

## **Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee**

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

#### **Emergency Transfers**

The Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee (HACM) is concerned about the safety of its tenants, and such concern extends to tenants who are victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. In accordance with the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA),<sup>1</sup> the Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee allows tenants who are victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking to request an emergency transfer from the tenant'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 HACM to honor such request for tenants currently receiving assistance, however, may depend upon a preliminary determination that the tenant is or has been a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, and on whether HACM has another dwelling unit that is available and is safe to offer the tenant for temporary or more permanent occupancy.

This plan identifies tenants 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 tenants on safety and security. This plan is based on a model emergency transfer plan published by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Federal agency that oversees that the public housing and housing choice vouchers program comply with VAWA.

#### **Eligibility for Emergency Transfers**

A tenant 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 tenant reasonably believes that there is a threat of imminent harm from further violence if the tenant remains within the same unit. If the tenant is a victim of sexual assault, the tenant may

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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.

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 tenant requesting an emergency transfer must expressly request the transfer in accordance with the procedures described in this plan.

Tenants who are not in good standing may still request an emergency transfer if they meet the eligibility requirements in this section.

### **Emergency Transfer Request Documentation**

To request an emergency transfer, the participant shall notify HACM as follows:

- Public housing residents: To request an emergency transfer, the tenant shall notify the property manager and submit a written request for a transfer to the property manager. The property manager will provide the resident with an Emergency Transfer Request form.
- Housing Choice Voucher participants: To request an emergency transfer/move, the tenant shall notify the Program Integrity Manager and submit a written request for a transfer/move. The program will provide the tenant with an Emergency Transfer Request form HUD-5383 and if necessary form HUD-5382.

HACM will provide reasonable accommodations to this policy for individuals with disabilities.

The tenant's written request for an emergency transfer must include either:

1. A statement expressing that the tenant reasonably believes that there is a threat of imminent harm from further violence if the tenant were to remain in the same dwelling unit assisted under the Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee program; OR
2. A statement that the tenant was a sexual assault victim and that the sexual assault occurred on the premises during the 90-calendar-day period preceding the tenant's request for an emergency transfer.

### **Confidentiality**

HACM will keep confidential any information that the tenant submits in requesting an emergency transfer, and information about the emergency transfer, unless the tenant gives the Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee 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 tenant, if one is

provided, from the person(s) that committed an act(s) of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking against the tenant.

See the Notice of Occupancy Rights under the Violence Against Women Act For All Tenants for more information about HACM'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**

HACM cannot guarantee that a transfer request will be approved or how long it will take to process a transfer request. HACM will however, act as quickly as possible to move a tenant who is a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking to another unit, subject to availability and safety of a unit.

**Public Housing:** If a tenant reasonably believes a proposed transfer would not be safe, the tenant may request a transfer to a different unit. If a unit is available, the transferred tenant must agree to abide by the terms and conditions that govern occupancy in the unit to which the tenant has been transferred. HACM may be unable to transfer a tenant to a particular unit if the tenant has not or cannot establish eligibility for that unit.

If HACM has no safe and available units for which a tenant who needs an emergency is eligible, HACM will assist the tenant in identifying other housing providers who may have safe and available units to which the tenant could move. At the tenant's request, HACM will also assist tenants in contacting the local organizations offering assistance to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking that are attached to this plan. If a unit or voucher is not immediately available, the person requesting the transfer shall be placed at the top of the waiting list, or the emergency waiting list if one exists, as long as they are eligible for the program.

**Housing Choice Voucher:** When a Housing Choice Voucher participant invokes their rights under VAWA and requests an emergency transfer/move, upon review and approval of the documentation provided, HACM will make a determination of eligibility for an emergency transfer/move as quickly as possible. However, the emergency transfer/move requirements do not supersede any eligibility or occupancy requirements that may apply to the HCV program. For example, if a participant qualifies for an emergency transfer/move to escape an abusive partner, but the participant would not meet the program eligibility requirements, the participant cannot be rehoused under the Housing Choice Voucher program.

When determining the voucher size for the emergency move, HACM will take into consideration minor children, elderly or disabled family members associated with the move. If the perpetrator is a member of the household, HACM will review its criminal policies to determine if the actions

of the perpetrator warrant program termination. In addition, if determined eligible, HACM will issue the remaining family members the voucher if there is a bifurcation.

The participant family has the right to locate a safe unit within HACM's jurisdiction, or exercise their portability rights outside of HACM's jurisdiction. If the participant requests portability, processing of this request would be expedited.

HACM will not determine "good standing" nor require the participant family to provide a 30-day notice to HACM or the current owner, for an approved emergency move request.

