual Ground, Inc.

418 Oak Avenue

Aurora, Illinois 60506

Email: [MutualGround@Ameritech.net](mailto:MutualGround@Ameritech.net)



**AURORA HOUSING AUTHORITY  
FORM TO BE COMPLETED BY THE VICTIM OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

Date Written Request Received From Family Member: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of the Victim of Domestic Violence: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of other family members listed on the lease

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name of the abuser: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Victim: \_\_\_\_\_

Date(s) the incident of domestic violence occurred: \_\_\_\_\_

Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Location of Incident: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of victim: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Police Report Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Reporting Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of report: \_\_\_\_\_

Any other pertinent data: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature

\_\_\_\_\_

Date