

Strengthening Domestic and Sexual Violence Programs for Trafficked Survivors: Enhancing Identification, Case Management and Advocacy

Webinar Resource Handouts

Sample Resources Shared by the North Carolina Council for Women & Youth Involvement

Table of Contents

Handout 1: An Advocate's Guide to the Public Housing Authority

Handout 2: Recommended Practices for Housing Survivors of Human Trafficking -
Bilingual Infographic

Handout 3: HT/DV/SA Infographic



BE IN-THE-KNOW ABOUT PHAs

An Advocate's Guide to the Public Housing Authority

Smith, Kiricka Y

NC DEPT. OF ADMINISTRATION, COUNCIL FOR WOMEN AND YOUTH INVOLVEMENT | PROJECT CLIC

GLOSSARY OF KEY TERMS

ADMINISTRATIVE PLAN- Typically shortened to “admin plan”, is the primary source of policy and guidance that PHAs adhere to.

ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS CONTRACT- This contract sets the limit on the number of vouchers a PHA can administer monthly. Though monthly, A PHA administer an excess of the monthly number of vouchers so long as they are not in excess for the total given year.

BRIEFING- This is the meeting at which the PHA determines a head of household's eligibility for the program; the briefing must occur prior to issuance of the voucher. If the head of household is eligible, the PHA reviews how the Housing Choice Voucher program works, program requirements, issues, relevant paperwork, etc. Upon issuance of the voucher, the head of household is responsible for finding his or her own unit to rent.

EMERGENCY BRIEFING- This should be requested from the PHA for the survivor as soon as possible; a month at most.

HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD)- Established in 1965 to develop national policies and programs to address housing needs in the U.S.

HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER (HCV)- Also known as Section 8. In this program, the PHA subsidizes the rent of the program participant. The PHA does not own the housing or act as a landlord and the participant is responsible for finding a unit to rent. For the PHA, the goal of this program is to spend the amount that HUD administers to you over the course of the year.

PREFERENCES- PHAs can use “preferences” within their waiting list, for applicants who have already applied and who meet certain criteria (ie. a common preference is for the elderly and disabled). If the PHA has a preference, those applicants are pulled for briefings before others.

PUBLIC HOUSING- This is HUD's other primary program for assisting low and moderate income individuals afford housing. In public housing, the PHA provides the financial subsidy as well as owns the unit and acts as a landlord. As it relates to survivors, the HCV program is a more suitable option.

PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY (PHA)- These are the local entities that administer HUD's programs. Typically, they have a county-wide service area, but some PHAs cover multiple counties. PHAs consist of staff and a governing board that sets broader policies, and are of a municipality or county government. For the PHA, the goal of this program is for every unit to be occupied at all times.

WAITING LIST- Due to HUD funding limitations, PHAs can't help everyone who meets the income guidelines. PHAs have a limited number of vouchers and therefore they maintain a waiting list; often multiple years' wait. It is common practice for a PHA to pick a week or a month to accept applications, of which they will receive enough applications for several years, while the waiting list will be “closed” for remaining days or months.

