

Emergency Housing Vouchers: Office Hours

This resource is prepared by technical assistance providers and intended only to provide guidance. The contents of this presentation, except when based on statutory or regulatory authority or law, do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind the public in any way. This presentation is intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies.



EHV Office Hours

June 8, 2021

Audience: Continuums of Care, Public Housing Agencies, Victim Service Providers, and other partners involved in Emergency Housing Vouchers

Purpose: Share information and provide an opportunity to ask questions to HUD related to Emergency Housing Vouchers

If you're experiencing homelessness and in need of assistance:

<https://www.hudexchange.info/housing-and-homeless-assistance/homeless-help/>



Office Hours Logistics

- This session is being recorded. Recording will be shared at <https://www.hud.gov/ehv>
- All participants are muted. If you are having trouble connecting your computer audio, you can call in using the following information:
 - +1 646 558 8656
 - Webinar ID: 998 7192 2141
 - Passcode: 110590
- Please submit your questions in the Q&A box
- If you are having technical issues, please use the Q&A box



Today's Agenda

- Welcome & Introductions
- Speaker Presentations
- HUD Q+A

Speakers & Resource Advisors

Department of Housing and Urban Development

- Office of Public and Indian Housing

- David Vargas
- Danielle Garcia
- Michael Dennis
- Jerrienne Anthony
- Ryan Jones
- Chad Ruppel
- Emily Warren
- Caleb Kopczyk

- Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs

- Caroline Crouse
- Lisa Coffman
- April Mitchell

TAC

- Liz Stewart
- Emila Sutton
- Ari Rogers

Speakers & Resource Advisors

Speakers:

- Lisa Coffman, HUD Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs
- Kelly Henry & Amanda Berno, Sojourner House
- Janice Miller, House of Ruth
- Karlo Ng, J.D. National Alliance for Safe Housing
- Larisa Kofman, J.D. Kofman & Associates, LLC.
- Karen Romero, Freedom Network USA
- Alexis Polen, Administration for Children & Families (ACF), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)



Connecting DV/SA/Trafficking Victims to CES Housing Opportunities

Kelly Henry, Senior Director of Housing

Amanda Berno, Manager of Supportive Housing



Sojourner
House

Committed to Ending
Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault
and Human Trafficking

Sojourner House Overview

Population & Services

- ★ Serving survivors of Domestic Violence, Sexual Violence and Human Trafficking statewide across Rhode Island
- ★ Over 120 units of supportive housing and 3 shelter programs
- ★ Drop In Center, 24/7 Hotline, Immigration Relief, Clinical Services, School Based Advocacy, Support Groups, Education & Prevention, Law Enforcement Advocacy



Sojourner House & CES

Victim Services as a Point of Entry

- ★ Confidential Referrals to Coordinated Entry using a Numerical ID and limited information
- ★ Housing Clinic and One-on-one appointments for assessment and referral
- ★ Working together with other VSPs and other organizations to ensure survivors they serve also have access to the referral process and housing opportunities



Sojourner House & CES

Working together to house survivors

- ★ Communicating with CES to accept appropriate referrals for housing programs
- ★ Providing housing search services with 2 housing navigators and support from housing advocates
- ★ Working together with the survivors and other appropriate organizations to create a housing stabilization plan



Sojourner House & CES

Working together with the Continuum of Care

- ★ Participating in the RI Continuum of Care and many respective committees
- ★ Working with other Housing Service Providers to help build programs
- ★ Working with a provider-led training committee to help provide trainings for homeless service providers throughout Rhode Island



Questions?


Kelly Henry, Senior Director of Housing
khenry@sojournerri.org

Amanda Berno, Manager of Supportive Housing
aberno@sojournerri.org

401-808-6889

386 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02908



- 
- Janice Miller, Director of Survivor Engagement and Stability Services, House of Ruth Maryland

Streamlining Survivor Access to Emergency Housing Vouchers

Presenters:

Karlo Ng, J.D. National Alliance for Safe Housing

Larisa Kofman, J.D. Kofman & Associates, LLC.

Karen Romero, Freedom Network USA



What EHV Challenges Are We Seeing?

- VSPs are wondering what role(s) to play.
- VSPs are figuring out how to structure and create a streamlined referral process that equitably represents DV, SA, HT, and culturally specific VSPs.
- VSPs are having trouble connecting with PHAs and CoCs. PHAs and CoCs aren't sure how to connect with VSPs.
- CoCs are working to create centralized systems to receive referrals and provide them to PHAs.



What Can PHAs Do?

- Contact DV/SA/HT VSPs in your area and leverage existing relationships.
- Work with VSPs
 - As referral partners
 - To help with targeting and prioritizing EHV distribution (DV, SA, and HT; VAWA emergency transfers)
 - To provide housing search assistance
 - To provide supportive services
 - To ensure survivor confidentiality
- Ensure EHV's are low-barrier and do not create barriers.
- Use flexibility of EHV program to increase access.



What Can PHAs Do?

- Ensure that EHV MOUs include:
 - A process that meaningfully includes all VSPs (domestic violence, sexual assault, and anti-trafficking programs)
 - PHAs will take referrals from CoCs and other referral partners, without additional barriers and using prioritization from CoCs and partners
 - Any housing search assistance provided by CoCs and referral partners
 - A process between PHA and referral partners to determine prioritization of emergency transfer requests
- Make sure that EHV policies and practices are in PHA Administrative Plans.



