



NATIONAL NETWORK  
TO END DOMESTIC  
VIOLENCE

## Transitional Housing for Sexual Assault Survivors

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NNEDV Transitional Housing Program



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## NNEDV Transitional Housing Program

In partnership with the U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), NNEDV provides comprehensive, specialized technical assistance and training to state and territorial domestic violence coalitions, local domestic violence programs, other nonprofit organizations and local and state agencies. **NNEDV's transitional housing team helps organizations create best practices in transitional housing and related services for victims, and strengthens programs' response to survivors with an emphasis on survivor-driven, trauma-informed, empowerment-based services.**

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## Session objectives

- Identify several types of sexual assault victims who could benefit from transitional housing
- Understand the basic requirements of OVW's transitional housing grant program
- Compare the three models of transitional housing and review the pros and cons of each
- Describe the types of organizations with which a transitional housing project should have collaborative relationships.

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## HUD definition of homelessness

HUD defines "residential instability" in two ways:

- "Literally homeless" – staying in shelters or places not meant for habitation – streets, parks, abandoned buildings, subway tunnels
- "Precariously housed" – paying very high proportion of resources for rent; doubled up with friends/family; "couch surfing;" on the verge of homelessness

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## After emergency shelter

- Survivors with no money, income, or job training needed options while they became self-sufficient
- Stuck on long lists for subsidized housing, many went shelter to shelter, couch-surfed, or returned to abuser's home
- Transitional housing funded by McKinney-Vento and later VAWA allowed DV survivors to be housed while working on job skills, financial management, and other barriers to stable housing

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## Housing First model

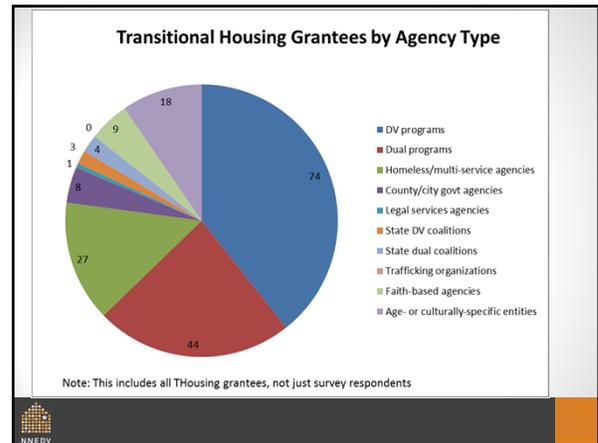
- Agencies working with chronically homeless populations and homeless families started supporting **access to permanent housing** as soon as possible after entry into homelessness
- Followed by services such as education, job training, mental health counseling, drug abuse treatment, parenting support to **maintain housing**
- "Housing first" movement promotes housing as a **human right**, not a reward for program completion

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## Sexual Assault Services in Transitional Housing

- Cooperative endeavor between OVW, NNEDV, and RSP
  - Survey
  - Phone interviews
  - Focus groups
- Are the SA service needs of Thousing program participants being met?
- Are the Thousing needs of SA survivors being met?
- What is needed to get there?

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## What SA survivors need Transitional Housing?

- DV survivors whose experience included sexual abuse
- DV survivors with child sexual abuse history
- Survivors assaulted in their homes or offender knows where they live
- Survivors raped at work, unable to work, lost job due to the sexual assault
- Survivors raped by landlord or in public housing

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## What SA survivors need Transitional Housing?

- Youth
- Sex trafficking victims/sex workers
- Veterans
- Historically marginalized survivors
  - LGBTQ
  - Male
  - Rural
  - Older

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## OVW Grant Philosophy

- Support services provided on a voluntary basis, not a condition of housing assistance
- Survivor-centered services
- Collaborations and partnerships are critical
- Confidentiality and safety planning
- Focus is on **meaningful impact** on those served, not serving as many as possible

**Housing is a right, not a privilege**

## Transitional Housing Models

**Housing is not an extended shelter stay**

- **Scattered Site**
  - Increasingly the most common
  - Survivors live in apartments in the community
  - Survivor or program holds lease
- **Clustered Site**
  - Program owned building/Program rents multiple units
  - May be co-located with other program services
  - Program is landlord and service provider
- **Communal Living**
  - Similar to shelter
  - Tends to have more rules; can be confining
  - Program is landlord and service provider

## Transitional Housing Rent Structures

- **Subsidize**
  - Survivor enters lease. Program provides rental assistance to the landlord
- **Rent and Sublet**
  - Lease is in program's name and sub-leased to survivor
  - Good option for specific types of survivors
- **Own**
  - Program owned and operated
  - Grant funds used for operation of building

**Rent should never exceed 30% of the survivor's income**

## Pros and Cons to Rent Structures

- **Subsidize**

**Pros** – Program not responsible for unit. Can focus on being service provider.

**Cons** – Not all survivors are eligible for a lease.
- **Rent and Sublet**

**Pros** – Program can increase access for survivors otherwise not eligible for lease.

**Cons** – Program is responsible for unit and must act as landlord.
- **Own**

**Pros** – Program is in control of all aspects of housing and can create a housing program with minimal barriers.

**Cons** – Program responsible for all repairs. Program acts as landlord.

## OVW Transitional Housing Assistance Grant Program

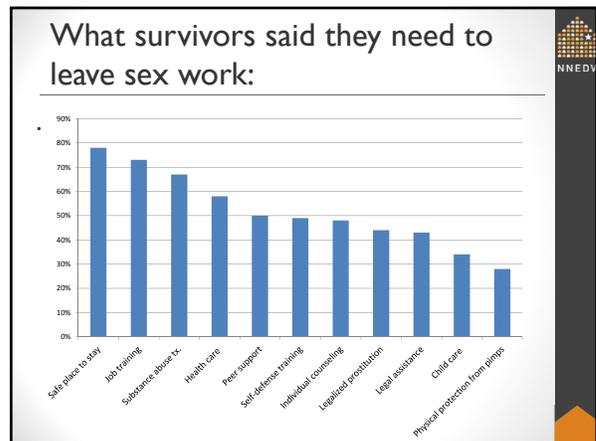
<p><b>What</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transitional Housing, or</li> <li>• Short-term rental assistance, AND</li> <li>• Supportive services to help survivors:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Secure employment</li> <li>– Obtain permanent housing</li> <li>– Integrate into community</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Who</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 18 years or older or an emancipated minor</li> <li>• Homeless or in need of transitional housing due to DV, SA, stalking, or dating violence</li> <li>• Their dependents</li> </ul> <p><b>NOT "actively fleeing"</b></p>
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## OVW Transitional Housing Assistance Grant Program

**Required elements:**

- Voluntary services
- Housing assistance for minimum of 6 months and maximum of 24 months
- Supportive services
  - Partnership with victim services provider
  - Other community partner(s)
  - Follow-up services
- Safety planning



## OVW Transitional Housing Assistance Grant Program

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### Common/essential partnerships:

- Education programs
- Job training, workforce development
- Public housing, private landlords
- Life skills
- Child care, parenting support
- Transportation
- Financial literacy

## OVW Transitional Housing Assistance Grant Program

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### Common/essential partnerships:

- Counseling and advocacy
- Support groups
- Mental health services
- Substance abuse providers
- Immigration & refugee services
- (Limited) legal services

## Questions?

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