

HUD's Gender-based Violence Prevention Priorities and VAWA Housing Protections

VAWA Consultation Sessions

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GBV Prevention Priorities

- **Center survivors'** housing experiences and needs
 - Trauma-informed
 - Historically marginalized
 - “Hard to serve”
 - Intersectionality
- Create **feedback loop**
- Gather and analyze **data**

- Implement and enforce **housing protections** under Violence Against Women Act (“VAWA”)
- Provide resources that **target assistance** to survivors
- Provide programs and services that create pathways to **economic stability** for families and individuals




Housing Protections of Survivors

- Violence Against Women Act
- Fair Housing Act
- State and local housing laws
 - Eviction defense
 - Early lease termination
 - Lock changes
 - Anti-nuisance ordinances





Violence Against Women Act

- VAWA enacted in 1994 as part of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994.
 - VAWA 2005 included a housing title for the first time.
 - Congress reauthorized VAWA (and housing title) in 2013 and 2022.
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Violence Against Women Act

- VAWA provides housing protections for survivors of **domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking** who are applying for or living in **federally assisted housing**.
- The law applies to a survivor regardless of sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, or age.
- VAWA does not apply to market-rate rental housing (unless there is a voucher or other federal subsidy).



VAWA Covered Housing Programs

HUD Programs

- Public Housing
- Section 8 Vouchers
- Project-based Section 8
- Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly
- **Section 202 Direct Loan**
- Section 811 Supportive Housing for People with Disabilities
- 221d3/d5 Below Market Interest Rate (BMIR)
- 236 Multifamily rental housing
- HOME
- HOPWA (Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS/HIV)
- McKinney-Vento Homelessness Programs (includes Emergency Solutions Grant; Continuum of Care)
- **Housing Trust Fund**

Treasury/IRS

Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC)

USDA

- Rural Development (RD) Multifamily Programs
- **RD Vouchers**

Department of Justice

- **OVW Transitional Housing Assistance Grants**

Veterans Affairs

- **Comprehensive Service Programs for Homeless Veterans Program**
- **Housing for homeless veterans with special needs**
- **Permanent housing for very low-income veterans**

Snapshot of VAWA Housing Rights

Cannot be **denied admission, be evicted, or have assistance terminated** because of the violence committed against them

Right to strict confidentiality of information

Can request that a **perpetrator be removed** from the lease or unit

Must get a **notice of VAWA housing rights** and VAWA self-certification form

Can request an **emergency transfer**

Survivors with Housing Choice Voucher can **move with continued assistance**

Cannot be **retaliated against** by housing providers for asserting VAWA rights (2022)

Right to call 9-1-1 or emergency services without penalty (2022)

Other VAWA 2022 Requirements

CDBG Participating Jurisdictions must certify and report certain problematic laws and policies.

Provides VAWA enforcement authorities to HUD and DOJ.