COC STREAMLINED EHVS FOR SURVIVORS: PROCESS

- Identify and reach out to VSPs (projects funded through CoC) and survivor serving organizations (including non-housing organizations/not funded through CoC)
- Identify a simple and streamlined process for survivor EHV access in partnerships with VSPs and other survivor serving organizations (via survey/meetings)
- Process Examples Include:
 - Utilize a centralized CES mechanism (organization, Access Point, CoC Staff, Co-Located Staff person, Regional Coordinators) to receive referrals from survivor serving organizations.
 - Partner with a VSP (domestic violence, sexual assault or human trafficking organization) the organization would receive referrals and serve as a liaison to the CoC CES
 - Partner with other CoCs in the state and the domestic violence coalition (referrals centralized through coalition)
 - Considerations* taking direct survivor referrals*

COC STREAMLINED EHVS FOR SURVIVORS: REFERRALS, DOCUMENTATION & ASSESSMENT

Q: What information does a referring organization (funded CoC project or not) need to provide if they want to refer a survivor through an identified mechanism for an EHV?

A. The organization should provide a certification document (similar to one in the Appendix of the guidance), checking a box that the individual is a survivor; therefore, qualifies and is eligible. The survivor needs to also be provided with a Release of Information (since the information is going to a 3rd party – time limited and limited information).

CONTACT INFORMATION

Larisa Kofman, J.D.

Principal

Kofman & Associates, LLC.

larisa@kofmanassociates.com

<https://kofmanassociates.com>

Karen Romero

Training Institute Director

Freedom Network USA

karen@freedomnetworkusa.org

www.freedomnetworkusa.org

Karlo Ng, J.D.

Director of Legal Initiatives

National Alliance for Safe Housing

kng@nashta.org

<https://nashta.org>

|

Department of Health and Human Services

Administration for Children and Families

June 8, 2021

Opportunities for Outreach and Collaboration to HHS/ACF Eligible Programs and Populations in Need

Programs and Populations:

- ❖ Office on Trafficking in Persons (Human Trafficking)
- ❖ Office of Refugee Resettlement (Refugee Program)
- ❖ Runaway and Homeless Youth Program (Runaway, Homeless Youth)
- ❖ Family Violence Prevention Program (Domestic Violence)

ACF Eligibility: victims of violence, including trafficking, at risk of homelessness or homeless

PHA and CoC Connections for Planning and EHV Allocation:

Trafficking in Persons Program

Network of local service providers (200)

Refugee Program

Network of State Refugee Agencies and local refugee resettlement providers (300+)

Runaway & Homeless Youth Program

Over 600 community-based grants across four RHY programs

Family Violence Prevention Program

Network of service providers (more than 1,500)...

HHS/ACF Provider Contact Links

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/orr/grant-funding/key-state-contacts>

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/otip/grants>

Domestic Violence & Housing Technical Assistance Consortium (DVHTAC)

Federal Partners

- Family Violence Prevention & Services Program/HHS
- Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs/HUD
- Office for Victims of Crime/DOJ
- Office on Violence Against Women/DOJ
- US Interagency Council on Homelessness

Technical Assistance Providers

- National Alliance for Safe Housing (NASH)
- Collaborative Solutions, Inc. (CSI)
- National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV)
- National Resource Center on Domestic Violence (NRCDV)
- National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC)

Collaborating with Victim Service Providers (VSPs)

Key Principles for EHV Prioritization, Referrals, Coordinated Entry & Assessment

- Safety, low-barrier access, trauma-informed practices
- Transforming Coordinated Entry Systems
- Survivor self-attestation & VSP verification
- Confidentiality protections
- Emergency Transfers

Stakeholder Engagement: Survivors with Lived Expertise & Culturally-Specific VSPs

- Prioritization of EHV & racial equity
- Supportive services to EHV holders (incl. housing search)
- Coordinated Entry gaps, barriers & solutions
- Points of Contact for VSPs:
 - State Domestic Violence Coalitions
 - Culturally-Specific Programs
- EHV Guidance for VSPs

Safe Housing Partnerships (online clearinghouse for the federal technical assistance partnership on the intersection of DV/SA and housing/homelessness):

<https://safehousingpartnerships.org/>

Research and tools on coordinated entry in the context of DV/SA:

<https://safehousingpartnerships.org/key-approaches/access-safe-permanent-housing/entry-intake-tools>

Tips for successful partnerships between housing and victims' services agencies (including partnership case studies):

<https://safehousingpartnerships.org/partnerships>



HUD Q+A

Poll Question

- Which topics do you want to hear highlighted on future HUD EHV Office Hours? Choose top 3:
 - Waivers
 - Portability
 - Landlord Engagement & Incentives
 - Housing Search Assistance
 - Coordinated Entry/Referral Process
 - Making MOU and Course Adjustments
 - Reporting
 - Increasing EHV Utilization



Reminders

- MOU deadline is July 31, 2021
- Submit your questions to ehv@hud.gov
- Office hours are every Tuesday @ 3pm ET
- Today's recording and materials will be posted to <https://www.hud.gov/ehv>



Thank you!