

# **INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE (IPV), HOUSING, & HOMELESSNESS**

Empowering Homeless Providers with  
Survivor Insights: A Holistic Approach to  
Supporting IPV Survivors' Housing Needs

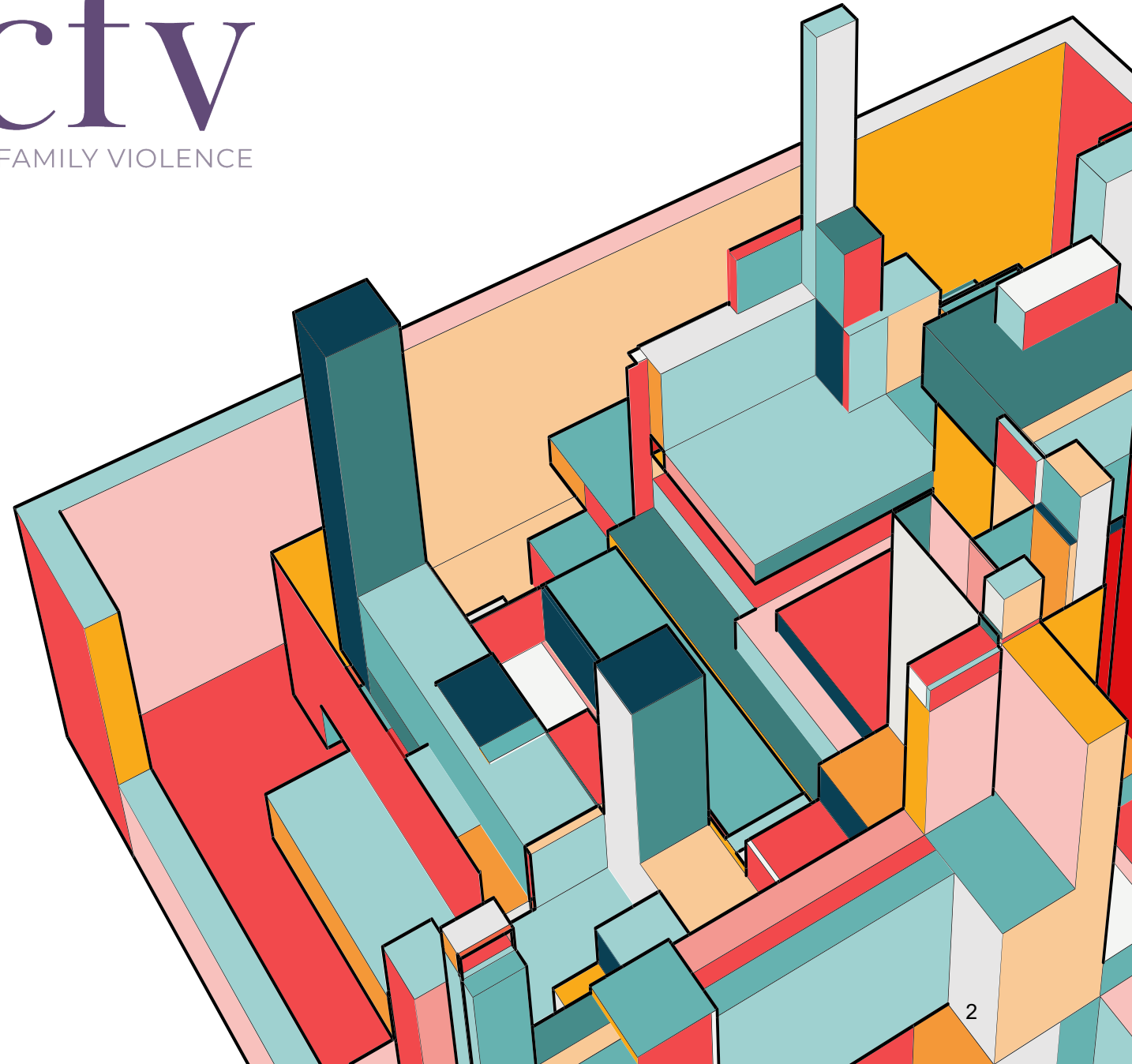


TEXAS COUNCIL ON FAMILY VIOLENCE



# ABOUT US

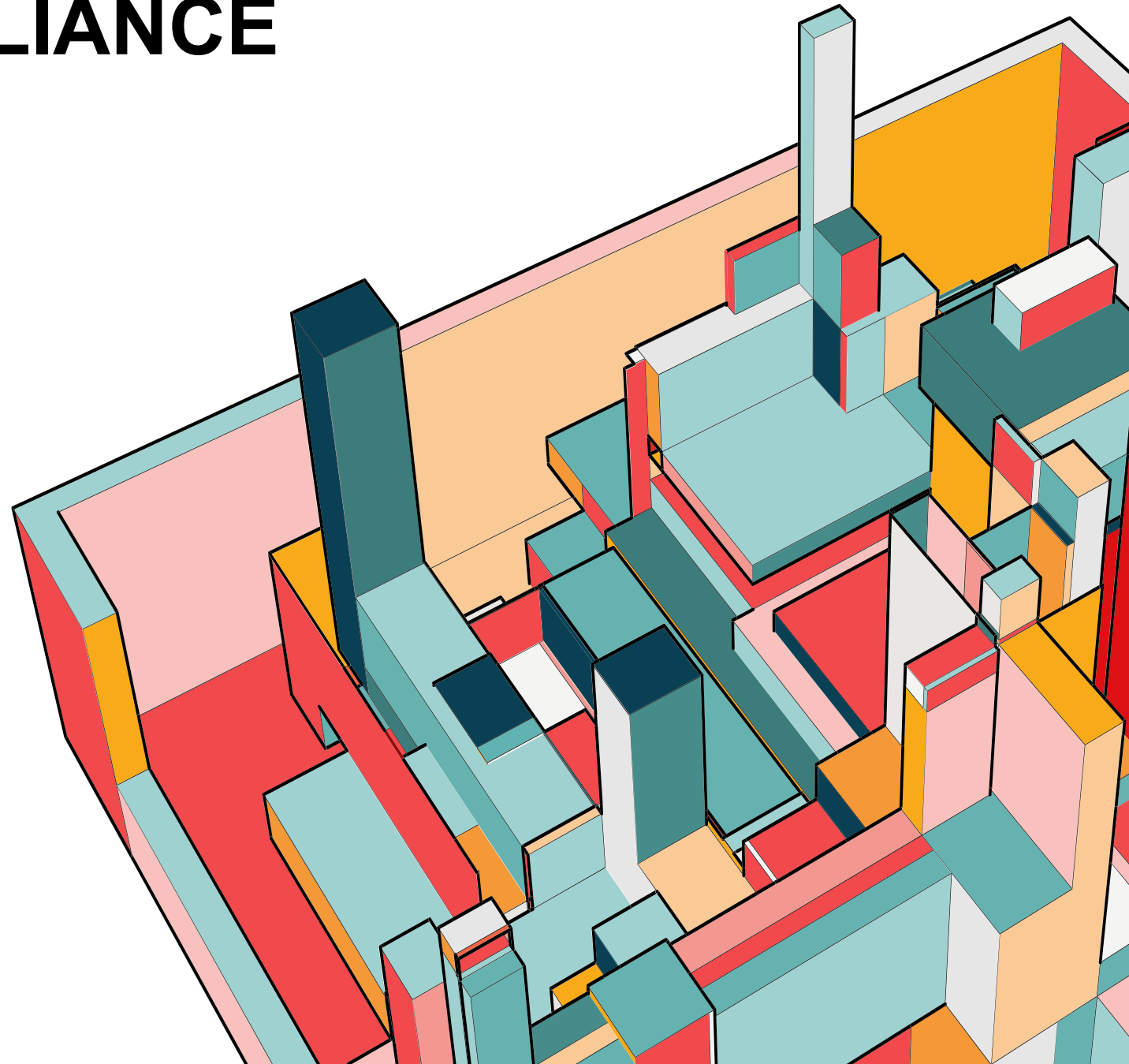
The Texas Council on Family Violence (TCFV) is the only 501(c)(3) nonprofit coalition in Texas dedicated solely to creating safer communities and freedom from family violence. With a statewide reach and direct local impact, TCFV shapes public policy, equips service providers with essential tools, and initiates strategic prevention efforts. Since 1978, we have been a nationally recognized leader in our efforts to end family violence.



# SAFE ALLIANCE

## ABOUT US

The SAFE Alliance is a merger of Austin Children's Shelter and SafePlace, both long-standing and respected human service agencies in Austin serving the survivors of child abuse, sexual assault and exploitation, and domestic violence.



An abstract graphic on the right side of the slide consists of numerous 3D rectangular blocks of various colors (red, teal, yellow, white, dark blue, light blue, orange) stacked and arranged in a complex, stepped fashion, resembling a modern architectural structure or a data visualization. The blocks are outlined in black and set against a light orange background.