### **Safety and Security of Tenants**

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

Tenants 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 safety plan. For persons with hearing impairments, that hotline can be accessed by calling 1-800-787-3224 (TTY).

Tenants 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/>.

Tenants 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>.

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT RESOURCES

If you or someone you know has experienced domestic violence, dating violence, stalking or sexual assault, these agencies can help.

To order a free copy of a printed **You Are Not Alone** resource brochure, please contact the Coordinator of the Milwaukee Commission on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault at (414) 286-2997.

\* denotes programs with Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault services.

### 24-Hour Crisis Help Lines

Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services	220-SAFE (7233)
Hmong Domestic Violence Helpline* <i>(Hais lus Hmoob), Hmong-Speaking Kev Kub Ntxhov tus xov tooj 24 teev tauj 7 hnub.</i>	1-877-740-4292
IMPACT 211 <i>Community Information Line (Food, Family Health, Social Services)</i>	211
Latina Resource Center* <i>Habla Español</i>	389-6510
Milwaukee Women's Center* <i>A program of Community Advocates</i>	671-6140
National Domestic Violence Hotline* <i>Habla Español</i>	1-800-799-SAFE (7233)
National Human Trafficking Resource Center	1-888-373-7888
Parent Helpline	671-0566
Psychiatric and Suicide Prevention Hotline	257-7222
Safe Path* <i>Questions about Youth Sexual Violence</i>	271-9523
Sexual Assault Treatment Center*	219-5555
Sojourner Family Peace Center*	933-2722

## Shelters

Casa Maria	344-5745
Guest House	345-3240
Daystar* <i>Long-Term Housing for Single Women Leaving Abusive Relationships</i>	385-0334
Hope House <i>Non-Emergency Shelter for Women and Children</i> <i>Emergency Shelter for Men</i>	645-2122
Milwaukee Women's Center Refuge*	671-6140
Milwaukee Rescue Mission	344-2211
Pathfinders <i>Emergency Shelter for Youth</i>	271-1560
Salvation Army	265-6360
Sojourner Truth House* <i>A program of Sojourner Family Peace Center</i>	933-2722
Walker's Point Youth and Family Center	647-8200

## Adolescents

Hmong American Women's Association <i>Teen Legacy Circle</i>	342-0858
Latina Resource Center*	389-6511
Mobile Urgent Treatment Team (MUTT) <i>Mobile Crisis Team for Children/Teens</i>	257-7621
New Concept Self-Development Center	344-5788
Pathfinders <i>Hand In Hand - Therapy Program for Youth Victims</i>	964-2565
Sojourner Family Peace Center* <i>Teen Support Groups</i>	933-2722
Represent! <i>Leadership Group for Youth who have Experienced the Sex Trade</i>	212-5121
Walker's Point Youth & Family Center	647-8200
Wraparound Milwaukee	257-7611

## Children

Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare	220-SAFE (7233)
Children's Hospital of Wisconsin Urgent Care Child Protection Center	266-2280 277-8980
Hmong American Women's Association <i>FUN: Fostering Unique Needs</i>	342-0858
KidsMatter, Inc.	344-1220
La Causa Family Resource Center <i>Emergency Respite Care</i>	647-5971
Latina Resource Center* <i>Support Groups for Child Witnesses and Survivors of Violence</i>	389-6526
Milwaukee County Children's Court Center	257-7710
The Parenting Network	671-5575
Parent Helpline	671-0566
Sojourner Family Peace Center* Family Advocacy and Support Services	276-1911

## Counseling/Advocacy

American Indian Task Force on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault*	651-6042
Aurora Family Service of Milwaukee	342-4560
Catholic Charities	771-2881
The Healing Center* <i>Adult Survivors of Sexual Abuse</i>	671-HEAL (4235)
Hmong American Women's Association*	342-0858
IndependenceFirst* <i>Assistance for Victims with Disabilities</i>	291-7520
Jewish Family Services	390-5800
KidsMatter, Inc. <i>Support for Foster and Kinship Families</i>	344-1220
Latina Resource Center*	389-6500
Lutheran Social Services	281-4400
Milwaukee LGBT Community Center*	271-2656

Milwaukee Women's Center* <i>A Program of Community Advocates</i>	449-4777
Milwaukee Public Schools Psychological Services	438-3458
The Parenting Network	671-0566
Pathfinders <i>Youth Survivors of Sexual Abuse</i>	964-2565
Refugee Family Strengthening Program* <i>Serving the Russian-Speaking Community</i> <i>A Program of Sojourner Family Peace Center</i>	276-1911
Sensitive Crimes Victim Services - District Attorney's Office*	278-4617
Sexual Abuse Prevention and Response Service* <i>Archdiocesan Response to Sexual Abuse within the Catholic Church</i>	758-2232
Sojourner Family Peace Center* <i>Advocacy, Life Skills, and Support Groups</i>	933-2722 276-1911

