

The Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority
Emergency Transfer Plan for Victims of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual
Assault, or Stalking

Emergency Transfers

The Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority (AMHA) is concerned about the safety of its residents, and such concern extends to residents who are victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. In accordance with the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA),¹ AMHA allows residents who are victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking to request an emergency transfer from the resident's current unit to another unit. The ability to request a transfer is available regardless of sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation.² The ability of AMHA to honor such request for residents currently receiving assistance, however, may depend upon a preliminary determination that the resident is or has been a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, and on whether AMHA has another dwelling unit that is available and is safe to offer the resident for temporary or more permanent occupancy.

This plan identifies residents 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 residents on safety and security. This plan is based on a model

¹ 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.

² 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.

emergency transfer plan published by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Federal agency that oversees that AMHA is in compliance with VAWA.

Eligibility for Emergency Transfers

A resident 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 resident reasonably believes that there is a threat of imminent harm from further violence if the resident remains within the same unit. If the resident is a victim of sexual assault, the resident may 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 resident requesting an emergency transfer must expressly request the transfer in accordance with the procedures described in this plan. Residents 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 resident shall submit a written request for a transfer to the property or program management office. AMHA will provide reasonable accommodations to this policy for individuals with disabilities. The resident's written request for an emergency transfer should include either:

1. A statement expressing that the resident reasonably believes that there is a threat of imminent harm from further violence if the resident were to remain in the same dwelling unit assisted under AMHA; OR

2. A statement that the resident was a sexual assault victim and that the sexual assault occurred on the premises during the 90-calendar-day period preceding the resident's request for an emergency transfer.

Please note, AMHA must keep a confidential record of emergency transfer requests and their outcomes for 3 years.

Confidentiality

AMHA will keep confidential any information that the resident submits in requesting an emergency transfer, and information about the emergency transfer, unless the resident gives AMHA 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 resident, if one is provided, from the person(s) that committed an act(s) of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking against the resident. See the Notice of Occupancy Rights under the Violence Against Women Act For All Residents for more information about AMHA'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

AMHA cannot guarantee that a transfer request will be approved or how long it will take to process a transfer request. AMHA will, however, act as quickly as possible to move a resident who is a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking to another unit, subject to availability and safety of a unit. If a resident reasonably believes a proposed transfer would not be safe, the resident may request a transfer to a different unit. If a unit is available, the transferred resident must agree to abide by the terms and conditions that govern occupancy in the

unit to which the resident has been transferred. AMHA may be unable to transfer a resident to a particular unit if the resident has not or cannot establish eligibility for that unit.

Residents qualifying for an emergency transfer due to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking will be placed on the Transfer List until a safe unit is available. It will be used for both internal and external transfers, as needed. The Transfer List will give residents the same priority as other internal emergency transfers.

For a resident currently receiving tenant-based assistance, their request to receive a voucher and move to a new unit will be expedited. The new unit must still meet all program requirements prior to executing a new contract. HCVP residents will be placed on the Transfer List and given the same priority as emergency transfers if a safe unit is not available within their program.

For a resident currently receiving project-based voucher assistance and who has completed one year of tenancy, they may move to a new unit in their project-based property or they may request in writing a tenant-based voucher to move. For a resident currently receiving project-based voucher assistance and who has *not* completed one year of tenancy, they may move to a new unit in their project-based property. If a safe unit is not available at their current property, they may request in writing a tenant-based voucher to move. Project-based residents will be placed on the Transfer List and given the same priority as emergency transfers if a safe unit is not available within their program. All of the aforementioned requests will be completed expeditiously.

If AMHA has no safe and available units for which a resident who needs an emergency is eligible, AMHA will assist the resident in identifying other housing providers who may have safe and available units to which the resident could move. At the resident's request, AMHA will

also assist the resident in contacting local organizations offering assistance to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking that are attached to this plan.

Safety and Security of Residents

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

Residents 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).

Residents 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/>.

Residents 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>.

Attachment: Local organizations offering assistance to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

Local Resources in the Greater Akron Area

1) BATTERED WOMEN'S SHELTER OF SUMMIT AND MEDINA COUNTY

974 East Market Street Akron, OH 44305

www.scmcbws.org

SERVICE CONTACTS:

(330) 374-1111 Voice: Domestic Violence 24-Hour Crisis Line - Summit

(880) 395-4357 Toll-Free: 24-Hour Crisis Line 1-888-385-HELP

SERVICE DESCRIPTION: Provides crisis intervention and referrals for men, women and youth who have experienced domestic violence or abuse.

INTAKE PROCEDURE: Call the 24-hour Crisis Line for more information or to request assistance. Dial 9-1-1 in case of emergency.

FEES: Free.

ELIGIBILITY: Serves victims of domestic violence in Summit and Medina counties including men, women and youth.

HOURS: 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH: Interpreters available.

2) NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE

Austin, TX 78716

www.thehotline.org

SERVICE CONTACTS:

(800) 799-7233 Toll-Free: 1-800-799-SAFE

(855) 812-1001 TTY/TDD: Video Phone for Deaf Callers

(800) 787-3224 TTY

SERVICE DESCRIPTION: Provides a free 24-hour hotline that offers crisis intervention, safety planning, information and referrals to agencies in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

INTAKE PROCEDURE: If you or someone you know is frightened about something in your relationship, please call the Hotline. Call 9-1-1 if you are in immediate danger. Advocates who are Deaf are available from 9:00am to 5:00pm by videophone, Chat/Instant Messenger (IM) at DeafHotline or email at deafhelp@thehotline.org.

FEES: Free.

ELIGIBILITY: There are no restrictions for this service.

HOURS: 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Live chat/IM available daily 8:00am to 1:00pm.

LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH: Assistance is available in English and Spanish with access to more than 170 languages through interpreter services.

3) SUMMA HEALTH SYSTEM

SUMMA AKRON CITY HOSPITAL

525 East Market Street Akron, OH 44304-1619

www.summahealth.org

SERVICE CONTACTS:

(330) 375-3361 Voice: Emergency Department

SERVICE DESCRIPTION: Provides specialized healthcare for survivors of acute sexual assault, domestic violence and elder abuse or neglect. Forensic nurses provide focused and immediate medico-legal services including a health history, a detailed history of the assault, head-to-toe physical assessment, photo documentation of injuries, physical evidence collection and a personalized safety plan for discharge. SANE facilities include an examination room, shower and bathing facilities, and a quiet waiting area.

INTAKE PROCEDURE: Call or walk into the Summa Akron City Hospital Emergency Department and ask for Developing Options for Violent Emergencies (DOVE) program for more information. As soon as the survivor arrives, she/he will be examined by specially trained Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner. Patients may be referred to the program by physician offices, healthcare institutions, community agencies, law enforcement, or by anyone in the community including family and friends.

FEES: DOVE services are free.

ELIGIBILITY: Services available to adolescent and adult survivors of acute sexual assault (within 96 hours), domestic violence, elder abuse and neglect, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, creed or income.

HOURS: 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

4) CLEVELAND CLINIC AKRON GENERAL

1 Akron General Avenue Akron, OH 44307

www.akrongeneral.org

SERVICE CONTACTS:

(330) 344-1148 Voice: PATH Center

SERVICE DESCRIPTION: Offers 24-hour emergency room care for sexual assault and domestic abuse survivors. Provides trained professionals, comprehensive care including a forensic exam, treatment of injuries, prophylactic treatment, systematic sample collection, testing for drug-facilitated sexual assault, crisis intervention, trauma informed care, advocacy, safety planning and staff trained for courtroom testimony.

INTAKE PROCEDURE: Walk in for service.

FEES: Varies according to service.

ELIGIBILITY: Serves patients who have experienced sexual assault or domestic abuse.

HOURS: 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. A Sexual Assault Forensic Exam can be completed within 96 hours of the assault by a specially trained nurse.

5) VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

150 Furnace Street Akron, OH 44304

www.victimassistanceprogram.org

email: info@victimassistanceprogram.org

SERVICE CONTACT:

(330) 376-0040 Voice - Administrative and 24-Hour Crisis Line

SERVICE DESCRIPTION: Provides free, confidential crisis intervention to all victims of violent crimes and trauma. Offers assistance from first response at the crime scenes to court support throughout the justice system to providing trauma therapy.

- 24-hour Crisis Intervention: 24-hour crisis hotline, crime scene response, death notification, debriefing, group crisis intervention and individualized crisis intervention.
- Trauma Therapy: emotional support, information, guidance and trauma therapy utilizing individualized cognitive behavioral therapy for individuals and families who have been affected by violent crimes and trauma.
- Court Advocacy: court accompaniment, crime victim compensation, police and incident report follow-up, protection orders, victim impact statements, Victim Information Notification Everyday (VINE) and victims' right education.

INTAKE PROCEDURE: Appointments and walk-ins accepted during regular office hours. Crime scene response available only upon request from law enforcement.

FEES: Free.

ELIGIBILITY: Serves victims of crime and/or trauma in Summit County.

HOURS: Responds to scenes of crimes 24 hours a day, 7 days a week when requested by any emergency response agency. Other services vary by program. Accepts self-referral calls, walk-

ins, and appointments during regular business hours Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 4:00pm.

6) RAPE CRISIS CENTER

974 E. Market St. Akron, Ohio, 44305

<http://www.rccmsc.org/>

SERVICE CONTACTS:

330-434-7273

SERVICE DESCRIPTION: The Rape Crisis Center of Medina and Summit Counties is a nonprofit organization serving sexual assault victims and co-survivors in Summit and Medina Counties in northeastern Ohio.