**Chelsey Wall**

SAFE Alliance

[cmays@safeaustin.org](mailto:cmays@safeaustin.org)

**Molly Woodard**

**Thibodeaux**

TCFV

[mthibodeaux@tcfv.org](mailto:mthibodeaux@tcfv.org)

# OVERVIEW



## INTERSECTIONALITIE S

IPV + Housing &  
Homelessness

Trauma-Informed  
Advocacy



## SURVIVOR ADVOCATE EXPERIENCE

Lived Experience +  
Professional Insights



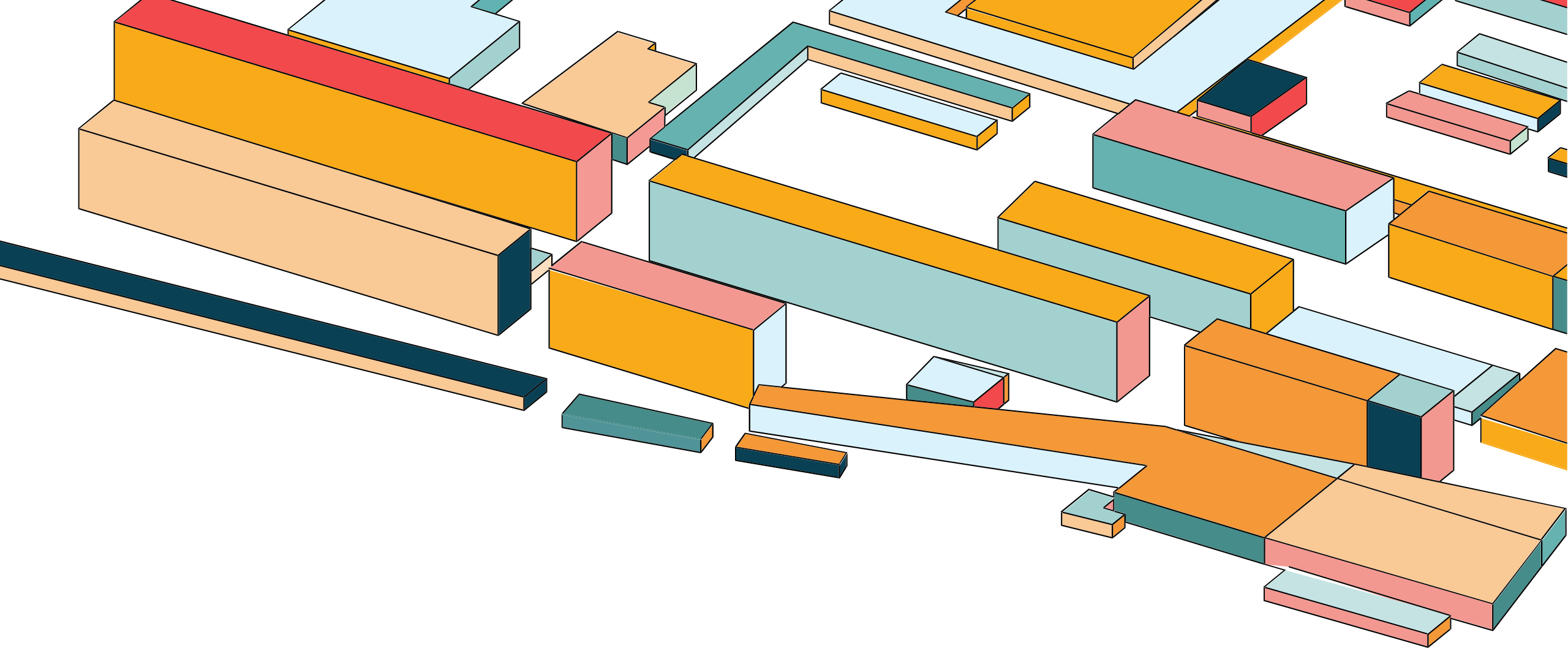
## SURVIVOR- INFORMED BEST PRACTICES

Voluntary Services  
Trauma-Informed  
Privacy  
Confidentiality



## PROTECTIONS

State + Federal  
Legislation



# **INTERSECTIONALITIES:**

INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE (IPV) + HOUSING

# WHAT IS INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE (IPV)/DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (DV)?

An “ongoing pattern of power and control exerted by one partner over another in a romantic relationship, enforced by the use of abusive tactics...”

