



Human Resources Administration
Department of Social Services
Steven Banks, *Commissioner*

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, An Opportunity to Acknowledge that Domestic Violence Affects Every New Yorker

Domestic violence is much more than just hitting or abusive language—it is a pattern of coercive behaviors intended to physically, psychologically, and financially control an intimate partner. Over time it can leave a person feeling powerless, fearful, and ashamed. It crosses socio-economic status, race, gender and sexual orientation. One in three women and one in ten men experience intimate partner violence in their lifetime. Moreover, 15.5 million children in the US live in households in which partner violence occurred at least once in the past year.

Domestic violence creates significant housing instability; approximately one quarter of families entering the New York City shelter system each year have a history with domestic violence. Some survivors become financially reliant on their abusive partner and may have few resources to live independently. Some incur financial harms related to their experiences of abuse, such as coerced debt, destroyed property, and identity theft. Once leaving an abusive relationship, domestic violence survivors face a wide range of barriers to securing safe and stable housing such as post-traumatic stress and depression, continued high levels of physical danger, and employment instability related to their victimization.

HRA's Office of Domestic Violence prevents and responds to domestic violence in New York City. It oversees the largest system of domestic violence services in the country, which includes 54 shelters that offer safety, hope, and a path to healing for over 3,000 adults and children each day. ODV also directly operates the largest domestic violence shelter in NYC.

While in shelter, survivors receive support services including counseling, preparation for permanent housing, help locating adequate housing, child care services, help applying for benefits such as public assistance and rental assistance programs, access to job readiness and placement programs, and financial development and economic empowerment services.

In 2016, HRA began the expansion of its shelter bed system to add 400 tier II units and 300 emergency beds—approximately 13,300 more children and adults will be served annually. The expansion focuses on providing a safe haven for single survivors of domestic violence, including single pregnant women and women with very young children. It also strengthens our commitment to serving our most vulnerable populations, including LGBTQI survivors, by increasing availability and access to confidential, specialized services that can assist them in regaining safety and control in their lives.

HRA has an unwavering commitment to survivors of domestic violence and the domestic violence service community. If you are experiencing domestic violence or know someone who is, help is available. The **New York City Domestic Violence Hotline (800 621-HOPE)** provides counseling and information about available services in New York City.

Domestic violence is not a private issue - it's a public issue that affects all of us.

<http://www1.nyc.gov/site/hra/help/domestic-violence-support.page>