

VAWAHOME.COM

A tool to discover protections for survivors in LIHTC rental housing.



The federal Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) creates the largest number of affordable units of rental housing in the country. A federal law called the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) provides housing protections for survivors applying for and living in LIHTC housing.

Over half of women who experienced domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking need housing services but do not receive them.

Survivors face barriers to accessing and maintaining safe housing because of the violence committed against them.

Further, survivors may be denied housing because of bad credit histories caused by their perpetrators, or they may be evicted because of criminal activity related to the violence. These challenges are compounded for survivors who are persons of color, LGBTQ, immigrants, or experience disabilities.

Survivors who live in LIHTC or are applying to LIHTC housing are entitled to protections. VAWAHOME.com helps survivors and advocates understand what LIHTC is, where it is in your community, and what rights survivors have. Survivors in LIHTC have rights in every state, but states are handling educating people about and enforcing those rights very differently. VAWAHOME.com explains what the best practices are, how your state is doing, and how you can advocate for change.

What is LIHTC?

The Low-Income Housing Tax Credit is a public-private partnership between the government and housing developers that results in the creation of affordable housing. The federal Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) is the largest source of affordable rental housing in the country.

What is VAWA?

The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) is a federal law that provides housing protections for people who have experienced domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking, to help keep them safe and reduce their likelihood of homelessness.

How do they work together?

VAWA is critical to ensuring that survivors are not denied LIHTC housing or lose their LIHTC housing because of the violence committed against them.

VAWAHOME.COM Can Help You Discover:

- Best practices that your state should be following.
- Best practices for housing providers when dealing with tenants who are survivors.
- Important HUD Forms for housing providers.
- Information on how to find and keep LIHTC housing.
- Research on how states are handling VAWA federal housing protections.
- Make sure survivors in your state can access their VAWA rights.

Housing advocates across the United States of America have successfully advocated for their state housing finance agency to extend protections for many groups.

You can, too.

Visit VAWAHOME.COM to learn more.

The Low-Income Housing Tax Credit is a public-private partnership between government and housing developers that results in the creation of affordable housing. This housing carries protections for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Every state has an agency responsible for administering LIHTC. The state housing finance agency is responsible for following federal guidelines but is also in charge of setting state-level policy.



VAWAHOME.COM is a joint effort of

Regional Housing Legal Services (RHLS) and the National Alliance for Safe Housing (NASH).



Regional Housing Legal Services is a nonprofit law firm with unique expertise in affordable, sustainable housing and its related components — community and economic development, utility matters, and preservation of homeownership. RHLS provides innovative project and policy solutions that help create sustainable communities offering decent, safe, and affordable housing for lower-income Pennsylvanians.

The National Alliance for Safe Housing is a national nonprofit organization with a mission to ensure that survivors of domestic and sexual violence have a full range of safe housing options, through improved access, increased resources, and innovative solutions, ultimately catalyzing a safe housing movement. NASH advances this mission by aligning systems and changing public policy to promote safe housing; engaging communities and supporting partnerships to support safe housing; and advocating for programs and innovative practices to facilitate safe housing.