

Creating your Tribal Housing & Advocate Response Team (HART)

Two top concerns for survivors of Domestic Violence (DV) are the need for safe housing and the need for economic resources to maintain safety. Advocates are consistently seeking safe housing options for survivors, and Housing Authorities are looking for ways to build in programming to enhance family stability. Therefore, how can Tribal Advocates and Tribal Housing Authorities build a collaborative team in order to address these top concerns?

Creating a Housing and Advocate Response Team (HART) is a way to leverage resources, knowledge, and funding.



Teammate Checklists: HART Roles

Tribal Housing:

- Provide safe, affordable housing, and housing subsidies.
- Address housing health and safety issues.
- Develop relationships with service providers.
- Participate in community organizing and community building.
- Refer survivors to advocates and other service providers.
- Ensure housing policies & leases follow VAWA regulations and protect survivors.

Tribal Advocates:

- Safety planning with survivors/tenants.
- Offer resources to help the household recover and heal from violence.
- Help document unmet needs and center survivor voices.
- Cross train about domestic and sexual violence.
- Provide service components in housing programs.

Other Service Providers:

- Provide culturally specific services and crisis intervention.
- Engage in empowerment activities with survivors/tenants.
- Assist with safety planning.
- Provide court accompaniment and support.



Building your Partnership

Build:

Networking, building relationships, learning about each other's roles and responsibilities.

Develop:

Draft a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to describe your collaborative agreements. An MOU will establish the context and purpose of the partnership, clarify team roles and expectations, and indicate what you want to achieve.

Communicate:

Coordinate with positivity, curiosity, and the benefit of the doubt. You're a team, so approach situations thinking about how you can find solutions together.

Cooperation:

Strengthen your team capacity by sharing data, engaging in community planning, and enhance safety protocols to reduce risk for survivors.

HART Benefits

Survivors will have additional access to a variety of long-term housing options. Housing stability leads to improved health and well-being. They will have access to culturally specific services and supports.

Housing providers will be able to access funding from other sources. Advocates and other service providers will be working alongside survivor tenants for long-term housing stability. Your HART will provide support, feedback, and knowledge to contribute to policy development.

Advocates will have access to more housing options for survivors, and funding from other sources for housing and utilities subsidies. There will be opportunities to collaborate on designing and developing safe and affordable housing.

Other service providers will benefit from the community outreach. Your HART will provide opportunities for coordinated solutions to address challenging DV situations.

