



2020

**NATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON SAFE HOUSING**

Addressing the Housing Needs
of Survivors of Domestic Violence
and Sexual Assault

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Wednesday, October 28 – Friday, October 30, 2020
WASHINGTON, DC at the Crystal Gateway Marriott, Arlington, VA

Hosted by:

- **Casa de Esperanza**
- **Collaborative Solutions, Inc.**
- **National Alliance for Safe Housing, Inc.**
- **National Indigenous Women’s Resource Center**
- **National Network to End Domestic Violence**
- **National Organization of Sisters of Color Ending Sexual Assault**
- **National Resource Center on Domestic Violence**
- **National Sexual Violence Resource Center**
- **Ujima – the National Center on Violence Against Women in the Black Community**

First National Conference on the Intersections of Domestic/Sexual Violence, Housing/Homelessness, and Racial Inequities.

Housing instability, homelessness, domestic violence (DV), sexual assault (SA), and structural racism are inextricably linked:

- Up to 57% of women experiencing homelessness report domestic violence as the cause of their homelessness (SafeHousingPartnerships.org website, 2018).
- Many homeless youth report leaving home due to sexual abuse (Estes & Weiner, 2011).

- Sixty-four percent of trafficking survivors report being homeless or experiencing unstable housing at the time they were recruited (Polaris, 2018).
- Survivors of color are dramatically over-represented among homeless populations, with many reporting experiences of domestic and sexual violence (SPARC, 2018).

Survivors of violence face significant barriers when trying to access safe housing – yet safe housing is essential to ensure their immediate and long-term health and well-being. The TA Partners of the Housing TA Consortium will co-host a cross-cutting national conference that uniquely focuses on issues at the complex intersections of housing instability, homelessness, domestic violence, sexual assault, and racial disparity.

The **2020 National Safe Housing Conference** will be the first platform of its kind to examine, inform, and advocate at these intersections. It will focus particularly on safe housing solutions for survivors and communities of color and marginalized populations who face disparities in safe housing options. It will create an interdisciplinary space for up to 300 providers and advocates from across the country to convene for 2½ days of peer-to-peer dialogue, capacity and knowledge building, and organizing around safe housing for survivors. Researchers and policymakers will be invited to present ongoing areas of advocacy and evidence-based approaches that support community-level efforts. In addition, the forum will enable the creation of a national agenda for safe housing to improve systems and communities’ comprehensive, and equitable, responses to all survivors.

Conference Program Committee

The Program Committee comprised of the Conference Hosts and representation from national-level organizations working on DV, SA, Housing, and Homelessness has appointed a review committee for the workshop submissions. This esteemed group of advocates collectively considered, developed, and determined the goals of the conference and all of its associated elements. Successful proposals will demonstrate understanding of and fidelity to the Vision, Mission, and Values of the conference (below), as well as contribute to the intent of the Conference organizers to share essential information, build skills and capacity, and support organizing and advocacy for safe housing throughout the country.

Peg Hacskeylo National Alliance for Safe Housing, Inc.	Heidi Notario National Resource Center on Domestic Violence
Karlo Ng National Housing Law Project	Karma Cottman Ujima – the National Center on Violence Against Women in the Black Community
Debbie Fox National Network to End Domestic Violence	Karla Vierthaler National Sexual Violence Resource Center
Qudsia Raja National Domestic Violence Hotline	Linda Olsen Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Condencia Brade Sisters of Color Ending Sexual Assault	Sharon McDonald National Alliance to End Homelessness
Erika Sussman Center for Survivor Agency and Justice	Matt White Housing Innovations, Inc.
Teresa Burns Casa de Esperanza	Cat Fribley Resource Sharing Project
Karen Romero Freedom Network USA	Gwen Packard National Indigenous Women’s Resource Center
Ashely Kerr Collaborative Solutions, Inc.	Jill Robertson Collaborative Solutions, Inc.
Monica McLaughlin National Network to End Domestic Violence	Christie Bevis National Resource Center on Domestic Violence

Conference Vision and Mission

The Conference is designed as a venue for advocates, researchers, providers, and other stakeholders who aspire to achieve safe housing for survivors throughout the U.S. Toward that end, the Program Committee has outlined a Vision, Mission and Values for the Conference that will advance the movement in a way that is equitable, holistic, compassionate, and responsible. Taken together, these combine to express the promise of safe housing, and the purpose of the Conference as the National forum towards its fulfillment across the country.

Vision: We envision a world where safety and housing are universal human rights.

Mission: The Conference works to create safe housing options for survivors of gender-based violence by centering racial equity, building bridges across systems and communities, and lifting up the voices of survivors to guide our work.

