

Housing Provisions of VAWA Reauthorization Act of 2022

HUD VAWA 2022 Notice



October 4, 2023

The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)

The Violence Against Women Act (“VAWA”) is a federal law that protects individuals who are survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, regardless of sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity. VAWA includes protections for survivors who are applying for or residing in covered housing programs.¹

The survivor does NOT have to be married to, related to, or living with the perpetrator to be protected by VAWA. It does not matter how long ago the survivor experienced the violence. A survivor’s immigration status in itself does not impact a survivor’s right to VAWA’s housing protections.



¹ See the Violence Against Women Act of 1994, as amended (34 U.S.C. 12291 et seq.). A list of HUD programs that are covered under VAWA can be found at [34 U.S.C. § 12491\(a\)\(3\)](#).

The Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization Act of 2022

New Law of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2022

In March 2022, President Biden Signed into law the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2022

- Included the VAWA 2022 reauthorizes, amends, and strengthens VAWA, many amendments took effect Oct 1, 2022.
- On January 4, 2023 HUD published notice in the Federal Register which described how the VAWA 2022 amendment affect HUDs programs
- VAWA 2022 only added to and did not replace the existing VAWA housing protections for survivors



VAWA 2022: Definition of “Domestic Violence” Revised

VAWA 2022 **revises** the definition of “domestic violence” and **adds** the definition of “economic abuse” and “technological abuse”

New statutory revised definitions:

- ‘Domestic Violence’- includes felony or misdemeanor crimes committed by a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim receiving grant funding and includes the use or attempted use of physical abuse or sexual abuse, or pattern of any other coercive behavior committed, enabled, or solicited or gain or maintain power and control over a victim by a person who—



VAWA 2022: Definition of “Domestic Violence” Revised

- (A) is a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim, or person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim;
- (B) is cohabitating, or has cohabitated, with the victim as a spouse or intimate partner;
- (C) shares a child in common with the victim; or
- (D) commits acts against a youth or adult victim who is protected from those acts under the family or domestic violence laws of the jurisdiction.”



VAWA 2022: Definition of “Domestic Violence” Revised

“Economic Abuse”

New statutory revised definitions:

- In the context of domestic violence, dating violence, and abuse in later life, means behavior that is coercive, deceptive, or unreasonably controls or restrains a person’s ability to acquire, use, or maintain economic resources to which they are entitled, including using coercion, fraud, or manipulation to--



VAWA 2022: Definition of “Domestic Violence” Revised

- (A) restrict a person’s access to money, assets, credit, or financial information;
- (B) unfairly use a person’s personal economic resources, including money, assets, and credit, for one’s own advantage; or
- (C) exert undue influence over a person’s financial and economic behavior or decisions, including forcing default on joint or other financial obligations, exploiting powers of attorney, guardianship, or conservatorship, or failing or neglecting to act in the best interests of a person to whom one has a fiduciary duty



VAWA 2022: Definition of “Domestic Violence” Revised

“Technological Abuse”

New statutory revised definitions:

- An act or pattern of behavior that occurs within domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence or stalking and is intended to harm, threaten, intimidate, control, stalk, harass, impersonate, exploit, extort, or monitor, except as otherwise permitted by law, another person, that occurs using any form of technology, including but not limited to--



VAWA 2022: Definition of “Domestic Violence” Revised

- Internet enabled devices, online spaces and platforms, computers, mobile devices, cameras and imaging programs, apps, location tracking devices, or communication technologies, or any other emerging technologies. Internet-enabled



Other Additions to VAWA 2022

- Compliance Review Processes
- Prohibition on Retaliation
- Right to Report Crime and Emergencies
- New Enforcement Authority
- Changes to the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act Definition of Homelessness
- Gender-Based Violence Prevention Office and VAWA Director
- CoC Program Eligible Activities
- VAWA Training and Technical Assistance
- Study on Housing and Service Needs of Survivors of Trafficking



For more information on VAWA 2022

Please visit

https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/Main/documents/VAWA_Letter_CoC_ESG_Grantees.pdf

for more details regarding each change

For general VAWA information, please visit

[Violence Against Women Act \(VAWA\) | HUD.gov / U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development \(HUD\)](https://www.hud.gov/)

