



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT  
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-5000

OFFICE OF PUBLIC AND INDIAN HOUSING

August 16, 2022

Dear Tribal Leader:

The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) is a landmark, Federal law that provides critical housing protections to survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking (“survivors”). Since 2005, the law has helped to prevent evictions and terminations from housing assisted under certain HUD programs for survivors; helped remove perpetrators from leases while allowing survivors to remain stably housed; allowed survivors to seek emergency transfers for safety reasons to other available housing units without losing their housing assistance; and required covered housing providers to maintain strict survivor confidentiality.

In March of 2022, VAWA was [reauthorized](#). The law expanded and strengthened housing safeguards for survivors. VAWA continues to be an important tool that provides housing rights for survivors so that they do not lose their housing and face homelessness because of the violence they have experienced.

In accordance with HUD’s Government-to-Government Tribal Consultation Policy, HUD seeks your feedback on how to implement VAWA-like protections. More specifically, HUD requests Tribal feedback on the following questions:

- What are the challenges/barriers to helping survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking in HUD-assisted Tribal housing?
- What policies do Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs) already have in place to assist survivors?
- Should HUD consider implementing certain policies that assist and protect survivors who reside in HUD-assisted Tribal housing? If so, what policies would they be? Please note that HUD would conduct extensive Tribal consultation before implementing any such policies.
- Are there resources HUD could provide to help Tribes and TDHEs protect survivors?

Please submit all comments to [Codetalk@hud.gov](mailto:Codetalk@hud.gov) by September 30, 2022. Your feedback is critical. Please share your thoughts. Your continued commitment to Indian Country is vital to our collective efforts to ensure that American Indian and Alaska Native families have decent, safe, and affordable housing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Heidi J. Frechette".

Heidi J. Frechette  
Deputy Assistant Secretary for  
Native American Programs