Values:

- **Racial Equity:** Our belief that structural racism is both historical and pervasive, with severe and long-lasting impacts on communities of color, compels us to employ short- and long-term strategies that center racial equity as we advocate for safe housing options for survivors of gender based violence.
- **Safety:** We promote the physical, mental, emotional, economic, and spiritual safety of all survivors, particularly those most marginalized. We believe that safety is self-defined, and that our role is to support survivors as they pursue the path they determine is best for themselves and their families.
- **Survivor-Driven:** We believe that those with lived experiences are in the best position to know what they need to be safe and to heal. We honor the wisdom and resilience of survivors, their families, and communities by centering their voices and committing to seeking their leadership and guidance in all aspects of our work.
- **Intersectionality:** We recognize the complex ways that our multiple identities intersect, and the layers of societal privilege and oppression that we experience on an individual, communal, organizational, and systemic level as a result. We recognize the need to better understand and challenge our privileges, actively work towards solidarity, partner across social justice movements and sectors, and center the voices of survivors who are most marginalized.
- **Social Change:** We believe that social change is best accomplished through partnerships and collaborations, prioritizes community leadership and engagement, and that values and incorporates feedback, increases capacity, builds relationships, and operates from a framework of mutuality.

Conference Themes

Each workshop segment will explore a particular conference theme, provide space for attendees to learn about and consider issues related to that theme, and conduct a collective inquiry into aspects of that theme that are relevant to the adoption and practice of safe housing. Successful applicants will submit proposals which address the selected workshop segment on different levels, outlining specifically what information will be shared, what questions will be asked and/or answered, and how attendees will contribute to the overall body of knowledge explored during the workshop.

Workshop Inquiry 1: Equity and Accessibility – Workshops in this segment will focus on issues concerning how to make safe housing equitable and accessible for all who seek it. Studies have shown that people of color and those from culturally-specific communities are over-represented among survivors facing homelessness and abuse; however they are often shut out of the programs and systemic responses designed to address it. These workshops will allow attendees to begin the conference considering the ways in which this occurs, how to prevent/overcome it, and strategies for removing barriers.

Questions that will be considered in these workshops include:

- What program models are good/better for ensuring access to safe housing for survivors from marginalized communities and communities of color?
- How can communities improve access and equity for safe housing? How do they benefit from safe housing, as well as from ensuring equity?
- How do policies and systems function in ways that perpetuate structural racism, and what strategies can be pursued to counter this?"
- How can resources be dedicated to improving equity and accessibility for survivors? Do current resources help or hinder this?
- How can survivors and people with lived experience be better engaged to have a voice in the safe housing movement?

Examples of workshop presentations might include:

- Programs addressing Youth, D/SV, and Homelessness
- LGBTQIA Representation in Safe Housing
- Male Survivors and Safe Housing

- Addressing Racial Disparities in Homeless Services
- Nuisance Ordinances
- Systemic Oppression and Safe Housing
- Racial Equity in Safe Housing
- Funders supporting initiatives against homelessness
- Survivor listening sessions – Centering the Voices of Survivors

Workshop Inquiry 2: Core and Innovative Practices – Workshops in this segment will consider practices used to support and sustain safe housing for survivors. While housing (both among victim-specific programs and mainstream homeless systems) has been developed to address survivors’ situations, innovative practices that address their unique needs regarding safety, stability and self-determination, particularly for survivors who identify outside the mainstream, are proving more effective than standard practice. These workshops will examine methods and tools for, as well as explore the many facets of, responding to survivors’ interests and centering their experiences in devising responses on different levels. These practices should also highlight the work from an intersectional lens, including the uplifting of culturally specific approaches and program design that center the lived experiences of survivors of color and others living on the margins.

Questions that will be considered in these workshops include:

- Are there unique programs or models which address safe housing for survivors? What makes them better?
- Are partnerships effective and efficient in promoting safe housing?
- How do policies and systems function to limit access to safe housing for survivors?
- What are some innovations at the systems and/or policy level that have improved safe housing outcomes?
- How do these practices/programs center racial equity and inclusion?
- Do grant makers and other stakeholders recognize and support innovative practices coming from marginalized and culturally specific communities?
- How can survivors and people with lived experience be partners in safe housing to ensure their needs are fully addressed?

