Helping Survivors of Domestic Violence and Trafficking Stay Safe During the Pandemic

May 14, 2020
Housekeeping

• All attendees are on mute, and video options are turned off.
• The Zoom chat function has been disabled. Please enter your questions in the **Zoom Q&A box**.
SHARON MCDONALD, PHD
National Alliance to End Homelessness
Today’s Agenda

• Overview – what homeless service providers/system leaders should know about serving survivors during the pandemic

• Advancements in integrating service systems and practice in serving survivors at intersection of homelessness and domestic violence and trafficking

• How providers are modifying services to in light of the pandemic to protect survivors and staff
Introducing Today’s Speakers

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Crossroads Rhode Island
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A Framework for COVID-19 Homelessness Response

• Racial Justice and Equity Orientation
• Phased Steps: Immediate, Short-Term, Medium & Long-Term goals/Accomplishments
• Activity Areas/Where to Seek Change:
  • Unsheltered
  • Shelter
  • Housing
  • Prevention & Diversion
  • Strengthening Systems for the Future

Public Health and Economic Recovery
Overview: Homeless System Planning for the Most Effective Use of COVID-19 Funding

Immediate Actions
Public Health Response: Emergency Protective Measures to Flatten the Curve
- Unsheltered People: Increase outreach and create additional hygiene resources (handwashing stations, showers, laundry) for people in unsheltered locations.
- Shelters: Ensure social distancing in current congregate facilities.
- Stand up new non-congregate shelter for high-risk, symptomatic, overflow and people in unsheltered locations.

Medium-Term Actions
Economic Recovery Response: Reduce New Entries into Homelessness
- Unsheltered People: Re-house people living in unsheltered locations and increase support for unsheltered persons.
- Shelters: Scale up non-congregate shelter as needed. Implant or increase housing-focused case management in shelters.
- Housing: Move people from CARES-funded RH into PSH if needed. Work with PHAs and other housing agencies to access vouchers for households in CARES-funded RH who need long-term assistance.

Short-Term Actions
Public Health and Economic Recovery Response: Effective and Equitable Re-Housing
- Unsheltered People: Sustain and expand efforts to support, screen and safely shelter people who are unsheltered.
- Engage people with lived experience and other partners to increase outreach, especially in rural areas.
- Shelters: Begin re-housing people placed into non-congregate or overflow shelters.
- Re-house people in congregate or unsheltered locations.

Longer-Term Actions
- Unsheltered People: Monitor re-housing efforts for people living in unsheltered locations.
- Shelters: Close non-congregate and overflow shelters by moving residents into housing.
- Engage partners systems (TANF, Child Welfare, Justice) for prevention activities.
- Other Key Activities: Use data to refresh projections of need for different interventions and assess equity impacts.

National Alliance to End Homelessness
ENDHOMELESSNESS.ORG
DEBBIE FOX
National Network to End Domestic Violence &
Domestic Violence and Housing Technical Assistance Consortium
DV & Housing TA Consortium (DVHTAC)

Federal Partners
- Family Violence Prevention & Services Program/HHS
- Office on Violence Against Women/DOJ
- Office for Victims of Crime/DOJ
- Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs/HUD
- US Interagency Council on Homelessness

Technical Assistance Providers
- National Alliance for Safe Housing (NASH)
- Collaborative Solutions, Inc. (CSI)
- National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV)
- National Resource Center on Domestic Violence (NRCDV)
- National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC)
- Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH)
NNEDV is a social change organization dedicated to creating a social, political and economic environment where violence against women no longer exists.

NNEDV’s Collaborative Approach to Safe Housing for Survivors Project provides training and technical assistance to improve coordination between domestic violence and homeless services.

NNEDV’s Safety Net Project addresses the intersection of technology and abuse, and provides training and technical assistance to advocates, law enforcement, legal services, social services providers, survivors and other stakeholders.
Consortium COVID-19 Resources

• **Safe Housing Partnerships**: [https://safehousingpartnerships.org/news/](https://safehousingpartnerships.org/news/)

• **NASH**: [DV and Housing-Related Coronavirus Resources](#)

• **NNEDV**: [COVID-19: Coalition Guidance for Programs by the National Network to End Domestic Violence](#)

• **NRCDV**: [Preventing & Managing the Spread of COVID-19 Within Domestic Violence Programs](#)

• **NSVRC**: [Resources for Covid-19 Response](#)

• **CSI**: [HUD and DV Resources -Covid-19](#)
Discussion/
Questions

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SAFE HOUSING PARTNERSHIPS

The website for the Domestic Violence and Housing Technical Assistance Consortium

• Data, infographics, literature reviews, and reports that describe the intersections between domestic violence, sexual assault, homelessness, and housing
• Strategies for building effective and sustainable partnerships across systems and case studies of successful collaborations
• In-depth resource collections organized around four key approaches to addressing and preventing housing instability among survivors
• Access to relevant federal laws, regulations, and policies

Have questions? Need TA? Want training? Contact the Consortium directly through the site!
KAREN ROMERO
Freedom Network USA
HOUSING NEEDS AND CONSIDERATIONS FOR TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS

Karen Romero
Training Institute Director
Freedom Network USA
The COVID pandemic has highlighted the gaps in the systems meant to serve and house survivors. It has confirmed that survivors of trafficking need access to safe and long-term housing.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND COVID-19

Shelters → Housing Insecurity → Underserved Populations
• Survivors who are housed are losing jobs and potentially facing evictions
• Landlords threatening to evict survivors due to unpaid rent
• Some programs are reporting an increase in new clients and some have previous clients returning
• Many programs are relying on hotels to meet the immediate housing needs
• Landlord coercion by soliciting sex in exchange for rent
ADAPTING IN RESPONSE TO COVID

• Programs requesting grant adjustments to meet housing needs
• Collaboration with community partners to meet housing needs
• Know your rights for tenants (state by state)
• Long-term hotel stays
• Access to technology to mitigate social distancing
• Remote advocacy
ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

• Support Call: Housing Survivors of trafficking During COVID
• FAQ on Service Provision for Housing Survivors of Trafficking FAQ from Listening Session with FNUSA, HUD, and NSN
• DOJ Sexual Harassment in Housing Initiative Website
• Freedom Network USA’s Resource Library
CONNECT WITH US

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More Information

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www.nnedv.org

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https://safehousingpartnerships.org/

Freedom Network USA
www.freedomnetworkusa.org

National Survivor Network
https://nationalsurvivornetwork.org/

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Continue the Conversation….

National Alliance to End Homelessness Forum
https://forum.endhomelessness.org/

Learn
https://naeh.catalog.instructure.com/programs/naehcataloginstructurecomprogramsCOVID19learningseries

Be Heard
https://endhomelessness.org/help-end-homelessness/take-action/

Share Your Experiences
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