



U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

A Two-part Series on Gender-Based Violence Against Indigenous Women and Marginalized Genders

Presenters:

**Gwendolyn Packard and Caroline LaPorte,
Indigenous Women's Resource Center**

Part One of Two Webinars

Monday, July 17, 2023

Gender-Based Violence: An Overview for Tribes and TDHEs

Speaker 0 00:00:00 Welcome to today's conference. This is a two-part webinar series on gender-based violence against Indigenous women and marginalized genders. Please note that all audio connections are muted until the Q&A portion of the call, and I will give you instructions on how to ask a question at that time. Please ensure you've opened the chat panel by using the associated icon located at the bottom of your screen, and you may submit written questions in the chat panel, and please send those questions to all panelists. Please note there will also be polls in this meeting, and they'll be a separate window that pops up for you to take that poll, and I'll remind you on how to do that once we launch the polls. And if you need any kind of technical assistance, please send a chat to the event producer. With that, I'll be turning the call over to Heidi Frechette, deputy Assistant Secretary for Native American Programs. Please go ahead.

Speaker 1 00:00:57 Great. Well, Ann, and thank you Silas so much for the information and for the introduction post. So, everyone, I am Heidi Frechette. I am the Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Office of Native American Programs at HUD. I want to welcome you to the ninth installment of our national Best Practice webinar series. In these series, we share housing issues and innovations, and how to best practices in previous webinars. We've featured tribes from across Indian country and we've covered a variety of innovative programs, from the Lummi Nation's Transformational Housing that was financed with the Title Six loans to the WIN Tribes Section 180 4 single closed construction loans. Our best practice webinar series really highlight the important work being done by tribes and tribal housing practitioners to develop housing and raise awareness about housing issues that may go unaddressed or pose great challenges to tribal communities. So today we are honored to partner with the Indigenous Safe Housing Center, a program of the Indigenous Women's Resource Center to bring you the webinar today.

Speaker 1 00:02:18 And it's through partnerships such as this that we can highlight opportunities to raise awareness about these important issues and share resources that can assist with implementing your programs in your community. I know that I'm looking forward to this important presentation and I encourage you to think about questions you'd like to ask, about the presentation. We made sure to allow time for discussion to give you an opportunity to engage with and learn from the presenters experience. So, I'd ask you to please join me in welcoming our esteemed presenters for today's webinar. Ms. Gwendolyn Packard. She is a senior housing specialist at the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center. Ms. Packard has worked for many years in Indian country and really was instrumental in founding the national organization on fetal alcohol syndrome. She served as executive director for Morningstar

house and advocacy program for Native women, and she currently serves as the executive director of the New Mexico Suicide Prevention Coalition and is founder and co-chair of Rain Cloud, the Off Reservation Behavioral Health Collaborative in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Gwendolyn has made a commitment to social change, as you can see from her resume and in working to address social, environmental and economic justice issues.

Speaker 1 00:03:53 So, Wein Gwendolyn, thank you so much for joining us and of course, for your important work and dedication to issues that matter most in Indian country. I want to also, recognize joining Gwendolyn is Ms. Caroline LaPorte, director of the STTARS Indigenous Safe Housing Center at the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center. Ms. LaPorte is an attorney and serves as the associate judge for the Little River Band of our Indians, and she previously served as a senior Native Affairs policy advisor in DC for the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center, and as the attorney judicial advisor to the Seminole Tribe of Florida Tribal Court. So, Caroline has helped start the national working group on safe housing for American Indians and Alaska Natives, and is an adjunct instructor at the University of Miami teaching Native and Indigenous studies. Such an esteemed group of panelists today. We won. And thank you both for joining us. Thank you for bringing light to some incredibly important topics in our communities and we look forward to engaging with you. So, with that, I will turn it over to Gwendolyn to get us started.

Speaker 2 00:05:24 So, hello everyone and welcome to this, webinar on gender-based violence, that we're doing with HUD today. We're really excited about this day and, presenting the information, that we have regarding STTARS, the Indigenous Safe Housing Center. I think we can go to the next slide. And, STTARS is a, is a new, Indigenous Safe Housing Center. We're just coming up on our second year here in this capacity. Although throughout our work, both Caroline and I have always come together to address housing issues. And for anyone who works in the domestic violence movement or the movement to end violence against, our women, you know, it's, shelters and housing are always at the top of the list of things that people need the most. So, I'd like to begin with, doing our land acknowledgement that we created for our center that really, you know, as a good starting point for our, webinar today.

Speaker 2 00:06:35 we want to acknowledge the one son, the one moon, the one earth mother, the one people our winged thinned, and four-legged relatives. We acknowledge all our relatives, the rocks, the mountains, the sacred waters, the insect world, and the plant kingdom. We take a moment to breathe and connect with the land we are on. We take a moment to breathe and acknowledge the ancestors, those that are here and those that are yet to come. We take another breath to acknowledge that our relationship with the land is reciprocal. That this land does not belong to us, we belong to the land. And so, we were really excited about creating our own land acknowledgement that not only acknowledged our work, in this area, but also our connections to, earth Mother and addressing climate change throughout all the work that we do. We go to the next slide.

Speaker 2 00:07:39 So our mission statement, for STTARS and, and, and let me back up just a minute. STTARS stands for safety training, technical assistance, resources and support. And, we're really thrilled about our motto and our new center. And, we worked with an Indigenous artist to create our logo, which you see there at the bottom. And in that logo, we, the logo represents our past, our future, our on reservation, off reservation relatives. We have the STTARS of our ancestors. We have the moon for the time. We have green for the earth and blue for the water. So, we're very, very intentional of all the elements that we put into creating our logo and grading our center. So, our vision is safe housing for all our relatives. And our mission statement is that the Indigenous Safe Housing Center advocates for safe housing for all our relatives. We do this through centering indigeneity, acknowledging our relationship to

Earth mother, building on each other's gifts, resisting oppression and erasure, and acting upon the prayers of our ancestors to honor diversity and create belonging for us. All that. We'll go to the next slide.

Speaker 2 00:09:07 So this is the framework that we created, and we spent several days really, really hard work of, you know, developing all of this to, to, to lay that framework for, for our center. And, number one and foremost is that housing is a basic human right. And I'm just going to go through these because I know we're going to talk about them more as we get into our presentation. navigating a western systems out of necessity. And oftentimes, you know, that's the course we have to take in doing our work. We have to work with the systems that are out there, centering Indigenous lifeways throughout the housing spectrum. And as we learn and we see how we intersect through each one of those things on the housing spectrum, we also want to insert our, Indigenous lifeways, looking at housing and gender-based violence through an Indigenous lens.

Speaker 2 00:10:06 And this is very, very important in our approach, to creating safe housing for all our relatives. Housing stability and access is an ongoing crisis in Indian country, both historically and presently. And we knew that going in that, you know, we have housing inventories and across tribal lands that have been unfulfilled for many, many years. There's been a high housing crisis, in Indian country for, for decades. And, how that impacts, our, our work to end violence is, is significant, understanding and dispelling colonial constructs. And oftentimes that's looking at everything again through that Indigenous lens. We go to our next slide.

Speaker 2 00:10:53 Our work also is very focused on prevention because we know that housing is a mitigating factor in so many different elements. We certainly saw that in Covid. We, we, we see that in, in all the work that we do, that if someone has a safe place to be, that they can really grow and thrive. And in the absence of that, we know what that looks like as well. So, prevention, preventative work is work that centers, climate change Again, we like to insert climate change into all the work that we do, and we know that in the past, well for the past decade or more, our climate is rapidly changing. And we find, you know, more and more communities, especially tribal communities that are deeply impacted by climate change. In fact, what we find is that Indigenous people who've contributed, the, the least amount towards this climate change we find ourselves in are the people that are most impacted by it.

Speaker 2 00:11:59 And so we see that in our communities in Louisiana. We see that up in Alaska. We see that up in, Washington and Oregon and along the California coastline. We see that there's deep impacts by climate change, and we always want to make sure we insert that into the work that we do. public health, we know that housing is, you know, is, is a very, is a highly preventative factor in, in health and healthy outcomes for our people. we also, see that in working with our two-spirit LGBTQAI population that we work with, we see that working with people who have mental health or substance, use issues, we see that working with, incarcerated and are formally incarcerated, Indigenous, relatives. We also find that when we work with our youth, especially, centering that on those that are aging out of the foster care system, whose next step is off of the streets.

Speaker 2 00:13:03 And so, also we want to work with our elders. We know that, given the economy and the inflation and the housing crisis and everything else that we're seeing more and more of our elders, coming into the streets, no place to live, no place to go, unable to, you know, find affordable, safe, housing for themselves. And, and also with the disability community as well. We find once again that, due to inflation and the housing crisis, issues of access are often not there for, members of our disability community. So, we can move to the next slide.

Speaker 2 00:13:47 So, housing and, shelter access issues are, are, are at the center of our work. we know that there's a, a lack of shelter options for so many, in Indigenous survivors of, domestic violence,

sexual violence, trafficking, stalking, dating violence. Oftentimes there's, there's a lack of shelters. And, we may repeat this again throughout this presentation, but in this country there's over 2000, domestic violence shelters, non-native domestic violence shelters, and yet we have fewer than 50 tribal domestic violence shelters all across this country. And, when you think about 50 shelters and 574 federally recognized tribes, I mean, you can see the disparity there. And you also, you know, know that that's why we have such high rates of violence in our community is that we, there's no services. There's no resources, there's no place for people to go for safety.

Speaker 2 00:14:54 again, I'd mentioned earlier, virtually no housing inventory in a lot of our tribal communities. And I know sometimes we kind of focus on what we don't have as opposed to what we have. But there, sure, there are communities that are very well-resourced in terms of housing and all of those things, but that's not the, that's not true across the board. We have spaces that are, unsafe and are not trauma-informed. places that people go where they're really not, getting, you know, they're mental, physical, spiritual, or emotional needs met. We find a lot of places where housing is not habitable, where people are living in substandard housing. We saw that a lot when we went to Louisiana, with the tribes there that were impacted by, a, a hurricane a couple years ago. They're, they're living in houses with, tarps for roofs, you know, years, almost two years later.