Examples of workshop presentations might include:

- Economic Justice
- Mobile Advocacy and Flexible Funding

- Housing Legal Protections and Tenant Rights
- Parallel Coordinated Entry for Survivors
- HUD HOPWA demonstration grants
- Addressing Housing Needs of Survivors in Rural and Native Lands
- Services to Unsheltered Women
- Survivor-Informed Coordinated Entry and Homeless/Housing Practices

Workshop Inquiry 3: Cross-Sector Collaborations – Workshops in this segment will explore the ways in which cross-sector collaborations work to enable safe housing for survivors. The housing landscape for survivors has become increasingly complex over the years, in terms of availability, affordability, and appropriateness for survivors and their families, necessitating cross-sector collaborations to support safety and housing stability, including partnerships among systems such as housing, victim services, child welfare, healthcare, and education, among others. These workshops will investigate the benefits to collaborations and using an intersectional approach to ensure safe housing for survivors, including obstacles to such partnerships, how systems might work at cross purposes, and how to break down barriers to safe housing for survivors. Workshops under this category that model collaborations with culturally specific organizations and/or communities will be given priority at the selection time.

Questions that will be considered in these workshops include:

- What are examples of programs or models that collaborate across sectors, particularly to address racial disparities, to provide and improve safe housing for survivors?
- How can communities develop effective partnerships to ensure sound cross-sector collaboration and access to safe housing for all survivors?
- What are the ways in which systems and policies promote cross-sector collaboration for safe housing? Do silos inhibit collaboration and how can they be addressed?
- How can resources be leveraged to create and sustain safe housing? Are there barriers because of limitations or requirements from funders?
- How can survivors and people with lived experience inform improved cross-sector collaborations for safe housing? How can they be supported to have a voice in these partnerships?
- How do these collaborations center racial equity and inclusion?

Examples of workshop presentations might include:

- Culturally-specific Safe Housing Programs
- D/SV, Homelessness, and Health Outcomes
- Developing Emergency Transfer Protocols for Survivors
- Survivor-centered Safety Planning
- Partnerships between DV, Human Trafficking, and Housing Programs
- Dual DV/SA programs and CoC collaborations
- Joint-Component Programs and DV Bonus Projects
- Including Survivors in PIT Counts

Workshop Inquiry 4: Evidence for Advocacy – Workshops in this segment will examine what evidence exists for support of the safe housing movement and what further information is needed. An increasing font of data has been accumulated over the last ten years to demonstrate the need for safe housing, including data which demonstrates a variety of successful approaches to helping survivors and their families; however, there are large and multiple gaps in understanding what works, who it works for, and how those in the movement should advocate for solutions. These workshops will investigate the current evidence for programs and strategies, where information is still needed, and what approaches hold the most promise to a robust understanding of safe housing. Proposals that uplift practices such as Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR) or any work that contributes to building the evidence in relationship to marginalized communities in the context of DV/SA and housing instability are highly encouraged.

Questions that will be considered in these workshops include:

- What evidence-based programs and models exist to support safe housing for survivors?
- How can communities support the process for gathering evidence to advocate for safe housing?
- What are the policy implications of emerging research on survivors' housing needs?
- How can research and further evidence collection use a racially equitable lens?
- How does research contribute to building the evidence in regard to the needs and strengths of traditionally marginalized communities?

- How can evidence be used to encourage grant makers and philanthropy to support safe housing for survivors?
- Are survivors and people with lived experience adequately involved in efforts to demonstrate the need for safe housing?

Examples of workshop presentations might include:

- DV Housing First Demonstration
- Innovative Uses of VOCA for Safe Housing
- Evidence of Hope in Mobilizing for Safe Housing
- Safety Planning in Coordinated Entry Systems
- Assessment Tools and Safe Housing
- HMIS, Comparable Databases, and Confidentiality
- Lessons from DV Rapid Rehousing Grants
- Understanding Housing Policy and Funding – Resources and Research

Workshop Inquiry 5: Collective Impact – This workshop segment will look into how stakeholders can collectively work to improve and ultimately ensure safe housing prospects for everyone. Due to structural, cultural, and philosophical differences among systems that impact survivors’ lives, the ability to leverage resources and power for survivors’ benefit, as well as that of other stakeholders, is limited if not prohibited. These workshops will consider the various aspects of organizing for safe housing, including mobilizing community coalitions, partnering with survivors and people with lived experience, and influencing investors and the broader public to realize their interest in safe housing as a universal human right.

Questions that will be considered in these workshops include:

- What can programs do to support organizing for safe housing in their communities?
- How do communities and the public benefit from safe housing?
- Can policy improvements address conditions to collectively support safe housing?
- How are existing organizing efforts centering those most impacted by housing instability? What can be improved? What should we avoid?
- Are there resources available to support collective efforts around safe housing?
- How can survivors and people with lived experience be leaders in the movement for safe housing? How can allies engage with them effectively?

