



OVCTTAC



Office for Victims of Crime
OVC

Leveraging Strategic Partnerships To Improve Housing Access for Trafficking Survivors

August 18, 2016

3:15–4:15 p.m. (eastern time)

Presenters:

Margaret Dixon Harrell, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

James A. Cunningham, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Kessaya Speckman, National Human Trafficking Resource Center

The material presented during today's webinar session will be available on the Human Trafficking Learning Community.

The session will be recorded and will begin shortly.

As with all technology, we may experience a momentary lapse in the webinar session. In the event of a problem, please be patient and remain on the line. If the problem persists, please contact dmclean@ovcttac.org for technical assistance.



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Objectives

- Identify how to access emergency shelter for victims of trafficking through the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC).
- Build partnerships with housing providers in grantees' communities to streamline access to evidence-based programs for housing difficult-to-serve populations.
- Predict potential challenges that may arise when forming collaborative partnerships with housing providers related to readiness, trust, and agency buy-in.
- Describe strategies for overcoming common obstacles related to building relationships with local housing authorities and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).



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Emergency Housing and the Hotel Voucher Pilot Program

NHTRC & Wyndham Hotels



Kessaya Speckman
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How can the NHTRC help you access emergency shelter?

Immediate Call Response

Hotline advocates connect callers with emergency shelter options.

Internal referral database organized by location, populations served, services offered, types of trafficking addressed, etc.

Case Review

Management reviews every substantive case to ensure thorough response.

Review to confirm caller's articulated needs met through NHTRC services or referral, safety concerns addressed, appropriate referrals given for long-term care.

Followup

Management will assign followup to confirm needs met, provide additional resources/options, etc.

The Wyndham Hotels Pilot Program

- Historical use of hotel points:
 - Polaris Client Services: Crisis Response Team.
 - Effective model—but not making full use of the points available.
 - Requests fulfilled by NHTRC case analysts—only available during case analyst working hours.
- Established partnerships with three organizations:
 - YMCA International Services (Houston, Texas).
 - Sanctuary for Families (New York, New York).
 - Restore NYC (New York, New York).

Lessons Learned

- Limitations of the program:
 - Limited availability.
 - Liability.
 - Last resort.
 - Not available 24/7.
- Need for MOUs with participating service providers to address:
 - Occupancy tax.
 - Incidentals.
 - Difficulty with booking process.

Moving Forward

Priorities for continued development:

- Standardized application/approval system for participating service providers.
- Formalized agreement/MOU for Service Provider-Polaris relationship.
- Training initiative to equip all NHTRC staff to fulfill requests around the clock (40+ hotline staff—more than half part-time).



Questions?

Kessaya Speckman

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HUMAN TRAFFICKING: THE HOUSING CHALLENGE

HOUSING VOUCHERS THROUGH PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY

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THE VISION: FEDERAL STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN

- **Objective 8: Improve access to victim services by removing systemic barriers** - Improve access to services and benefits.

Agency	Action	Timeframe
ACF with HUD	Review federal policy regarding homelessness and requirements that may prevent victims of human trafficking from qualifying for housing.	FY13
OVC with ACF, HUD, NIJ, and OVW	Evaluate the appropriateness and feasibility of housing demonstration projects.	FY17

THE VISION

- Key stakeholders:
 - HUD.
 - Chicago Housing Authority.
 - Local Victim Service Provider.
- Target population the program intends to serve.
- Scope of the pilot program.
- Length of pilot.

BUILDING A COLLABORATIVE RESPONSE TO HOUSING

Which groups would you include?

1. All local service providers that work with victims of human trafficking.
2. Federal agencies and a couple of local service providers.
3. All local service providers and public housing authority(s).
4. Federal agencies, a couple of local service providers, and public housing authority(s).
5. Federal agencies, all local service providers, and public housing authority(s).
6. None of the above, do it alone.

WHO SHOULD BE INCLUDED?

- Federal agencies:
 - HUD regional office.
 - HUD Office of Public and Indian Housing.
 - HHS ACF regional office.
- Community resources:
 - Local public housing authorities.
 - Service providers for survivors of human trafficking.

