

OVW Transitional Housing Grant Program: Housing Models, Support Services, and Fee Structures

Please contact OVW.TransitionalHousing@usdoj.gov if you have questions after reviewing the information below.

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Overview of the OVW Transitional Housing Program

Authorizing statute: 34 U.S.C. § 12351

The Transitional Housing Program funds transitional housing and support services for victims who are homeless or in need of transitional housing or other housing assistance because of domestic/dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

Eligible Applicants

The following is a list of eligible applicants. A victim services provider partner may be required depending on the applicant's entity type.

States	Partnered with a victim service provider
Territories	Partnered with a victim services provider
Tribes	A Tribe may have its own victim services program with a history of effective work concerning domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking or it may have a victim service provider partner
Other organizations with a history of effective work concerning domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and/or stalking	E.g., domestic violence or sexual assault victim service providers

Housing Services

Applicants may propose providing housing services using one or both of the models described below. Applicants should propose the model that best meets the needs of survivors in their communities. Housing units should be configured to promote stable, long-term living environments and have separate living spaces for survivors. Grant funds are not intended to be used to support emergency housing.

Scattered Site Housing



Private landlord units located throughout the community or region served by the grantee, which allows survivors to identify a unit that best meets their needs. The lease may be in the name of the survivor or the program (and subleased to the survivor). This model also may allow survivors to “transition in place,” meaning that they do not have to relocate once the assistance from the transitional housing grant ends.

Site-Based Housing



An apartment building or homes that are owned or rented and operated by the grantee program in which survivors may reside while receiving assistance under the project. In contrast to the scattered site model, survivors must relocate once their stay in the grantee's transitional housing program ends.

Housing Costs

Allowable costs for housing services can vary based on the type of housing provided. See the chart below:

Scattered Site Housing	Site-Based Housing
100% of Rental Costs	Utility Costs
Security Deposits	Insurance
Utility Costs and Deposits	Security Costs ¹
Moving Expenses	General maintenance ²



Applicants are encouraged to design housing services that meet the needs of victims they are serving.

Support Services

To assist survivors achieve independence and overcome barriers to permanent housing, programs may propose a wide range of support services designed with the victim's needs in mind. All services provided should be framed as voluntary and not a condition for the participant to receive housing assistance. The chart below provides examples of commonly provided services.

¹ Security costs can include wireless cameras, monthly security fees for cameras, mobile panic buttons, and re-keying locks.

² Grant funds can be used for general maintenance costs such as leaking faucets, clogged drains, or replacing light bulbs.

Service Category	Example Services
Advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Resources • Landlord Engagement
Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workforce Development • Job Coaching • Job Training/Certifications
Mental Health/Trauma-Healing Modalities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual or group counseling • Physical movement (including gym memberships) • Culturally specific trauma healing practices • Domestic violence/sexual assault support groups • Crisis intervention • Art therapy
Financial Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial literacy classes/coaching • Credit Repair
Food/Nutrition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groceries • Assistance with signing up for SNAP/TANF/SSDI
Household Establishment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dishes, cutlery, pots/pans, bedding
Language Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Translation • Telephonic or in-person Interpretation (American Sign Language, Spanish, etc.)
Parenting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Childcare • Parenting classes • Family counseling
Service Animal/Emotional Support Companion/Pet Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pet rent and deposits
Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gas vouchers • Shuttle rides • Public Transit Passes • Rideshare/app-based ride



Tip

Applicants are encouraged to propose a variety of services and consider regular evaluations of those services to determine their efficacy.

Case Example Using Transitional Housing Grant Funds to Support a Survivor

Linda and her children, Sandra and Edward, just became new clients of your OVV TH funded program. During an initial intake meeting you scheduled with Linda, she lets you know that her most immediate need is stable **housing**. The family entered transitional housing after having experienced domestic violence and needing to leave their home. Linda has concerns about getting **utilities** turned on in her name because she has **bills in arrears** for gas, electricity, and water. When you ask Linda about what kind of work she might be interested in she tells you she has had trouble **getting around town** to apply for jobs because her **car needs repairs** and she saves what little money is available for **bus fares** for her children to get to school. Linda also shares that Sandra and Edward need **new school uniforms, new shoes, money for school lunches, and school supplies** urgently. You also learn that the family has a **dog** that a friend of the family has been caring for since the family became homeless.

Let's think about how TH funds can be used to support Linda and her family. The chart below highlights some examples of permissible costs that can support Linda.

Highlight Color	Transitional Housing and Support Services
	Rent payments, security deposits, utilities, bus passes, car repairs, bills in arrears, clothing, food assistance, school supplies, and pet costs.



Tip

While considering Linda's situation, the advocacy team is transparent and consistent about funding limitations, manages expectations, and involve Linda in making a specific plan about what challenges she wants to prioritize.

Eligibility for Transitional Housing Services

Per 34 U.S.C. § 12351(a), an individual may receive transitional housing if they identify as a survivor of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, and are homeless or in need of transitional housing or other housing assistance as a result of their victimization (and emergency shelter services or other crisis intervention services are unavailable or insufficient for them).

Additional Eligibility Requirements

Per 34 U.S.C. § 12351(b)(3)(C), (d)(2)-(3), and (g)(2)(D), recipients are not allowed to condition transitional housing assistance on any other factors. For example, recipients may not impose the following requirements or limitations on victims:

- Criminal background checks
- Substance use screenings/history
- Minimum or maximum income
- Employment history or goals
- Education history or goals
- Mental health diagnoses
- Participation in vulnerability assessments, coordinated entry, or prioritization assessments
- Requiring victims to submit sensitive personally identifying information
- Requiring victims to obtain a police report or restraining orders
- Requiring victims to enroll in a waitlist to access TH services

Budget Considerations

Applicants should read the NOFO thoroughly and consider the following:

- Applicants should develop a budget that supports the housing needs of victims for up to 24 months, with the possibility of an additional six months if the survivor has made a good-faith effort to acquire permanent housing but has been unable to do so (see 34 U.S.C. § 12351(c)).
- The budget should reflect a wide variety of services provided and be adaptable to survivors' unique self-identified needs.
- If a partner is required, include appropriate compensation for their work on the project.
- The budget should match the activities described in the proposal narrative.
- Specific rental caps applicable to other federal programs (e.g., "Fair Market Rent") are not required, and the budget may reflect reasonable costs for units that best meet survivors' needs.
- As a survivor is not required to have income to receive assistance, applicants may budget for 100% of survivors' housing expenses under the project without requiring them to contribute to the rent or pay program fees.

Additional Resources

- Sample Application components
 - [Proposal Narrative](#)
 - [Budget](#)
 - [Memorandum of Understanding](#)
 - [Summary Data Sheet](#)
 - [Confidentiality Notice Form](#)
 - [Delivery of Legal Assistance Certification](#)
 - [Disclosure of Process for Setting Executive Compensation](#)
 - [Certification of Out-of-Scope Activities](#)
 - [Pre-Award Risk Assessment](#)
- Application Resources
 - [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#)
 - [General Application Companion Guide](#)
 - [DOJ Grants Financial Guide](#)
- Transitional Housing Grant Program Resources
 - [Transitional Housing Program section of the OVW Funding Opportunities Page](#)
 - Unit email: OVW.TransitionalHousing@usdoj.gov