


Evidence to Meet Typical Additional Admission Criteria Imposed:

- *Residence in the city/county where the program is located*
- *Evidence of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, human trafficking, child abuse or abandonment, homeless, risk of homelessness, or need for safe housing*
- *Evidence that the victim meets criteria for employment or self-sufficiency*
- *Evidence that the victim does or does not have certain conditions and/or issues*

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This brochure was supported by grant No. 2015-TA-AX-K043 by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence on Women.

The Law: Immigrants are Legally Eligible for Transitional Housing

The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA) explicitly declared that programs necessary to protect life and safety were to remain open to all person without regard to immigration status. In PRWORA, Congress granted the U.S. Attorney General the sole discretion to designate the programs necessary to protect life and safety that were to be open to all persons without regard to immigration or citizenship status or nationality. In August of 2016, HUD, DOJ and HHS jointly issued a letter confirming long standing federal law and policies stating that immigrants cannot be denied access to emergency shelter and transitional housing.



Bring this evidence with you when applying for transitional housing if your client possesses it:

Residence in the city/country where the program is located may include:

- Victim's statement
- Lease with the victim or with the victim's name listed as a resident
- Post-marked mail victim received at a location in the jurisdiction
- Statements from neighbors, friends, family members
- Copies of school, health care, or court records listing an address for the victim in the jurisdiction
- Car title, vehicle registration
- Copies of police reports
- Employment documents
- Letters from an emergency shelter, faith based organization, victim advocate, attorney, or social worker

Evidence of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, human trafficking, child abuse or abandonment, homeless, risk of homelessness, or need for safe housing may include:

- Victim's or Witness statement
- Police reports
- Court records (protection order, custody, child abuse, criminal case, evictions)
- Medical records reflecting injuries
- U-Visa application/VAWA self-petitioner
- Photographs, recordings of abuse
- Personal texts, emails, log of abuse or incidents
- Records or letters from an advocacy organization showing the use of services
- Child protection services
- Support order as part of a protective order
- News articles or reports of arrest for abuser
- Evidence of poor rental history/evictions

Evidence that the victim meets criteria for employment or self-sufficiency may include:

Evidence of employment:

- Victim's statement about employment with current and former employers
- Letter from employer, co-workers
- Photographs of them at work
- Evidence of self-employment
- Documentation of income from employment (pay checks, bank deposits, money order purchases, copies of cash received as payment with serial numbers circled)
- Tax identification number
- Employer's statement (court form used in child support cases)
- Letter from employer with photo attached of the person who is working for them
- Copy of workplace photo ID

Evidence that the victim has income from other sources:

- Child/spousal support orders
- Other court orders
- Support from family members
- Letters of support from family or friends providing assistance
- Receives funds for: Citizen/ lawful permanent resident children (e.g. food stamps, child care, TANF)
- Receipts for paid bills or utilities
- Letter from social services establishing enough income to support children



Evidence that the victim is taking steps to prepare to work or is taking steps to improve their ability to obtain employment:

- School records reflecting courses the victim is taking
- English as a second language classes
- Training and certification courses
- Participation in victim support group
- Participation in mental health counseling
- Victim is pursuing VAWA, T or U visa relief

Evidence that the victim does or does not have any certain conditions and/or issues:

- Severe and persistent mental illness
- HIV/ AIDs (free testing centers)
- Felony criminal record
- Sex offender criminal record
- Substance abuse (over the counter tests, explain steps victim has taken to become clean/sober)
- Physical disabilities requiring accommodation
- HHS federally-funded primary care centers (migrant and public health centers open to everyone)

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February 2017

National Immigrant Women's Advocacy Project (NIWAP)