An Advocate's Guide to the Public Housing Authority

TAKING ACTION

1. Advocates should contact the PHA in their service area (city) via the following link:
https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/PIH/documents/PHA_Contact_Report_NC.pdf
2. The column identifying "Type" indicates the housing programs the PHA operates. "Section 8" indicates the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program; "Low-rent" indicates Public Housing program; "Combined" indicates both programs.
3. As suggested in the glossary, you will want to contact those PHAs that are "Section 8" or "Combined".
4. For all but the largest PHAs, advocates should contact the Executive Director and request a change to their admin plan to provide emergency briefings to survivors of trafficking. For the largest PHAs, it may take multiple attempts to find the "right" person as it may not be the Executive Director.
5. Success with the admin plan amendment? Great work! Offering thanks and a letter of support for their next board meeting may go a long way. Make sure to ask:
 - a. What kind of documentation is required for the file to verify trafficking.
 - b. When the next board meeting is- it's important to follow up and make sure the PHA has completed the process for changing the admin plan.
6. No success with the admin plan amendment but they can add the survivor to the waiting list (even though the waiting list might be closed)?
 - a. This is not sufficient as the wait could be multiple years and you need housing ASAP.
7. No success with the admin plan amendment but they can add trafficking survivors as a preference?
 - a. This is not sufficient because unless the survivor has already applied and is on the waiting list, the preference will not apply to them.
8. Although not having success with an admin plan amendment can be challenging and frustrating, a PHA director may have various reasons for not agreeing to make this decision such as having a significant waiting list, being responsible to a board of appointees, or concern that a significant number of emergency cases could negatively impact others on the waiting list. Therefore, it is important to be prepared for your phone contact by:
 - a. Have knowledge of/data on the number of cases you expect in a 12-month period.
 - b. Inquire, "How many people are on the program currently?"
 - c. Inquire, "How many vouchers are you allowed under the Annual Contributions Contract?"
 - d. Follow up by giving an estimated percentage (ie. this would only be half a percent of your annual total of allowed vouchers) that would be utilized by survivors.
 - e. Explain how housing for survivors is crucial to their safety, empowerment, self-sufficiency, long-term care and success, and prevention.
9. If you were unsuccessful with the above attempts, almost every PHA has a governing board and is under a city council or county commission. Use your connections to lobby these individuals to get the PHA director to review your proposal again.

An Advocate's Guide to the Public Housing Authority

SUPPORTING THE SURVIVOR THROUGH A BRIEFING

1. Before you call to schedule the briefing:
 - a. Ensure the survivor has all required documents and financial means (see below)
 - b. Ensure the scheduled briefing accommodates all adults in the household to avoid scheduling conflicts (see below- all adults must attend)
2. Accompany the survivor to the briefing.
 - a. All adults must attend the briefing; minors do not.
3. Gather and bring all income and identification verification.
 - a. HUD requires a birth certificate, social security card, and a picture ID.
 - b. PHAs will have a minimum family contribution, generally \$50.00 but could be \$75.00 or higher.
4. How does minimum family contribution work?
 - a. The voucher is not for a set dollar and varies by family income, family composition, unit rent, and expected unit utility cost.
 - b. It is important that the individual and/or family have some level of income and financial support to ensure they maintain the housing voucher.
 - c. For example, if the expected utility cost is \$250.00 per month and the PHA has a \$50.00 minimum, the PHA will pay all the rent but only \$200.00 toward utilities. Therefore, if the electricity is cut off due to unpaid bills, the individual will lose the voucher.
5. The voucher holder will be responsible for the security deposit and all utility deposits.
6. Most PHAs cover all relevant information at the briefing, but be sure to:
 - a. Get a list of approved landlords or available units (**HUD requires this to be available at the briefing**)
 - b. Ask the PHA staff for guidance on rental amount and what would be too high under that PHA's standards
 - i. The voucher will identify an approved # of unit bedrooms though a voucher holder can get a unit that is larger or smaller as long as the unit adheres to the voucher amount.
 - ii. For example, if it's a 1-bedroom voucher, the participant can get a 2-bedroom unit, but the 1-bedroom rent standard will apply.

This document was developed with special thanks to David Grigsby, Director of Section 8 Housing with the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs for his knowledge and dedication to the development of this guide in partnership with the North Carolina Council for Women and Youth Involvement Human Trafficking program Project CLICC.

For additional information, visit <https://ncadmin.nc.gov/advocacy/women/human-trafficking> or contact the human trafficking programs at (919) 733-2455



Recommended Practices for Housing Survivors of Human Trafficking



Project CLICC, a project of the NC Council for Women & Youth Involvement, offers trainings, educational materials, and resource guides to community leaders and organization to help address the needs of survivors in their local areas.



Council for Women & Youth Involvement
Department of Administration

Safety and Security

Keeping the survivor's home address anonymous is vital. A location near local law enforcement or service provider offices can further deter traffickers from trying to re-establish contact with survivors. Locked entryways and exterior surveillance cameras are additional features that can help survivors feel safe.

