



STTARS DVAM Toolkit for HUD ONAP, Tribal Housing Entities, and Tribally Designated Housing Entities

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	1
What is DVAM?	1
Why DVAM for Tribal Housing?	1
What is STTARS?	2
The Shelter and Housing Needs of AI/AN/NH Survivors, Generally	2
STTARS and NIWRC on Social Media	7
Hashtags	7
Join NIWRC & STTARS for DVAM Events	8
Promotional Posts	10
Awareness Cards (General)	10
Awareness Cards (Tillie Black Bear Day)	11
General DVAM Posts	11
Resources	13

Introduction

Recognizing the pressing need to address the complex intersection of domestic violence and housing insecurity, we are honored to present the STTARS Toolkit for DVAM 2023 and Social Media Guide. This toolkit provides an overview of the experience of domestic violence, the urgent and persistent need for resources such as shelter in both on and off-reservation communities, and the purpose of DVAM as an awareness tool for survivors, advocates, programs, Tribes, housing entities, and changemakers. In an age where social media wields unparalleled influence, the social media guide in this toolkit aims to equip advocates, organizations, and strong-hearted individuals with the means to actively participate in ramping social media visibility through pre-written language, graphic templates, DVAM-related events across the internet, and current research.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to educate yourself, promote best practices, and spread awareness on this critical intersection of the work to end domestic violence in our Nation.

What is DVAM?

DVAM stands for Domestic Violence Awareness Month, which is generally recognized in October. Since 1987 DVAM connects organizations and advocates who work to address domestic violence. It is also an important advocacy tool to raise awareness around domestic violence and intersectional issues.

Why DVAM for Tribal Housing?

Survivors of domestic violence rely on safe housing and shelter access when experiencing abuse. 63% of all homeless women are survivors of domestic violence. Most individuals who utilize public housing, Tribal housing, and emergency shelter services have unique needs related to their experiences of violence. It also means that Tribal Housing Authorities, Tribal Designated Housing Entities, property management companies, and other employees must be aware of domestic violence issues and must receive training on trauma-informed care, confidentiality, and safety.

Our DVAM activities have been primarily focused on agencies like the Department of Justice and Health and Human Services and on organizations that address domestic and sexual violence in Tribal communities. To increase awareness of these issues more broadly, and as a new Center, STTARS wants to focus its efforts on HUD, HUD ONAP, and HUD Tribal Grantees. This toolkit is an initial step, which STTARS will build on in the coming years to help generate awareness of domestic violence for non-DV-focused spaces and provide ideas (which can be modified based on your community and your community's needs) to center survivors in your critical housing work.

What is STTARS?

After years of grassroots advocacy to raise awareness and provide support for American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women impacted by the intersection of gender-based violence and housing instability, the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center (NIWRC) has launched its latest project—the [STTARS Indigenous Safe Housing Center](#). STTARS is a training and technical assistance provider funded by the Family and Youth Services Bureau that addresses survivor-faced homelessness for on and off-reservation communities. If you would like to request any technical assistance or training related to DVAM or any other issue impacting Indigenous survivors in your community, please fill out this [form](#), and a member of our team will contact you.

Learn more about STTARS' [mission and vision](#), and watch our [launch webinar recording](#). You can also read more about our work in [Restoration magazine](#) and sign up for our [mailing list](#).

The Shelter and Housing Needs of AI/AN/NH Survivors, Generally

Domestic violence and sexual assault are the leading causes of homelessness in most communities within the United States. The need for safe, affordable, and sustainable housing is a grave concern for AI/AN gender-based violence survivors, advocates, and services who seek to help them, and their communities who value them. This is especially true considering that domestic violence and sexual assault

are the leading causes of homelessness in most communities within the United States. The shelter and housing “crisis” in Indian country and for AI/AN and other Indigenous peoples is nothing new. Access to land and housing issues have been present since colonization violated our Indigenous ways of life and Tribal communities. A quick study on the eras of federal Indian law and policy clarifies that inhumane practices towards AI/AN/Indigenous peoples and Indian Tribes have historically been the norm. Housing is certainly not an exception, and the basic lack of housing for AI/AN peoples is factually the direct result of massive land theft, systemic removal, and other intentional acts across the timeline of United States history.

Thus, the housing crisis in Indian Country has to be viewed first as a historical injustice, one that has been utilized as a tool in the ongoing genocide of Indigenous populations. The same is true for the high incidence of gender-based violence in AI/AN populations. We cannot view the housing crisis and the high rates of violence, lack of adequate resources, and criminal justice response to that violence in Indian country and in communities where AI/AN people reside outside of Indian country as randomized or even consequential occurrences, but rather as manifestations of a larger goal: The eradication of Indigenous people from their lands.

