

Housing Assistance for API Survivors of Domestic Violence

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What we are going to do?

- Introduce the Domestic Violence and Housing Technical Assistance Consortium (DVHTAC)
- Provide a national overview of the critical intersection of domestic violence and homelessness from an API perspective
- Highlight new federal Continuum of Care (CoC) funding \$50 Million DV Set Aside HUD Bonus Project opportunities to support expanded housing options for survivors
- Discuss the use of flexible funding, including VOCA funds, to provide direct housing assistance
- Identify promising programmatic practices from various States and jurisdictions with a particular focus on CPAF and Los Angeles' Coordinated Entry System and access for API DV survivors

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DV & Housing TA Consortium

Four Federal Agencies

- Family Violence Prevention & Services Program/HHS
- Office on Violence Against Women/DOJ
- Office for Victims of Crime/DOJ
- Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs/HUD

Four Technical Assistance Providers

- National Alliance for Safe Housing (NASH)
- Collaborative Solutions, Inc. (CS)
- National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV)
- National Resource Center on Domestic Violence (NRCDV)

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Center for the Pacific Asian Family

- **Center for the Pacific Asian Family (CPAF)** was founded to help address domestic violence and sexual assault in the Asian and Pacific Islander communities.
- **Our mission** is to build healthy and safe communities by addressing the root causes and the consequences of family violence and violence against women.
- **Our vision** is of an Asian and Pacific Islander community that embraces healthy relationships and works in partnership with other communities to eradicate all forms of violence.



**CENTER FOR THE
PACIFIC ASIAN FAMILY**
NURTURING CHANGE TOGETHER

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National Network to End Domestic Violence

- The National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) is a social change organization dedicated to creating a social, political and economic environment where violence against women no longer exists.
- NNEDV's Collaborative Approach to Safe Housing for Survivors Project provides training and technical assistance to improve coordination between domestic violence and homeless services.
- NNEDV's Safety Net Project addresses the intersection of technology and abuse, and provides training and technical assistance to advocates, law enforcement, legal services, social services providers, survivors and other stakeholders.



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Domestic Violence & Homelessness 101

- DV is a leading cause of homelessness for women and children, and being homeless increases the risk of violence.
 - 80% of homeless women with children have previously experienced domestic violence.
 - 57% of all homeless women report domestic violence as the immediate cause of their homelessness.

HUD 2017 AHAR, Point in Time Count: 4,841 single API homeless (sheltered & unsheltered); 1,919 families. 6,760 youth, individuals & families. The number of people experiencing homelessness in unsheltered locations increased for all racial groups. The largest increases were among people who identified as Asian (44%).

- DV involves financial and psychological abuse that often leaves survivors with few resources and poor credit.
 - To escape violence and abuse, many survivors are forced to leave their homes without access to safe, affordable housing and supportive services.

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Why CPAF

- **1 out of 2** Asian & Pacific Islander (API) women have been emotionally, physically and/or sexually abused
- API's are **least likely** to report abuse
- **1.5 million APIs** live in L.A. County.
 - 64% immigrants, 43% limited English



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CPAF's Services

- **Emergency Shelter**
 - 45-bed facility
 - Up to six months
 - Culturally-sensitive services and basic amenities, free of charge



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CPAF's Services

- **Transitional Housing**
 - Two Transitional Shelters
 - Up to 1 year stay
 - LA-area
 - South Bay-area
- FY 2016-2017:
 - CPAF integrates with Asian Pacific Women's Center
 - CPAF now has two transitional shelters



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CPAF's Services

- **Community Center**
 - Hotline, Walk-ins
 - Paraprofessional counseling
- **Prevention and Community Education**
 - Engaging youth to take a stand against abuse
 - Partnering with community & faith groups, schools, law enforcement, and more



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Safe Housing as an Intervention for API DV Survivors

- The need for safe and affordable housing is one of the most pressing concerns for survivors of violence and abuse.
 - In a study of residents in domestic violence shelters across the country, 84% reported that they needed help finding affordable housing
- Survivors of violence face complex barriers—including an immediate need for safety and confidentiality—when trying to access shelter and housing. Those are compounded for API survivors
- Housing and supportive services are critical interventions that play major roles in trauma recovery and long-term stability.