Maintaining Choice

Another key step in a survivor's recovery is regaining a sense of agency and control. As much as possible, let survivors control the housing process and decide what will best suit their needs.

Limited English Proficiency Survivors

For important matters related to the survivors' housing, be sure to use a certified interpreter if the survivor has difficulty speaking and understanding English. The survivor's case manager will be able to assist with finding an appropriate interpreter. Avoid the use of informal translators, such as neighbors and relatives, unless both the survivor and the case manager have agreed they are appropriate resources.

Barriers to Survivor Re-Integration

Because of the trauma and isolation of trafficking, survivors face several challenges re-integrating into the community. Many lack job skills and strong support systems. Also common are mental health challenges, ranging from difficulties with focusing or making eye contact to anxiety, depression, and substance abuse. To ensure a positive and successful experience, any challenges or difficulties can often be resolved with the assistance of the survivor's case manager.

Potential Signs of Re-victimization

The following are potential signs that the survivor may be being exploited or re-victimized and should be reported to the survivor's case manager as soon as possible:

- ◆ Unusual patterns of visitors (i.e. several a day or late in the night)
- ◆ "Friends" or "relatives" translating for the survivor without the survivor's input
- ◆ "Friends" or "relatives" attempting to access sensitive information without the survivor's previous and expressed consent

Housing Quality Standards

All housing provided for survivors of human trafficking should, at the minimum, meet the following housing quality standards, adapted from the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) standards for Section 8 and low-income housing:

- ◆ All walls, ceilings, and floors are intact, sound, and not in danger of structural collapse
- ◆ All windows are sound, weather-tight, and without significant or hazardous damage
- ◆ Appliances such as sinks, toilets, showers, ovens, stoves, and refrigerators are in reliable working order and free of any hazards
- ◆ There is a heating and cooling system allowing for the maintenance of a safe and comfortable climate throughout the entire unit
- ◆ There is a ventilation system including electric fans or windows which can remain open
- ◆ The unit can be entered and exited quickly and easily, particularly in case of an emergency
- ◆ There is no presence of deteriorated paint and any presence of lead-paint has been stabilized
- ◆ There is no evidence of infestation
- ◆ There are no electrical hazards in the unit
- ◆ The unit is free from any other hazards that could harm residents

For a more in-depth list of HUD's housing quality standards, review HUD's Housing Inspection Form, available at:

https://www.hud.gov/sites/documents/DOC_11742.PDF

Recomendaciones para alojar a sobrevivientes de la trata humana



El proyecto CLICCO, un proyecto del NC Council for Women and Youth Involvement, le ofrece entrenamientos, materiales educativos y guías de recursos a los líderes en las comunidades y a las organizaciones para ayudar a tratar las necesidades de los sobrevivientes en sus áreas locales



Council for Women & Youth Involvement
Department of Administration

Seguridad

Es imprescindible que la dirección del hogar del sobreviviente permanezca anónima. Un hogar localizado cerca de la policía local o cerca de lugares que proveen servicios para los sobrevivientes puede desalentar a los traficantes de reestablecer contacto con los sobrevivientes. Otros elementos adicionales que pueden ayudar a los sobrevivientes a sentirse seguros son puertas con cerraduras y cámaras de seguridad en el exterior de los hogares.

Respetar la elección

Otro paso clave en la recuperación de un sobreviviente es que él/ella pueda recuperar su sentido de agencia y control. Deje que el sobreviviente tome control del proceso lo más posible y que tome las decisiones que mejor le convengan de acuerdo a sus necesidades.

Sobrevivientes con poco dominio del inglés

Para asuntos importantes relacionados con el proceso de vivienda, asegúrese de usar un intérprete certificado, si el/la sobreviviente tiene dificultades para hablar y entender el inglés. El administrador del caso del sobreviviente podrá ayudarlo a encontrar un intérprete apropiado. Evite el uso de intérpretes informales, al menos que, ambos el/la sobreviviente y el administrador del

caso estén de acuerdo que la persona es un recurso apropiado.

