



Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization 2013 – Housing Provisions

Since its passage in 1994, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) has improved our nation's response to violence. Each reauthorization of the violence against women act has allowed additional victims and survivors to be protected and reached under VAWA. There were many new provisions included in the VAWA 2013 reauthorization that will improve services for all victims including many changes to public housing. For the purposes of this document, "victim" will be used in place of "survivor" as that is the terminology used by HUD.

New Housing Provisions in VAWA 2013

- Expands protections to individuals in all federally subsidized housing programs including:
 - Public housing;
 - Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program;
 - Section 8 Project-based housing;
 - Section 202 housing for elderly;
 - Section 811 housing for people with disabilities;
 - Section 236 multifamily rental housing;
 - Section 221 (d)(3) Below Market Interest Rate (BMRI);
 - HOME;
 - Housing Opportunities for People with Aids (HOPWA);
 - McKinney-Vento Act programs;
 - Rural Development (RD) multifamily housing programs;
 - Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC).
- Includes protections for individuals who live in the victim's household, regardless of whether they are related by marriage or blood.
- Adds victims of sexual assault as persons who can be protected under VAWA Housing provisions.
- Revised the definition of "domestic violence" to include crimes of violence committed by an intimate partner of the victim or by a person who has cohabited with the victim as an intimate partner.
- Creates a new protection for victims who bifurcate the lease.
 - If the lease is bifurcated and the perpetrator was the individual eligible for the housing assistance, the victim tenant may continue to remain in that housing program or transfer housing.
- Requires public housing agencies to develop emergency transfer policy that owners, managers and landlords must use.
- Continues to bar eviction/termination due to status as victim and requires landlords to maintain victim-tenant confidentiality, protections included in VAWA 2005
- Requires HUD to develop of notice of rights for victims that will include all of the VAWA rights for victims.
 - Tenants will receive notification of their VAWA rights when denied public housing, admitted into public housing, and during notice of eviction or termination from public housing.

VAWA 2013 does not preempt any Federal, State or local law that provides greater protections for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking. The new law does not limit any rights or remedies available under section 6 or 8 of the U.S. Housing Act of 1937 and the implementing regulations of VAWA 2005's housing provisions. The implementing regulations for VAWA 2013 only augment the existing regulatory protections.