



Chart: Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Covered Housing

The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) is a Federal law that, in part, provides housing protections for people applying for or living in units subsidized by the federal government and who have experienced domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking (“VAWA violence/abuse”), to help keep them safe and reduce their likelihood of experiencing homelessness.

VAWA housing protections are listed at [34 U.S.C. 12491, et seq](#) and may be divided into two categories:

1. **The Right to Report** is the right for anyone to seek law enforcement or emergency assistance without being penalized (for example, by their landlord or local law enforcement). This right applies to all people, regardless of whether they are or have been a survivor of VAWA violence/abuse or live in federally subsidized housing. In addition, people cannot be penalized due to criminal activity if they were the victim or were not at fault. For more information about how this applies to Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) assistance recipients, please see the [VAWA Right to Report from Home for CDBG Recipients Webinar](#) on the HUD Exchange.

2. **Housing Protections in Federally Subsidized Units** are rights that VAWA provides to survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking who are *applying for or living in shelter or rental housing units subsidized by the Federal government*. For a full list of these rights, please refer to the FAQ at www.hud.gov/vawa. These rights include but are not limited to:
 - Protection from adverse rental decisions (such as denial of admission or assistance and eviction or termination) due to experiencing VAWA violence/abuse.
 - Having the option to stay in the unit, even if there has been criminal activity directly related to VAWA violence/abuse.
 - Right to request an emergency transfer to move into a new, safe unit due to VAWA violence/abuse.
 - Protection from retaliation by the housing provider, including both landlords and service providers, for seeking or exercising VAWA protections.

The following chart shows the housing programs covered by **VAWA’s housing protections**. Please note that HUD and other agencies may identify additional covered programs in the future.

Federal Housing Programs Covered by VAWA Housing Protections

HUD Programs
Continuum of Care (CoC)
Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG)
HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME)
Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA)
Housing Trust Fund (HTF)
Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8 Voucher) , including HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) Program
Public Housing
Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly , including the Section 202 Direct Loan Program
Section 811 Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities
Section 221(d)(3)/(d)(5) Below-market Interest Rate (BMIR), Multifamily Rental Assistance
Project-based Section 8
Section 236 Multifamily Assistance



Other Federal Programs

Low Income Housing Tax Credit (Department of Treasury)

[Rural Development Multifamily Housing Programs](#) (Department of Agriculture), including:

- Section 515 Rural Rental Housing ([Direct Loans](#) and [Loan Guarantees](#))
- Sections 514 and 516 Farm Labor Housing ([On Farm Loans](#) and [Off Farm Direct Loans and Grants](#))
- [Section 533 Housing Preservation and Revitalization](#)
- [Section 538 Multifamily Housing Rental Assistance](#)
- [Multifamily Tenant Voucher Program](#)

[Grant and Per Diem \(GPD\) Program](#) (Department of Veterans Affairs)

[Supportive Services for Veteran Families \(SSVF\) Program](#) (Department of Veterans Affairs)

[Office on Violence Against Women \(OVW\) Transitional Housing Assistance Grants](#) (Department of Justice)

Additional Resources:

- [How-To for Housing Services Providers - Identify and Assist Persons Impacted by Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault](#)
- [VAWA Housing Services Series - HUD Exchange](#)
- [FAQs – VAWA Housing Services Webinar Series](#)
- www.hud.gov/VAWA
- [NFHTA Forum | Violence Against Women Act, Part 2: Legal Protections for Survivors - HUD Exchange](#)
- [Report Housing Discrimination | HUD.gov](#)
- [National Immigrant Women’s Advocacy Project Web Library – American University Washington College of Law](#)

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