Speaker 2 00:15:53 And they still are living in non-habitable housing, but that's all that they have, spaces that are not culturally rooted. And we found that to be true in a lot of the shelters and, other places that, domestic violence survivors find themselves that oftentimes, you know, people aren't allowed to speak their language or to engage in their ceremonies or healing activities. And so, again, you know, these are some of the issues that we work with a tour, housing center. There's little or no transitional housing. There really is no place for people to go except back to their, to their home life where they experience domestic violence, housing and shelter. That's not sustainable. Oftentimes, people are getting, can get into housing, but the ability to sustain it because of economic and geographic and, you know, climate reasons, all of those things, you know, that housing is not sustainable for them. It's a very temporary place to be. And then we also have, and this really goes into the human rights framework of our organization, and that is that there's problematic mindsets around who should have access to housing and shelter. And that's something I feel that we're challenged with on a continual basis and doing the work that we do.

Speaker 2 00:17:20 And is the next slide you Caroline? Yes,

Speaker 3 00:17:24 It is. I just wanted to share really quickly, again, thank you so much for having us today, in this space with you all. It's really good to be in front of, a different group of people than we normally are. We primarily see and speak to DV and essay advocates, from our own field. So, it's, it's lovely to be here, this afternoon with all of you. And we're looking forward to next week too. on the slide that you have right here, just two resources that we wanted to share. These aren't the only two resources that we're going to be sharing with you over the next two weeks. but just to get you started, the first was a report that we did in 2020 that just kind of goes through our national work group findings, which was a space that we've convened since 2019. and then the second was a supplemental report, that was drafted by Chris Stark and Eileen Huddon out of Minnesota, regarding sex trafficking and human trafficking. So, both of these are available on our website, and we'll post them in the chat, prior to the end of the, of the webinar as well. But just wanted to make sure you had them. And I think we have our first poll. So, I will hand it back over, I believe, to Michelle, correct?

Speaker 0 00:18:37 Yes. As I launch this poll, you will see a window that pops up. Go ahead and do that. Now. The window should pop up to the right above the chat, and there's a question there on the slide. You can just go ahead and type in your answer and then hit submit.

Speaker 3 00:18:58 So the question here, is what are some of the major challenges? You have housing, domestic violence, shelter or survivors, and, I think you should be as open as possible in responding to this. I think the hope, with these poll questions is that we'll be able to utilize them, anonymously, to talk, during the second, series in this webinar series.

Speaker 0 00:19:32 Okay. You should start to see some answers appear there on the right. You've got about 10 seconds left on this. Please get your answers in.

Speaker 2 00:20:11 So e even as the poll closes, we still encourage you throughout our presentation to put any questions or comments or anything you have in the chat. And, with the help of Michelle, we will continue to monitor that and respond to that either during our presentation or after.

Speaker 0 00:20:35 Okay. The poll is now closed.

Speaker 3 00:20:41 Okay, perfect. And I'm seeing some of the, the answers come through here, so I'll just read a couple, not enough shelter or funding, funding, et cetera. I think that's going to be a common problem and I really appreciate seeing that. finances being employed, in particular when people are relying on partners, I think that's really true. a lack of transitional housing, long-term solutions. Yeah. Survivors only being able to stay in shelter for a set amount of time. Having local pd, tribal pd, communication awareness for survivors, which is a, which is something that we're going to be talking about as a best practice, next week. I think that's a really great one, how you keep victims safe. I'm just trying to read through a few of these low credit scores, history of housing, instability access. Okay. So yeah, a lot of really great answers here. Okay, I'm going to go to the next slide.

Speaker 3 00:21:32 So normally, and some of you may, already be very familiar with this information and some of you might not. and so normally we would not have, you know, we wouldn't put these slides necessarily in a presentation that we're giving just because we give them frequently to DV and essay advocates. But we wanted to set aside a little bit of time just to give some basic definitions in case anybody needed them, around what gender VI based violence actually is. So, I'll go through those. So first thing that we think is really important to point out is that gender-based violence occurs really across the broad spectrum of genders, right? so it is inclusive, but of course it does disproportionately impact women and girls. And that is true in Indian country as well. And we'll talk about that in a second.

Speaker 3 00:22:16 Gender-based violence generally, sort of from a federal, definition is focused on domestic or dating violence, sometimes referred to as intimate partner violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, and stalking. So, when you're looking at the, the list of, crimes that the federal code, for example, defines as gender-based violence, those are the four. We would also add in, missing and murdered Indigenous, women and girls persons and relatives here. again, with the caveat that the feds, themselves don't view missing as a crime. And also, with the note that people go missing for an acre, are killed, unfortunately, for a whole host of reasons, sometimes outside of gender-based violence. but for the work that we do, we talk about it from underneath that umbrella, gender-based violence is also intersectional. And I see that a lot in the chat from all of you, that you're already really thinking about these things, right? The finances, people not, like some sort of like law enforcement issues, right? People not having mental health resources to compliment, what they're needing on the DV or SA services or housing services. So, you're already really considering all those intersectional pieces. going to go to the next slide. Gwen, do you want to add anything to this slide?

Speaker 2 00:23:34 no. I, I think we can go on.

Speaker 3 00:23:36 Perfect. Okay. So, what we have on this screen is the definition of domestic violence or intimate partner violence. And of course, we would lump dating violence into this as well. but from the feds, the definition is that it is a pattern of abusive behavior in any relationship that's used by one partner to gain or maintain power and control over another intimate partner. It can include physical, sexual, emotional, economic, psychological, or technological actions or threats of actions, or other patterns, of course, as behavior that influence another person within that relationship. Can be anything that would intimidate, manipulate, humiliate, isolate, frighten, terrorize, coerce, threaten, blame, hurt, injure, or wound somebody physically. So, it's important to think about domestic violence, dating violence, intimate partner violence from a really broad, broad lens. It's an act that affects an entire community, speaks to a fracturing of foundational values that's very true for tribal communities.

Speaker 3 00:24:35 and this is also reflected in tribal pre-colonial responses to intimate partner violence. and the source there, for that is available if you'd like to have it. Of course, you can also reach out to us, and we'll give you that book. but there's, we see this in a lot of tribal codes as well when you go through domestic violence codes, because tribes can define domestic violence for themselves, is that tribes have like a robust response, right, to domestic violence. And tribes are looking at DV from a much more, I think, in my opinion, a multi-layered approach, than states or local, local governments are. I'm going to pass this back to Gwen.

Speaker 2 00:25:16 Sure. And, just a note too on, domestic violence, you know, there's so much stigma associated with it as well. I know, you know, with, law enforcement, they often say that, you know, the DV calls are the most dangerous calls, but really the, the data shows that it's traffic stops are actually the most dangerous calls for them. And so, but, but by putting that in someone's mindset about how, how dangerous domestic violence can be and why people don't like to get involved, and yet we know it's important for people to get involved. Otherwise, we're never going to end, end the violence that's happening in our communities. trafficking is something too that's in for Indi as us, for us as Indigenous people has been going on, prior to, contact, we know that our, our women and girls were, were trafficked, for sex.

Speaker 2 00:26:13 And our, members of our, of our tribes and nations were trafficked for labor, for, you know, for a number of reasons. So certainly, trafficking is something that just hasn't happened. It's something that's been impacting our people for the longest time. human trafficking, also known as trafficking in persons, is a crime that involves compelling or coercing a person to provide labor or services or to be engaged in commercial sex acts. The coercion can be subtle or overt physical or psychological exploitation of a minor for commercial sex as human trafficking, regardless of whether any form of force fraud or coercion was used. And I think the other thing, to note there too, is, you know, trafficking is, is really all around us. We have a little, video, which I'm happy to send to anybody, and it just kind of shows you a person walking through the neighborhood and not really realizing that trafficking is happening right under our noses.

Speaker 2 00:27:22 it's happening in our neighborhoods, it's happening in our communities. It's not something that just happens in big cities. and there's, there, there's a lot packed into trafficking who as to who traffickers are. There's even, trafficking in some of our, domestic violence shelters. We found there's a lot of trafficking in homeless shelters. And so, it really is rampant, and it really is, you know, everywhere. And it's something that you're not going to see unless you learn more about it. Unless you learn what those signs are, you're not going to see it. And so, it's really important to become educated on that.

Speaker 2 00:28:03 Next slide. Stalking is another one. stalking is probably, you know, it doesn't get talked about as much, but yet it almost always has fatal consequences. people that are, you know, and for us as Indigenous women, domestic violence or death by an intimate partner is the third leading cause of death for us. And oftentimes that's preceded by stalking. You know, where, and I'll just go ahead and review the term here. The term stalking means engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for his or her safety, or the safety of others, or suffer substantial emotional distress. And this one was really slow in coming, and it just took as, I think it's only been recently that all 50 states now finally have stalking legislation recognizing that stalking is a crime.

Speaker 2 00:29:01 And when you look at some of the antics of stalkers, I mean, you realize that, you know, sending someone flowers that doesn't sound like a stalker, you know, showing up where they normally buy groceries and stuff and following them around, that doesn't, you know, that it's hard oftentimes to convey those things to law enforcement, and others because it's, they just don't see it as stalking. They think that person did something nice for you, when in fact, that that act that they did really provoked fear within you. so, we can move to the, and any one of these really is kind of a, is a kind of an hour long training. And we're also happy to, to be able to provide training like these in your communities as well, if that's, a need that you have. the term sexual assault means non-consensual sexual act prescribed by federal, tribal, or state law, including when the victim lacks capacity cons to consent.

Speaker 2 00:30:05 And we know we've seen so much of this in, in recent years about, consent and, and sexual assault and how, and another thing, how really rampant that is in our society today, and how many women have, have been raped or sexually assaulted. And it's really, overwhelming that, this is, we still have this, and it's still happening at the rate that it is all across the country. the next slide, and then I think a really big one for us too. and this again, has just gotten attention as of late, but this is another one, missing and murdered Indigenous women that's been impacting our communities, since contact. And, so many families all across this country for decades have been crying out about what happened to my relative, you know, what she was, she was going into town and was never heard from again.