Obstáculos en la reintegración de los sobrevivientes

Dado el trauma y el aislamiento que crea la trata humana, los sobrevivientes enfrentan varios desafíos al reintegrarse en la comunidad. Muchos carecen destrezas de trabajo y sistemas de apoyo fuertes. Otro factor común es los retos de salud mental, que se extienden desde problemas de concentración o dificultad en hacer contacto visual hasta ansiedad, depresión y abuso de sustancias. Para asegurar una experiencia positiva y exitosa, cualquier desafío o dificultad se puede resolver, muchas veces, con la asistencia del administrador del caso del sobreviviente.

Señales de posible victimización repetida

Las siguientes son señales que el sobreviviente podría estar siendo explotado o victimizado nuevamente y debe ser reportado al administrador del caso del sobreviviente lo antes posible.

- ◆ Patrones inusuales de visita (ej.: mucha visita al día o tarde en la noche)
- ◆ “Amistades” o “parientes” que traducen para el sobreviviente sin la aportación del sobreviviente
- ◆ “Amistades” o “parientes” que intentan acceder información confidencial sin el consentimiento previo del sobreviviente

Estándares de calidad de vivienda

Todas las viviendas que se les provee a los sobrevivientes de trata humana deben cumplir, por lo menos, con los siguientes estándares de calidad de vivienda, adaptados de los estándares del Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) para Sección 8 y viviendas de bajo ingreso:

- ◆ Todas las paredes, los techos y los pisos están intactos, en buenas condiciones y fuera de peligro de derrumbe estructural
- ◆ Todas las ventanas están en buenas condiciones, a prueba de intemperie y sin daños grandes ni peligrosos
- ◆ Aparatos como el fregadero, los inodoros, las duchas, los hornos, las estufas y las neveras están en condiciones fiables y libres de peligro
- ◆ Hay un sistema de calefacción y aire acondicionado que permite el mantenimiento de un clima seguro y cómodo en toda la unidad
- ◆ Hay un sistema de ventilación que incluye abanicos eléctricos o ventanas que se pueden mantener abiertas
- ◆ Se puede entrar a y salir de la unidad rápida y fácilmente, particularmente en casos de emergencia
- ◆ No hay pintura deteriorada y cualquier existencia de pintura con plomo debe ser removida
- ◆ No hay evidencia de infestación o plaga
- ◆ No hay peligros eléctricos en la unidad
- ◆ La unidad está libre de cualquier otro peligro que pudiera hacerle daño a los residentes

Para una lista más extensa de los estándares de calidad de vivienda de HUD, revise el Housing Inspection Form de HUD, disponible en: https://www.hud.gov/sites/documents/DOC_11742.PDF

HUMAN TRAFFICKING, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, AND SEXUAL ASSAULT

1 in 4 women



and

1 in 6 men



will be sexually
assaulted before
the age of 18



In 2017,
99,164
domestic violence
crisis calls
were reported by
NCCFWYI
grantees



75-90%
of girls 13-18
involved in
commercial sexual
exploitation had
previously
experienced
physical or sexual
abuse

Survivors of human trafficking are often survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. It is important to recognize the overlapping and intertwined nature of all three.



A history of trauma, such as domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse leave survivors psychologically vulnerable to trafficking.



Fear of being blamed for their situation and, as a result, being ostracized or shut-out from their communities keeps many survivors from reporting their situation to law enforcement.

NC is here to help

Project COPE and Project CLICC are projects of the NC Council for Women & Youth Involvement created to empower communities to identify and provide services to survivors of human trafficking.

For more information visit:

<https://ncadmin.nc.gov/advocacy/women/human-trafficking>



80%

of female migrant farmworkers reported having experienced sexual harassment in a study by UC-Santa Cruz



Control

Perpetrators of domestic violence and human trafficking use similar methods to exert power over survivors and create situations of abuse and exploitation

ISOLATION

ECONOMIC ABUSE

THREATS TO FAMILY

PHYSICAL & SEXUAL ABUSE

To report human trafficking, call or text:

**National Human Trafficking
Resource Center**

1.888.373.7888

Text "BEFREE" (233733)

Toll-Free Hotline

24/7

Confidential

