

# NATIONAL LAW CENTER ON HOMELESSNESS & POVERTY

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## **Law Center Applauds HUD for Protecting Economic Abuse Survivors in Final VAWA Regs; Urges USDA & IRS to Act Next.**

**Washington D.C.** - Today, the [National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty](#) (“Law Center”) applauded the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (“HUD”) for protecting low-income survivors of abuse in its [final regulations](#) implementing the 2013 Reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (“VAWA”). The Law Center also urged the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Internal Revenue Service of the U.S. Treasury to issue implementing regulations soon.

The Law Center joined with other advocates in [urging the inclusion of protections for low-income survivors and survivors of economic abuse](#) during the 2015 public comment period on the proposed regulation. HUD largely adopted those recommendations, saying in its [press release](#) today that the final regulation ensures that “covered housing providers do not deny tenancy or occupancy rights based solely on these adverse factors that are a direct result of being a survivor.” These adverse effects could include a criminal record, eviction record, or ruined credit history because of actions of their abusers.

“Domestic violence is one of the leading causes of family homelessness,” stated Maria Foscarinis, Executive Director of the Law Center. “For those survivors of economic abuse, escape from a dangerous situation can mean facing homelessness because there are no housing options available to someone with a ruined credit history, eviction record, or criminal record.”

The Law Center has long worked on providing housing protections for victims of domestic violence as a way to prevent homelessness. The Law Center worked on amendments to VAWA in 2005 that provided protections for residents of public housing and on amendments to the

2013 Reauthorization that included protections for residents of USDA rural housing, IRS Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Properties, and a wide range of HUD housing programs.

“This is an important step to ensuring that no one has to choose between safety and housing,” stated Janet Hostetler, Deputy Director of the Law Center. “We are gratified that HUD has issued these regulations and look forward to USDA and the IRS doing the same.”

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*The National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty ([www.nlchp.org](http://www.nlchp.org)) is the only national organization dedicated solely to using the power of the law to prevent and end homelessness. With the support of a large network of pro bono lawyers, we address the immediate and long-term needs of people who are homeless or at risk through outreach and training, advocacy, impact litigation, and public education.*