



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 and Social Services (CSS) Coordinator position and hired an experienced social worker with background in health, social, and educational services tasked with assisting program beneficiaries with direct case management assistance.

Through the CSS Coordinator, the HACSB has established a partnership with the Interface Children's Services Family Violence Intervention Service. Classes are being organized for resident groups and HACSB staff relating to:

- 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

Other services being provided by the Family Violence Intervention Service include:

- 24/7 Family Violence Response Team which responds to domestic violence calls when requested by law enforcement and medical providers.
- 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.
- Support Groups for Women
- 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

Trainings for the HACSB staff are planned/in development, including:

- Domestic Violence “Red Flag” training, May 8, 2013, intended to raise awareness and safety levels for our staff and generate referrals to the CSS Coordinator
- AMP Managers will receive similar training that is in development

The CSS Coordinator 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.