

**AHFC Domestic Violence Rental Assistance Program****FY2014 Request: \$1,500,000****Reference No: 54796****AP/AL:** Appropriation**Project Type:** Economic Assistance**Category:** Public Protection**Location:** Statewide**House District:** Statewide (HD 1-40)**Impact House District:** Statewide (HD 1-40)**Contact:** Les Campbell**Estimated Project Dates:** 07/01/2013 - 06/30/2018 **Contact Phone:** (907)330-8356**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**

Domestic Violence Rental Assistance addresses the needs of homeless or near-homeless families who are victims of domestic violence or sexual assault. These same families might otherwise qualify economically for the federal Housing Choice Voucher program. However, because demand for vouchers far exceeds supply, the targeted families are unlikely to receive assistance in time to address their immediate needs. AHFC will administer the funds through essentially the same mechanisms and same locations as the federal Housing Choice Voucher program.

<b>Funding:</b>	<u>FY2014</u>	<u>FY2015</u>	<u>FY2016</u>	<u>FY2017</u>	<u>FY2018</u>	<u>FY2019</u>	<u>Total</u>
Gen Fund	\$1,500,000						\$1,500,000
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$1,500,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,500,000</b>

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - underway	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On-Going
0% = Minimum State Match % Required		<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Bill	

**Operating & Maintenance Costs:**

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Project Development:	0	0
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
One-Time Startup:	0	0
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Prior Funding History / Additional Information:**

FY2013 \$1,328,400 GF.

**Project Description/Justification:**

This project will provide rental assistance to victims of domestic violence or sexual assault who have been displaced or otherwise are in need of alternative housing to prevent further harm to the household.

**The projected outcomes include:**

Rental assistance for up to 250 households statewide who are displaced from permanent housing or otherwise at risk of displacement because of a recent or reoccurring instance of domestic violence as defined by Alaska Statute, Section 18.66.990(3).

**Program Description:**

Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC), the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (ANDVSA), and the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (CDVSA) agree to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) whereby AHFC will provide transitional tenant-based rental assistance to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

AHFC shall administer **Empowering Choice Housing Program (ECHP)** vouchers in accordance with Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCV) tenant-based rental assistance regulations set forth at 24 CFR 982 with specific waivers for program eligibility as outlined in the AHFC Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCV) Administrative Plan.

The Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (ANDVSA), whose primary mission is to represent victim services programs throughout the state who provide services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, shall assist those programs in providing referrals for program participants based on their expertise to determine displacement due to domestic violence or sexual assault.

A primary duty of the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (CDVSA) is to implement, maintain, and monitor DVSA crisis intervention and prevention programs in consultation with authorities in the field. CDVSA approved programs shall provide referrals of program participants to AHFC (DVSA Programs).

### **General Provisions**

ECHP is a referral-based transitional housing assistance program designed to meet the housing needs of victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Continuing operation of the ECHP is contingent upon available funding and continuing appropriations. The following general provisions apply to all ECHP participants.

### **Screening**

AHFC will follow its screening criteria as presented in Chapter 2 of the AHFC Housing Choice Voucher Program Administrative Plan and Chapter 2 of the Public Housing Admissions and Occupancy Policy.

### **Confidentiality of Records**

All information provided to AHFC regarding the fact that an individual is a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, shall be retained in confidence by AHFC, and shall not be entered into any shared database, provided to any owner or manager of the leased property, or provided to any other third party. DVSA Programs will not release any confidential information regarding the basis for a referral to AHFC, or any other third party, and AHFC will not ask for that information.

Vouchers issued to ECHP referrals will not have any information identifying the applicant as a participant in the ECHP or as a victim of domestic violence or sexual assault. To do so would breach applicants' rights to privacy and confidentiality.

### **Fund Administration**

ECHP vouchers are funded by a State of Alaska appropriation and a set aside from AHFC's Moving To Work Block Grant. Both funding sources include monies for the housing assistance payments and the administrative fees to cover the costs of the program. ECHP Public Housing assistance is funded through the Asset Management operating budget. AHFC shall administer funding from these sources consistent with its Housing Choice Voucher Program and Public Housing Assistance Program rules.

**Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Protections**

Applicants will be afforded the protections specified under the VAWA. Each lease issued under this program will contain an addendum outlining tenant rights under the VAWA. In addition to rights contained in VAWA, all other tenant rights applicable under state, federal, and local laws and AHFC's HCV Administrative Plan and Public Housing Admissions and Occupancy Policy shall apply.

**Conflict with Housing Choice Voucher Administrative Plan and Public Housing Admissions and Occupancy Policy**

In case of any conflict, silence, or ambiguity between this MOU and the AHFC HCV Administrative Plan and the Public Housing Admissions and Occupancy Policy, the requirements of the AHFC HCV Administrative Plan and the Public Housing Admissions and Occupancy Policy shall control.

**Time-Limited Assistance**

The ECHP is designed to help individuals and families transition into housing from displacement due to domestic violence and sexual assault. Unlike AHFC's Housing Choice Voucher Program, the ECHP is time-limited. Each participant is eligible for 36 months of rental assistance. At the end of this period, the participant may choose to continue their rental relationship with the landlord under a standard lease agreement.

ECHP participants in the Public Housing Program are not subject to the 36-month time limit on rental assistance. Participation in the Public Housing Program will be guided by AHFC's Public Housing Program Admissions and Occupancy Policy.