Housing is a basic human right, yet AI/AN survivors of gender-based violence frequently report access, habitability, or sustainability issues, leading to layers of vulnerability and increased risk of new or continued victimization. These issues are felt almost universally by the AI/AN population across the housing spectrum. Just as there are urgent issues for AI/AN survivors of gender-based violence, who attempt to access shelters or emergency and transitional housing, the same issues are present regarding the availability of housing assistance and affordable, habitable, sustainable, and stable housing.

General Statistics

The Experience of Gender-Based Violence for AI/AN Survivors:

[National Institute of Justice Research Report May 2016: Violence Against American Indian and Alaska Native Women and Men and 2010 Findings from Nat'l Intimate Partner & Sexual Violence Survey:](#)

- More than 4 in 5 American Indian and Alaska Native women (84.3%) have experienced violence in their lifetime. This includes
 - 56.1 % who have experienced sexual violence.

- 55.5 % who have experienced physical violence by an intimate partner.
- 48.8 % who have experienced stalking.
- 66.4 % who have experienced psychological aggression by an intimate partner.
- Impact of Violence Among American Indian and Alaska Native victims of lifetime physical violence by intimate partners, stalking, and sexual violence:
 - 66.5 percent of women and 26.0 percent of men were concerned for their safety.
 - 41.3 percent of women and 20.3 percent of men were physically injured.
 - 92.6 percent of women and 74.3 percent of men had talked to someone about what the perpetrators did.
 - 49.0 percent of women and 19.9 percent of men needed services because of what the perpetrators did.
 - 40.5 percent of women and 9.7 percent of men had to miss days of work or school because of what the perpetrators did.
- The most common service needed was medical care (38.0 percent of female victims and 9.3 percent of male victims). 38.2 percent of American Indian and Alaska Native women and 16.9 percent of American Indian and Alaska Native men were unable to get the services they needed.

The Intersection of Housing and Gender-Based Violence for AI/AN Survivors:

- Though Native women experience violence at incredibly disparate rates, it is just as alarming that only [38% of those women](#) reported they were unable to access necessary services (such as shelter and legal assistance).
- There are 574 federally recognized Tribes and less than 50 [Native domestic violence shelters](#) nationwide.
- 50% of the homeless population identify domestic violence as the primary cause.
- Between 22% and 57% of homeless women report that domestic violence was the immediate cause of the homelessness.
- 92% of homeless women have experienced severe physical or sexual abuse at some point in their lives.
- 63% of homeless women have been victims of domestic violence.
- 38% of domestic violence victims will become homeless at some point.

**For Native women, the majority of these statistics are under-representative.

What are some suggested activities that Tribal Housing Entities and Tribally Designated Housing Entities can implement for DVAM 2022?

Share Space

- Host a candlelight vigil to show your support for survivors
- Host a community potluck dinner and share resources on domestic violence and services in your community
- Host an awareness walk

Transform Space

- Implement a “clothesline project”
- Invite an artist to create an art installation in support of survivors
- Light up your community in the color purple
- Plant purple plants

Heighten your Awareness

- Attend a DVAM Training or another training related to housing insecurity, homelessness, and gender-based violence
- Develop a resource guide that fits your local needs
- Commit to reading about the experience of domestic violence by AI/AN/NH survivors

Here are some suggestions!

Engage your Social Space

- Encourage staff to wear purple and post photos of yourselves to show your support using our hashtags: #safehousing4alldvam #safespaceforthesacred #housingforsurvivors #protectthem #strengthenournations #shelterher
- Create a social media campaign and tag us @safehousing4all across all platforms
- Share support for Survivors (post the StrongHearts Native Helpline’s phone number and website)
- Host a Twitter storm

Meet Needs

- Host a fundraiser to create a pool of flexible funding for survivors
- Create a garden of traditional medicines
- Host a community event to replenish food/necessity supply

What are survivor needs at the intersection of housing insecurity/homelessness and domestic violence?