Speaker 2 00:31:07 And, and, you know, I, we had a, we did a, a peer to peer training on this and that, you know, and that's available on our website, for you to review some of those. But, they really brought out some important stories that, that families have, have brought, to the attention of the media, to our legislators, to our government, to our programs. You know, MMIW is a serious and urgent issue. The National Crime Information Center reports that, and this is, this data's a few years old, and I, I don't think I've seen anything, more recent, but we can, we only know that that's probably gone up. And we also know that these numbers are also somewhat under reported. And that's, you know, in 2016, there were 5,712 reports of missing American Indian and Alaska Native women and girls.

Speaker 2 00:32:04 and that, you know, once again, MMIW a manifestation of settler colonialism and also it's a heart issue. what we, what are our shared values, and it's a movement led by Native women. It's a call to action. And it's really been the families that have come forward over the years, you know, holding rallies, speaking before their legislators, speaking before their tribal councils, begging for attention to this issue to stop, you know, to, to help us find our missing relatives, what happened to them. And finally, there's funding and, and, and some resources that are coming into this. And, you know, hopefully 10 years from now, we're going to see a different picture here. We have to think about MMIW in terms of scope, in terms of where, and in terms of who. And we also have to think of it in terms of prevention, intervention, and response, which can be postvention. next slide. I think this one's you,

Speaker 3 00:33:18 It is me. Okay. So, gender-based violence in Indian country. I feel like probably many of you have seen these statistics, but we wanted to share them in case people haven't. again, just to

illustrate the sort of dire need here. also, because when we were doing our national, work group, which brought together housing advocates and DV advocates, the DV advocates often really weren't, you know, fully aware, right? Of how heavily regulated the housing spaces. They weren't fully aware of sort of all the tools that were available. There were just two very siloed spaces. but some of the, some of the housing advocates, didn't view their work primarily through a gender-based violence lens, which makes sense, because that's not primarily the work that, that you all do. but just this, hopefully this slide illustrates, you know, that you are factually working with gender-based violence survivors.

Speaker 3 00:34:09 and I think that really, at least from the first poll response that we got, it looks like you are all readily thinking about that already. which again, feels like it will lead to a really great second, conversation next week. So, I am going to go through these. So more than four and five American Indian Alaskan Native women have experienced violence in their lifetime. I will share that I myself am a survivor of sexual assault and stalking. and I don't think I have ever been in a space, where people have not disclosed, similar, past situations or current situations. So, 56.1% have experienced sexual violence. 55.5% have experienced physical violence by an intimate partner. And 96% of the women that identified themselves as sexual violence survivors have been assaulted by at least one interracial perpetrator. The reason that we keep that on these slides, even though we don't talk necessarily about, special, special criminal jurisdiction, within VAWA is, is because we're not always focusing on that right now.

Speaker 3 00:35:13 But, we think it's really important for people to know that the Oliphant v Suquamish case, which was decided in 19, I think 78 by the US Supreme Court, held that, tribes were going to be stripped of their inherent authority to prosecute non-Indians for the crimes that they commit in Indian country. So, when you see a stat like this, and you see that 96% of these women have experienced sexual violence at the hands of at least one non-native person, that case becomes, you know, incredibly all the more relevant, right? And I think it's relevant for anybody who's doing the work in their community. And you see people, right, that you don't, you don't necessarily have jurisdiction over, but who are causing issues, repeatedly. In fact, if you go to NCAA's five-year report on special domestic violence criminal jurisdiction, you will see that a lot of the contacts that law enforcement made from those first implementing tribes, centered on, on really just a few people <laugh>, they had been responsible for, for hundreds of contacts, with law enforcement.

Speaker 3 00:36:12 So, really important to know that, really important to know some of those limitations, and important, to consider possibly, you know, becoming and implementing tribe under that, under that program. so Native women have a greater need for services, but less access to those services. 41% of the, participants in the survey had physical injuries. 49% said they needed services, 38% needed medical care, and yet 38%, reported they were unable to access services at all. and again, this is from the N nij. They did a study, in I believe, 2016, called the Rose Study. So, you can look that up or we can share it, just in case you think it's helpful for any advocacy that you might be doing as well. but again, that 38% unable to access services to us is really, really important, especially when we're approaching the work from a prevention lens.

Speaker 3 00:37:07 You know, of course we know that, that some victimization can result. Of course, in future victimization, not having access to services really impacts that. So, I'm going to go to the next slide. I will always talk about firearms. even though we are talking about housing today, I still think this is going to be consistently a best practice. One to be aware of the issue, and two, two, to find out what your tribe has access to, or what your community has access to. And I'm going to speak just to Indian country for a second. But, the CDC found that black and American Indian and Alaska Native women experienced the highest rates of homicide. And you can see that study there from 2017. Of course, that data is likely

underrepresented. but what we thought was very important was that they further concluded there was a strong link between homicide and intimate partner violence, right?

Speaker 3 00:37:54 So there's your gender-based violence and your MMIW framework, and they found that 55.4% of the cases that involved American Indians and Alaska natives were at the hands of an intimate partner. And that 38% of those individuals, who were killed by an intimate partner, were killed via firearm. The main reason that we talk about this from a prevention lens is that, and it's getting a little bit into the weeds, but I still think it's important, is that within the federal code, there is something called the Lawten Brig Amendment. And what that amendment does is it will prohibit a, an individual from accessing firearms or ammo from purchasing them, if they've got a qualifying, protection order, or a qualifying conviction of DV against them. The only way, right, that a, that a tribe, is really going to see, the impact of that amendment is if they have access to the databases that you enter that information into.

Speaker 3 00:38:51 so I'm sure many of you have heard about the tribal access program through, through the Department of Justice, but I think a best practice here is to find out whether or not your tribe is a tap tribe. find out if your tribe has one of those kiosks, or some other way that they're entering in protection orders, or qualifying convictions. I think it's, I think to me, this is probably one of the lowest hanging fruit policy wise, that people need to focus on. So, again, I think just being aware of what's available, what your tribe has access to is good to know. even if you're not the person that's going to be, you know, doing the advocacy work, I think it's just a good thing to be, be aware of. Glen, you want to add anything?

Speaker 2 00:39:35 No, we're good to

Speaker 3 00:39:36 Go. Okay. Okay. Okay. We have our next poll question. I really like these poll questions. So, I will turn it back over to Michelle.

Speaker 0 00:39:52 Okay. The poll is now launched. If you do not see the poll, you should have a tab that says Slido or an icon with the Slido logo. You can go ahead and click on that, type in your answer and click send.

Speaker 3 00:40:05 So the question here is, do you think gender-based violence is impacting your housing program? And you can just give a simple yes or no, or you can explain, you know, why you think it's impacting your program or how you think it's impacting your program. and you shouldn't feel, shy about your answers. None of this is going to be, it's all anonymous. and anything that we use going forward with it is just going to be for purposes of the next webinar.

Speaker 3 00:41:39 Okay. So, getting a lot of really good answers here. So, I see, yes, we have a lot of clients who have stable, who don't have stable housing or resources without their partners, and perpetrators, they get stuck in those cycles. We're going to talk about that in a minute. I think that's a very strong observation. Yes, yes, yes. Okay. Yes, because there is no housing available, women are stuck with their partners increase in drug activity in the area, conversation with several Native American women who could not live in their home as a result of violence, especially if the individual is a mother and or has addictions. This is a common problem that we see, especially as we've done some listening sessions, also really includes grandmothers. That was an another theme, which emerged from those conversations. grandmothers who were unsheltered or were housed unstably, but who had care of their grandchildren. They were really struggling within some of those, some of those spaces, victims are intimidated from applying. I'm really interested to talk more about that. not hearing about the issues at the office. I think that's common. I think domestic violence is very stigmatized. I'm just going through some of these not

applicable to current work. Okay. Yeah. Okay. I'm going to move on. Thank you all for responding. It's great to have all these responses in the polls.

Speaker 3 00:42:54 Okay. ongoing barriers to safety. I'm going to go through this, quickly, and then I'll pass it back over to Gwen. and then we will get to some of the Violence Against Women Act, practices we need to talk about today. Ongoing barriers to safety in Indian country. Many of you know, these jurisdiction, again, continues to be a heavily compounding factor. There's a whole maze and patchwork of laws that most of you are aware of. again, the Aliant decision, the Major Crimes Act, public Law two 80. There's just this weird web of things that get horribly conflated when a survivor, really is at their most vulnerable and needs things to actually be very clear. so, it can be really complicated, I think, for people, just generally sort of on an intimate level. but it's also complicated for courts to figure out.

Speaker 3 00:43:43 And I think, I think the jurisdictional question in most cases is, is challenging for us. Invisibility is a big compounding factor as well. people often just don't see Native American people. They either view us as, you know, being completely antiquated and of the past, right? Or, or gone, unfortunately. and I think too, that just, they either view us as having lower numbers in the population, and as such, our issues aren't elevated as much. again, I think with the exception, of course, with the recent interest in MMIW that's occurred over the last, you know, 10 years. But really, again, at, at the, at the push of those families that have suffered that violence, there's a lack of resources for direct services. This isn't just in housing. This, this kind of falls across the board. Part of the reason for that, and I don't know if any of your receiving VOCA dollars, but if you are, I'd be interested in, in hearing about that in the chat.

Speaker 3 00:44:41 tribes didn't have access to VOCA dollars until 2018 when Congress placed it into an omnibus or an appropriations act. And, not having access to that fund, right? Which is pulled from, from restitution fines in court, really hamstrunged, I think, services in Indian country. so the recent, you know, recent injection of that money, I think has been helpful, but I'm not sure, you know, it's going to take a lot of time, I think for that to translate, meaningfully substance abuse, as many of you mentioned in the chat, of course, continues to be a problem. Mental health issues, and not having access to mental health resources, access to justice issues. To me, this is primarily around not having access to an attorney. one of the things we hear in the listening sessions and from our work group is that people, find the legal system incredibly challenging to navigate, and they find it further challenging by the fact that they don't have a professional to represent them in those spaces. objectification and dehumanization. There is extreme poverty in many of our communities, inadequate law enforcement responses. What I mean by that is that they're non-local and underfunded. And then of course, the unavailability of housing and homelessness, which many of you, many of you, said in the chat, continues to be really a huge problem.