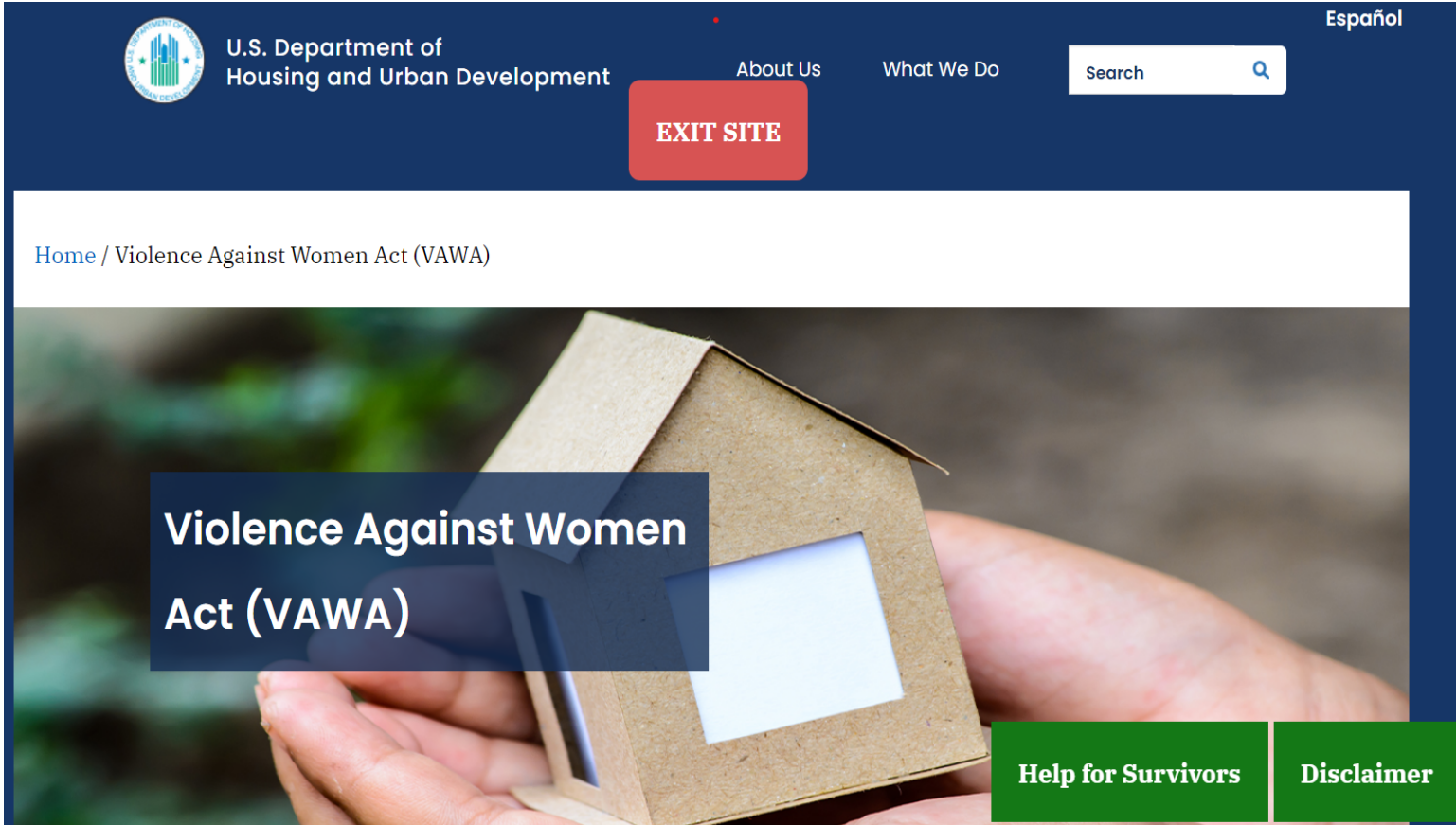
Requires federal agencies to establish VAWA compliance review processes.

Amends the definition of “homeless” under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

Establishes a Gender-based Violence Prevention Office and VAWA Director position at HUD.

Requires HUD to conduct a study assessing the housing needs of trafficking survivors experiencing homelessness or housing instability.

Provides HUD funding for VAWA training and technical assistance.



Clearinghouse for HUD's VAWA resources

- FAQs
- Trainings, forms, and legal authorities
- Referrals to direct services for survivors
- Filing complaints of VAWA violations

www.hud.gov/vawa

Recent VAWA Implementation

2022

- Supported passage of VAWA 2022 Reauthorization
- Started VAWA 2022 trainings for HUD grantees
- Began study on housing needs of trafficking survivors
- Sent report to Congress re: HUD's VAWA implementation
- Held first interagency VAWA meeting
- Published 60-day notice for VAWA 2013 forms

2023

- Sent report to Congress re: VAWA Tenant Protection Vouchers
- Created centralized VAWA website: www.hud.gov/vawa
- Published in Federal Register VAWA interim guidance for HUD grantees
- Issued VAWA enforcement notice (FHEO)
- Launched VAWA enforcement pilot project (FHEO)

2023–2024

- Summer - Award \$10M in FY22 and FY23 VAWA training and technical assistance funding
- Summer - Hold VAWA listening sessions
- Summer - Training series for HUD field staff
- Publish updated VAWA forms
- Publish proposed VAWA 2022 rule
- Establish Office of GBV Prevention

Thank you!