- Tribal Codes and policies that are survivor-centered

- increase tribal shelter inventory
- increase housing inventory
- rent control
- rental assistance
- rent cancellation
- low barrier access to shelter and housing
- unrestricted funds for housing needs
- shelter stays extended (lengthen the time a survivor can remain in shelter)
- implement models like the permanent supportive housing model
- provide supportive services
- create/hire Native run property management companies that are trauma-informed and survivor-centered
- create affordable childcare
- ensure coordination of services
- fund domestic violence, housing advocates
- create domestic violence leave provisions
- ensure access to culture and traditional ceremonies and practices for healing
- push for student loan pause /cancellation
- extend unemployment benefits, healthcare benefits, and family medical leave
- provide a universal basic income
- Adequately fund NAHSDA to address the disparate needs of survivors in our communities
- provide flexible funding to survivors
- remove application fees
- remove barriers for survivors with convictions

Want more information or additional resources to share?

Check out our housing-specific [Resource Library](#), sign up for our [listserv](#), and learn more about our [National Workgroup on Safe Housing for American Indian and Alaska Native Survivors of Gender-Based Violence](#).

- STTARS Webinar Series with HUD -
 - [Gender-Based Violence: An Overview for Tribes and TDHEs](#)
 - [Gender-Based Violence: Best Practices and Policy Recommendations from the Voices of Survivors](#)
- Specialty Institute June 2022 with NIWRC and STTARS - [Addressing the Spectrum of Housing for Victims/Survivors of DV, Sexual Violence, and Trafficking in Tribal Communities](#)
- STTARS Webinar - [Responding to Housing Insecurity/Homelessness Issues for Indigenous Elders who are Victims of Domestic Violence](#)

- Policy Brief - [STTARS Violence Against Women Act Policy Brief \(Housing and Shelter\)](#)
- Policy Brief - [STTARS MMIW Practical Responses for Housing Authorities, Property Managers, Residents, Tribal Council/Leadership, Community](#)
- Fact Sheet: [STTARS Violence Against Women Act \(VAWA\) \(Housing and Shelter\)](#)
- Policy Brief: [HUD Consultation Guidance](#)

STTARS and NIWRC on Social Media

STTARS and NIWRC maintain social media accounts on the following platforms:

- Facebook: facebook.com/safehousing4all, facebook.com/niwrc
- Twitter: [@safehousing4all](https://twitter.com/safehousing4all), [@niwrc](https://twitter.com/niwrc)
- Instagram: [@safehousing4all](https://instagram.com/safehousing4all), [@niwrc](https://instagram.com/niwrc)
- Official Webpage: niwrc.org/dvam23

Hashtags

The following hashtags may be used to promote, share, or index posts related to DVAM 2022:

- #safehousing4alldvam
- #safespaceforthesacred
- #housingforsurvivors
- #protectthem
- #strengthenournations
- #shelterher
- #WomenAreSacred
- #DVAM23
- #SpeakTruthtoDV

Join NIWRC & STTARS for DVAM Events

To view the original schedule email, please [click here](#).

- **Sunday, October 1**

First Day of DVAM, Tillie Black Bear Day

- **Monday, October 2**

Webinar: "Reclaiming the Sacredness of Tribal Women: Honoring the Words of Tillie Black Bear" - Join us at 1:00 pm (MDT) for the "Reclaiming the Sacredness of Tribal Women: Honoring the Words of Tillie Black Bear" webinar! [Register now](#).

More Information: Known as the Grandmother of the movement to end violence against Indigenous women, Tillie Black Bear (Sicangu Lakota) was the first Indigenous woman to testify before Congress to bring awareness to the disproportionate rates of violence Indigenous women face. Tillie's efforts have increased awareness and understanding of violence against Indigenous women, resulting in significant accomplishments at the Tribal, state, and federal levels.

- **Tuesday, October 12**

Twitter Storm - We'll see you at 11:00 am (MDT) for the [DVAM Twitter Storm!](#) Engage by liking, tweeting, retweeting, and quote-tweeting the hashtags #DVAM2023, #DVAM, and #WomenAreSacred.

- **Wednesday, October 18**

Panel Discussion: "Reclaiming Women's and Survivors' Voices to Re-center Indigenous Advocacy" - You are invited to the 1:00 pm (MDT) DVAM panel "Reclaiming Women's and Survivors' Voices to Re-center Indigenous Advocacy" with guest speakers Karen Artichoker, Tina Olson, and Genne James! [Get signed up today](#).

More Information: Indigenous cultures recognize the power, leadership, and expertise of women. This panel of elder Indigenous advocates will discuss how women's and survivors' voices are necessary for guiding policy and the development of programs. Daily program practices should reflect the experiences of women and survivors. This conversation also addresses questions about forums for teaching, learning, and sharing.

