



## **PHA 5-YEAR AND ANNUAL PLAN ELEMENT**

### **VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT (VAWA) ACTIVITIES**

The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) requires PHAs to describe any goals, objectives, policies, or programs that enable the PHA to serve the needs of child and adult victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

The HACSB supports the goals and objectives of VAWA and will continually assess programs and initiatives to ensure they further its requirements.

The Fair Housing Policies of the Public Housing Admissions and Continued Occupancy Policy (ACOP) and the Housing Choice Voucher Administrative Plan have been updated to reflect compliance with the provisions of VAWA.

The Eligibility Policies of the ACOP and Administrative Plan have been updated to reflect the HACSB policy prohibiting denial of assistance to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking as required by VAWA.

The Transfer Policies and Termination of Assistance Policies of the ACOP and Administrative Plan have been updated to reflect VAWA objectives and requirements.

Information regarding VAWA is given to all public housing residents and Section 8 program beneficiaries. All HACSB residents and beneficiaries are required to sign a lease addendum acknowledging VAWA protections.

The HACSB recently established a Community Services Department, composed of experienced staff with backgrounds in health, social, and education services, tasked with supporting program beneficiaries with direct case management and referral assistance.

Through the Community Services Department, the HACSB has established partnerships with Interface Children's Services Family Violence Intervention Service, The Partnership for Safe Families & Communities of Ventura County, The Designated Child Abuse Prevention Council, and The Coalition for Family Harmony.

Through these partnerships, an array of direct and educational services are available to staff and residents, including, but not limited to:

- Advocacy, crisis intervention, assessment, safety planning and referrals service.
- Safe Haven Emergency Shelter – 30-day emergency assistance for victims and their children fleeing DV.
- Safe Journey Transitional Shelter – next step for survivors after emergency shelter.
- Rape Crisis Center

- Counseling & Support Groups
- Anger Management Classes – 15 group sessions
- Batterers’ Intervention Program – 52 week group intervention program
- Co-custody Parenting – 10 session group program
- Parenting Education – evidence based group program
- Teen Dating Violence – to help teens deal with unhealthy, abusive, or violent relationships
- Family Harmony – 12 week program

Further educational and awareness opportunities available to resident groups and HACSB include,

- Preventing Family Violence
  - Child Sexual Abuse Prevention: “My Body Belongs to Me”
  - Teen Dating Violence Prevention
  - Family Violence Prevention
- Domestic Violence 101
- Effects of Domestic Violence on Children
- Domestic Violence in the Work Place
- Domestic Violence “Red Flag” training to raise awareness and safety levels, and generate referrals to appropriate services
- Adult Protective Services – highlighting the many signs of abuse (physical/sexual/economic/emotional/psychological)
- Understanding the Mandated Reporter process

HACSB’s Community Services Department Manager has also undertaken the following training:

- Domestic Violence Counselor
- Mandated Reporter Training: Preventing Abuse and Protecting Our Families
- Court Approved Mediator Training

Community Services will continue to establish partnerships with service providers in the community to raise awareness, improve access to resources, and prevent domestic violence and other forms of family abuse.

24-HOUR BILINGUAL HOTLINE 1.800.300.2181