



# Systems Advocacy for Housing Model Housing Options

Tribal Housing and Homeless Services Training and Technical Assistance

Lead TTA  
Wyanet Tasker  
[wyanet@red-wind.net](mailto:wyanet@red-wind.net)

General Contact  
[outreach@red-wind.net](mailto:outreach@red-wind.net)

Website  
[www.red-wind.net](http://www.red-wind.net)



## REQUEST FOR TTA

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*I love to go home. Our home may be modest, we may not have the best designer furniture, but when you come into our home you feel like [you are] a part of the family, you feel alive, you feel the people's strength. (Looking Horse, 1995)*

## Purpose of this information

As advocates engage in housing systems advocacy bringing victims and survivors needs forward to help address gaps, safety, and recovery, knowing the range of housing options is essential to know what can be available to address critical unmet needs, as well as knowing how to engage in systems advocacy to help bring additional resources to victims and survivors. This document provides information about a range of housing models that can be used for working with survivors in the different stages of their needs. It also provides suggestions to help prepare for advocating with Tribal Leadership and Tribal Housing.

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## COVID Housing Options

COVID-19 has caused many challenges for victims of domestic and sexual violence, stalking, dating violence, and sex trafficking. With the implementation of stay-at-home orders, victims find themselves trapped in a home with an abuser. Advocates have seen an upturn in violence as abusers have taken advantage of the limited options for victims. Those that flee, are either homeless or at risk of homelessness as housing options became limited with people not leaving rental housing. Victims have a range of COVID housing needs:

- Emergency shelters are running at less capacity due to needs for social distancing in a community living situation to avoid over crowding. Shelters that had previously been an option are no longer available. Additional emergency shelter space is needed.
- Transitional housing provides a place for victims wanting support while also being in separate housing. The added support assists victims rebuilding their lives while trying to maneuver limited resources and dealing with the trauma of violence.
- Rental Assistance helps households avoid homelessness by staying in existing housing if the abuser left or relocating to other housing while trying to manage with the loss of income themselves due to the economic downturn from COVID-19.
- Permanent supportive housing provides long-term housing with programming to support the household



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## Emergency Shelter

Shelter is intended to provide the emergency response to victims. It provides that immediate need for safety and a place to stay while fleeing. This can be a very short period of time or last several days or weeks, sometimes spanning a few months.

- Immediate response to fleeing domestic violence;
- Stays are generally 30 - 90 days;
- Community living with 24/7 staff coverage;
- Crisis advocacy addressing safety, immediate needs resulting from the crisis such as assistance accessing medical care, access to civil protection order or reporting to law enforcement, help with children accessing schools and responding to their immediate trauma.

## Transitional Housing

Intended to provide longer-term support, assisting the victim after the immediate incident. Lengths of stay is a minimum of 6 months up to 24 months. Experience tells us the longer a household remains in transitional housing, the more effective the response can be. Transitional housing includes a program response to address immediate and long-term safety, recovery in the aftermath of violence, economic advocacy to address long-term self sufficiency, and planning for permanent housing. Transitional housing models include:

- Community living that has more than one household living together while in the program, stays upward to 24 months. It can be challenging to mix families together.
- Housing clusters can either be an apartment building dedicated to the program or housing close together, stays upward to 24 months. Creates supportive community.
- Scattered Site housing - located around the community with greater anonymity for survivors. Affordable rental structures provide households time to work on recovering from violence.

	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing	Permanent Housing
<b>Purpose</b>	Immediate response to the violence. Safety while fleeing.	Providing homeless victims/survivors with longer-term support	Long-term stability
<b>Length of Stay</b>	Short-term: a few days to a few months	Minimum 6 months up to 24 months	On-going, no time limit
<b>Activities</b>	Crisis response advocacy	Advocacy with safety, economic, personal-family, housing, planning, support	Usually no programming involved



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Assistance

## Lead TTA

Wyanet Tasker

[wyonet@red-wind.net](mailto:wyonet@red-wind.net)

## General Contact

[outreach@red-wind.net](mailto:outreach@red-wind.net)

## Website

[www.red-wind.net](http://www.red-wind.net)



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[https://airtable.com/shrFZZxsE  
xQsVDLE](https://airtable.com/shrFZZxsE<br/>xQsVDLE)

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## Rapid Re-Housing

Rapid re-housing is a strategy designed to help people overcome challenges in re-establishing independent households. Rapid re-housing helps victims/survivors reconnect to housing quickly by offering housing search assistance, landlord advocacy, and rental assistance. More specialized services are also offered by domestic violence providers that are designed to specifically help survivors recover from the impact of violence in their lives.

