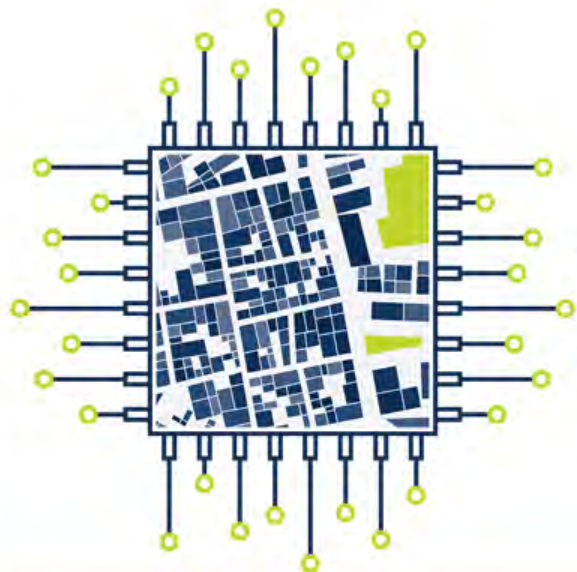
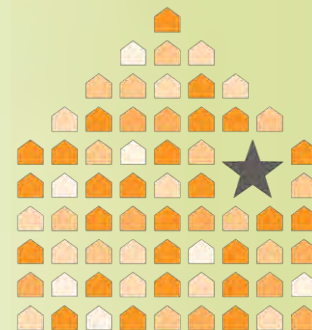


# Comparable Databases & VAWA Confidentiality Provisions

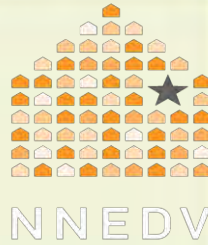
Debbie Fox, NNEDV  
Alicia Aiken, Confidentiality Institute



Solving Problems &  
Impacting Communities  
With Data



NNEDV



## Goals for this Session

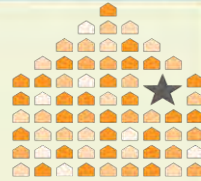
- Explain the information management norms for VAWA-funded victim services programs.
- Discuss which grantee programs use Comparable Databases instead of HMIS.
- Clarify exactly how a Comparable Database differs from an HMIS implementation.

## DV & Housing TA Consortium: Four Federal Agencies

- Family Violence Prevention & Services Program/HHS
- Office on Violence Against Women/DOJ
- Office for Victims of Crime/DOJ
- Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs/HUD

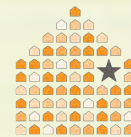
## Five TA Providers

- National Alliance for Safe Housing (NASH)
- Collaborative Solutions, Inc. (CS)
- National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV)
- National Resource Center on Domestic Violence (NRCDV)
- National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC)



NNEDV

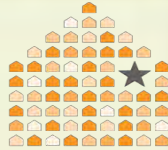
# National Network to End Domestic Violence



NNEDV

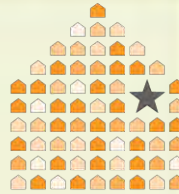
- NNEDV is a social change organization dedicated to creating a social, political and economic environment where violence against women no longer exists.
- NNEDV's Collaborative Approach to Safe Housing for Survivors Project provides training and technical assistance to improve coordination between domestic violence and homeless services.
- NNEDV's Safety Net Project addresses the intersection of technology and abuse, and provides training and technical assistance to advocates, law enforcement, legal services, social services providers, survivors and other stakeholders.

# Confidentiality Institute



NNEDV

- National training and policy project focused on privacy for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, human trafficking and victims of crime.
- Project of Danu Center for Strategic Advocacy which consults with non-profits, government and mission-based organizations to build the tools of social justice.
- Presenter: Alicia Aiken, Attorney, Director of Confidentiality Institute & Principal at Danu Center.