- **Thursday, October 19**

Purple Thursday - Let us stand in solidarity with survivors by wearing purple (shirts, sweaters, dresses, scarves, glasses, etc.) on October 19th. If you're posting to social media and would like to share your support, feel free to tag us and use the hashtag #purplethursday.

More Information: Why do we wear purple? Three enduring themes remain at the heart of DVAM activities both historically and in present-day: Commemorating those we've lost to domestic violence, honoring the resilience of survivors, and fostering connections among those dedicated to combating gender-based violence. Purple encompasses all of these themes, uniting us as relatives, and expresses that no one is alone in this journey.

- **Wednesday, October 25**

Live Chat: Rewatch the Webinar - Join us for a rewatch! We'll be streaming "Understanding the Dynamics and Tactics of Intimate Partner Violence through the Lens of Indigenous Survivors" at 1:00 pm (MDT) with a live chat and a Q&A session hosted by our Technical Assistance & Training Team! [Register now to join.](#)

- **Thursday, October 26**

Twitter Storm: STTARS - We'd appreciate your support at 11:00 am (MDT) for the [STTARS Indigenous Safe Housing Center's Twitter Storm!](#) Engage by liking, tweeting, retweeting, and quote-tweeting the hashtags #DVAM2023, #DVAM, #WomenAreSacred, and #SafeHousing4All.

Promotional Posts

Awareness Cards (General)


<p>Download Card</p>	<p>Download Card</p>	<p>Download Card</p>	<p>Download Card</p>

<p>Download Card</p>	<p>Download Card</p>	<p>Download Card</p>	<p>Download Card</p>

<p>Download Card</p>	<p>Download Card</p>

			
<p>Download Card</p>	<p>Download Card</p>	<p>Download Card</p>	<p>Download Card</p>

Awareness Cards (Tillie Black Bear Day)

	
<p>Download Card</p>	<p>Download Card</p>

[See All Cards \(Folder\)](#)

General DVAM Posts

Post Text (Copy & Paste)
Safe Housing is an Indigenous Right. #WomenAreSacred #DVAM23 #SpeakTruthtoDV
Safe Housing is a Basic Human Right. #safehousing4alldvam #safespaceforthesacred
Safe Housing is Prevention. #strengthenournations #shelterher
Safe Housing Strengthens Families and Communities. #housingforsurvivors #protectthem
Safe Housing Addresses the Cycle of Abuse. #WomenAreSacred #DVAM23 #SpeakTruthtoDV
Housing is a basic human right, yet American Indian and Alaska Native Survivors of Gender-based Violence frequently report a lack of access to safe housing or shelter.
Though there are over 1500 National Domestic Violence Shelters, there are less than 50 Tribal ones.
Making existing shelters and housing safe, responsive to the needs of Indigenous survivors, trauma-informed, culturally-centered, and sustainable is necessary.

Genocide & colonization introduced the violent thought that land and bodies could be owned. Beliefs around housing access & sustainability are informed, upheld & acted upon by these problematic worldviews.

🔥 84.3% of AI/AN women have experienced violence in their lifetime. This includes sexual violence (56.1%), physical violence by an intimate partner (55.5%), stalking (48.8%), and psychological aggression by an intimate partner (66.4%). #housingforsurvivors #safehousing4all

The impact of violence on American Indian and Alaska Native victims is significant. Safety concerns, physical injuries, and the need for services are alarmingly high. We must prioritize support and resources for those affected. #housingforsurvivors #protectthem


🏠💔 The intersection of housing and gender-based violence for AI/AN survivors is a pressing issue. Shockingly, only 38% of Native women facing violence reported access to necessary services. We must do more to ensure safety and support for survivors. #protectthem #safehousing4all

🏠💔 Between 22% and 57% of homeless women report domestic violence as the immediate cause of their homelessness. These statistics are a stark reminder of the urgent need for accessible and effective support systems. #housingforsurvivors #protectthem

🏠👥 92% of homeless women have experienced severe abuse. It's time to address the root causes of homelessness and ensure survivors have the resources and safety they deserve. Together, we can make a difference. #housingforsurvivors

🏠❌ Tragically, 38% of domestic violence victims will eventually face homelessness. This cycle must end. Let's work together to provide survivors with the support, resources, and safe housing they need to rebuild their lives. #housingforsurvivors #protectthem #DVAM23

🔥 Native Hawaiians & Pacific Islanders face unique challenges in recovery housing due to historical factors. Providing culturally sensitive support is crucial. Let's work together to ensure equitable access to safe and stable housing for all. #housingforsurvivors #protectthem #DVAM23