A survivor's immediate safety, emotional, and physical needs must be the first issue addressed. Delivery of rapid re-housing services does not usually occur until after the immediate crisis has been somewhat resolved. Programs that have adopted a rapid re-housing approach have demonstrated that the families assisted remain stably housed. Rapid re-housing programs typically offer some amount of financial assistance to help survivors pay for housing. Programs vary as to how long and how deeply they subsidize rents. One study found that 85 percent of families remained stably housed 18 months after a housing placement.

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Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing for Survivors of Domestic Violence. (n.d.). Retrieved from Safe Housing Partnerships: [https://safehousingpartnerships.org/sites/default/files/2017-01/Homelessness%20Prevention%20and%20Rapid%20Re-Housing\\_NAEH.pdf](https://safehousingpartnerships.org/sites/default/files/2017-01/Homelessness%20Prevention%20and%20Rapid%20Re-Housing_NAEH.pdf)

## Permanent Supportive Housing

Permanent supportive housing is an intervention that combines affordable housing assistance with voluntary support services to address the needs of chronically homeless people.



The services are designed to build independent living and tenancy skills and connect people with community-based health care, treatment, and employment services. Permanent supportive housing is a proven solution to homelessness for the most vulnerable chronically homeless. It pairs housing with case management and supportive services.

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Permanent Supportive Housing. (n.d.). Retrieved March 2021, from National Alliance to End Homelessness: <https://endhomelessness.org/ending-homelessness/solutions/permanent-supportive-housing/>



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Wy Janet Tasker

[wyjanet@red-wind.net](mailto:wyjanet@red-wind.net)

## General Contact

[outreach@red-wind.net](mailto:outreach@red-wind.net)

## Website

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## Permanent Housing

Permanent housing (PH) is defined as community-based housing without a designated length of stay in which formerly homeless individuals and families live as independently as possible. Under PH, a program participant must be the tenant on a lease (or sublease) for an initial term of at least one year that is renewable and is terminable only for cause. Further, leases (or subleases) must be renewable for a minimum term of one month. The Program funds two types of permanent housing: permanent supportive housing (PSH) for persons with disabilities and rapid re-housing. Permanent supportive housing is permanent housing with indefinite leasing or rental assistance paired with supportive services to assist homeless persons with a disability or families with an adult or child member with a disability achieve housing stability. Rapid re-housing (RRH) emphasizes housing search and relocation services and short- and medium-term rental assistance to move homeless persons and families (with or without a disability) as rapidly as possible into permanent housing.

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Continuum of Care (CoC) Program Eligibility Requirements. (n.d.). Retrieved March 2021, from HUD Exchange: <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/coc/coc-program-eligibility-requirements/>

## Rental Assistance

Providing short or long-term rental assistance can be very helpful for victims of domestic and sexual violence, and sex trafficking. It can help them avoid home-insecurity, and further stabilize a household as they recover from the violence.

- **Emergency Assistance.** Sometimes a victim is in need of short-term help with rental assistance to avoid being de-stabilized after an abuser leaves their home, or relocating with limited resources to accommodate a move fleeing from violence. Short-term assistance is often 1-3 months, however, can be longer depending on funding source..
- **Rental Arrears.** Not all funding allows for payment of arrears, however, some do. Assisting a victims with rental arrears will clear up or prevent a negative rental history, which can be a barrier to housing placement.
- **Subsidized Housing.** This can also be thought of as Tenant-based Rental Assistance. The victim will secure the housing, with the lease in their name. A rental subsidy is provided for a longer period of time such as a year or longer. Often the rental assistance decreases over time; not covering the full monthly costs..This model can help a victim stabilize in place. At the end of the subsidy, they remain in their housing.



