

## Certification of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Form

**Purpose of Form:** The Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (“VAWA”) protects qualified tenants, participants, and applicants, and affiliated individuals, who are victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking from being denied housing assistance, evicted, or terminated from housing assistance based on acts of such violence against them.

**Use of Form:** This is an optional form. A housing agency, owner, or manager presented with a claim for continued or initial tenancy or assistance based on status as a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking (herein referred to as “Victim”) has the option to request that the victim document or provide written evidence to demonstrate that the violence occurred. The Victim has the option of either submitting this form or submitting third-party documentation, such as:

1. A record of a Federal, State, tribal, territorial, or local law enforcement agency (e.g. police), court, or administrative agency; or
2. Documentation signed by the Victim and signed by an employee, agent or volunteer of a victim service provider, an attorney, a medical professional, or a mental health professional from whom the Victim has sought assistance relating to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, or the effects of abuse, in which the professional attests under penalty of perjury (28 U.S.C. 1746) that he or she believes that the incident of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking is grounds for protection under 24 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 5.2005 or 24 CFR § 5.2009.

If this form is used by the Victim, the Victim must complete and submit it within 14 business days of receiving it from the housing agency, owner, or manager. This form must be returned to the person and address specified in the written request for the certification. If the Victim does not complete and return this form (or provide third-party verification) by the 14th business day or by an extension of the date provided by the housing agency, manager, or owner, the Victim cannot be assured s/he will receive VAWA protections.

If the Victim submits this form or third-party documentation as listed above, the housing agency, owner, or manager cannot require any additional evidence from the Victim.

**Confidentiality:** All information provided to a housing agency, owner or manager concerning the incident(s) of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking relating to the Victim (including the fact that an individual is a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking) shall be kept confidential by the housing agency, owner, or manager, and such information shall not be entered into any shared database. Employees of the housing agency, owner, or manager are not to have access to these details unless to afford or reject VAWA protections to the Victim; and may not disclose this information to any other entity or individual, except to the extent that disclosure is: (i) requested or consented to by the Victim in writing; (ii) required for use in an eviction proceeding; or (iii) otherwise required by applicable law.

### To be completed by the Victim of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, or Stalking Victim

Date Written Request Received by Victim: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Victim: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Other Families Members Listed on Lease: \_\_\_\_\_

