

Addressing the Housing Needs of Victims of Sexual Assault at HUD



Subcommittee: Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD)
Agency: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

National Alliance to
End Sexual Violence

FY26 Appropriation: \$52 million for DV/SA bonus funds
\$500,000 for Office of Gender Based Violence at HUD

FY27 Request: \$75 million DV/SA bonus funds
\$600,000 for the Office of Gender Based Violence at HUD
\$15 million for DV/SA Training and Technical Assistance

President's Budget: TBD

HOUSING NEEDS OF VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT

Sexual assault (SA) is a root cause of housing instability and homelessness, impacting a survivor's ability to obtain and maintain housing throughout their lifespan. In a 2025 NAESV survey, **more than 70% of SA programs reported an increase in the frequency of housing-related requests from survivors**—from assistance with rent and utilities to locating emergency shelter and available housing units. One of the most significant challenges for SA programs is the persistent gap between the level of housing need among survivors of SA and the funding and staffing resources available to meet that need.

Despite the critical need, many survivors are unable to find housing. **SA programs have identified housing as the most unmet need in the past year.** In a nationwide study, more than half (51.5%) of the survivors who identified a need for housing services did not receive them.*

*NISVS 2010

Women and men who experienced food or **housing insecurity** in a 12-month period had a **significantly higher prevalence of rape, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner** in that same time period as compared to those who did not experience food or housing insecurity.*

Victims of SA deserve a housing response that matches the complexity of their experiences—and our community deserves a system that can meet survivors where they are, without staff and programs stretched beyond capacity. Considering the prevalence of sexual abuse as a precursor to homelessness,** the increased risks for sexual assault that homeless individuals face, and the ways in which safe, affordable housing can be a protective factor against sexual victimization, **it is imperative that sexual assault survivors have access to housing supports.**

*Breiding, M.J., Chen J., & Black, M.C. (2014). Intimate Partner Violence in the United States — 2010. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Retrieved from <https://stacks.cdc.gov/view/cdc/21961>

**Slesnick et al., 2018; Deck & Platt, 2015; Huey (2016)

Ultimately, the need for flexible, sustained funding is more urgent than ever. Survivors deserve a housing response that matches the complexity of their experiences—and our community deserves a system that can meet survivors where they are, without staff and programs stretched beyond capacity.

—Connecticut Rape Crisis Center

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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & SEXUAL ASSAULT BONUS FUNDS: \$75 MILLION

We urge Congress to allocate \$75 million for the Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Bonus (DV/SA) Funds in the Continuum of Care (CoC) Homeless Assistance program at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

to help survivors access safe, affordable housing and rebuild their lives. Survivors of sexual assault often need emergency shelter, transitional housing, and rapid-rehousing programs to avoid homelessness.

Since FY18, the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) Appropriations Committee has included a set-aside for housing for survivors in DV/SA Bonus Funds in the HUD CoC homelessness assistance program. These dedicated funds for survivor-specific housing resources, including rapid rehousing, are a vital funding source for victim service providers to address the unique safety needs of survivors. Funds from the DV/SA Bonus project significantly improve a survivor's access to safe housing and build the capacity of the victim services field to provide survivor-centered housing.

FUNDING FOR THE OFFICE ON GENDER BASED VIOLENCE (OGBV): \$600,000

Funding for the OGBV at \$600,000 is a priority and necessary to ensure that HUD is responding to the needs of sexual assault survivors and implementing the housing protections available through the Violence Against Women Act.

FUNDS TO IMPLEMENT VAWA HOUSING & ADVANCE SURVIVORS' ACCESS TO HOUSING: \$15 MILLION

Additionally, we support inclusion of **\$15 million in FY27 for training and technical assistance** on the implementation of housing protections for survivors created in the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) 2022 Reauthorization.

HAVE ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS?
Contact Terri Poore, Policy Director
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