NNEEDV

# National Landscape

2018 & 2019

HEALS Act: Helping End Abusive Relationships Act & VAWA Reauthorization—VAWA Housing Protections

2018 & 2019

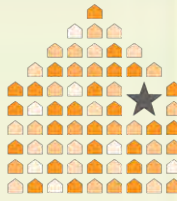
HUD CoC Set Aside for DV Survivors in current NOFA: \$50 Million FY20 Proposed

2020

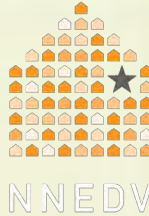
End Family & Youth Homelessness

## Victim Services Information Norms

- Trauma-Informed
- Collect minimum amount necessary
- Offer victim control over when, how and how much information is shared with program
- Provide victims control and choice over how the program shares information about the victim



NNEDV

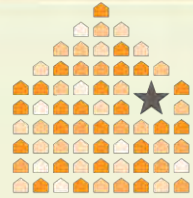


## Trauma-Informed Approach to Information

- Never worker's job to persuade victim to share.
- Victims allowed to refuse to share with provider.
- Victims are experts in their own lives and risks.
- Information is only requested in direct connection with serving victim's needs.



# VAWA/FVPSA/VOCA Non-Disclosure Rule

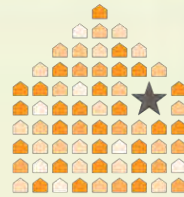


NNEDV

- Grantees and subgrantees shall protect the confidentiality and privacy of persons receiving services.
- Grantees and subgrantees shall not—
- disclose, reveal, or release any personally identifying information
- collected in connection with services requested, utilized, or denied through grantees' and subgrantees' programs,
- regardless of whether the information has been encoded, encrypted, hashed, or otherwise protected

# “Personally Identifying Information”

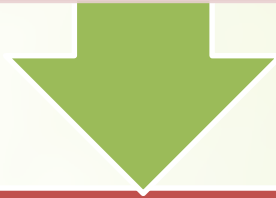
- individually identifying information for, or about, an individual including information likely to disclose the location of a victim, including—
  - (A) a first and last name;
  - (B) a home or other physical address;
  - (C) contact information (including a postal, e-mail or Internet protocol address, or telephone or facsimile number);
  - (D) a social security number, driver license number, passport number, or student identification number; and
  - (E) any other information, including date of birth, racial or ethnic background, or religious affiliation, that would serve to identify any individual.



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Federal law dictates that Victim Service Providers (VSP's) are prohibited from entering information into an HMIS.

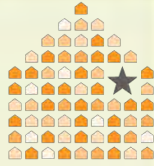
Victim Service Providers include domestic violence programs and sexual assault programs



VSP's must maintain data, but in a Comparable Database that they maintain. This includes items for the ESG Caper and other required data elements per HUD.



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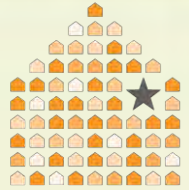
## Comparable Databases Used By:

- Victim Services Providers
- VAWA, FVPSA, VOCA victim assistance grantees
- Legal Services Providers
- In some areas, majority of homelessness services providers fall into one of these categories



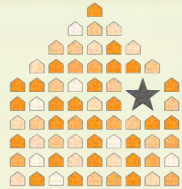
## Purpose of Comparable Database

- To ensure Victim Service Providers are *not* routinely sharing personally identifying information of victims being served.
- NOT intended to facilitate de-duplication across programs.



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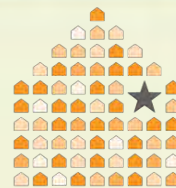
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## Comparable Database = Closed System

- One Victim Services program puts information in
- Only that Victim Services program has access to identifiable information
- Reports out include only aggregate, non-personally identifiable information



## This is NOT a Comparable Database...

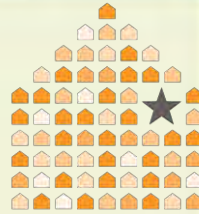


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- One database statewide for all Victim Services Providers that allows access to PII between programs -> NOT a Comparable Database.
- Databases tracking individual victims' receipt of services across different programs -> NOT a Comparable Database

## VAWA & Databases

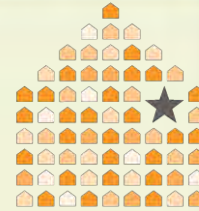
- VAWA does not allow routine disclosure to third parties outside of the victim services unit.
  - Including other units in the same organization
- VAWA does not have business associate agreements.



