



Esta es información muy importante acerca de la asistencia que le proporcionamos para la renta. Para asistencia en español por favor contacte ésta oficina al 1-800-439-7247, extensión 9210. Los servicios de un intérprete se le proveerán sin costo alguno.

New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority

Emergency Transfer Plan

Victims of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, or Stalking

Emergency Transfers

The New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority (NHHFA) is concerned about the safety of its tenants, and such concern extends to tenants who are victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. In accordance with the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA),¹ NHHFA allows tenants who are victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking to request an emergency transfer from the tenant's current unit to another unit. The ability to request a transfer is available regardless of sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation.² The ability of NHHFA to honor such request for tenants currently receiving assistance, however, may depend upon a preliminary determination that the tenant is or has been a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, and on whether NHHFA has another dwelling unit that is available and is safe to offer the tenant for temporary or more permanent occupancy.

This plan identifies tenants who are eligible for an emergency transfer, the documentation needed to request an emergency transfer, confidentiality protections, how an emergency transfer may occur, and guidance to tenants on safety and security. This plan is based on a model emergency transfer plan published by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Federal agency that oversees that NHHFA is in compliance with VAWA.

¹ Despite the name of this law, VAWA protection is available to all victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, regardless of sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation.

² Housing providers cannot discriminate on the basis of any protected characteristic, including race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, disability, or age. HUD-assisted and HUD-insured housing must be made available to all otherwise eligible individuals regardless of actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status.

Eligibility for Emergency Transfers

A tenant who is a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, as provided in HUD's regulations at 24 CFR part 5, subpart L is eligible for an emergency transfer if the tenant reasonably believes that there is a threat of imminent harm from further violence if the tenant remains within the same unit. If the tenant is a victim of sexual assault, the tenant may also be eligible to transfer if the sexual assault occurred on the premises within the 90-calendar-day period preceding a request for an emergency transfer. A tenant requesting an emergency transfer must expressly request the transfer in accordance with the procedures described in this plan. Tenants who are not in good standing may still request an emergency transfer if they meet the eligibility requirements in this section.

Emergency Transfer Request Documentation

To request an emergency transfer, the tenant shall notify NHHFA and submit a written request for a transfer to another unit. NHHFA will provide reasonable accommodations to this policy for individuals with disabilities. The tenant's written request for an emergency transfer should include either:

1. A statement expressing that the tenant reasonably believes that there is a threat of imminent harm from further violence if the tenant were to remain in the same dwelling unit assisted under NHHFA's program; or
2. A statement that the tenant was a sexual assault victim and that the sexual assault occurred on the premises during the 90-calendar-day period preceding the tenant's request for an emergency transfer.

Confidentiality

NHHFA will keep confidential any information that the tenant submits in requesting an emergency transfer, and information about the emergency transfer, unless the tenant gives NHHFA written permission to release the information on a time-limited basis, or disclosure of the information is required by law or required for use in an eviction proceeding or hearing regarding termination of assistance from the covered program. This includes keeping confidential the new location of the dwelling unit of the tenant, if one is provided, from the person(s) that committed an act(s) of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking against the tenant. See the Notice of Occupancy Rights under the Violence Against Women Act for All Tenants for more information about NHHFA's responsibility to maintain the confidentiality of information related to incidents of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

External Emergency Transfer for the Housing Choice Voucher Program

An external emergency transfer refers to an emergency relocation of a tenant to another unit where the tenant would be considered a new applicant, which means the tenant must undergo an application process in order to reside in the unit.

Requests for external emergency transfers will be processed in accordance with NHHFA's Administrative Plan Family Break Up policy which states:

Family Break Up: If a family break-up occurs and one party is staying in the assisted unit, the person staying in the unit retains the voucher as a "surviving member" unless covered under the VAWA law, in which case the voucher is awarded to the victim of domestic violence as supported by the required documentation. The occurrence of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking may lead to the break-up

of the assisted family in many instances. Family break-up involves terminating the assistance of the perpetrator while continuing the assistance to the victim. NHHFA will abide by any court determinations of which family members receive the original voucher. Any court determination does not waive the requirement that the assisted family members must continue to meet NHHFA and Housing Choice Voucher program screening requirements and eligibility criteria.

If the court does not or will not make a determination, both parties are leaving the unit, or due to other circumstances that do not fall under any of these situations, NHHFA has discretion to determine who keeps the subsidy considering the following factors:

- (1) Domestic violence situations where family members were forced to leave the unit as a result of actual or threatened physical violence by a spouse or other member of the household, to include consideration of the protections of the VAWA law.
- (2) Evaluating any possible risks to family members because of domestic violence, sexual violence, dating violence, stalking or criminal activity. If there is conflicting information, NHHFA will use its discretion and may grant a voucher to both parties.
- (3) Head of household on the application or lease.
- (4) Documentation of an agreement among the original family members.
- (5) The interests of minor children, including custody arrangements.
- (6) The interests of elderly or disabled family members.
- (7) The recommendation of social service professionals.

