



**NEDV**  
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## Opportunities to Expand Safe Housing Options for Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Survivors

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) recently released its [Notice of Funding Availability \(NOFA\) for the FY 2017 Continuum of Care Program Competition](#). To assist victim service providers and Continuum of Care (CoC) leaders prepare funding applications under this FY 2017 CoC NOFA that are responsive to the range of unmet housing needs of domestic violence and sexual assault (DV/SA) survivors, this resource brief highlights opportunities for DV/SA programs to work in partnership with their CoCs to design new and expanded safe housing projects.

HUD's CoC program provides a critical funding source for homeless service programs and victim service providers across the country through its annual CoC Program Competition. The priorities for this competition are outlined in the NOFA, which was preceded by the [Registration Notice](#). Both the NOFA and the Registration Notice highlighted a new type of project, the [Joint Transitional Housing \(TH\) and Permanent Housing-Rapid Rehousing \(PH-RRH\) Component \(Joint Component Project\)](#), which is available to CoCs through the permanent housing bonus or reallocation process. HUD's July [In Focus Message](#) on the Joint Component Project highlighted that CoCs may choose to use this type of project to serve those fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, particularly in communities where there is a lack of safe, crisis housing for people in these situations.

**Section I** of this resource brief is organized to identify specific opportunities for DV/SA programs that:

- Currently receive HUD CoC funds and are seeking renewal funding; and were previously funded with CoC funds and are seeking funding for a new project; or
- Never received HUD CoC funding.

**Section II** highlights opportunities for CoCs to consider as they explore opportunities for new and expanded projects when reviewing victim service providers' project applications. A final section includes links to materials providing more in-depth guidance and resources.

Over the last few years, as the focus on expanding Permanent Housing (PH) options has increased, many DV/SA housing programs have lost or transferred their CoC Transitional Housing (TH) funding due to substantial reallocation of DV/SA beds to Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) or Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) projects or due to being ranked by the CoC in Tier II in their submission to HUD for the CoC program competition. In the FY 2017 CoC Program

Competition, CoC Program funds\* may be used for the following types of projects, which provide a wider range of opportunities for DV/SA programs:

1. Permanent housing – permanent supportive housing (PSH);
2. Permanent housing – rapid re-housing (RRH);
3. Transitional housing (TH);
4. Supportive services only;
5. Homeless Management Information System (HMIS); and
6. New Joint TH and PH-RRH Component model (see Section I.A. below for more detail on this new model); and

\*Note: There are some limitations on what can be funded as new and what can be funded as renewal. Please check with your CoC to confirm what these limitations include.

DV/SA programs have an important role to play in a community's response to family homelessness and can help CoCs meet their priority goals. Funding opportunities available to victim service providers under the FY 2017 NOFA (based on their funding status) are outlined below, as well as how CoCs can engage with DV/SA victim service providers in their planning and application process.

## **I. Opportunities for DV/SA Programs Applying for the Fiscal Year 2017 CoC Program Competition**

### **A. DV/SA programs currently receiving HUD CoC funds and seeking new or renewal funding or previously funded DV/SA Programs seeking new funding**

For DV/SA victim service providers seeking new or renewal funding, maintaining a strong relationship with CoC leadership and partners is critical. Such relationships can foster a deeper understanding of the intersection of DV/SA and family homelessness. DV/SA partners can also help CoCs understand how data collected by their programs can be used to demonstrate effectiveness, as well as identify the unmet needs of DV/SA survivors and appropriate responses to those needs.

At a minimum, DV/SA programs must continue to meet HUD program outcomes in order to perform competitively in the CoC rating and ranking process, which determines how projects are prioritized in local communities. A well-designed DV/SA housing project has a better chance of continuing to be competitive in the local CoC process if it is able to demonstrate that it is effective at addressing the safety and housing-related needs of program participants, meets an existing need in the community, utilizes existing grant funds well, and meets program requirements.