Speaker 3 00:46:01 Gwen, this one's you.

Speaker 2 00:46:05 So we have another poll question, and then, I'll turn this over to, Michelle.

Speaker 0 00:46:14 Okay. The poll has now launched. You can go ahead and type in your answers and send.

Speaker 2 00:46:18 So do you think survivors feel safe in your tribal housing programs? And we'll give this a minute.

Speaker 4 00:46:49 Yes.

Speaker 0 00:47:04 We've got a few seconds left. Go.

Speaker 2 00:47:07 Okay.

Speaker 0 00:47:20 Okay. The voting has stopped, and you should be able to see the answers now.

Speaker 2 00:47:24 Okay. So, some of the responses we got, which are really good, is, mostly no, we are a very small community with only one DV shelter through the local nonprofit, which is often not available. Many clients, or most clients are placed in hotels that are easy to find. We have a non-applicable, I don't think so, especially of the leadership members have been abusers in the past. Unsure, no, they are underfunded, which is promoting problematic aspects. No, no lack of law enforcement, rural areas, slow response time. yes, but not all, no, not applicable to our PHA. No, not at all. I think that safety issues are a huge problem with why most women refuse to report or leave their situations. It's true. Oftentimes, we're, we're, the silence is, is, that, survivor's experience of not wanting to talk about it, no, not completely.

Speaker 2 00:48:38 Some say it's okay, and others are left wanting unsure. Yes, no, and I am not sure. So those are really good responses, and that's really what we've seen a lot of, you know, since our humble beginnings two years ago. We've gone on a number of site visits, and we've held listening sessions with, survivors, and those with lived experience. And I think a lot of those are reflected in the answers that you all provided. And that certainly, you know, really speaks to the work that we have ahead of us. We can go to the next slide. access to services. Again, we'll hear this over and over again, not just in the work that we do, but we hear it everywhere, whether it's healthcare, behavioral healthcare, treatment. You know what, all, all of the, there's, there's just a major resource gap in Indian country.

Speaker 2 00:49:32 and there's legitimate geographic constraints in a lot of areas, or, we know we work with our Alaska Native relatives. You know, oftentimes it's a flight in a flight out, there are no, roads, no other means of transportation. And, weather can impact that severely, meaning that a person must stay in an abusive environment until things have cleared up enough, cleared up enough to get them out. We know there's law enforcement constraints. You all mentioned that in your answers. some places it takes hours, some places even days for law enforcement to respond. And by that time, you can imagine, in terms of evidence and all the other things that are just, you know, just not going to be able to be collected or to be able to, you know, be, of any value, should it, should they want to prosecute or anything.

Speaker 2 00:50:30 It's just, you know, one thing just confounds the other. there's a lot of, prejudice and racism and, we've certainly seen that a lot in the housing industry that, that we've been, places where we've been where it's very difficult to, in some areas to, as an Indigenous person, to, even get a, you know, get an application. They'll give you the application, you pay the fee, and then, you know, you never get a house. And, we even heard of one place, I think it was in, Minnesota, where, landlords were taking up to 200 housing applications for just one unit. and so, they're making a lot of money off of that. And, people are being, you know, screened out of that whole housing process. So, another thing, another major area that we're looking at, s and sar, those aren't available in a lot for a lot of tribal communities.

Speaker 2 00:51:34 That's sexual assault nurse examiners and the sexual assault response teams. And some tribal communities are hours away from a, a facility where they can go for an exam, and then there may or may not be a nurse on duty. And we, what we're seeing, kind of post covid, not that Covid o's completely over, but what we're kind of experiencing is really a lot of healthcare professionals in rural communities, that, had, had been there before, aren't there any longer. So, we have communities that are wide areas that are just lacking that type of response. 9 1 1 issues. Not every tribe has access to 9 1 1. It's a service they have to pay for. And so oftentimes, you know, that's the first thing you'll always hear from whenever you, type into a, a domestic violence program or a shelter, is call 9 1 1.

Speaker 2 00:52:30 Well, that's not always an option for everyone. and not just because of the lack of 9 1 1, but a lot of people, you know, if they may have warrants or something there, there may be some reasons why they don't want to reach out to law enforcement. maybe they haven't had good experiences with law enforcement. Maybe they haven't had good experiences in the past, may, maybe he's the sole provider for their family. And, it, it wouldn't be good for him to have to be, to go to jail or anything. So, there's a lot of reasons around 9 1 1, lack of peer to peer or culturally, rooted services. And as we've said over and over again, the number of tribal, domestic violence shelters, fewer than 50 in the whole country. And then when we look at the number of tribes that have, domestic violence programs, it's probably, there's probably about 300.

Speaker 2 00:53:25 And that's probably a, a high estimate. We kind of look at two 50 to 300. So not every tribe has a domestic violence program. And so, you know, our hope, again, we're, we're funded by the Office of Violence Prevention Services and, FIPs, a funding's available to every, federally recognized tribe in the country. So, we are always encouraging tribes to apply for that funding and, and to start or open a domestic violence program in your community because it's sorely needed. next slide, please. In this one, we go to another question, and I believe that is your question. Nope, my question. My question. Okay. <laugh>. So, Michelle, if you want to set that up for us.

Speaker 0 00:54:15 Sure. The poll is open. You can go ahead and, and input your answers and click send.

Speaker 2 00:54:20 Okay. So how does your community respond to gender-based violence? And we'll give you a minute for that.

Speaker 0 00:55:24 Okay. We have, about 10 more seconds.

Speaker 2 00:55:26 Okay.

Speaker 0 00:55:43 A few more people typing, so just wait a few more seconds.

Speaker 2 00:55:47 Okay. Thank you.

Speaker 0 00:55:58 All right. The answer should be

Speaker 2 00:56:01 Okay. Great. okay. So this, community has a 24 hour support line, a family violence center, a family justice center, a shelter and housing program. So that, that's incredible. <laugh>. That's great. That's what we like to see, providing our clients and community with resources that can be specialized to their needs. When a client is facing these barriers, we provide specialized resources to help them overcome the barriers. The tribes we work with have tribal security, advocates or programs in security. That's great. Excellent. It's so common among some people here that people just roll their eyes to it. Most women stay with their men or don't report. That's true a lot. That's always been the question is why don't women leave? And oftentimes it's because there's nowhere to go. not, well, not enough experienced staff available, if outsourced, they are not local.

Speaker 2 00:57:01 They're 200 miles away. And that's the usual story for so many of our communities. Those resources are hours away by road. And if you don't have, viable transportation, that's huge. I'm in an urban area with many resources, we are still lacking because the need outweighs the availability. And that's so true. That's what we've seen in a lot of the off reservation communities that we've been in as well. domestic violence advocates. That's great. I, I, my hope, my prayer is that every community at some point will have a domestic violence program. <laugh>, the violence, the violence cases are not followed through with the courts. It is a norm just to let it happen and not get charged.

Carolyn might have some insight into that. my community turns a blind eye. Mostly we have some resources, but in general, most people pretend not to notice.

Speaker 2 00:57:57 I think most people would have no idea where to return. Their first thought would be the police. My community has multiple DV is a agencies, and we have prevention teams that educate the community on signs of gender-based violence. Pretty well, I think, unable to answer, I don't know, not well victim is made. We are lucky to have shelters that provide resource shelter assistance and possible transitional housing, police reports and social services. So, we have a lot, we have kind of had the spectrum of responses, that we've been talking about throughout our presentation as to what's available in so many of our communities. With that, we'll move to the next slide.

Speaker 2 00:58:43 and this slide is regarding the basic housing needs. And, you know, the, the need for safe and affordable housing is one of the most pressing concerns of American Indian and Alaska Native survivors of violence and abuse. and it's the leading cause of homelessness for women and children. So, so many times, as, as you'll hear us say over and over again, is that women stay in abusive relationships because there really isn't a place for them to go. A lot of times they may go to relatives, but, you know, that's oftentimes that's an overcrowded situation, not good for the kids. For myself, I'm a survivor. I'm a pre vow survivor of de domestic violence. And, when I had tried to leave and, and went to a shelter, I, I just felt there was no way I could put my children through that.

Speaker 2 00:59:36 so I returned back. And so, so many women go back because it's, it's, it's, it's what they're, what's what they know. oftentimes the violence may not have impacted the kids up to that point. The, the children are safe. The kids know the violence is going on, of course, because they can, they can pick that energy up in the air. But oftentimes that's, that's the only place other than that, or it's the streets. Housing is a basic human right. Yet American Indian, Alaska Native, survivors of gender-based violence frequently report access or assault sustainability issues leading to layers of vulnerability and increased risk of new or continued victimization. So again, you know, unless we're able to get, find safe, supportive, available, affordable, accessible housing for survivors of domestic violence, you know, we're, we're just right back in that cycle again. So, it's, and it's very difficult to break out of that. If there are no resources available, we'll go to the next slide.

Speaker 2 01:00:45 The other thing that we, we see in Indian countries, so when, so often is, the rates of poverty are, are, you know, they, they've been that way high percentage points for, for decades. And even at the highest, rates of unemployment in, in mainstream America, those rates in Indian country were 3, 4, 5, 6, 10 times that amount in some areas. And so, you know, the ability to, to sustain housing, to get housing, to sustain housing and all those other things become very, very difficult. We have, poverty rates of 22% in metropolitan areas, 28 in surrounding communities, and 32 in tribal communities. And again, in some tribal communities, that's even higher. The study I think that this is referencing is, we didn't put it on this slide, but, Caroline, what was the name of that study?