# Systems Advocacy for Housing Survivor Housing Needs

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## Victims of Domestic Violence

Domestic violence victims use a wide variety of creative strategies to avoid living on the streets. This means they may have to “choose” unstable or unsafe housing options, such as returning to or remaining with dangerous abusers or finding short-term housing situations with family, friends, or co-workers. Thus, domestic violence survivors are often not recognized as homeless because they avoid exposing themselves and their children to the dangers and negative impacts of living on the street, including the risk of losing their children through child welfare involvement. In addition, access to domestic violence or women’s shelters is often limited. (WSCADV, 2013)

- **Emergency Shelter.** Victims fleeing abusers provides safe, temporary housing with crisis response services; it is critical for victims of domestic abuse to have an option for fleeing (with their children) to make needed decisions and to assess their safety options.
- **Transitional Housing.** An environment for victims (and their children) rebuilding their lives in the aftermath of violence: safety and healing; rebuilding family structure; building economic self-sufficiency.
- **Rapid Re-Housing:** Moves victims (and their children) into housing, avoiding long-term homelessness, enhances safety and creates longer-term stability.
- **Resource.** [https://wscadv.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/DVHF\\_SafetyPaper2013-final.pdf](https://wscadv.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/DVHF_SafetyPaper2013-final.pdf)
- **Resource.** <https://safehousingpartnerships.org/intersection>



## Victims of Sexual Assault

Someone sexually harassed or assaulted at home, by a landlord, intimate partner, family member, or neighbor may need to move for their safety or to heal from the trauma they experienced. Survivors who experience sexual harassment or assault outside of their home may also need to relocate if the person who sexually harassed or assaulted them knows where they live. (NSVRC, 2020)

- **Emergency Shelter.** Victims that have an urgent need can access temporary shelter to provide opportunity for addressing immediate safety and time to explore options.
- **Transitional Housing.** An environment that is supportive to help address trauma and rebuild their lives in the aftermath of sexual violence.
- **Rapid Re-Housing:** Moves victims (and their children) into housing, avoiding long-term homelessness, enhances personal and physical safety and creates longer-term stability.
- **Resource.** <https://www.nsvrc.org/sexual-violence-housing-resource-collection>



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## Victims of Sex Trafficking

Strengthening a sex trafficking victim's access to safe and affordable housing would dramatically eliminate a tremendous swath of vulnerable people from the pool that traffickers have available to them. Ensuring someone has a safe place to call home allows them the physical and emotional space to thrive. There are not enough shelter beds for a diverse range of people to meet the need either for survivors who are trying to rebuild their lives (Polaris Project, 2018). Advocates will need to have knowledge of the multiple barriers sex trafficking victims have accessing housing and employment to be able to develop responses that are helpful.

- **Emergency Shelter.** Provides a space for sex trafficking victims to flee to, allowing time to address safety needs and explore options.
- **Transitional Housing.** Provides sex trafficking victims with a longer period of support to assist them with the opportunity to rebuild their lives, address traumas, and help victims with becoming self-sufficient.
- **Rapid Re-Housing.** Helps sex trafficking victims avoid long-term homelessness and provides the opportunity for stable, affordable housing.
- **Resource:** <https://polarisproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/A-Roadmap-for-Systems-and-Industries-to-Prevent-and-Disrupt-Human-Trafficking-Housing-and-Homelessness-Systems.pdf>



## Permanent Supportive Housing and Permanent Housing

Permanent housing is housing that is not time limited while providing long-term stability to victims that have had their lives disrupted for quite some time. This provides opportunity for victims to have stable housing, enabling them to build a home for themselves (and their children).

