

**Domestic Violence and Permanent Housing Task Force
Preliminary Recommendations
10-11-06**

I. Improve the ability of the HRA DV shelter system to facilitate the transition of DV survivors from shelter to permanent housing

A) Provide appropriate transitional shelter to DV survivors from the HRA system until they can access appropriate permanent housing options.

▶ 1- Expand shelter capacity to offer residents sufficient time to find acceptable permanent housing options before exiting the system-- e.g., develop additional transitional facilities; convert underutilized shelters to HRA transitional facilities; explore ways of permitting longer emergency shelter stays

▶ 2- Improve the coordination and consistency of services for DV survivors moving from HRA to DHS shelters-- e.g., develop a smooth and workable transfer process; identify survivors entering the DHS system as being “active DV” cases and provide appropriate safety and support services; and track survivors moving between systems to identify chronically homeless families

B) Provide equal access for HRA DV shelter residents to homeless permanent housing options available across shelter systems.

▶ 1-Include HRA DV shelter residents under the same HPD definition of homelessness as DHS shelter residents, for the purpose of accessing homeless set-asides in permanent housing developed through HPD (LIHTC & MIRP) and HPD Section 8 vouchers

▶ 2-Equalize the administration of the Housing Stability Plus (HSP) Program to give HRA shelter residents equal ability to use the subsidy-- e.g., establish parity between HRA and DHS in terms of the subsidy administered to families that include SSI recipients; in agency monitoring of HSP tenants to prevent evictions; and in landlord outreach and recruitment practices

C) Amend relevant permanent housing application processes to conform with the length of stay in the HRA DV shelter system.

▶ 1- Streamline the NYCHA application process for DV shelter applicants to access NYCHA housing units and Section 8 vouchers

II. Increase permanent housing options for DV survivors exiting from the HRA shelter system

A) Increase the supply of affordable housing available to DV survivors from the HRA shelter system.

▶ 1-Create a set-aside in NYCHA housing and NYCHA Section 8 vouchers for survivors in HRA DV shelters who do not qualify for HSP because they are working or on SSI *and* do not meet the DV priority documentation requirement

▶ 2-Recognize HRA DV shelter residents as a special needs category for both the HPD LIHTC and MIRP programs

▶ 3-Establish a mechanism for matching tax credit-supported vacant apartments with domestic violence survivors in the HRA shelter system

▶ 4-Create a preference category for domestic violence survivors in shelter in the allocation of DHCR Section 8 vouchers, and streamline the application process for that population

B.) Increase the supply of supportive housing available to domestic violence survivors.

▶ 1-Recognize DV-related PTSD as an eligible category for NY/NY III housing and the HPD SHLP

▶ 2-Recognize DV survivors who have “aged out of foster care” as eligible for NY/NY III housing and the HPD SHLP units

▶ 3-Give DV survivors’ preference for “general community units” in NY/NY III projects

▶ 4-Set aside a portion of HHAP funds for projects that target DV survivors in the HRA shelter system

▶ 5-Increase overall funding of HHAP to meet rising construction costs

III. Support the long-term stability of DV survivors exiting the HRA shelter system to permanent housing

A.) Increase access to existing after-care services to stabilize survivors in housing and lead them to self sufficiency.

▶ 1- Identify, coordinate service delivery among, and connect potentially appropriate providers of after-care services-- e.g., non-residential domestic violence programs; programs serving people exiting the DHS shelter system; and community-based programs to DV shelter providers whose residents are being re-housed in the community

▶ 2- Offer DV sensitivity training to the staff of all after-care and community-based programs that have not specifically served DV victims and survivors in the past

B. Fund new after-care programs and approaches specifically tailored to provide support to DV survivors entering permanent affordable and supportive housing.

▶ 1- Provide after-care for DV survivors exiting the shelter system with HSP that includes negotiating HSP, help finding child care or addressing other child-related issues, assistance with issues related to health, employment, education, and/or money management

▶ 2- Increase awareness of DV among existing supportive housing providers and assist them to tailor services to residents with histories of DV

▶ 3- Support the creation of peer-driven aftercare support services specifically related to the DV experience itself, e.g., an “AA for DV” program or an adult-focused “RAP” program