



## **Emergency Transfer Plan for Victims of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, or Stalking**

### **Emergency Transfers**

The Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA) is concerned about the safety of its residents, and such concern extends to residents who are victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. In accordance with the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA),<sup>1</sup> HACLA allows residents who are victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking to request an emergency transfer from the resident's current unit to another unit. The ability to request a transfer is available regardless of sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation.<sup>2</sup> The ability of HACLA to honor such request for residents currently receiving assistance depends upon a preliminary determination that the resident is or has been a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, and on whether HACLA has another dwelling unit that is available to offer the resident for occupancy.

This plan identifies residents who are eligible for an emergency transfer, the documentation needed to request an emergency transfer, confidentiality protections, how an emergency transfer may occur, and guidance to residents on safety and security.

### **Eligibility for Emergency Transfers**

A resident who is a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, as provided in HUD's regulations at 24 CFR part 5, subpart L, is eligible for an emergency transfer if the resident reasonably believes that there is a threat of imminent harm from further violence if the resident remains within the same unit. If the resident is a victim of sexual assault, the resident may also be eligible to transfer if the sexual assault occurred on the premises within the 90-calendar-day period preceding a request for an emergency transfer. A resident requesting an emergency transfer must expressly request the transfer in accordance with the procedures described in this plan.

### **Emergency Transfer Request Documentation**

To request an emergency transfer, the resident must notify (either orally or in writing) HACLA's office and complete a transfer request using form HS-ETR-VAWA. By completing the form, the resident will be certifying the following:

1. The resident is expressively requesting the transfer, AND
2. The resident reasonably believes there is a threat of imminent harm from further violence if the resident were to remain in the same dwelling unit assisted under HACLA's program; or the resident was a sexual assault victim and the sexual assault occurred on the premises during the 90-calendar-day period preceding the resident's request for an emergency transfer.

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<sup>1</sup> Despite the name of this law, VAWA protection is available to all victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, regardless of sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation.

<sup>2</sup> Housing providers cannot discriminate on the basis of any protected characteristic, including race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, disability, or age. HUD-assisted and HUD-insured housing must be made available to all otherwise eligible individuals regardless of actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status.

## *HACLA - Emergency Transfer Plan for Victims of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, or Stalking*

### **Confidentiality**

HACLA will keep confidential any information that the resident submits in requesting an emergency transfer and information about the emergency transfer, unless the resident gives HACLA written permission to release the information on a time limited basis, or disclosure of the information is required by law or required for use in an eviction proceeding or hearing regarding termination of assistance from the covered program. This includes keeping confidential the new location of the dwelling unit of the resident, if one is provided, from the person(s) that committed an act(s) of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking against the resident. See the *Notice of Occupancy Rights under the Violence Against Women Act* (form VAWA-100) for more information about HACLA's responsibility to maintain the confidentiality of information related to incidents of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

### **Emergency Transfer Timing and Availability**

HACLA will accept emergency transfers at any time during the course of an individual's residence at HACLA's assisted properties.

HACLA cannot guarantee that a transfer request will be approved or how long it will take to process the request nor can HACLA guarantee offers to specific sites or specific units. HACLA will, however, act as quickly as possible to move a resident who is a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking to another appropriate unit, subject to availability. If a resident reasonably believes a proposed unit would not be safe, the resident may request a different unit. When a unit is accepted, the transferred resident must agree to abide by the terms and conditions that govern occupancy in the unit to which the resident has been transferred.

If HACLA has no available units for which a resident who needs an emergency transfer is eligible, HACLA will assist the resident in identifying other housing providers who may have available units to which the resident could move assuming the resident is eligible for such unit. At the resident's request, HACLA may assist residents in contacting local organizations offering assistance to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking (form VAWA-300 attached to this plan).

### **Safety and Security of Residents**

Pending processing of the transfer and the actual transfer, if it is approved and occurs, the resident is urged to take all reasonable precautions to be safe.

Residents who are or have been victims of domestic violence are encouraged to contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-7233, or a local domestic violence shelter, for assistance in creating a personal safety plan. For persons with hearing impairments, that hotline can be accessed by calling 1-800-787-3224 (TTY).

Residents who have been victims of sexual assault may call the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network's National Sexual Assault Hotline at 800-656-HOPE, or visit the online hotline at <https://ohl.rainn.org/online/>.

Residents who are or have been victims of stalking seeking help may visit the National Center for Victims of Crime's Stalking Resource Center at <https://www.victimsofcrime.org/our-programs/stalking-resource-center>.

**Attachment:** List of local organizations that offer help to victims, form VAWA-300.