

CITY OF CRESCENT CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY
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VAWA ATTACHMENT

When the Violence Against Women Act was implemented in 2005, we contacted all applicants, tenants, and program landlords by mail to ensure that all applicable parties were properly advised and educated on the protections provided to victims under the VAWA legislation. A certification regarding understanding and acknowledgment of the VAWA protections was added as an addendum, requiring owner and tenant signature upon execution of the lease and HAP contract. We explain the VAWA in detail at the briefing session and we include VAWA documentation in our briefing packets.

In 2013, the protections under VAWA expanded. We updated our administrative plan accordingly, and broadened our outreach efforts. We have information posted on our website, in our lobby, with our denial and termination letters, annual recertification paperwork, and in our briefing packets regarding a summary of the rights and protections provided by VAWA to HCV program applicants and participants. Examples are attached within this chapter. We have the phone number for the National Domestic Violence Hotline posted in our lobby and on all of the VAWA documents that are being distributed, along with contact information for Harrington House, which is our local victim advocacy center.

In June 2017, when the VAWA Final Rule guidance was issued, the CCHA began distributing “CCHA’s VAWA Notice of Occupancy Rights” to all program participants. We have included it as a component of the recertification process, so that staff can review the information with participants and provide clarification as to the protections afforded under the VAWA. In addition to being made available on the agency’s website, “CCHA’s VAWA Notice of Occupancy Rights” was mailed to those families not re-certified by 12/16/17. CCHA will continue to distribute and review the notice as a component of the recertification process until all participants have had an opportunity to discuss the information face to face with staff (through May 2018).

For applicants, the “CCHA’s VAWA Notice of Occupancy Rights” is provided at the time of admission (briefing) or denial of admission (denial notification letter).

The “CCHA’s VAWA Notice of Occupancy Rights” also includes a copy of “CCHA’s Request for Emergency Transfer” form, which references the policies outlined in “CCHA’s Emergency Transfer Plan,” should a victim of domestic violence need emergent relocation.

Approximately once annually, we do a program overview presentation at Harrington House. A good portion of the presentation is dedicated to the VAWA protections. Last year, we also had a presentation by the Tolowa Dee-ni Nation’s Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Tribal Outreach Specialist, where we were educated on additional programs and resources of which we were not previously aware, and from which we were able to expand our resource and referral list.