

# Serving Domestic Violence Survivors throughout the Homeless Assistance System

*National Conference on Ending  
Homelessness*  
Monday, July 22, 2013



# Today's Speakers

- **Kim Walker**, *Nat'l Alliance to End Homelessness*
- **Kris Billhardt**, *Volunteers of America, Portland, OR*
- **Maria Williams**, *LifeWire, Bellevue, WA*
- **Shakeita Boyd**, *DASH, Washington DC*

# Domestic Violence Advisory Group

- Provide guidance on products and tools for communities
- Illuminate important issues concerning survivors in federal legislation
- Provide input on Alliance conference content

# Topics Covered in Today's Session

- Dynamics of Domestic Violence
- Coordinated Assessment and Intake
- Housing and Survivors
- Voluntary Services and Survivors
- System Considerations
- Interactive Work Time

# What is Coordinated Assessment?

- Coordinated system of assessment, referrals, data collection, and intake for people experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness
- Access, Assessment, Assignment

# OK, but what is it really?

- Increased collaboration, connectivity, and efficiency
- Creating a more client-focused, inclusive system
- Fewer program-driven and more system-driven decisions
- More centralized targeting and prioritization

aka, System Change!

# Assessment and Survivors: Where HUD is

- Sought feedback on how survivors might best be assessed or served through a coordinated assessment process
- Considering an exemption for DV providers for participating in the community centralized assessment process
- If exempted, DV providers will still need to participate in their own coordinated process

# Assessment and Survivors: Action Steps

## Develop a policy

- Have a private location to assess survivors
- Specific survivor track for assessment
- Location of providers in centralized assessment teams



Telephone based for all?

Decentralized process  
(multiple sites)?

Completely separate door for  
DV survivors?

# Things to Keep in Mind

- Are the chosen assessment locations safe for survivors to access?
- How many DV providers are there in the community?
- Are the right data protocols in place at these locations?
- Are staff trained on the proper issues around serving and identifying survivors?

## Regardless of the model...

- Start planning and coordinating with domestic violence provider agencies
- Start thinking about ways to make current process more survivor-friendly

# Final System Notes

# Governance

- Include domestic violence providers and survivors on your CoC Board
- Consider the needs of survivors when developing eligibility and prioritization standards
- Include domestic violence providers on your coordinated assessment planning committee
- Be informed about federal law around serving and funding services for survivors (and other subpopulations)

# Cross Training

- Set aside time for brown bags, official trainings, or peer-to-peer mentoring
- Identify what staff need to be trained on based on feedback from staff and people experiencing homelessness/survivors

# Interactive Working Time