Emergency Transfer Timing and Availability for the Project-Based and Moderate Rehabilitation Programs

NHHFA cannot guarantee that an internal emergency transfer request will be approved or how long it will take to process a transfer request. NHHFA will, however, act as quickly as possible to allow a tenant who is a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking to move to another unit within the property, subject to availability and safety of a unit. If a tenant reasonably believes a proposed transfer would not be safe, the tenant may request a transfer to a different unit. If a unit is available, the transferred tenant must agree to abide by the terms and conditions that govern occupancy in the unit to which the tenant has been transferred. NHHFA may be unable to transfer a tenant to a particular unit if the tenant has not or cannot establish eligibility for that unit.

In the Project-Based Voucher Program, tenants who request an emergency transfer after the first year of occupancy may request a tenant-based voucher in accordance with NHHFA's Housing Choice Voucher Administrative Plan. If the tenant has received PBV assistance for less than one year and is not eligible for continued assistance under the PBV regulations, NHHFA will offer tenant-based rental assistance as an external emergency transfer under our existing VAWA obligations. The tenant will receive priority to receive the next available opportunity for a tenant-based voucher.

If the Owner has no safe and available units for a tenant who needs an emergency transfer, NHHFA will assist the tenant in identifying other housing providers who may have safe and available units to which the tenant could move. NHHFA publishes a Directory of Assisted Housing that lists affordable units in assisted housing properties throughout the state. A list of vacant, subsidized units for families and individuals who need immediate rental assistance is

available on NHHFA's website. NHHFA will refer tenants to the local police and to 2-1-1 NH for referrals to local organizations offering assistance to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

Safety and Security of Tenants

Pending processing of the transfer and the actual transfer, if it is approved and occurs, the tenant is urged to take all reasonable precautions to be safe.

Tenants who are or have been victims of domestic violence are encouraged to contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-7233, or a local domestic violence shelter, for assistance in creating a safety plan.

For persons with hearing impairments, that hotline can be accessed by calling 1-800-787-3224 (TTY).

Tenants who have been victims of sexual assault may call the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network's National Sexual Assault Hotline at 800-656-HOPE, or visit the online hotline at <https://ohl.rainn.org/online/>.

Tenants who are or have been victims of stalking seeking help may visit the National Center for Victims of Crime's Stalking Resource Center at <https://www.victimsofcrime.org/our-programs/stalking-resource-center>.

Tenants may also contact the New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence at 1-866-644-3574, or visit the online hotline at <http://www.nhcadv.org/>

9/2024

EMERGENCY TRANSFER REQUEST FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, DATING VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT, OR STALKING

Confidentiality Note: Any personal information you share in this form will be maintained by your covered housing provider according to the confidentiality provisions below.

Purpose of Form: If you are a tenant of housing assisted under a covered housing program, or if you are receiving transitional housing or rental assistance under a covered housing program, you may use this form to request an emergency transfer and certify that you qualify for an emergency transfer under the Violence Against Women Act (“VAWA”). This form refers to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking as “VAWA violence/abuse.”

VAWA protects individuals and families regardless of a victim’s age or actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, sex, or marital status.

You may request an emergency transfer when:

1. You (or a household member) are a victim of VAWA violence/abuse;
2. You expressly request the emergency transfer; **AND**
3. **EITHER**
 - a. you reasonably believe that there is a threat of imminent harm from further violence, including trauma, if you (or a household member) stay in the same dwelling unit; **or**
 - b. if you (or a household member) are a victim of sexual assault, either you reasonably believe there is a threat of imminent harm from further violence, including trauma, if you (or a household member) stay in the unit, or the sexual assault occurred on the premises and you request an emergency transfer within 90 days (including holidays and weekend days) of when that assault occurred.

A covered housing provider, in response to an emergency transfer request, should not evaluate whether you are in good standing as part of the assessment or provision of an emergency transfer. Whether or not you are in good standing does not impact your ability to request an emergency transfer under VAWA.

However, submitting this form does not necessarily mean that you will receive an emergency transfer. See your covered housing provider’s VAWA Emergency Transfer Plan for more information about VAWA emergency transfers and see “Notice of Occupancy Rights Under the Violence Against Women Act,” Form HUD-5380, for additional housing rights you may be entitled to.

Am I required to submit any documentation to my covered housing provider? Your covered housing provider may request documentation proving that you, or a household member, are a victim of VAWA violence/abuse, in addition to completing this emergency transfer request form. The request can be met by completing and submitting the VAWA Self-certification Form (Form HUD-5382), unless the covered housing provider receives conflicting information about the VAWA violence/abuse. If you have third-party documentation that demonstrates why you are eligible for an emergency transfer, you may, instead, choose to submit that documentation to your covered housing provider. See “Notice of Occupancy Rights Under the Violence Against Women Act,” Form HUD-5380, for more information.

