DUPAGE COUNTY

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TO: HOME Advisory Group

FROM: Mary A. Keating, Director,
Department of Community Services

DATE: October 5, 2023

SUBJECT: **Notice of Occupancy Rights Under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Policy 2nd Revision**

Action Requested: CDC staff recommend approval of the updated Notice of Occupancy Rights Under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Policy.

Details: The Community Development Commission (CDC) staff has amended a policy to comply with and address the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). Despite the name of this law, VAWA protections are available equally to all individuals regardless of sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation, and does not discriminate based on any protected characteristic. VAWA does not replace any Federal, State, or local law that provides greater protection for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

On March 15, 2022, President Biden signed into law the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2022, which included the Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization Act of 2022 ("VAWA 2022"). VAWA 2022 reauthorizes, amends, and strengthens VAWA. Many of the VAWA amendments took effect 10/01/2022. Updates have been made to the existing Notice of Occupancy Rights Under the VAWA to align with VAWA 2022 amendments and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) guidance pertaining to covered housing providers.

Policy updates added language regarding the following:

1. Application of VAWA to expanded definitions of domestic violence, economic abuse, and technological abuse; and
2. Prohibition on retaliation; and
3. Right to report crime and emergencies.

HUD is developing further guidance and revising its VAWA forms to ensure compliance with VAWA 2022 but has encouraged covered governmental entities to update existing applicable policies and practices prior to their issuance of guidance.