




Transitional Housing Program and policy development

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Transitional Housing Understanding the difference

Victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or dating violence

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      A[Victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or dating violence] --> B[Shelter]
      B --> C[Transitional Housing]
      C --> D[Permanent Housing]
  
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Purpose	immediate response to the violence	fleeing violence with support toward long-term safety and stability	long-term stability
Length of stay	short-term a few days to a few months	usually 6 months to 24 months	on-going
Activities	crisis response advocacy	advocacy with safety, economic, personal/family and housing planning/ support	usually no programming involved



Transitional Housing Models

Scattered Sites

Pros: location flexibility, less rules/policies, privacy

Cons: can be isolating, transportation issues, access to services, higher cost





Transitional Housing Models

Clustered housing

Pros: access to services, convenience for staff, privacy and community

Cons: lack of autonomy, more rules/policies





Transitional Housing Models

Communal living

Pros: built-in community, safety, lower cost

Cons: 'room-mate' negotiations, pets, larger families, substance use policies, visitors, more rules





Transitional Housing Services

- *Voluntary participation*
- *Safety and advocacy*
- Resources that remove barriers (access to childcare, transportation, \$\$\$\$, etc.)
- Rental subsidies/assistance
- Long-term housing planning




Transitional Housing
Policy areas to include

<p>Eligibility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - screening process - requests for assistance <p>Scope of services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - duration and capacity - issues: alcohol and drugs, relatives, etc. 	<p>Safety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - safety planning - facility/program <p>Victim confidentiality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - access to confidential information - accounting practices - document retention
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Transitional Housing
What guides your program?

- What are the values and beliefs that will guide you?
- What is your guiding vision?
- How will it guide your work:
 - with women?*
 - with the community of women?*
 - with each other?*
 - with the community?*

Transitional Housing
Guiding Principles Policies

- Affirming *women are sacred*
- Recognizing and supporting women's sovereignty
- Absolute confidentiality
- Centralizing safety
- Guided by the voices of victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and dating violence




Transitional Housing Implementing Your Policies


Internalizing policy and practice

- Educating staff on the why's and how's
- Creating forums for practice and exploration
- Revisiting and revising your policies



Transitional Housing Survivors' voices



- *"It heals, it supports, it's a place to live in a way that there is minimal stress. [It] has given me the opportunity to grow and spread my wings and be free and not be afraid."*
- *"This (TH program) will help me work toward becoming independent, so I won't have to depend on anyone. Being given a chance to get on my feet, to achieve things on my own, but still get support while I do it."*
- *"I have depended on a man my whole life, and depending on myself is hard. It's (the TH program) kind of like having a friend to help you."*



Transitional Housing Resources

Some websites that can be helpful:

- National Network to End Domestic Violence www.nnedv.org
- National Coalition for the Homeless www.nch.org
- HUD Office of Native American Programs www.hud.gov and <http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/ih/codetalk/onap/>
- Office on Violence Against Women www.ovv.usdoj.gov
- Red Wind Consulting, Inc. www.red-wind.net