Speaker 3 01:01:43 Yeah, it's actually ONAP study from 2016. they did an ex and an executive summary regarding the, housing needs for American Indians and Alaska natives in Indian country.

Speaker 2 01:01:53 Okay, great. Thank you. So that study focused on problems and needs in Indian country. And again, it was systems deficiencies, plumbing, heating, kitchen and electrical, problems such as structural deficiencies. sometimes, you know, there's, just, plastic over windows, or there's a tarp over the roof, or there's a, a sheet over the doorways and, you know, just very, a lot of, structural issues that are happening. and of course, you know, in, in climate change and in places where the winters have become more extreme, you know, the, these are serious, serious, serious problems. overcrowding I think is another thing that we've always, heard a lot about, especially in Indian country. it, it's, you know, people want to

take their relatives in, they want, you know, they don't want them to be homeless. They're like, yeah, come live.

Speaker 2 01:02:48 We've got a, we've got a sofa. We can, there's a floor. You know, there's a place for you to stay. So oftentimes, you know, we see multi-generational homes, or we see a lot of overcrowding with people not wanting their relatives to be without, without housing or a place to sleep. I remember early on when we talked about, homelessness in Indian country, which was always the response we'd hear back is, oh, we don't have that here. We take care of each other. But that, that situation was kind of bursting at the seams. And so now when we ask that same question in, in every tribal community we've been to, the answer's always been yes. And in fact, we've seen probably more homeless shelters popping up in tribal communities than we have domestic violence, shelters. So just, you know, some of the trends that we've been seeing, regarding housing in Indian country. Going to go to the next slide. And we have one more, poll question. And so, Michelle, if you want to set that up. And this question is what housing options are available in your community? Check all that apply. And so, okay.

Speaker 0 01:04:07 The poll is open, and you can check as many answers as you would like.

Speaker 3 01:04:32 And this list isn't meant to be exhaustive. It's mostly what we have heard is available from, survivors that we have spoken with during our listening sessions. and c o c of course can, stands for Continuum of Care.

Speaker 0 01:05:19 I have a few more, seconds.

Speaker 2 01:05:22 Okay.

Speaker 0 01:05:29 And don't forget to press on send when you click your answers. All right. The poll is now closed, and the answers should be displayed.

Speaker 2 01:05:57 Yeah. Thank you, Michelle for that. And as you look through there, you see that again, there's more homeless shelters than there are tribal, domestic violence shelters and hotel vouchers have become, I think during Covid, we, we started seeing a lot, a lot more of the, hotel vouchers, which aren't, aren't always the best place for survivors. We also see tiny homes, tiny homes, again, aren't always the best place for survivors because they have to use shared, you know, toilets and showers and kitchen space oftentimes. there's also, and, and just in homeless shelters in general. I, as I'd mentioned earlier, ran a domestic violence program in Albuquerque for a number of years. And, you know, there were, again, more homeless shelters than there were, domestic violence shelters. And the homeless shelters were very, very difficult for survivors of domestic violence because they had to check out early in the morning and couldn't come back till at night.

Speaker 2 01:07:10 And especially a survivor with children, very, very difficult. And, they're not often not safe places either. We had a lot of women who experienced, sexual assault, and, they also got things like bedbugs and, lice and, you know, there were just, there was just a number of things there just weren't safe. And, you know, for a really safe place for survivors of domestic violence, they're not really safe for anybody. But, I think for domestic violence, survivors, they're a very difficult place to be. Thank you for all your input into that, full question. And with that, we'll move, to the next one. Give, I think there's some more comments. Did you want to review those Caroline before we move forward? I can't see them for what they <laugh>.

Speaker 3 01:08:01 Yeah, there are some comments in the chat. I can, I am happy to go through them. So, from Inno, from, let's start with Tamara. So, she says, those are in our communities, but they're always full and rarely available without an extensive wait list. Ola says that we have a survivor housing grant, so

we assist survivors with housing costs, et cetera. That's great. and then I also had a question about this. I think the section 180 4 loans, from Elizabeth, but that was private, so we'll address that later. And then Ola also says that there's a shelter in town off reservation. Clients are not comfortable there due to the treatment of Indians that have stayed there. And I think that we would fully validate that comment. Yola, we have heard that repeatedly, really through the, through the lifeline of our work for the last, last decade or so.

Speaker 2 01:08:51 Oh, great. Thank you, Caroline. So, I'll move on to this next slide, which is, gender-based violence and housing, instability. And, again, stressing over and over again, the need for safe and affordable housing is, you know, one of the top concerns for survivors of domestic violence and sexual violence. And, and, you know, it, it, it's a leading cause of homelessness for women and children. And oftentimes, and, and our, our program in Albuquerque worked with a number of women who were homeless. They were homeless as a result of domestic violence. And, you know, the, the University of New Mexico did a, a study some years back that, showed that, Indian women only stayed in the non-native shelters, an average of 3.5 nights. And so, you know, a lot of women that we worked with were, were sleeping in their cars or doubled up with relatives as long as they could, just because the shelter was not, you know, culturally, culturally appropriate place for them to go.

Speaker 2 01:10:02 and, and so, you know, again, and then being out on the streets, it really increases that vulnerability of our survivors, and especially if there's children as well. So, 50%, and I think this, that 50% is really, really low. I, I, I would imagine that the, that the percentage is probably closer to, 90 actually of homeless population identified domestic violence as a primary cause. And, 22 to 57% of homeless women report that domestic violence was the immediate cause of their homelessness. So, it's a, you can see it's, it, it's a, a high percentage for, for everyone, not just women, but for everyone. domestic violence is a huge contributing factor to all of that. 92% of homeless women have experienced severe physical or sexual abuse at some point in their lives. And we've seen a lot of surveys that have, that have, you know, resulted in, coming to this, data point, is that, you know, just surveys that have done of, you know, what, what led them to the streets.

Speaker 2 01:11:19 And it's always, you know, it's that same story, you know, what, why they're there. And the streets are often very, very difficult place for people to come out of. I think over the, I think in the past decade, I would say there has really been an explosion of more people entering the streets and becoming homeless. And a very high percentage of them are victims of domestic violence. then, some of the data here, 63% of homeless women have been victims of domestic violence. And 38% of domestic violence victims will become homeless at some point, whether that's for a few days, a few weeks, a few months. but at some point, you know, domestic violence victims run a high risk of becoming homeless. And this one here, I think is really, important that, sexual assault is both a, a precursor to and a consequence of homelessness.

Speaker 2 01:12:21 So oftentimes, you know, it's, it's sexual assault that really, a sexual assault that's happened that results in them losing their home. And then once they're on the street, you know, the risk of being sexually assaulted again is extremely high. So, it's really, it, it, it's really a bad, dynamic, that we're seeing, play out among our, homeless and unhoused populations. And I think the other really important point I want to make too, is the intersection between child welfare and housing. When you look at the state data on child removal, often the number one or number two reason for removing children is, unsafe housing, inadequate housing. And so, you know, the, that, that's huge. I mean, losing a child is, is one of the worst things that could ever happen to anybody. And so, and housing certainly plays a huge role in all of that. So, again, more reasons why we do the work we do. next slide, please.

Speaker 2 01:13:31 So, again, you <laugh>, as you've heard over and over again, the shelter in Indian country. It's just not there. And we know that there's a lot of reasons for that. It's very difficult to get construction funds. It's very difficult to get renovation funds. the two major sources of funding for, domestic violence programs and shelters are through the Office on Violence Against Women. And also the, O FIPs, the Office of Family Violence Prevention Services, formerly FIPs a, and none of, and neither of those programs, will allow you to, construct or, you know, purchase a facility or, do any renovations on an on, on an existing facility. So oftentimes it's very difficult to get those resources to open a shelter. And, and, and given the fact that there's very few, empty houses or, or, you know, facilities in tribal communities that could be, you know, renovated or used that way, you know, just further compounds all of that.

Speaker 2 01:14:44 again, there, and I think I said 574 earlier, 576 federally recognized tribes, and fewer than 50 tribal domestic violence shelters. So, we really encourage, tribal domestic violence advocates and programs to work closely with their tribal housing authorities and their tribal housing entities to, you know, can, is there any way we can get a transitional, unit out of all of this? You know, these are our needs. Is there any way we can get a shelter? You know, those kinds of things. Working closely with your, tribal housing entities, I think is, it is something that we, we haven't seen on a large scale, but something that we'd really like to promote. I mean, go to the next slide. And then we have the resulting harm, for, domestic violence or sexual assault survivors. If they don't have access to shelter or housing, you know, oftentimes there's, there, there's just nowhere to go.

Speaker 2 01:15:48 Oftentimes, they have to leave their, their homeland, their, their tribal community to go to an off reservation, shelter or safe place, because it's not safe where they're at. we know that, that, that is so, you know, I guess impactful for, for not only leaving your home, your, your family, your relatives, your community, but oftentimes leaving your, the ceremonies in your community, the things that are going on there, who you are is your community. And so oftentimes having to leave, that's very detrimental, very difficult for survivors. And oftentimes, they're going into shelters that may only have a 15 day stay, they may only have a 30 day stay there. It used to be 90 days. but those, a lot of those places have really reduced the number of shelter nights that are available. And so, when you think about that period of time, and what could happen in there is, is that enough time for a person to, to get well?

Speaker 2 01:16:58 Is that enough time for a person to, to, make major life decisions, getting a job, finding a house, all of, no, it's not. And so, but that's the reality, that so many survivors find themselves in, again, non-native shelters or shelters that cannot address the needs of, of, Indigenous survivors. They lack the cultural relevance. They're not allowed to speak their language. They're not allowed to, to, smudge or, you know, there are a lot of things, like a lot of rules and regulations oftentimes come in non-native shelters. And so ultimately what happens, they return back to that, a home life where they experience domestic violence. And oftentimes what we know about domestic violence is that it accelerates and increases over time. And so oftentimes that accelerates all of that, too. And, and the other thing is just, just leaving an abusive relationship is one of the most dangerous times in a woman's life.