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BARRIERS TO SAFE HOUSING

- Lack of access to the Coordinated Entry System (CES)
 - 1 out of every 3 Asian Americans are limited-English proficient (LEP) and experience some difficulty communicating in English
 - Currently the main assessment tool for the CES system is the Vulnerability Index-Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT). This nearly 14 page assessment tool comes in English and Spanish only; thereby creating a huge barrier for the API population to enter into the CES system and get matched up to all the housing resources it holds
- Lack of affordable rental options
 - LA county apartment rents increased almost \$500 a month, or 34%, in the last seven years
 - As a result it can take three full-time minimum-wage incomes to afford a two-bedroom apartment

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CES Promising practices

- Coordinated entry well-informed by DV programs – addressing DV needs is central, not shoe-horned afterthought!
- DV programs staff at coordinated entry
- Assessment and referral process is victim-centered and trauma informed
- Parallel DV systems – managing robust DV housing resources
- DV comparable databases-confidential

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Qualities of Effective CE – HUD Notice & Self-Assessment

Marketing/Outreach	Access/assessment & training
Referral protocols	Safety Planning
Prioritization	Street Outreach
Policies for Subpops	Using HMIS/other
Nondiscrimination	Participant Autonomy
Fair/equal access	Privacy Protections
Accessibility	Referral to projects
Prevention Services	Planning/consultation
Full Coverage	Evaluation
Standardized	

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Additional info relevant to DV

- Prioritization – may include “vulnerability to victimization” /DV survivors
- Section on DV – coordinated entry should address safety needs of DV – including safe location/process for conducting assessments; a process for providing confidential referrals; a data collection process consistent with VAWA
- Access in both systems-cross referrals

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Federal Funding FY 2018: Housing Funds for DV/SA Survivors



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New FY 2018 Funding Increases

- In March, Congress completed an omnibus spending bill that provides substantial added resources
- Background: Reached a deal working under a prior agreement to raise the Budget Control Act spending limits for defense and non-defense discretionary programs for 2018 and 2019

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Overall DV Funding Increases

The omnibus includes increases in the Family Violence Prevention Services Act (FVPSA), Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and Victims of Crime Act (VOCA).

- VOCA: More than \$4.6 billion (minus set aside for VAWA) for the VOCA funding cap, \$1.8 billion increase.
 - **There is a first time 3% set-aside for Tribes – which has been a MAJOR policy priority.**
- VOCA Final Rule (8/2016) - funding for housing and housing related expenses is allowable.

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VOCA Final Rule

- VOCA can support a continuum of services to crime victims, including:
 - Comprehensive legal assistance
 - Transitional Housing
 - Expanded coverage of relocation expenses, and
 - The use of funds for forensic interviews and medical examinations.
- Emphasis on transitional housing and relocation expenses.

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Overall DV Increases *continued*

- VAWA: \$492 million (highest funding level ever), with an additional \$5 million for the rural grant program and an additional **\$5 million for the transitional housing grant program.**
- FVPSA: \$160 million, with a \$5 million increase for FVPSA tribal set-aside

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HUD/Housing Funding Increases

- Overall, the bill increases HUD program funding by \$4.7 billion, or nearly 11 percent
- Homeless Assistance: \$2.5 billion for homeless assistance grants
- \$375 million for HOPWA

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New DV RRH Set-Aside

- Homeless assistance \$130 million above 2017. Includes:
 - **BRAND NEW \$50 million for rapid rehousing and supportive services for victims of domestic violence.**
 - \$80 million for continued homeless youth initiative
 - HUD NOFA is in PROCESS CURRENTLY

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An Array of DV Survivors' Housing Options

**Crisis
response and
safety**

**Emergency
Shelter**

Immediate safety &
confidentiality
Comprehensive advocacy
Exploration of options
Supportive services

**Recovery
and
stabilization**

**Transitional
Housing**

Financial assistance
Economic and employment
support and advocacy
Specialized services to
address impact of abuse

**Housing and
economic
stability**

**Permanent
Housing**

Housing First/Rapid rehousing
services
Affordable and subsidized housing
Home purchase assistance
Specialized services to address
impact of abuse

**Safety Planning, Advocacy, Access to Trauma-Informed and Culturally
Inclusive Services to increase Housing Stability**

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Other approaches of interest

- **Domestic Violence Housing First** is a model using intensive, mobile advocacy and flexible funding to help survivors obtain safe and stable housing
- **Rapid Re-Housing**, which combines housing identification, financial assistance for rent and related expenses (typically for six months or less), and supportive services
- **Transitional Housing** and its short- and longer-term outcomes for survivors, including comparisons with with Rapid Re-Housing and DV Housing First

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DV Housing First

- Trauma-informed, survivor-driven mobile advocacy, flexible financial assistance, community engagement
- In Washington State: rigorous evaluation following 320 survivors over 18 months, comparing those who receive DVHF with those receiving more “typical” services (2 sites in urban area, 2 sites in rural)
- In California: 8 pilot sites (recently expanded) implementing DVHF utilizing VOCA funds as the source of financial assistance

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DV Housing First (DVHF)

A project of Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Focuses on helping survivors to stabilize their housing as soon as possible and providing necessary supports as they rebuild their lives.

Being evaluated by the Research Consortium on Gender-Based Violence at Michigan State University.