WHO SHOULD BE INCLUDED?

Federal Agencies

HUD's mission is to create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and **quality affordable homes for all.**

ACF's mission is to foster health and well-being by providing federal leadership, partnership, and resources for the **compassionate and effective delivery of human services.**

WHO SHOULD BE INCLUDED?

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HUD AND PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITIES (HA)

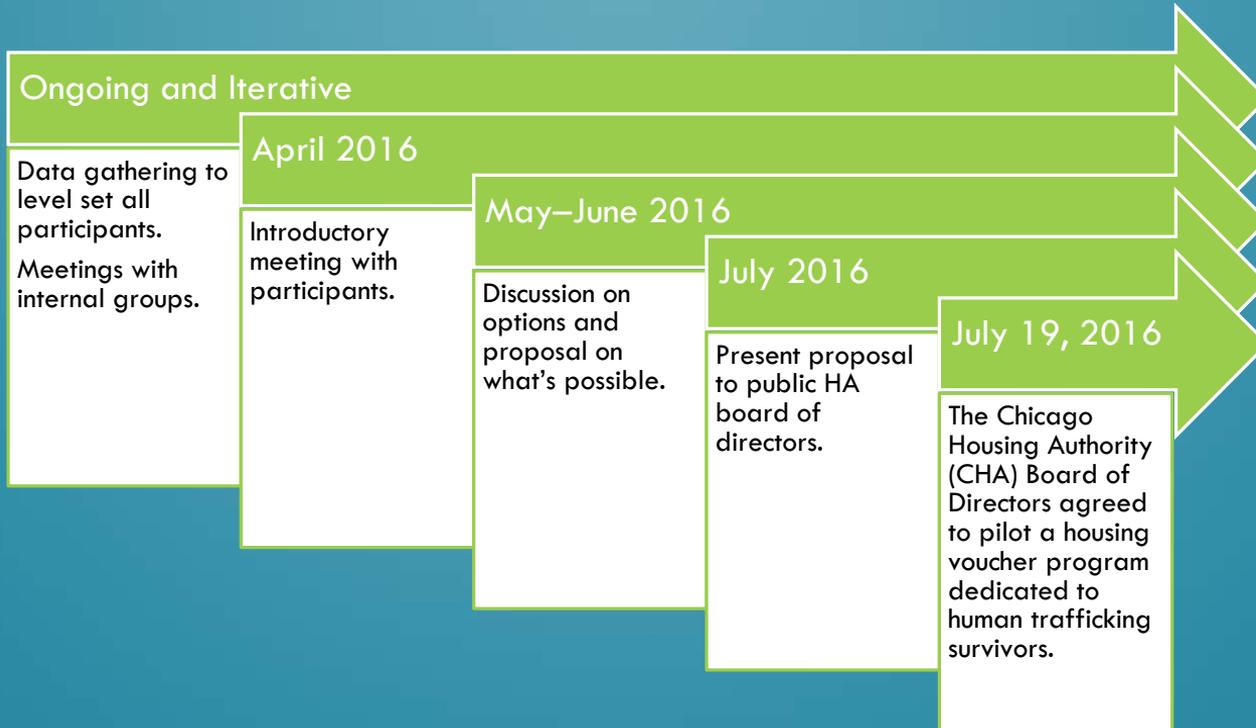
- The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) administers federal housing programs. The Department provides funding and oversight to local housing authorities/agencies. In addition, HUD works in partnership with local housing authorities/agencies to improve program delivery and to work on special initiatives.
- Public housing authorities (HA) manage the housing for low-income residents at rents they can afford. An HA determines eligibility based on 1) annual gross income; 2) whether you qualify as elderly, a person with a disability, or as a family; 3) U.S. citizenship or eligible immigration status; and 4) other eligibility criteria such as past rental history and criminal background.

IDENTIFYING THE PROBLEM

As human trafficking service providers, what do you encounter as the primary barrier/obstacle for human trafficking survivors?