Examples of workshop presentations might include:

- Centering Survivors' Voices in Safe Housing Programs
- DV/Housing Task Forces
- Landlord Recruitment and Housing Search Strategies
- Advocating for Housing Protections and VAWA Implementation
- Developing Public/Private Partnerships for Survivor-Centered Programs

Conference Plenaries

The conference will feature a series of plenary speakers with subject matter expertise on the intersections of domestic violence, sexual assault, homelessness, housing, and racial justice. Each plenary will engage speakers in an examination of a particular question, allowing attendees to gain a broad perspective on relevant issues at various intersections impacting safe housing, which will then be further explored in the following workshop segments.

Opening Plenary: Posing the Question

Participants will be welcomed and hear from a panel of representatives from different sectors, who will provide their perspectives on the question, "**What does a comprehensive approach to the intersection of domestic/sexual violence, homelessness/housing, and racial disparity look like?**"

Second Day Plenary: Deeper Dive

This panel will continue the conversation from the previous day, to consider, "**How do we make safe housing accessible to everyone?**"

Closing Plenary: So what, now what?

The closing plenary will convene representatives from different sectors to inspire the attendees to take action in their communities and more broadly by asking, "**What will it take to ensure that safe housing is a universal human right shared by everyone?**"

Proposed speakers will represent different areas of expertise, including research, housing, victim services, and racial justice, and will also represent diverse communities and perspectives in their presentations. Each plenary will feature

the individual speakers' insights as well as a brief conversation among all presenters debating the issues relevant to the plenary question.

Conference Proposal Outline

To submit a proposal when the online submission system is open, go to www.safehousingconference.org and click on "Submit a proposal." Where possible, proposals should be submitted in the online form. If a proposal needs to be submitted in a different format, please email Elizabeth@collaborative-solutions.net to request approval to do so. Proposals may be submitted in either English or Spanish – proposals submitted in Spanish will be translated for review and response to the presenter. All proposals should include the following information:

- Name of Presenter, Position/Title
- Name of Co-Presenter, Position/Title
- Presenting Organization/Stakeholder Group
- Contact Address, Phone, Email
- Presenter Bios
- Workshop title (20 words)
- Workshop description (300-500 words)
- Which Workshop Inquiry does your topic address?
 - Workshop Inquiry 1: Equity and Access
 - Workshop Inquiry 2: Innovative Practices
 - Workshop Inquiry 3: Cross-Sector Collaborations
 - Workshop Inquiry 4: Evidence for Advocacy
 - Workshop Inquiry 5: Collective Impact
- What questions will be addressed through your workshop?
- What are the learning objectives of your workshop?
- What do you hope to achieve through your workshop?
- How do you propose to achieve your objectives through your workshop?
- What relevant experience do you have for your workshop?
- What experience does your organization/stakeholder group bring to this topic?
- What are your technical requirements?
- Would you be willing to co-present with another presenter if asked?

All workshops are 90 minutes long so please keep your proposed presentation to that time limit. Only five workshops per Workshop Inquiry can be accommodated, though the Program Committee may elect to combine two proposals into one

workshop, provided all of the proposed presenters agree. You may submit more than one proposal, but please submit all required information for each proposal. If you have questions, you can send an email to Elizabeth@collaborative-solutions.net.

Conference Criteria for Proposals

The Review Committee will review all proposals and select those that most fully meet the following criteria:

- Express commitment to Conference Vision, Mission, and Values
- Clear and innovative recommendations for best practices in safe housing
- Relevance to the Workshop Inquiry topics and questions
- Proposed methods for engaging workshop attendees
- Potential to advance the safe housing movement
- Timeliness with respect to current and emerging issues in the field
- Flexibility with regards to presentation requirements

Proposal Submission Deadline: 11:59 p.m. PST, January 31, 2020. All proposals will be reviewed and decisions sent no later than March 23, 2020.

Accessibility

All presentations and materials must be accessible to all participants. In order to ensure that all presentations and materials are accessible, please keep in mind the guidelines and learning considerations adopted by the Program Committee adapted from the Center on Victimization and Safety, Vera Institute on Justice, 2012. For those detailed guidelines and more information, go to www.safehousingconference.org/accessibility.

Proposal TA program

For those who would like additional assistance developing their proposal, the Program Committee has assembled a team of experts who have agreed provide input and feedback to help. To request assistance, send an email to Elizabeth@collaborative-solutions.net before January 1, 2020. We will match you with a supportive mentor who will give you feedback before you submit your proposal online. Additionally, our TA team is available to support you in developing your workshop after you have submitted your proposal and it has been accepted.