Housing for Survivors: National Landscape, Trends and Innovation

Debbie Fox, MSW Senior Housing Policy & Practice Specialist
National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV)
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dfox@nnedv.org  202.543.5566 x 207

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Objectives

• To provide a basic overview of federal housing & homelessness laws, guidance, funding streams, and initiatives
• To review trends, challenges, opportunities, innovation, and housing models
• To engage panel in discussion around housing successes
DVHTAC

- Domestic Violence & housing Technical Assistance Consortium (DVHTAC)
- Launched in late 2015
- DASH/NASH, NNEDV, NRCDV and CSI, along with partners
- Funded by OVW, FVPSA (HHS), OVC and HUD
On our to-do list

• TA products & ongoing intensive TA in local communities
• Webinars and trainings
• Needs assessment: very soon!
• HMIS workgroup
• Website: being launched
Safe Housing Partnerships – A Teaser

Welcome to Safe Housing Partnerships, the new website for the Domestic Violence and Housing Technical Assistance Consortium! We hope you find useful resources and tools that advance your work at the critical intersection of domestic violence, sexual assault, homelessness, and housing. Please check back frequently, as we'll be continuously adding to the site over the coming months.

Did You Know?

In a national survey of victim service providers, over one third of respondents reported that up to 20% of victims and survivors became homeless as a result of sexual violence.

Find more current facts and statistics about domestic violence, sexual assault, and homelessness by clicking here.

Working Together To End Homelessness For Domestic and Sexual Violence Survivors and Their Families

Survivors of violence face real barriers when trying to access safe housing — barriers caused by the power and control dynamics of abuse, a need for safety and confidentiality, economic instability, and the effects of trauma. Nobody should have to choose staying in an unsafe home over having no home at all.
Housing Needs = Long-term Solutions

• Safe, affordable housing is scarce
  – 2016 PIT MD 750 DV survivors identified
  – Shortage of low-income housing 120k units
  – At or below 50% AMI 141k units

• The need clients consistently identify
  – NNEDV Census 76 unmet needs, 45% for housing—reduction in funding

• Discrimination reduces access

• Housing and food insecurity is a link and increases risk of violence.
Federal laws & guidance: Solution for DV Survivors

• Violence Against Women Act 2013
  – Continues non-discrimination; creates emergency transfers and notice of rights
  – HUD Final rule 2016; Administrative notice January 18, 2017; no updates from Treasury
  – Additional guidance from each HUD program section coming soon

• HUD Equal Access Rule – non-discrimination in shelter & housing

• Nuisance ordinance Fair Housing Act guidance

• Sexual harassment, final rule
Federal laws & guidance: Serving immigrant survivors

• Joint letter on immigrant access to shelter (DOJ/HUD/HHS)

• HUD Memo – eligibility of non-citizen battered individuals to apply for HUD assistance – 12/15/16
Federal laws & guidance: Homelessness

• HEARTH Act of 2009
• Opening Doors – U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness – establishes goals to end homelessness in specific timeframes and endorses specific strategies
  • Criteria and Benchmarks for Achieving the Goal of Ending Family Homelessness by 2020
• NOFA – Notice of Funding Availability for CoC
  – USICH Domestic violence
• Pending legislative proposals: HEALS Act and HYCA
Continuum of DV Housing

All options should be: Survivor-driven, trauma informed, with a focus on safety

- Emergency shelter
- Flexible Funds, Prevention & keeping people housed
- Housing First
- Rapid Rehousing
- Transitional Housing
- Permanent Supportive Housing
- Public Housing-voucher set asides & new units, maintaining vouchers as a prevention approach
- New VOCA housing innovation in Maryland “New Futures” $5 million invested in RRH
Coordinated Entry Systems

- Regulatory process ongoing – through proposed (HMIS) – final soon and interim rules (COC and ESG) – CoC back out for notice soon
- Coordinated entry guidance
  - Fleeing or attempting to flee – DV, SA, Stalking or Dating Violence = “Homeless” category = Eligible for Services and Resources
  - Priorities – chronic homeless and housing first (rapid re-housing & permanent supportive)
- Coordinated entry/centralized intake
- Performance measures, documentation and data collection/storage and confidentiality
Continuum of Care

- Funds: Emergency shelter, transitional housing, permanent supportive housing, permanent housing (RRH), supportive services, and Homeless Management Information Systems
- Continuum of Care applies for funding together – CoC must have DV representation
- Emergency Services Grant (ESG) Program
- NOFA 2017
- NOFAs are increasingly competitive— with incentives for “high-performing” and disincentives for “low-performing.” Challenges for TH – competitiveness, reallocation & funding (Tier systems, community level points, individual program points, emphasis on chronic homelessness)
Trends

• Funding – decreases to Transitional housing and shelter
• Additional PSH and RRH DV programs being funded
• Culturally inclusive
• Innovative models—prevention and bypassing shelters, preserving public housing vouchers
• DV Housing First and mobile advocacy
• Collaborations – the good, and the evolving and co-located advocates in homeless system
• Increased attention on DV from HUD, USICH
Challenges

- Funding
- Misalignment of mission, outcomes, language
- Information sharing/data and confidentiality
- Changing expectations and lack of evidence on DV service models
Opportunities

• Requirements to address needs of survivors in NOFA and coordinated entry
• Federal resources re NOFA; additional attention
• Cross training, co-location, separate resources
• DV system strengths to share - Safety planning, trauma informed, voluntary, low barrier
• Improvement to our system re housing focus & collaborations
Advocacy efforts

• Local advocacy – staffing CoC is vital
• Work at the federal level at USICH and beyond to coordinate elements of federal programs to meet the needs of survivors – alignment and specific guidance
• Targeted advocacy with HUD
• Technical assistance
• Feedback loop
Questions/Discussion

Tell us about the circumstances that informed your most recent housing innovations?

What trends are you seeing in Maryland?

http://nnedv.org/resources/transitional-housing.html