

Attachment 1: Purpose & Project Background

PURPOSE

The purpose of this RFA is to solicit proposals from qualified entities to provide housing assistance and housing stabilization services for survivors of domestic violence and sex trafficking in accordance with applicable federal and state laws, regulations, and funding requirements

The funding is intended to support programs that deliver survivor-centered, trauma-informed housing interventions that promote safety, stability, and self-sufficiency. Allowable activities may include, but are not limited to:

- Emergency shelter and safe housing
- Transitional housing
- Rapid rehousing and rental assistance
- Housing stabilization services, including landlord engagement, utility assistance, and move-in supports

Programs should incorporate flexible, individualized approaches that respect survivor choice and address unique safety needs, cultural considerations, and barriers to housing.

Programs funded under this RFA must comply with all applicable federal requirements, including but not limited to:

- Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) nondiscrimination, confidentiality, and survivor rights provisions
- Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) program standards and survivor confidentiality protections
- Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) definitions and survivor protections
- Applicable provisions of HUD's VAWA regulations (24 VFR Part 5, Subpart L), where relevant
- State laws governing victim services, housing assistance, and data privacy

Funded Programs must prioritize survivor safety, voluntary participation, informed consent, and confidentiality, and must not require survivors to engage in services or legal actions as a condition of receiving housing assistance. Programs are expected to incorporate individualized safety planning and provide flexible assistance tailored to survivor-identified needs.

Applicants are encouraged to demonstrate collaboration with domestic violence and sexual assault advocacy organizations, trafficking service providers, housing authorities, and other community partners to ensure coordinated service delivery. Programs should also address equity and access by reducing barriers for underserved populations, including survivors in rural



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areas, survivors with disabilities, survivors with limited English proficiency, and survivors from historically marginalized communities.

BACKGROUND

Survivors of domestic violence and sex trafficking face significant and often immediate housing instability as a direct result of abuse, coercion, and exploitation. Many are forced to flee unsafe environments with little notice, limited financial resources, disrupted employment, and complex legal and safety concerns. Lack of access to safe, stable, and affordable housing is one of the primary barriers to survivor safety, recovery, and long-term independence.

Federal law recognizes housing stability as a critical component of survivor safety and recovery. The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), as reauthorized (most recently under the Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization Act of 2022), emphasizes survivor-centered, trauma-informed approaches that prioritize safety, confidentiality, housing stability, and autonomy for survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. VAWA also establishes housing protection for survivors, including emergency transfer provisions, nondiscrimination requirements, and confidentiality safeguards.

Survivors of sex trafficking, as defined under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA), similarly face acute housing instability, often compounded by economic exploitation, criminalization related to victimization, limited access to financial resources, and ongoing safety threats. The Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) further recognize the essential role of emergency shelter, transitional housing, and supportive services in preventing further harm and supporting survivor stabilization.

At the state level, ensuring access to safe, affordable, and stable housing for survivors aligns with federally mandated and evidence-based best practices. Trauma-informed housing interventions reduce barriers to safety, improve survivor outcomes, and support long-term independence. Programs that are survivor-driven, culturally responsive, and coordinated with victim advocacy services are critical to meeting the complex needs of survivors and their families, including children.