- **Permanent Supportive Housing.** Victims that have longer-term needs can benefit from having access to voluntary services that can assist with addressing longer-term traumas and support to help address survival mechanisms that are no longer useful. Some examples include: chemical dependency, detachment or disassociation, being overwhelmed in the aftermath of violence..
- **Permanent Housing.** Victims that have no need for services and have a need for housing stability is suited for permanent housing.
- **Resource:** <https://store.samhsa.gov/product/Permanent-Supportive-Housing-Evidence-Based-Practices-EBP-KIT/SMA10-4509>



# Systems Advocacy for Housing Preparation Checklist

**Tribal Housing and Homeless Services Training and Technical Assistance**

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Wyagnet Tasker  
[wyagnet@red-wind.net](mailto:wyagnet@red-wind.net)

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Use this list to help you collect information you need and prepare for systems advocacy with Tribal Leadership and / or Tribal Housing Authority to meet housing the needs of victims in your program.

What program data do you have to support your need?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	What are your numbers of victims that did not get their needs met due to lack of housing option(s)?
<input type="checkbox"/>	What information do you have from victim experience surveys?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Identify the data/numbers to support victims' need for housing
<input type="checkbox"/>	Review past Progress Reports seeing if there are data and narrative language you can use.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Analyze your data and draft a narrative of the unmet need for you program
What kind(s) of housing do victims need?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Review housing models and determine what models the data supports.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Decide on what housing model is best suited to meet victim needs. Remember it can be a hybrid of housing models.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Identify the occupancy needed to meet victims needs; include the minimum needed and the ideal occupancy.
What are the expected outcomes of this housing bring about?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	How will victims lives be changed from having this housing?
<input type="checkbox"/>	How will the community be changed from having this housing available?
Prepare for your housing systems advocacy.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Develop your "talk" using the information you collected. Practice.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Contact Tribal Council/Tribal Housing Authority and ask to get on the agenda.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Prepare a written description of what you plan to present to Tribal Council / Tribal Housing.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Include any supporting materials from your program, local housing market data, etc.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Prepare packets for each Council/Housing Board member.

See the next page for tips for making your presentation to Tribal leadership and / or the Tribal Housing Authority.



# Systems Advocacy for Housing Addressing Tribal Leadership

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Engaging in Systems Advocacy will most likely require addressing your Tribal Leadership. This may be through informal or formal meetings, one-to-one or before the entire Council to educate them about the needs of the victims and survivors you work with. The following provides some suggestions to help you prepare for engaging with tribal leadership.

**CREATE RELATIONSHIPS WITH TRIBAL LEADERS**

1. When building relationships with tribal leadership, it is imperative to be consistent in your efforts and show results.
2. Being personable is a valuable tool when forming relationships with any individual, utilize it.

**UNDERSTAND THE TRIBAL POLITICAL FRAMEWORK**

1. Every tribe is unique in how their Nation functions, this includes the Tribal Council and leadership. It is vital to first understand the tribe's political mechanism before going before Tribal leadership requesting the help of the Tribe.
2. For example, some tribes have business committees that lead the tribe who may not necessarily be the right people a tribal advocate would want to connect with at first.

**HAVE A CLEAR & CONCISE PLAN OF ACTION**

1. Any professional space will not take your requests seriously unless you are able to show a clear plan of action, who will be involved, who will be benefit, the overall timeline, etc.
2. Be concise and stick to the main topics of your presentation.
3. The time of tribal leaders is valuable, it is important to practice extensively before presenting.
4. Prepare a packet of materials to provides details about what you will talk about; prepare enough packets for Tribal Leaders and Tribal Administration staff that will be present.

**ADDRESSING TRIBAL LEADERSHIP – USE OF TITLES**

1. In addressing any tribal council, it is pertinent in respecting the authority of the tribe to always use titles (e.g. Councilman, Councilwoman, Chairman, Chairwoman) before the name of each member in tribal leadership.

**DEMONSTRATE NEED**

1. Be prepared to express the need of survivors in the community.
2. Provide concrete numbers of unmet net, changing need, etc. Use data collected from previous reports and information you have in your program..
3. Reinforce that need through letters of support by community leaders, tribal organizations and key stakeholders.

**FOLLOW-UP**

1. Reach back to see if there are any questions that emerged.
2. Ask if there are any questions or additional information you can provide. Also ask if there is anyone else they would want you to talk to.