## Legal

Centro Legal Por Derechos Humanos <i>Sliding Scale Legal Services</i> <i>Family Law &amp; Criminal Misdemeanor</i>	384-7900
Child Support Enforcement	278-5160
District Attorney's Office Sensitive Crimes Unit Domestic Violence Unit Victim Advocates of Sojourner Family Peace Center	278-5019 278-4792 278-4978
Divorce Pro Se, Inc <i>Do-It-Yourself Divorce</i>	350-0091
Lawyer Referral of the Milwaukee Bar Association	274-6768
Legal Action of Wisconsin <i>Low Income Legal Services</i>	278-7722
Legal Aid Society <i>Low Income Legal Services</i>	727-5300
Public Defender	227-4130
Sojourner Family Peace Center* Restraining Order and Legal Advocacy Family Advocacy and Support Services	278-5079 276-1911



## Health

Agape Community Center	464-4440
AIDS Resource Center (ARCW)	273-1911
Badgercare Member Services	1-800-362-3002
Children's Hospital of Wisconsin - Urgent Care	266-2280
Child Protection Center	277-8980
City of Milwaukee Health Department	286-3521 (TTY) 286-2025
Community Advocates Med-Line	449-4777 x 3
Gerald L. Ignace Indian Health Center	383-9526
House of Peace Community Center	933-1300
Outreach Community Health Centers	374-2400
Hispanic Medical Center	384-8930
Marquette Clinic for Women and Children	755-6970
Milwaukee Health Services	372-8080 760-3900
Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin	1-800-230-PLAN (7526)
Sexual Assault Treatment Center* (Aurora Medical Center)	219-5555
Sixteenth Street Community Health Center	672-1353
St. Ben's Health Clinic	765-0606
Progressive Community Health Centers	935-8000

## Services for Abusers

Alma Center	265-0100
Beyond Abuse <i>A Program of Sojourner Family Peace Center</i>	276-1911
Cedar Creek Counseling <i>Sliding Fee Scale</i>	427-4884
HOPE - Helping Offenders Process Emotions <i>A Program of Jewish Family Services</i>	390-5800
Nevermore <i>A Program of Community Advocates Women's Center</i>	828-5190

Parent Helpline	671-0566
The Parenting Network	671-5575
Ujima <i>A Program of Asha Family Services</i>	875-1511

## Other Resources

Aging Resource Center <i>Resources for Older Adults, Caregivers, and Survivors of Elder Abuse/Neglect</i>	289-6874
Alcoholics Anonymous	771-9119
American Indian Task Force on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault*	690-5354
Community Advocates* <i>Advocacy for Low-Income People</i>	449-4777
Disability Rights Wisconsin	773-4646
IMPACT 211 Community Information Line (Food, Family Health, Social Services) Assessment and Referrals for Alcohol and Drug-Related Problems	211 276-8487
IndependenceFirst <i>Assistance for Victims with Disabilities</i>	291-7520
Jewish Family Services	390-5800
La Causa Crisis Nursery <i>Free crisis-related child care. Limited space available.</i>	647-5990
Latina Resource Center* <i>A Program of UMOs</i>	389-6500
Milwaukee County Jail	226-7000
Milwaukee LGBT Community Center* SAGE Milwaukee <i>Services and Advocacy for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Elders</i>	271-2656
Mental Health America of Wisconsin <i>Mental Health Information and Patient Advocacy</i>	276-3122
Milwaukee 9 to 5 <i>Sexual Harassment &amp; Job-Related Advocacy for Working Women</i>	274-0925
Milwaukee Police Department Emergency Non-Emergency Sensitive Crimes Unit*	911 933-4444 935-7405

Narcotics Anonymous <i>Group Meetings to Address Drug-Related Problems</i>	1-866-913-3837
Probation & Parole	229-0600
Project Ujima at Children's Hospital <i>Victim Assistance Program</i>	266-2557
Public Defender	227-4130
Safe Haven <i>Temporary Shelter for Pets of Domestic Violence Victims A Program of Sojourner Family Peace Center</i>	933-2722
Wisconsin Clearinghouse on Missing & Exploited Children and Adults	1-800-843-4673
Wisconsin Victim Helpline <i>Referral, Information, and Advocacy Helpline</i>	1-800-446-6564
Wisconsin Victim Information and Notification Everyday (VINE) Offenders Custody Status for County Jails Notification of Served Protective Orders and Firearm Surrender	1-888-944-8463 1-855-948-7648
YWCA Transitional Housing Program <i>Long-term housing for homeless woman and their children</i>	442-7880