HOW CAN SURVIVORS REQUEST HELP UNDER VAWA?

- Speak directly to a point person (e.g., property manager) at the building.
- Ask that your information be kept confidential prior to sharing.
- Explain that you are experiencing violence, are concerned for your safety, and need help under VAWA.
- Work with the building to safety plan while the safety concerns remain.

Housing providers are not allowed to ask for third-party documents (e.g., police reports) except for very limited circumstances.

NEED HELP ACCESSING YOUR HOUSING RIGHTS?

Contact our Director of Housing Advocacy:

Jaclyn Zarack Koriath, J.D.
jkoriath@the-network.org

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

Housing Protections
Updated November 2022
What is VAWA?

VAWA is a federal law that provides housing protections for survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking (“gender-based violence”) and members of their household.

VAWA protects survivors regardless of their sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation.

VAWA only applies to covered subsidized housing programs. It does not apply to private housing that does not receive federal assistance.

How do survivors know what their rights are under VAWA?

A housing provider should give tenants a copy of the VAWA Notice of Occupancy Rights (which outlines all of VAWA’s protections) when:

1. The tenant is denied admission to the program;
2. The tenant is provided admission to the program; and
3. A tenant is given an eviction notice or termination of assistance notice.

What are VAWA’s protections?

VAWA has many protections for survivors including:

- **Bifurcation**: the survivor continues to receive housing assistance and the assistance of the person causing harm is terminated
- **Emergency Transfer**: the housing provider supports the survivor in transferring their subsidy to a safe unit

VAWA also prohibits:

- Evicting someone for gender-based violence or criminal activity related to gender-based violence;
- Retaliating against a tenant for exercising their rights under VAWA; and
- Penalizing tenants for reporting crime or seeking emergency assistance.