



Housing and the Violence Against Women Act

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The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) provides protections for survivors to help keep them safe while working to reduce the likelihood of homelessness. (National Housing Law Project, n.d.)

Envision a World without Violence



VAWA is intended to encourage survivors who are receiving housing subsidies to report and seek help for the abuse committed against them, without being afraid of being evicted.



Applies to survivors regardless of age, sex, gender, identity, or sexual orientation.

VAWA protects individuals applying for or living in federally subsidized housing from being discriminated against because of acts of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking (VAWA crimes) committed against them.



Only applies to federal housing programs.



VAWA applies if the survivor is applying for or is a tenant in any of these programs:

- Public housing
- Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program
- Section 8 Project based Housing
- Section 202 Housing for elderly
- Section 211 Housing for disabled
- Section 236 Multi-family rental housing
- Section 221 Below Market Interest Rate
- HOME
- Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA)
- Housing Trust Fund
- McKinney-Vento Act homeless programs
- Rural Development multifamily housing and
- Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) housing



VAWA protects victims/survivors

1

They can't be denied admission or federal rental assistance just because they are or have been a victim or a threatened victim.

2

They can't be evicted or lose their federal rental assistance just because they are or have been a victim or a threatened victim.

3

They can't be denied admission or rental assistance, evicted, or lose their subsidy for reasons related to the abuse, such as bad credit history and criminal history.

How survivors can prove they are eligible for VAWA's protections

The housing authority or their landlord may ask for documentation showing that they are a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. The housing provider must receive this request in writing.



- Complete a self-certification form;
- Provide a letter signed by a victim service provider; or
- Provide a police report, court record (such as a protective or restraining order), or administrative record.