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The Potential of Flexible Funding/VOCA

- Flex funding **with brief advocacy** is a promising option for survivors who were relatively stable and are now experiencing a crisis
- **Flex funding is far cheaper than shelter**
- Flex funding **with longer-term advocacy** (DV Housing First, DV Rapid Re-housing) is also promising, needs further research

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Avoiding Homelessness

"We would have been separated, and my children are my life. They my heart. So I'm sure physically, emotionally, spiritually, that would have really, really been negative for me and for him."

Impact on Child Stress and

School: *"My son's grades have much always been on the Honor Roll. But...around that time his grades, they started slipping, but then we got back on track and back into our place. He brought home a progress report and it was like all A's... or A+'s."*

"So once I moved and I actually got my apartment, they've been to school every day, and they've been to school on time, and both of their academics have improved."

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Ability to Leave Unsafe Situations

"We're in a place where we are safe and we don't have to worry about no one trying to harm us."

Making All the Difference

"It helped to provide us with the finances to make the move out of that bad situation. I mean if it wasn't for that money... I don't know how we would've gotten through... that rough time."

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FLEXIBLE FUNDING: PROCESS CHALLENGES

- 1) Budgeting sufficient funds for **administrative costs**
- 2) Determining **what** funds could be used for
- 3) Whether and when to provide funds **directly to survivors** rather than to housing/service providers or vendors

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Hypotheses

- Those receiving DVHF will show greater improvement over time on:
 - Housing stability
 - Financial stability
 - Safety
 - Quality of life
 - Mental health and substance misuse
- Children will show improvements on:
 - School attendance and performance
 - Behaviors and social-emotional skills

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Building the Evidence Base

- Collaborating with Center on Social Innovations' Supporting Partnerships for Anti-Racist Communities (SPARC) Project to better understand racial equity as a key component of efforts to address disproportionate housing instability among survivors of color.
 - *A recent SPARC report underscored the need to understand that poverty alone does not explain the disproportionate rates of homelessness experienced by people of color, with Black and Native Americans dramatically more likely to become homeless than their White counterparts.*
 - *Their oral histories collected from the homeless women of color revealed domestic and sexual violence as a common thread in their lives, ranging from extreme levels of physical violence to emotional abuse and isolation.*

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Building the Evidence Base

- Intentionally using the same measures across studies where possible – housing barriers, financial stability, housing stability, safety, well-being
- Not looking for a one-size-fits-all but instead identify what works best for whom, under what circumstances

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VOCA Final Rule

- Relocation expenses – costs related to the relocation of victims (generally where necessary for the safety and well-being of a victim), including, but not limited to:
 - Reasonable moving expenses, storage fees;
 - Security deposits on housing;
 - Travel expenses to relocate;
 - Rental expenses or back rent;
 - Utilities and utility startup costs;
 - Other costs incidental to relocation to such housing.
- Transitional housing – costs to support transitional housing for victims (generally, those who have a particular need for such housing, and who cannot safely return to their previous housing, due to the circumstances of their victimization)

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Other uses

- Shelter for victims of domestic violence or human trafficking, as well as victims of sexual assault where a victim needs to move;
- Children's needs – to provide support for childcare, children's health needs, counseling, etc., particularly if the need is directly related to support services being provided to victims and secondary victims of crime;
- Transportation – same as above.

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Innovative uses of VOCA

- **COLORADO** - Housing for Crime Victims Special Project launched eight sites around the state with support from the Division of Criminal Justice Office for Victims Programs and Colorado Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV); Projects use the Domestic Violence Housing First model (survivor-driven mobile advocacy, housing assistance, supportive services, community engagement, and financial assistance);
- **CALIFORNIA** - DVHF Process Evaluation of 32 pilot sites using VOCA support to provide flexible financial assistance and mobile advocacy to survivors to help them avoid homelessness and achieve safety in housing.
- **NEW HAMPSHIRE, ARIZONA, NORTH CAROLINA** and others

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What are your experiences with HMIS, CES, housing options, and Confidentiality for API survivors?

- Challenges?
- Successes?
- Benefits for API DV Survivors in your community?

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SAFE HOUSING PARTNERSHIPS

The new website for the Domestic Violence and Housing Technical Assistance Consortium

UNDERSTANDING THE INTERSECTIONS

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

EMPLOYING KEY APPROACHES

PUBLIC POLICIES

- Data, infographics, literature reviews, and reports that describe the intersections between domestic violence, sexual assault, homelessness, and housing
- Strategies for building effective and sustainable partnerships across systems and case studies of successful collaborations
- In-depth resource collections organized around four key approaches to addressing and preventing housing instability among survivors
- Access to relevant federal laws, regulations, and policies

Have questions? Need TA? Want training?
Contact the Consortium directly through the site!

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Questions and Discussion



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