1. Access to required documentation.
2. Reintegrating survivor into the community.
3. Housing.
4. All of the above; they are interrelated.
5. There are no problems, only opportunities.

TAKING ACTION



WHAT WAS THE OUTCOME?

- July 19, 2016—The CHA Board of Directors agreed to pilot a housing voucher program dedicated to human trafficking survivors.
- This is **the first program in the country** where an HA has dedicated housing for survivors of human trafficking.

<https://www.wbez.org/shows/wbez-news/cha-launches-program-for-survivors-of-human-trafficking/197b8e1e-0f69-4428-acda-071c21795073>

[CHA Launches Program for Survivors of Human Trafficking](#)

www.wbez.org

Federal officials approached Chicago to pilot the housing program, which will provide 60 subsidized vouchers over the next three years.



ACCESSING EXISTING RESOURCES

- Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program is a partnership among:
 - HUD.
 - Chicago Housing Authority.
 - Property owners/managers.
 - Participants (tenants).
- Each partner has obligations.



MAKING THE CONNECTION

Resources:

Local HUD Contact:

http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/field_policy_mgt/localoffices

Local HHS Contact:

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/oro>

Continuum of Care:

<https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/coc/>

- Find your local HUD contact
- Make connections with local federal agencies: HHS and HUD.
- Investigate existing programs offered by local HA, and contact the local executive director.
- Connect with local Continuum of Care organizations for the homeless.
- Do research from a HUD and/or HA perspective:
 - Available housing versus survivor population.
 - Other information HA may need in order to present proposals to their board.
- Find an internal champion(s) inside HUD or HA.
- Ask the difficult questions, and be prepared to be creative on possible outcomes.

LIMITATIONS OR BARRIERS?

INELIGIBILITY BECAUSE OF CRIMINAL ACTIVITY (24 CFR § 960.204)

What percentage of your clients would this requirement exclude?

1. **Less than 20%.**
2. **More than 20% but less than 40%.**
3. **More than 40% but less than 60%.**
4. **More than 60%.**

CITIZENSHIP AND ELIGIBLE IMMIGRANT STATUS (24 CFR § 5.506)

What percentage of your clients would this requirement exclude?

1. **Less than 20%.**
2. **More than 20% but less than 40%.**
3. **More than 40% but less than 60%.**
4. **More than 60%.**

NEXT STEPS

Implementation

- How do we work through the limitations?
- How will the referral process work?
- How will we know if the project was successful?

EVALUATION

New Guide Helps CoCs Review Domestic Violence Transitional Housing Projects for the CoC Program Competition

Housing programs for survivors of domestic violence are a critical component of a comprehensive homelessness service system.

[This guide](#) was designed to help Continuums of Care (CoCs) review domestic violence transitional housing project applications during the CoC program competition.