Speaker 2 01:18:04 And I am speaking gender specific there. But, oftentimes that's the most dangerous period. So, you know, just taking all of this into consideration as we, as we, create safe housing options in our communities. next slide, please. And then the housing, spectrum generally, and we just, we just threw out a few of them here, and we do, we just recently did a housing track at our Women Are Sacred Conference, and we did a, kind of a 1 0 1 for, tribal domestic violence advocates on, ac understanding the housing spectrum and those points of entry into all of that. So, we've just listed out a few of them here, like emergency shelter, dvr, homeless, transitional housing, permanent supportive

housing, public housing or tribal housing, affordable rentals, home ownership and housing, just housing. That's habitable.

Speaker 2 01:19:06 A lot of times we hear from, tribal communities that they've got all these abandoned homes. What can we do with them? You know, how, how can we get some money to, to fix those up? We've got homeless people here, sometimes, in our housing, units and that are in our tribal communities. There's really enough for everyone. But sometimes we have barriers that prohibit people from accessing that housing. sometimes they need a, they, they might have felonies on their record. They might have issues with, substance abuse or mental health. they might have pets. They might have, you know, their grandmother or, or auntie that they need to take care of those kinds of things. And so, a lot of times the criteria for getting into housing is really, you know, a, a gatekeeper for who gets in and who doesn't. And again, another area that we find our work in. next slide. Caroline, did you want to add anything? I've been talking for a while here.

Speaker 3 01:20:08 Nope, you're perfect.

Speaker 2 01:20:10 Okay. <laugh>.

Speaker 2 01:20:12 So, what's been left out, you know, again, this is, this is where people find themselves living, staying at, in an abusive environment. The streets, oftentimes that's, that's, you know, really, the last, the last thing a person wants to do is to go on the streets because they're not safe either. doubling up, intergenerational. And, you know, I, I've seen, we were in, San Francisco not too long ago, and they had a, they were talking about the housing crisis there, and I know that's not tribal or anything like that, but it was kind of interesting that people were paying \$600 a month to rent someone's sofa, and all they could bring with them was like this, clothing hamper with their stuff in there. That's all they were allowed to bring. And people were doing it. And even in places like Albuquerque, where, we're seeing like nine, nine single people living in a studio because that's all they could afford, youth shelters, I think is a, is another area.

Speaker 2 01:21:24 inpatient treatment and sober living. There aren't that many, inpatient treatment, facilities available, around tribal communities and so forth. Same with, foster homes or group homes. Sometimes those are far and few between, prison and incarceration institution, mental health facilities, mental health facilities are, are almost, you know, it's very difficult to get in those, it really takes a lot of court action and so forth. So that's not a viable option for, for people. accessible housing, p for people with disabilities, that's very difficult to access. And then nursing homes, respite care, assisted living, long-term care facilities, again, finances really play a huge role in all of that. Along with, other thing I think we want to add on there too, are, for veterans, some of the facilities that are available to veterans, I think there was something in, in the chat, Caroline, if you want to bring that up there,

Speaker 3 01:22:39 There is a really great, great question in the chat, which is, what steps are being taken to counsel Indigenous men and non-Native American spouses or partners? Oftentimes they grow up in environments where they were exposed to this type of violence on a daily basis. and I assume that the, the remainder of the point that's being made is that, what sorts of intervention programs are there, and what's being done, maybe even from an early intervention angle. because you know, this starts, it also starts really early, some of these patterns.

Speaker 2 01:23:12 Yeah, absolutely. We've seen, you know, just a handful really, of programs across the country that have popped up that work with men. And I know one of them, one of the men that, is really an early organizer and founder in this whole movement to end violence against women, talks about men that he, he, he says that 95% of men can change, and it's really just a small percentage that can't. And

that that small percentage is, you know, like the, the pedophiles or, serial rapists or serial killers, you know, that that category that's like the smallest category. And there, they're never going to change. But for the, the, the vast majority of men, they can change. But there are so few programs out there, and there's, again, just like, looking for funding and resources for a shelter, it's very difficult to find those funding and resources to, to run men's programs.

Speaker 2 01:24:10 But there are some tribes that have done that. There's like, Aqua up in Aqua Sny. The Mohawk tribe is, has, they, they've got a, a, a young, a young men's program. They got a men's program. They got a, adolescent males and young males. So, they've got, they've addressed it, you know, across the age spectrum for men, to become healthy in their community. there are other programs that have grown up that are like experiential programs for men where they've taken men out on, kind of like out into the wilderness. And it was either that, or they were, they were, it was either jail or go on this program. And there they found that all of all the men that they took out that their rate of recidivism was low. So those cultural programs really work well. there's a, a program, I think at White Buffalo Calf, it's called a Male survivor program. And that, again, another program that works with health building healthy men in our communities. There, there, there's, those are the things that are out there that are making a difference, but there just aren't enough of them.

Speaker 2 01:25:21 I think I have one more slide. No, that's you.

Speaker 3 01:25:26 No, it's back to me. Okay.

Speaker 2 01:25:27 Yay. <laugh>.

Speaker 3 01:25:29 I thought that was a really great question that was posted, or sent.

Speaker 2 01:25:32 No, for sure. We're only working with half the equation, or after the problem here or after the equation, whatever, <laugh>.

Speaker 3 01:25:40 Well, I'm just thinking about men who experience violence as well. I think that's, it's a, it's an important, it's important to broaden that combo. So, I appreciate that, that question. Yeah.

Speaker 2 01:25:48 Yeah, for sure.

Speaker 3 01:25:49 So, I want to talk about the Violence Against Women Act. We're going to be talking more about this in our next, our next time with you all as well next week. And we'll remind you of that date. but some of this I need to temper, with a point, which is that, which I, I'm going to get to in a second. I don't want to get ahead of myself. So, the Violence Against Women Act was enacted in 1994. It was a bill that was passed with broad, broad, broad bipartisan support, which makes sense because everybody should care, right? About domestic violence and sexual assault. And it really should not be a party line issue, of course. It's been reauthorized numerous times. and the safety for Indian Women title, was added in 2005. and really every time that it's been reauthorized, this title or this section of the Violence Against Women Act has been strengthened.

Speaker 3 01:26:46 and it has been strengthened due to survivors, advocates, family members, people working at intersectional issues, tribal leaders, et cetera, really stepping up, and having those important conversations with, policymakers. one thing we like to point out, cause it's very similar to NAHASDA, which most of your very similar with, is that it does, in its findings, really codify and recognize the importance of tribal sovereignty and addressing violence. and so that's a lot of how we approach our work is from a sovereignty framework. and just sort of generally, we'll talk about that on the next slide. in 2013, we had a, within the Violence Against Women Act, we had what was called a partial Aliant fix. So that

was that case where, tribes were stripped their inherent authority to prosecute non-Indians for crimes committed on the reservation.

Speaker 3 01:27:37 Right? And for many of you who know this or who follow this, are aware that that fix was very limited. It was a huge win. and that's not to undermine any of that, because that was, honestly, historic. but implementing tribes could now prosecute non-natives for certain offenses that were committed on tribal lands. It was limited to dating violence, domestic violence, and then criminal violations of a protection order. tribes had to be implementing tribes in order to do this. and part of it, part of the negotiation around this was that tribes had to ensure that defendants due process rights would be protected. to me it's a little bit of a, like a dog whistle. I don't know why anybody would assume, right? That tribes, that that tribes would not protect, defendants due process rights. In fact, I think that we tend, or at least try to be very careful about that, especially with how quickly things make it into federal court, coming out of tribal court.

Speaker 3 01:28:36 so they had to do things like make sure that a court reporter was available, make sure that, indigent defendants had access to public defenders, had to be able to get a jury of your peers, right, which is complicated if you're prosecuting a non-Indian and Indian country. I know that was one of the worries early on, was that, that if you sent out a, a jury pool, you know, questionnaire summons, that that non-natives right, would not have taken it seriously and would not have come, in for jury, jury selection. That actually turned out not to be the case. it turned out to be a non-issue in 2013. It didn't address sexual violence. so, no sexual assault there, which again, that was kind of the big problem, right? The 96% percent of, Native women having reported that they were sexually assaulted by at least one non-native perpetrator, of the 56% of them that had been sexually assaulted.

Speaker 3 01:29:32 so sexual assault being a big issue, child abuse, oftentimes, as Gwen talked about within the housing, sort of intersection slide that she was going over, crimes are co-tenant. They do not occur in a vacuum. family violence, more broadly, which includes children and elders, obviously. you know, it, it occurs within domestic violence and intimate partner violence, and then crimes committed while interacting with the system. So, like, things like assaulting, an arresting officer, crimes that, like even substance abuse related crimes, that, law enforcement would often uncover when responding to these incidents. Those things did not fall within the 2013, revisions to the Violence Against Women Act. And, there's a, again, I'm going to mention that N C I report, again, I think it's a really great report for people to review, so you can just sort of see how the implementing tribes did it in case you're interested in doing this, and you, you haven't already as a tribe.

Speaker 3 01:30:35 just knowing, I think that it's been successful, knowing that there haven't been any habeas petitions that have come out of that, right? That non non-Indian defendants at least appear to feel that they're being treated, fairly by tribal courts again. and, and really what this has done is it's, it's banished, right? This sense of, impunity that people had, that they could do anything and get away with it in Indian country. so, it's really important. And in 2022, there was an expanded oliphant fix. So, the Violence Against Swim Act was reauthorized. it included sexual to include sexual assault to include the child abuse piece, to include some of the co attendant crimes. I think one of the things that got left out was elder abuse, but it also had additional housing provisions. And so that's what we're going to talk about for the next few minutes before we close out. And then of course, we'll continue to talk about this next week. but that's just an overview, sort of, of what the Violence Against Women Act has done in the last, you know, basically 30 years.