 The intersection of housing and gender-based violence for AI/AN survivors is a pressing issue. We must expand support networks, increase shelter availability, and break the cycle of violence and homelessness.
#housingforsurvivoors #protectthem #DVAM23

Resources

Purchase

- Shirt - [“Domestic Violence is Not Traditional” T-Shirt](#) from the NIWRC Etsy Store
- **NEW!** Sweatshirt - [“Domestic Violence is Not Traditional” Pink Sweatshirt, Longsleeve](#) by NIWRC
- Booklet - [“Privacy, Confidentiality, and Privileged Communications: Keystones to Safety”](#)

Download

- Poster/PDF - [Intimate Partner Violence Triangle](#)
- Poster/PDF - [Respect Wheel: Natural Life-Supporting Power Descriptions](#)
- Poster/PDF - [The 6-Point Action Plan](#)
- Booklet - [“A Guide to Harmony For Women and Children Living in Shelter”](#)
- Booklet - [“From the Roots Up: An Overview of Shelter and Advocacy Program Development in Indian Country”](#)

Inform

- Fact Sheet: [Violence Against Women Act \(VAWA\)](#)
- Fact Sheet: [STTARS Violence Against Women Act \(VAWA\) \(Housing and Shelter\)](#)
- NIWRC’s [Quorum Page](#): Take Action!
- NIWRC’s Most Recent [Legislative Update](#)
- NIWRC’s *United States v. Rahimi* [Amicus Brief](#)

Read

- Article - [Restoration of Native Sovereignty and Safety for Native Women](#) from *Restoration Magazine*
- Article - [Unci Tillie Black Bear Annual Women Are Sacred Day](#) from *Restoration Magazine*
- Article - [Stories are our Medicine](#) from *Restoration Magazine*
- Toolkit - [Creating Healing Spaces with and for 2S+/LGBTQ+ Victim-Survivors of Domestic Violence](#)
- PDF - [Domestic Violence Awareness: Action for Social Change](#) from VAWnet.org
- Policy Brief - [STTARS Violence Against Women Act Policy Brief \(Housing and Shelter\)](#)
- Policy Brief - [STTARS MMIW Practical Responses for Housing Authorities, Property Managers, Residents, Tribal Council/Leadership, Community](#)
- News - [The STTARS Mailing List](#).

Watch, Listen

- Webinar Series - Tillie Black Bear Seasonal Healings Camps:
 - [Biboon Anishinaabe-Mshkiki: Winter Anishinaabe Medicines](#)
 - [Planting Seeds in the Community](#)
- STTARS Two-Part Webinar Series with HUD-
 - [Gender-Based Violence and Overview for Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities](#)
 - [Best Practices and Policy Recommendations from the Voices of Survivors](#) Webinar Series with HUD - [Gender-Based Violence Against Indigenous Women and Marginalized Genders](#)
- Webinar - Inspiring Change: Planning for Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Indian Country
- Podcast - Speaking Our Truth, Podcast for Change:
 - [Episode 6](#) - Tillie Black Bear Herstory, Part 1
 - [Episode 8](#) - Tillie Black Bear Herstory, Part 2
 - [Episode 9](#) - History of DVAM
- Specialty Institute June 2022 with NIWRC and STTARS - [Addressing the Spectrum of Housing for Victims/Survivors of DV, Sexual Violence, and Trafficking in Tribal Communities](#)
- STTARS Webinar - [Responding to Housing Insecurity/Homelessness Issues for Indigenous Elders who are Victims of Domestic Violence](#)
- Webinar - [Uplifting the Indigenous LGBTQ2S+ Community through Indigenous Empowerment and Intimate Partner Violence \(IPV\) Prevention](#)

Support

- StrongHearts Native Helpline 1-844-7NATIVE (762-8483) is a 24/7 safe, confidential, and anonymous domestic, dating, and sexual violence helpline for Native Americans and Alaska Natives, offering culturally appropriate support and advocacy. Visit strongheartshelpline.org and click on the “Chat Now” icon to connect one-on-one with a live advocate.
- [National Domestic Violence Hotline](#) 1-800-799-7233 (SAFE). TTY 1-800-787-3224.
- [The National Dating Abuse Helpline](#) 1-866-331-9474. TTY 1-866-331-8453. Text “loveis” to 22522. Live chat at www.loveisrespect.org.

This resource is made possible by grant #90EV0537, from the Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Family and Youth Services Bureau, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the official views of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.