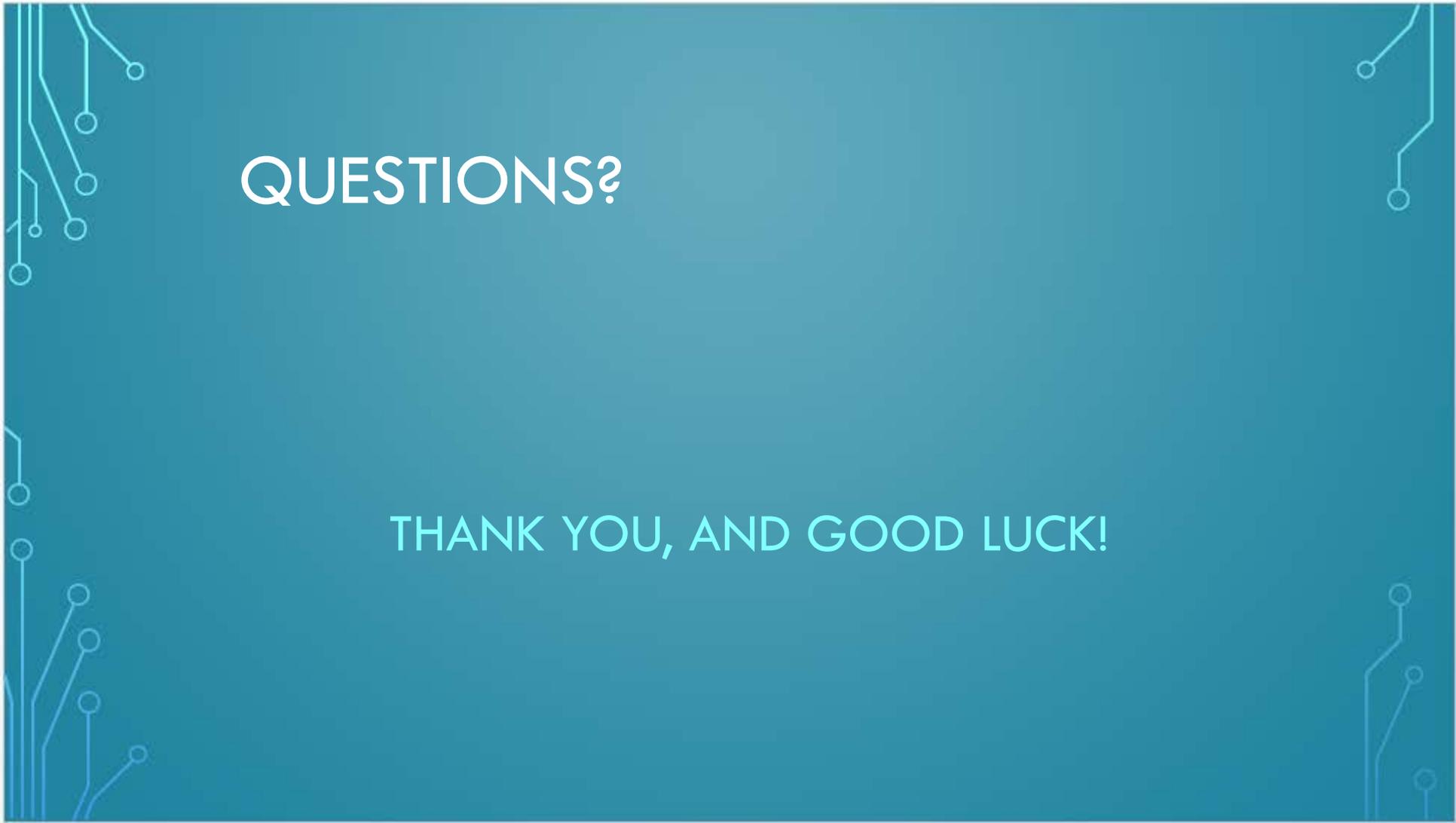


POSSIBLE EVALUATION QUESTIONS

- What percentage of participants report a lower perceived risk of violence upon exit from the program?
- What percentage of participants exit to the permanent housing of their choice?
- What percentage of participants report that they are stably housed in permanent housing 1 year after exit from the program?
- What is the average length of stay in the program?
- What is the average time needed to connect participants to permanent housing?
- What services and programs does the project provide that are specific to the needs of survivors of human trafficking?
- What, if any, supportive services are offered after the survivor has entered permanent housing and/or exited the program?
- How does the program seek to ensure rapid placement into permanent housing for families and individuals while addressing their safety concerns?
- How does the program ensure participants have autonomy and agency in decisionmaking?
- Has the project adopted a Housing First orientation, and does it have a low barrier to entry?
- How does the project implement trauma-informed practices?
- What services or programs are offered to increase participants' access to employment and benefits?

LESSONS LEARNED

- It does not have to be perfect.
- Sometimes, you have to take a few steps back to ensure all are included.
- Go slow in order to go fast.
- Be open to differing outcomes.
- Relationships with partners are vital.
- Sometimes, you just need to ask the question.

The background is a solid teal color with a white circuit board pattern. The pattern consists of thin white lines representing traces and small white circles representing components or vias, arranged in a grid-like structure with some branching paths. The pattern is visible in the corners and along the edges of the slide.

QUESTIONS?

THANK YOU, AND GOOD LUCK!