Speaker 3 01:31:37 NAHASDA, you all are much more the experts on NAHASDA than I am, obviously the Native, American Housing Assistance, self-Determination Act, again, congressional

findings, the recognize federal government's unique relationship to tribes, talking about that trust, responsibility, the rights of tribal self-governance and self-determination being very much embedded, not only in the text, but also in the name. and of course, you all know, it creates a single block program, block grant program. What we care about within NAHASDA is that there is negotiated rulemaking provisions, in the ACT itself, right? So, you have to have really, a form of consultation has to occur, in order for things to apply to tribal housing authorities, tribal housing entities, tribal, you know, et cetera. and where it got a little sticky for us was when, the Violence Against Women Act was being reauthorized. post 2013, so really in like 2018 and 2021 leading up to 2022, there was a discussion about tribes being required to comply, with the housing provisions in the Violence Against Women Act.

Speaker 3 01:32:43 And of course, that did not occur because negotiated rulemaking had not yet occurred on that. It still has not occurred. and we still think that's very important. Again, we operate from a sovereignty framework, and we certainly think that what we're going to talk about in a second is great from a best, best practice angle. And tribes are, free as tribal governments, right, to create laws that promote survivor safety, that either mimic entirely the Violence Against Women Act provisions, or that modify and suit them to their needs. And we think that's important. But what we really think is important is that tribes do it themselves, and that they're not told to do it, via federal agencies without that consultation, which again, hasn't happened. and really, I think one last thing I want to talk about before I move on to what's, what's covered is that this is only going to impact you.

Speaker 3 01:33:36 So, like, if you are, if you are a tribe, or a Tribal Housing authority that only receives the funds under najada, you don't have any other public housing funds, that you're utilizing, technically you don't have to comply with the Violence and Women Act. Again, we don't think that's the best practice. we don't think that it's something, you know, tribes should look at and ignore. some of these provisions are, are honestly lifesaving, and I'll talk about those in a second. and, but, but it's still just important to know that if you're, if you're only receiving those funds, you technically, you know, you're not going to be out of compliance. You might be in the future once consultation occurs, and once HUD promulgates some of those rules, but as of right now, that's not going to be an issue. So, I'm going to move forward. So, these were the core protections from 2005 around housing survivors could not be denied assistance as an applicant, and they could not be evicted or have their assistance terminated due to having been a victim of domestic violence.

Speaker 3 01:34:36 These, to me, are a little low barish. I don't know, you know, for me, I think the idea that somebody would be discriminated against due to their status as, as somebody that has experienced a trauma like this is, is hard, I think, to imagine. but it is here. and these things cannot happen. 2013 expanded these provisions. This one I want to really get into. So, emergency transfers, we had somebody mention that in the chat earlier. So, this is going to allow survivors to move to another safe and available unit if they fear for their life and safety. And if you go to, HUD's website, you can actually find their model emergency transfer plan, which I'm pretty sure most everyone has had access to. There's also protections against adverse effects of abuse within the 2013 revision. So, this is an intersectional piece that was actually codified. So, it contemplates the economic and criminal consequences a survivor can experience. And then there's this low barrier certification process. So, if you were to ask me today, what's one thing I thought all tribes could do regardless, of the number of units they had or what was available resource-wise, I think this to me, is something everybody could implement today. You don't need to wait, right? For it to be mandatory. and I think tribes could very easily adopt this via resolution process.

Speaker 3 01:35:57 Somebody had mentioned in the chat about survivors needing to report to law enforcement, about, you know, before they're able to access some of these resources. This is oftentimes

the case also with victims' advocates who are housed with law enforcement. That's a barrier for a lot of people. They're not going to, they're not going to go through the, the process of filing a police report in many instances. and there's numerous reasons why they might choose to not do that. Sometimes law enforcement is involved in the abuse. That's a common, statistical thing that occurs. somebody had mentioned tribal leadership not always being, supportive. And again, it's not across the board and I don't want to make it seem like it is. and I think some of these sort of like power dynamics around law enforcement, certainly impact survivors wanting to reach out.

Speaker 3 01:36:45 They might have, a worry that they're going to, have a child welfare case that pops up. If they call law enforcement in one of these situations, maybe they're worried that they'll lose their housing if they contact them. and so, I think all those things play into those decisions, which is why I really think this is a good option within the Violence and Women Act. In most instances, a survivor now only needs to self-certify in order to exercise their rights as a survivor of gender-based violence under the Violence Consentment Act. So, you know, previously I think that the practice was right, that you had to have a law enforcement report police report in order to be able to exercise. That is no longer the case to me. I think this is, I think this is the easiest thing for tribes to adopt. You know, if you were going to say, what's one thing I could do tomorrow?

Speaker 3 01:37:30 this would be the one thing. I would say some of the reason that we have struggled, I guess, with, like, even talking from a policy angle about the emergency transfers, that tribes don't always have the available units. They don't have the number of units required to do emergency transfers, and you have exceptionally long wait lists, which people have noted, as well in the chat. And I know I'm a little bit short on time, so I want to make sure I get through these before we get to questions. And we can just circle, circle back on these afterwards. I've already talked about this, but the Violence Against Women Act 2013 protects individuals on tribal land, but it does not list HUD Indian housing programs, in the list of HUD covered programs. So, for example, as we talked about those, that operate with only NAHASDA block grants, where it does apply, sometimes ca codes are outdated, and we'll talk about that, in two weeks or not, I'm sorry, not two weeks next week.

Speaker 3 01:38:28 or sometimes they might contradict VAWA. That's a vulnerability for Native survivors and their families. Again, we certainly don't want to give the impression that you should not look, towards finding ways to implement some of the violence against Women Acts provisions around housing into your tribal housing codes or into some of your policies and procedures. We would recommend taking a look at these things and seeing what you could do. Now, this is just the list of entities that are covered, as HUD had co as covered entities under the Violence Against Women Act. So, if you receive any of these funds, to run any of your programs, you are going to, to need to be in compliance actually, with the Violence Against Women Act. I'm not going to go through these, but, they are here for you all. And I'm only, I'm just trying to be mindful of time. I'll turn this over to Gwen really fast.

Speaker 2 01:39:23 Okay. So mainly, the, the, you know, the cornerstones to, to our movement are really safety and confidentiality. And, so I I'm just going to bring up confidentiality as being critical to housing survivors of, gender-based violence, where wherever that housing may be, whatever that housing may be, confidentiality is so important because it really means protecting, the protection for that, family and the, and the children and whoever, whoever is, the survivor is, is that there's protection for them because we know that, you know, it's, it's, and it's difficult to maintain confidentiality in, small communities. Everybody knows everybody. Everybody knows whose car and who's going where and who's parked where. And so sometimes it's very difficult. But I think tribes have done a really outstanding job in terms of ensuring the confidential, confidentiality of victim survivors and Caroline, I'm just going to shoot it back to you for the, for the VAWA, confidentiality thing, and then we can move on.

Speaker 3 01:40:37 Yeah. Perfect. So, I think we're, we just have this here for you all to review. but basically, you need to make sure that you're keeping any information regarding what a survivor has shared with you about their status as a survivor of DV dating, violence, sexual assault, or stalking. Anything they provide under the housing protections, including the fact that they're a survivor, must be kept confidential by the covered housing, entity. Again, this is probably another one of those things that even if you're not required compliance-wise to implement, I think you could very easily do quickly, and it would make a big difference within your programs for the survivors that you are undoubtedly housing. even if you don't view your work primarily from that lens, which again, is okay, you've got to keep information out of a shared database, right? So, making sure that that's not a place that's accessible for others.

Speaker 3 01:41:26 You're not able to disclose that information from others. Having a, consent form in writing for people if there is such a disclosure, would be a best practice. really, I mean, just, I think just making sure that, you know, that really anything relating to a survivor status as a survivor has got to be kept, within some sort of closed server or encrypted, filing method. It is a serious violation of law to disclose that information and survivors are able to file a complaint with HUD, and HUD does have a very easily, accessible place, to do that.

Speaker 3 01:42:08 I think we're going to skip this poll question. We'll come back to it next time cause I want to make sure I can get to the other provisions here. These are the updates from 2022, for, for housing within the Violence and Women Act. So, Section 6 0 1 is very general, 6 0 2 is around compliance and implementation. HUD just had, a VAWA consultation on this, with service providers in the DV and SA field. section 6 0 3 talks about protecting the right to report crime from your own home. 6 0 4 is just a bump in transitional housing funds. I just wanted you to have it in case you wanted to reference it. 6 0 5 is addressing housing needs for victims. and 6 0 6 is a study on human trafficking at the intersection of, being unsheltered and unhoused.

Speaker 3 01:42:58 These are sort of the main overview, like this is the, these are the main points from the 2022, update that we wanted you all to have. So, there's compliance reviews that are going to improve overall implementation and compliance. So, if you are getting grant funds outside of that block grant, these will come into play for you. There's going to be funding for training and technical assistance, specifically focused on violence in our communities. There's an amendment to the Hearth Act talk about in a second, a right to report, again, transitional housing program, this study. Then there's time limits on when HUD and other federal agencies promulgate the VAWA regulations. So, it's two years, which I, so I believe we're less than a year out now on that. And then very importantly, codifying the VAWA Housing Director position. I think this is something people from our field, from the DVSA field are going to be keeping a closer eye on. This was a, this was a, definitely a positive within the, in the revisions themselves.

Speaker 3 01:43:58 Section 6 0 2. I'm not going to go through this today. I just want you to have it. We can cover it next time. I want to make sure I can get to this provision really quick. So, 6 0 5 is one of the things we want people to be aware of. homeless now means under the McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Act that relates to this, type of individual. It can be any individual or family who's experiencing trauma or a lack of safety related to or fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous traumatic or life-threatening conditions related to the violence against the individual, or even a family member in the individual's, or a family's current housing situation. This does include the health and safety of children. some of that limiting language we're keeping an eye on is that they can have no other safe residence and lack resources to obtain other safe, permanent housing. And when we talk about the, those, that time period in which HUD and other federal agencies have to promulgate those rules, we're really taking a look at these last two

prongs. I think this is going to be something, that's going to come up at tribal consultation as well in August. So, keeping an eye on that's going to be important.