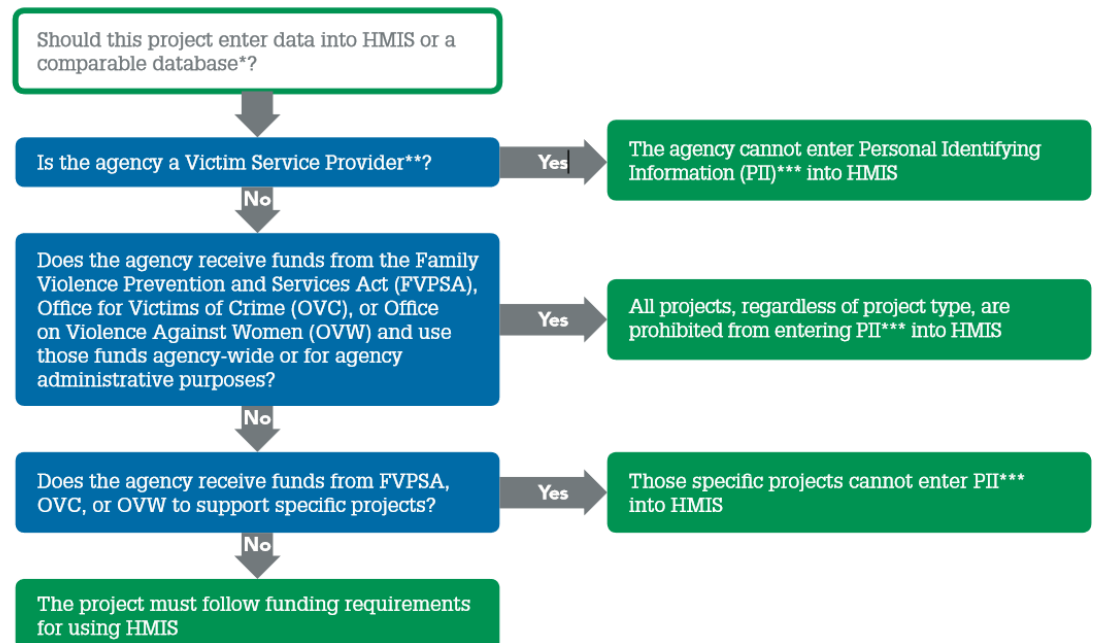
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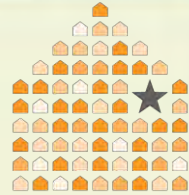


# HUD Decision Tree



NNEDV





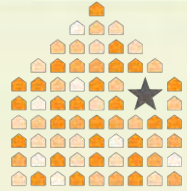
NNEDV

## Related Guidance

- FAQ – Coordinated Entry (CE) Process: A Resource for Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Victim Service Providers
- Coordinated Entry: Confidentiality Requirements in Practice
- HUD Comparable Database Decision Tree
- Comparable Database 101: What Victim Service Providers Need to Know



# Contact us with questions!



NEDV

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U.S. Department of Justice. The opinion, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this publication, conference agenda, or product, are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the view of the Department of Justice.

# Safehousing Partnerships

UNDERSTANDING THE INTERSECTIONS

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

EMPLOYING KEY APPROACHES

PUBLIC POLICIES

Data, infographics, literature reviews, and reports that describe the intersections between domestic violence, sexual assault, homelessness, and housing

Strategies for building effective and sustainable partnerships across systems and case studies of successful collaborations

In-depth resource collections organized around four key approaches to addressing and preventing housing instability among survivors

Access to relevant federal laws, regulations, and polices

Have questions? Need TA? Want training?  
Contact the Consortium directly through the site!

**[SafehousingPartnerships.org](https://SafehousingPartnerships.org)**