**For DV/SA programs interested in HUD funded safe housing options for those fleeing or attempting to flee DV/SA, there are opportunities to submit applications for new projects through the reallocation process or by applying for the permanent housing bonus. Currently funded DV/SA providers can submit renewal applications for their existing projects. They can**

also consider applying for funding to reallocate their existing projects using the reallocation process. Lastly, currently funded DV/SA providers can apply for a new expansion project under the reallocation process or permanent housing bonus in order to expand existing eligible renewal projects.

- **Reallocation:** Reallocation is the process of transferring resources from an existing project to a new project that meets the priorities of the CoC. For example, many DV/SA providers have reallocated projects from TH to RRH projects in prior CoC Program competitions. In the FY17 Competition, HUD will allow CoCs to use reallocation to create the following types of new projects:
  1. Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH);
  2. Rapid Re-Housing (RRH);
  3. New Joint TH and PH-RRH Component model, which will combine TH and PH-RRH into a single project.
  4. Supportive Services Only for Coordinated Entry; and
  5. Dedicated HMIS.

*New project applications should be developed in partnership with your CoC. Application submissions using the reallocation process must meet the criteria outlined in the NOFA in order to be funded by HUD.*

- **Permanent Housing (PH) Bonus:** CoCs may use the PH Bonus to create the following types of new projects:
  1. New PSH DedicatedPLUS projects;
  2. New RRH; and
  3. New Joint TH and PH-RRH Component model, which will combine TH and PH-RRH into a single project.

*New project applications should be developed in partnership with your CoC. Application submissions under the PH Bonus must meet criteria outlined in the NOFA in order to be funded by HUD under the PH Bonus.*

- **Expansion Projects (for programs currently receiving HUD CoC funding):** HUD will allow current project applicants to apply for funds using the reallocation process or PH bonus to expand existing projects. Projects can be expanded to increase the number of units in the project, allow the recipient to serve additional persons, or increase the services being provided. Project applicants that intend to submit a new reallocation or PH bonus project for the purposes of expanding a project must:
  1. Clearly indicate how the new project application will expand units, beds, services, persons served, or in the case of HMIS projects, how the current HMIS grant activities will be expanded for the CoC's geographic area; and
  2. Ensure the funding request for the new expansion project is within the funding parameters allowed under the reallocation process or permanent housing bonus.

*Expansion project applications should be developed in partnership with your CoC. Application submissions under the expansion project must meet criteria outlined in the NOFA in order to be funded by HUD under the reallocation or permanent housing bonus.*

**In the 2017 Program Competition, a new type of project has been created by HUD – the Joint TH and PH-RRH Component (Joint Component project).** The Joint Component project is a new opportunity for DV/SA housing providers, including those who have previously received funding under the CoC Program, to apply for new project funding. Under this project type, programs can provide a safe space for people to stay until a permanent unit can be identified (the TH portion) and provide financial assistance, including rental assistance, to program participants (in the PH-RRH portion) in one coordinated project. *The entire project must be low-barrier, adopt client-centered and a housing first approach, and provide wrap around supportive services that meet the needs of program participants. All projects must meet the criteria outlined in the NOFA in order to be considered for funding.*

**NOTE:** DV/SA providers currently operating TH programs funded by the Departments of Health and Human Services or Justice are generally eligible to apply for a Joint Component project that expands the scope of those projects funded through other sources so long as the entire project will meet HUD's requirements (e.g., be low-barrier and adopt a housing first approach). DV/SA providers may also apply to their local CoC to create new Joint Component projects using their experience operating these types of projects with other forms of funding.

As the Joint Component project combines two existing project types (TH and PH-RRH) into a single project to serve individuals and families experiencing homelessness, program applicants must be able to provide both TH and PH-RRH individualized assistance to each program participant as needed by the program participant.

- HUD will require applications for Joint TH and PH-RRH Component projects to demonstrate that the project will have the capacity to do this.
- Projects should demonstrate how they will facilitate the move from TH into PH-RRH of participants' choice based on their needs, strengths, preferences, and financial resources.