Speaker 3 01:45:08 I will, I'm not going to go through this today and I'm skipping through some of this. I did want people to have access to some additional provisions. 206 talks about LGBTQ specific services program. Section 701, if you're an advocate, has some incredible findings that have been codified around economic security for victims. I think it's a good thing to just print out and have, available, and ready for use anytime that you find yourself having to push against something. 704 is a study on economic security access. 604 is a transitional assistance. Title 10, improving conditions for Women in Federal Custody. It is now not allowable, to place pregnant prisoners or prisoners in postpartum recovery into segregated housing units. Again, I'm a little shocked, that, that, that, that is just now within the act itself. but happy to see it. Nevertheless.

Speaker 3 01:46:03 I certainly think that would be a huge problem, if someone was experiencing that main point regarding, and we're going to, we are going to talk about this again next week because we want to spend more time talking about the Violence and Women Act and recommendations from survivors. The main point that I really hope people will walk away from, at least this initial sort of quick conversation about it, is that you may not be required to comply with those provisions within the Violence Against Women Act around housing, but you really, to me, if you're being survivor centered, should, should consider adopting the provisions that you can, where they're appropriate. Again, you might not have the units to do emergency transfers, you might not have the ability to do, lease bifurcation just due to the nature of the tribal housing you have. but making sure that what you could incorporate, because we do believe these provisions are survivor-centered.

Speaker 3 01:46:57 Making sure that you try to take a look at that and see what's workable, and advocate again to tribal government about it, I think is going to be important going forward. But I'm just going to reiterate, I think that the confidentiality piece and the self-certification piece are two provisions that could easily be implemented very quickly. and really with, with limited adjustment. and you might not even need a resolution, to go forward with either of those. So, as you all know, tribes can enact codes and statutes that have separate constitutions define domestic violence. They can be as broad as they would like on domestic violence. issue protective orders, enforce those orders and govern. And we certainly think that providing safe housing, for our tribal members and our descendants and relatives is a part of that governance and making sure that, survivors have access to it is central.

Speaker 3 01:47:48 Very quickly before I turn this back over to Heidi, we do have a tribal housing code clearinghouse talk about this next week as well. one of the things in our project that we are doing is collecting tribal housing codes, or related ordinances or regulations or executive orders, even related to covid, into a database. And we are working with a human rights clinic, to help us with the gaps analysis, and also with best practices that we're seeing, we're seeing a lot of really great best practices and in tribal housing codes we're going to go through next week. but if you have a housing code that you want entered in, you can submit it through this form here and we'll send this out as a link as well next week. But we would be more than happy to take a look at it or talk with anyone about any questions they might have regarding their individual codes or of course, regarding any sort of best practices or gaps that you see. So, I'm going to put up the slide that has our contact info and then I will pass this back over to Heidi.

Speaker 1 01:48:50 Great. <inaudible> and Caroline and Gwendolyn, thank you so much. Thank you for sharing all of your knowledge, but also your personal experiences as well to create really a safe space for all of us to talk about these important issues. I wanted to see if there were any questions or discussion

items from the attendees. I have some questions, but I want to defer to folks on the webinar to see if there are any before I start asking mine.

Speaker 0 01:49:24 If you'd like to ask a question, you can type your question into the chat and send all panelists, or you can click the raise hand icon located at the bottom of your screen to ask a verbal question.

Speaker 1 01:49:37 Great. Do you see any in the chat? Any questions in the chat? I know folks have been asking as we went along, but just want to make sure we haven't missed any.

Speaker 0 01:49:50 I think the two that I saw were already answered.

Speaker 1 01:49:55 Great. Great. Thank you. So, while we were waiting, I wanted to again say why I went and thank you so much and really dive in into some of the important work that you all have been doing over the years. I'm wondering, you know, you touched on some very helpful things that HUD could look at as far as, negotiate rule making and consultation and also suggestions for the tribes as well from a self-governance lens. I'm just wondering, I imagine that the, issues of, you know, you've mentioned this, the domestic violence and gender-based violence can feel overwhelming. Who are some of the local partners that tribal housing authorities might consider reaching out to as well to kind of coordinate, have a coordinated response?

Speaker 3 01:50:51 I think that's a great question. I will respond quick and then pass it over to Gwen as well. so, you know, as always, I think first of all, you could reach out to us, at the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center and its STTARS, as TA providers locally. I think, you know, the best way to get hooked in is really through your local tribal coalition, and your local domestic violence program if you have a tribal domestic violence program. I think though, and, and the court, I mean, somebody had mentioned the court earlier about it being, you know, ineffective in their community. And I have certainly heard that, when I think it illustrates right when one, I guess when one part of a system's response is failing, that it really impacts the response across the board. And I think, you know, it's not a perfect solution to that situation.

Speaker 3 01:51:38 There's so many things involved, right? And why something might not be, might not be responding in a fully functional manner. but I certainly think just opening up those conversations and making sure that everyone, you know, from your tribal court to your family services program, to your housing authority, your housing commission, right, if you've got a housing commission, making sure that all those people are at least, at least talking to each other with the, with the DV program, present. And maybe getting some cross training on that would be helpful too. Sometimes just having some of those conversations helps to change people's minds. Gwen, did you want to add anything to that?

Speaker 2 01:52:15 yeah, I think that the only thing I would add is that for, for the tribal domestic violence programs and shelters that are out there, very few are autonomous. Most of them fall within another program within the tribal government structure such as, social services or child welfare or the courts or law enforcement or social services. But very few are, are, are autonomous and, and or stand by themselves within that tribal government structure. So oftentimes it's looking through that to, to find out who's doing, who's doing what. And oftentimes, you know, within those different tribes, sometimes they're in behavioral health, sometimes they're, part of the clinic. So, there's, they're situated all over within that tribal government structure. And so, I think it's just important to, to reach out and find out who's doing that work in your community. And as Caroline mentioned, of course reaching out to us, but, you know, not every state has a, has a tribal coalition. And so, you know, there's also, the, there, there are some, nonprofit tribal organizations that run shelters and stuff that are on our near reservation. And

sometimes creating those partnerships with off reservation tribal entities is a good route to go to is, and we've seen that happening in several places.

Speaker 1 01:53:44 Yeah, thank you very much. I think that really reinforces and underscores what you both have been saying in your presentations, about the need for a whole holistic approach and the many facets and areas that, this impacts people's lives and in the community. and so that, that's a very helpful insight as, as folks, you know, try to tackle this from a bunch of different directions and holistically as well. I know we're short on time, but I, we are all looking forward to the next webinar to talk, more about the role that housing can play. but, and you've touched on this already, can you offer us kind of a sneak peek at some of the ways that tribal housing entities can reduce gender violence or support those who have had experienced gender violence? kind of to lead us, lead us, in a good way to the next webinar, part two webinar that we have scheduled for July 26th.

Speaker 3 01:54:55 Yeah, we have a lot of recommendations that we have compiled, both from our work group and our listening sessions, and also just from other conversations we've had over the years. So, the self-certification process, the confidentiality piece to really easy things I think to do. The other thing I think is finding options for flexible funding. You know, somebody had mentioned that they support Survivor, they've got like a, a supportive housing grant for survivors and that I can help with housing costs. That's actually not super common in the DVSA space. having that money to support housing costs. So, I think that piece of it is going to remain a best practice. Any sort of flex funding for survivors. we've seen in the tribal housing codes, tribes that have created programs even for, oh my gosh, there's really great intersectional pieces like, seasonal clothing and food allowances for kids, right?

Speaker 3 01:55:54 Mm-hmm <affirmative> that impacts survivors, economic, you know, their economic, I don't want to say viability, but how they thrive within that space or whether or not they can or cannot, you know, keep going. And again, like many people mentioned, having one income is often not enough right now. So, making sure people have, have access to some of those resources if you don't have a tribal domestic violence shelter, we're going to continue to, to, to throw that out there as a suggestion. Looking into grant funding to provide that. We've heard so many different things, lowering barriers for survivors. Why do we do credit checks for people, right? Like that's just, I can understand it from a mortgage perspective, but I think from like a permanent supportive housing or transitional housing or rapid rehousing, like some, some of these things around credit checks are largely unnecessary.

Speaker 3 01:56:43 So they're just these artificial barriers we put up, making sure that, your community's well lit. so I think, I think we're going to be talking about some of those more practical responses that people can implement. and again, most of those responses have been uplifted from survivors themselves. That is how we do the work. So, this first session we really wanted to just give an overview, talk about gender-based violence, broadly, talk about some of the laws that are at play and maybe a few things we think that tribes could look at doing. Again, it's, it's definitely wanting to be respectful of tribal sovereignty. but, but for the next webinar, really kind of getting into some of the, the nitty-gritty around, around practical steps people can take. and we've got a few policy briefs that we will also share, that spell that out too. So, Gwen, you want to add anything? I know we're out of time.

Speaker 2 01:57:35 I, I know we're out of time. I would just say that listening to the Voices of Survivors and those with lived experience is really powerful in this space. So, we're really looking forward to the next webinar.

Speaker 1 01:57:48 I agree. Thank you so much. and you can see it on the screen here, but the next webinar is the 26th of July 26th at 2:00 PM Eastern. And as, Gwendolyn and Caroline both emphasize focusing on best practices and policy recommendations from the voices of the survivors, exploring

questions around how tribal communities create safe housing options and shelter access for victims and survivors of domestic violence. I know having this space today, having this webinar has got me thinking, me texting my staff asking, what more can we do? Are there avenues that we can explore based on what, Gwendolyn and Caroline provided today? So again, thank you for that. And also want to let you all know that we've recorded this session and it will be available on our Code Talk website soon, so please look for that. I know folks have asked about the slides. They will be available and up on Code Talk soon, and we're also sending out the recording link to those who register today. So, you'll have this as a resource going forward. So again, wean and thank you all for joining us. I know you're all very busy people with a lot of pressing demands, but appreciate your commitment to these important issues and of course, wean and thank you so much to our wonderful presenters. Looking forward to speaking with them again on the 26th. So, thank you all.

Speaker 0 01:59:30 Thank you for attending today's webinar and thank you for using event services. Your webinar has ended, and you may disconnect.