Will my information be kept confidential? Whenever you ask for or about VAWA protections, your covered housing provider must keep any information you provide about the VAWA violence/abuse or the fact you (or a household member) are a victim, including the information on this form, strictly confidential. This information should be securely and separately kept from your other tenant files. This information can only be accessed by an employee/agent of your covered housing provider if (1) access is required for a specific reason, (2) your covered housing provider explicitly authorizes that person’s access for that reason, **and** (3) the authorization complies with applicable law. This information will not be given to anyone else or put in a database shared with anyone else, unless your covered housing provider (1) gets your written permission to do so for a limited time, (2) is required to do so as part of an eviction or termination hearing, **or** (3) is required to do so by law.

In addition, your covered housing provider must keep your address strictly confidential to ensure that it is not disclosed to a person who committed or threatened to commit VAWA violence/abuse against you (or a household member).

What if I need this information in a language other than English? To read this in Spanish or another language, please contact Nixzaliz Baez (603) 472-8623 ; FOR HOPWA PROVIDERS – or go to

. You can read translated VAWA forms at https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/administration/hudclips/forms/hud5a#4. If you speak or read in a language other than English, your covered housing provider must give you language assistance regarding your VAWA protections (for example, oral interpretation and/or written translation).

Can I request a reasonable accommodation? If you have a disability, your covered housing provider must provide reasonable accommodations to rules, policies, practices, or services that may be necessary to allow you to equally benefit from VAWA protections (for example, giving you more time to submit documents or assistance with filling out forms). You may request a reasonable accommodation at any time, even for the first time during an eviction. If a provider is denying a specific reasonable accommodation because it is not reasonable, your covered housing provider must first engage in the interactive process with you to identify possible alternative accommodations. Your covered housing provider must also ensure effective communication with individuals with disabilities.

Need further help? For additional information on VAWA and to find help in your area, visit <https://www.hud.gov/vawa>. To speak with a housing advocate, contact

TO BE COMPLETED BY OR ON BEHALF OF THE TENANT REQUESTING AN EMERGENCY TRANSFER

1. Name(s) of victim(s): _____
2. Your name (if different from victim's): _____
3. Name(s) of other household member(s): _____

4. Name(s) of other household member(s) who would transfer with the victim: _____

5. Name of the perpetrator (if known and can be safely disclosed): _____
6. Address of location from which the victim seeks to transfer: _____

7. Current Unit Size (# of bedrooms): _____
8. What is the safest and most secure way to contact you? (You may choose more than one.)
If any contact information changes or is no longer a safe contact method, notify your covered housing provider.

☐ Phone Phone Number: _____
Safe to receive a voicemail: ☐ Yes ☐ No

☐ E-mail E-mail Address: _____
Safe to receive an email: ☐ Yes ☐ No

☐ Mail Mailing Address: _____
Safe to receive mail from your housing provider: ☐ Yes ☐ No

☐ Other Please List: _____

9. Anything else your housing provider should know to safely communicate with you?

10. What features are requested for a safe unit? You may list here any information that would facilitate a suitable transfer, such as accessibility needs, and a description of where it is safe or unsafe for you to live.

(Please note that the ability to provide an emergency transfer is based on unit availability.)

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ New Neighborhood | ☐ New Building |
| ☐ First Floor unit | ☐ Second Floor unit (and above) |
| ☐ Near an Exit | ☐ Well-lit hallways/walkways |
| ☐ 24-hour Security | ☐ Accessible unit |
| ☐ Other: _____ | |
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11. To approve your request for an emergency transfer, your covered housing provider may require that you provide written documentation that you (or a household member) are a victim of VAWA violence/abuse. Your covered housing provider must make this request for documentation in writing. You can choose to submit **any one** of the following types of documentation:

- Form HUD-5382 *Certification of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, or Stalking, and Alternate Documentation*, which asks your name and the perpetrator's name (if known and safe to provide);
- A document signed by a victim service provider, attorney, mental health professional, or medical professional who has helped you address the VAWA violence/abuse. The professional must state "under penalty of perjury" that he/she/they believe in the occurrence of the incident of VAWA violence/abuse and that it is covered by VAWA. Both you and the professional must sign the statement;
- A police, administrative, or court record (such as a protective order) that shows you (or a household member) are a victim of VAWA violence/abuse; OR
- If permitted by your covered housing provider, a statement or other evidence provided by you.

Certification of Tenant: By signing below, I am certifying that the information provided on this form is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and recollection, and that I meet the conditions described on this form to qualify for an emergency transfer.

Signature _____ **Date** _____

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 20 minutes per response. This includes the time for collecting, reviewing, and reporting. Comments concerning the accuracy of this burden estimate and any suggestions for reducing this burden can be sent to the Reports Management Officer, QDAM, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20410. Covered housing providers in programs covered by VAWA may ask for a written request for an emergency transfer for a tenant who is a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. Housing providers may distribute this form to tenants and tenants may use it to request an emergency transfer. The information is subject to the confidentiality requirements of VAWA. A Federal agency may not collect this information, and you are not required to complete this form, unless it displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget control number.