In general, the new Joint Component project offers housing options to meet survivors where they are along the housing continuum.

- Creating Joint Component projects will allow CoCs and providers the ability to offer seamless, tailored wrap-around services and supports to participants as they move from temporary to permanent housing;
- This new project type enhances PH-RRH and supports HUD's vision for developing flexible systems that can offer housing opportunities tailored to the distinct and varied needs of households; and
- The project type is particularly well-suited for addressing the housing needs of survivors of DV/SA and their families who have higher safety and security needs or who are navigating

significant legal or financial challenges particularly in those CoCs where there is a lack of safe, crisis housing for persons fleeing DV/SA.

DV/SA providers interested in applying should reach out to their [local CoC](#) to inquire about submitting an application as a new project through the Joint Component project.

### **B. DV/SA Programs that have never received CoC funding**

In communities where DV/SA programs and CoCs have not previously built partnerships, or where there is a demonstrable need for more housing options for survivors of domestic and sexual violence, CoCs and DV/SA programs can work together to build a shared understanding of priorities, performance metrics, and opportunities for expanding safe housing options. Many victim service providers that receive federal funds from the Family Violence Prevention and Services Program (FVPSA) and/or the Office on Violence Against Women or other public or private funds already offer a range of services along the DV/SA housing spectrum – from emergency shelter to TH and flexible funding, as well as housing models closely resembling the Joint Component project or RRH – and may be able to strengthen a CoC’s application.

Building relationships with the local CoC can help DV/SA programs expand safe and longer-term housing supports for survivors beyond emergency shelter. RRH, PSH or the new Joint Component project may provide DV/SA survivors more opportunity to rebuild their lives through permanent, safe housing options and give DV/SA emergency shelters additional solutions for exit strategy planning.

If you are a DV/SA provider currently offering emergency shelter and housing programming and are interested in your program’s CoC funding options, contact your [local CoC](#) to inquire about applying for a new project. (See Section I.A. for more information on the different project types eligible in this year’s NOFA.)

### **NOFA Application Deadlines**

The deadline to apply to your local CoC will be around the end of August. The HUD NOFA CoC community-wide application deadline is September 28, 2017. CoCs typically give local providers 30 days before the HUD NOFA deadline to turn in their project application.

## **II. Opportunities for CoCs to Consider When Addressing Family Homelessness and Expanding DV/SA Safe Housing Options**

Domestic and sexual violence are a leading cause of homelessness for women and children, and the need for safe and affordable housing is one of the most pressing concerns for survivors of violence and abuse. Among women with children experiencing homelessness, more than 80% had previously experienced domestic violence (Aratani, Y. (2009). *Homeless Children and Youth, Causes and Consequences*. New York, NY: National Center for Children in Poverty). Without permanent housing options to exit from shelter or TH, some survivors may feel that going back to an abuser is their only way out of homelessness.

For CoCs to truly address ending family homelessness, they must strategically consider solutions for expanding safe housing options for individuals and families impacted by DV/SA. DV/SA programs and providers can and should play a critical role in a community's response to homelessness. As CoCs explore opportunities to expand housing options within their community in their efforts to prevent and end homelessness, DV/SA providers are very often critical partners in offering strong connections to reliable services, offering best practices in safety planning and trauma-informed care, and informing what safe housing options should look like for individuals and families fleeing domestic and sexual violence in their community.

### **Key Considerations for CoCs supporting DV/SA Safe Housing Options**

As outlined in the HUD *SNAPS In Focus: [Addressing the Needs of Persons Fleeing Domestic Violence](#)*, there is an increased emphasis for CoCs to be intentional in engaging with local victim service providers to ensure a wide range of safe housing options within their homeless service delivery system. As the CoC is making local decisions, there are several important issues that should be considered specifically for projects serving survivors of DV/SA:

- **Geographic Coverage:** Is the project the only one serving DV/SA survivors available in the CoC's geographic area? This is especially important in rural areas where many DV/SA projects cover large catchment areas. If the project lost funding, or if existing funding does not meet the current needs, what is the CoC's specific plan to serve this population in the area?
- **Outcomes:** Projects serving people fleeing DV/SA have unique program designs, which are focused first on the safety of the household. Once safety is established, housing stability can be fully addressed. The process by which these programs are assessed at the local level should consider these unique factors, and account for the fact that survivors often need longer timeframes to gain stability and move to permanent housing.
- **Program Design:** Is the program well designed to meet the safety needs of survivors and their families? Does the program use [trauma-informed](#) practices? Has the program adopted a [Housing First](#) orientation and is it low barrier in its approach?
- **Data:** Although victim service providers are prohibited from entering data in HMIS, HUD funded providers are required to maintain [comparable databases](#) of their own design, These databases must meet HUD's HMIS requirements and the victim services program should be providing the CoC with aggregate information on the outcomes of their project. How can you support your local DV/SA providers in building their capacity to build and maintain a comparable database and share aggregate data?
- **Reallocation:** After reviewing data and the unique outcomes related to serving survivors of DV/SA, CoCs may decide that there are lower-performing DV/SA programs that the CoC would like to reallocate. In implementing such reallocations, to ensure that the needs of survivors of DV/SA will continue to be met, CoCs should consider reallocating to programs that will be dedicated to survivors of DV/SA, have experience providing quality DV/SA services, **and** where the reallocation will result in at least as many units for this population.
- **New Resources:** In addition to ensuring that projects dedicated to survivors are reallocated to the same population, CoCs should consider new resources that will provide permanent solutions for survivors.

If you are a CoC interested in contacting DV/SA providers in your region to create housing options for DV/SA survivors, we recommend you:

- Contact DV/SA providers in your region;
- Contact your state domestic violence coalitions for a list of all the DV/SA member programs across their states (visit: <http://www.nnedv.org/resources/coalitions.html>);
- Learn about DV/SA related housing initiatives and a HUD NOFA overview for DV/SA programs through pre-recorded webinars posted on the [Safe Housing Partnerships](#) website); and
- Refer to the [FY2017 CoC Program Competition](#) section on the HUD Exchange for information and resources.

### Recommended Resources

- *SNAPS In Focus: Addressing the Needs of Persons Fleeing Domestic Violence*
- *SNAPS In Focus: The New Joint Transitional Housing and Rapid Re-Housing Component*
- [2017 CoC APR Guidebook](#)
- [CoC Contact Information](#)
- [Safe Housing Partnerships](#)
- [FY2017 CoC Program Competition](#)
- [Trauma-Informed Domestic Violence Services: Understanding the Framework and Approach](#)
- [Housing First Checklist: Assessing Projects and Systems for a Housing First Orientation](#)



The National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV), a social change organization, is dedicated to creating a social, political and economic environment in which violence against women no longer exists.

<http://www.nnedv.org>

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**More Questions?** The Consortium TA Team is available to provide individualized technical assistance and training to communities interested in expanding the array of safe housing options for domestic and sexual violence survivors. We can also provide support to domestic and sexual violence advocates, homelessness and housing providers, and other allied partners interested in building stronger community collaborations.



Visit [SafeHousingPartnerships.org](https://SafeHousingPartnerships.org) to access a comprehensive collection of online resources and to request technical assistance and support.

### **Domestic Violence and Housing Technical Assistance Consortium**

The Consortium, launched in 2015, provides training, technical assistance, and resource development at the critical intersection between domestic violence/sexual assault services and homeless services/housing. Funded by a partnership between the U.S. Department of Justice, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development. This multi-year Consortium supports a collaborative TA Team that includes the National Alliance for Safe Housing (a project of the District Alliance for Safe Housing), the National Network to End Domestic Violence, the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence, and Collaborative Solutions, Inc., to build and strengthen technical assistance to both housing/homelessness providers and domestic violence/sexual assault service providers. The Consortium aims to improve policies, identify promising practices and strengthen collaborations necessary to enhance safe and supportive housing options for sexual and domestic violence survivors and their children.