- 24 Hour Hotline - Call the anonymous, free 24 hour hotline to speak with a trained advocate anytime for support, crisis intervention, non-bias education on options, information, and referrals.
- Crisis Intervention - In the form of face to face appointment in any of our 3 office locations in Akron, Medina, or in the Rec Center of the University of Akron, or through our 24/7 confidential and/or anonymous hotline.
- On-Site Support - Trained advocates can also accompany you at the hospital during a forensic medical exam, at the Police Department, or in court.
- Support Groups – There are several closed support groups at the Akron office location and on the University of Akron campus. Please email info-rcc@scmcbws.org for more information.

INTAKE PROCEDURE: Call the 24 Hour Hotline for more information or to request assistance. Dial 9-1-1 in case of emergency.

FEES: Free.

ELIGIBILITY: We serve all survivors of rape and sexual assault, both male and female, regardless of race, religion, financial status, educational background, gender identity, or sexual preference.

HOURS: 24/7 Hotline, office and support group hours vary

LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH: Ready and able to respond to the needs of the diverse cultures found in our community.

7) DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COURT

209 S. High Street Akron, Ohio 44308

<http://www.summitpcourt.net/Programs/DVCourt/Pages/DVCourt1.aspx>

SERVICE CONTACTS:

330-643-5365

SERVICE DESCRIPTION: Presided over by [Judge Paul J. Gallagher](#), the Court provides services for domestic violence offenders and their victims through a combination of intensive supervision and victim support.

INTAKE PROCEDURE: All felony cases, except murder cases, involving crimes between intimate partners are assigned to Judge Gallagher's Domestic Violence Court.

ELIGIBILITY: All felony cases, except murder cases, involving crimes between intimate partners are assigned to Judge Gallagher's Domestic Violence Court instead of being distributed among the ten General Division Judges.

HOURS: 8:00-4:00, Monday – Friday, closed on Legal Holidays

8) SHELTER CARE

32 South Avenue Tallmadge, Ohio 44278

847 Crouse St. Akron, Ohio 44306 Drop-In Center

<http://www.sheltercareinc.org/>

SERVICE CONTACTS:

330-253-7632 Boys Hotline

330-784-7200 Girls Hotline

330-633-9474 Adolescent girls experiencing pregnancy

(330) 253-7632 Drop In Center

(330) 630-5600 Administrative

SERVICE DESCRIPTION: Services provided include housing; clothing; food; mental health assessments; individual, family and group counseling; community psychiatric supportive treatment; education and employment opportunities; recreation; transportation; medical and psychological care; full time supervision; and drop in center for laundry, restroom, and meal services.

INTAKE PROCEDURE: Varies by program

FEES: Unknown

ELIGIBILITY: youth between the ages of 6 and 21 years who manifest emotional, behavioral or social adjustment problems

HOURS: Call in line: 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Office hours: 9:00-5:00 Monday – Friday.

Drop In Center: 4:00-8:00 Tuesday and Thursday, 10:00-12:00 Saturday, 12:00-4:00
(appointment only) Mondays

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED: Parental consent when applicable

9) LOUIS STOKES VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER

55 W. Waterloo Akron, OH 44319; other locations throughout Ohio
<https://www.cleveland.va.gov/services/women>

SERVICE CONTACTS:

330-724-7715 Akron:

(216) 231-3425 Cleveland

(216) 791-3800 ext. 6849 Military Sexual Trauma Coordinator

SERVICE DESCRIPTION: Includes evaluation and assistance for issues such as depression, mood, and anxiety disorders; intimate partner and domestic violence; sexual trauma; elder abuse or neglect; parenting and anger management; marital, caregiver, or family-related stress; and post-deployment adjustment or post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Also, assistance for those who have experienced Military Sexual Trauma (MST). Women and men may experience repeated sexual harassment or sexual assault during their military service. VA provides free, confidential counseling and treatment for mental and physical health conditions related to MST. More information is available about MST from the [national Women Veterans Health Care program](#) and the [VHA Office of Mental Health](#).

INTAKE PROCEDURE: Complete the Application for Health Care Benefits online at <https://www.vets.gov/healthcare/apply/> or take it the Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center at 10701 East Blvd. Cleveland, Ohio 44106.

FEES: Copayments, if any, may differ depending on the type of services you receive, where you receive those services and any other insurance you may have.

ELIGIBILITY: Veterans who have been honorably discharged (or honorable under general conditions) from military service may apply for healthcare services. Spouses of Veterans covered by CHAMPVA are also eligible.

HOURS: 8:00-4:30 Monday-Friday, 4:30-6:30 Wednesday (Akron Office) 8:00-12:00 Saturday (Akron office)

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED: Application for Health Care Benefits, copy of current insurance card, copy of DD214, copy of Purple Heart if applicable