# IN TEXAS, FAMILY VIOLENCE IS DEFINED AS:

Texas Family Code,  
Section 71.004

- An act by a member of a family or household against another member of the family or household that is intended to result in physical harm, bodily injury, assault, or sexual assault or that is a threat that reasonably places the member in fear of imminent physical harm, bodily injury, assault, or sexual assault, but does not include defensive measures to protect oneself
- Abuse by a member of a family or household toward a child of the family or household

---

- Dating violence





# 1 IN 3 TEXANS

experience intimate partner violence, aka domestic violence, in their lifetime.



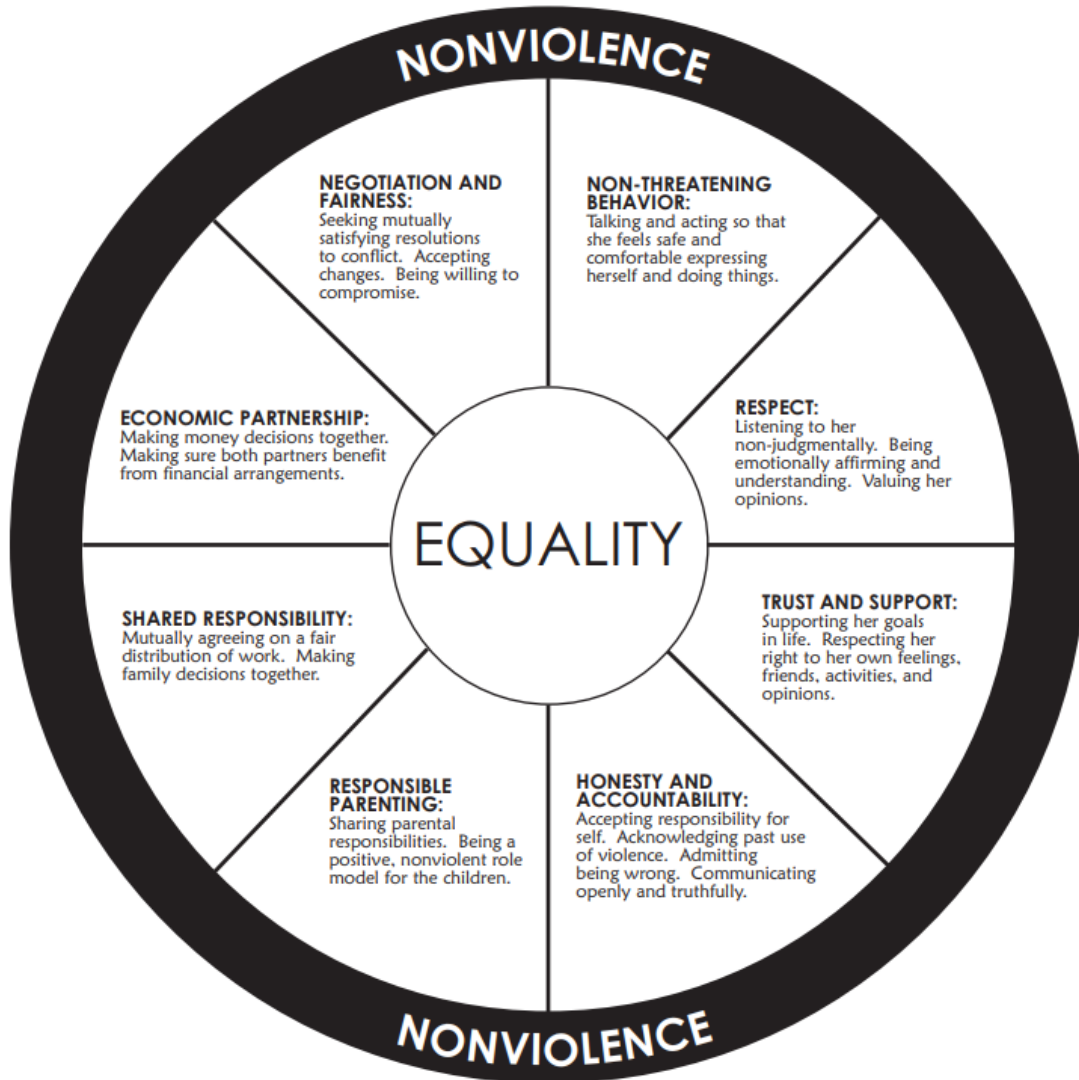
# 204

Texans were killed by their  
intimate partners in 2021.

169 women & 35 men

# EQUALITY WHEEL CONTROL WHEEL

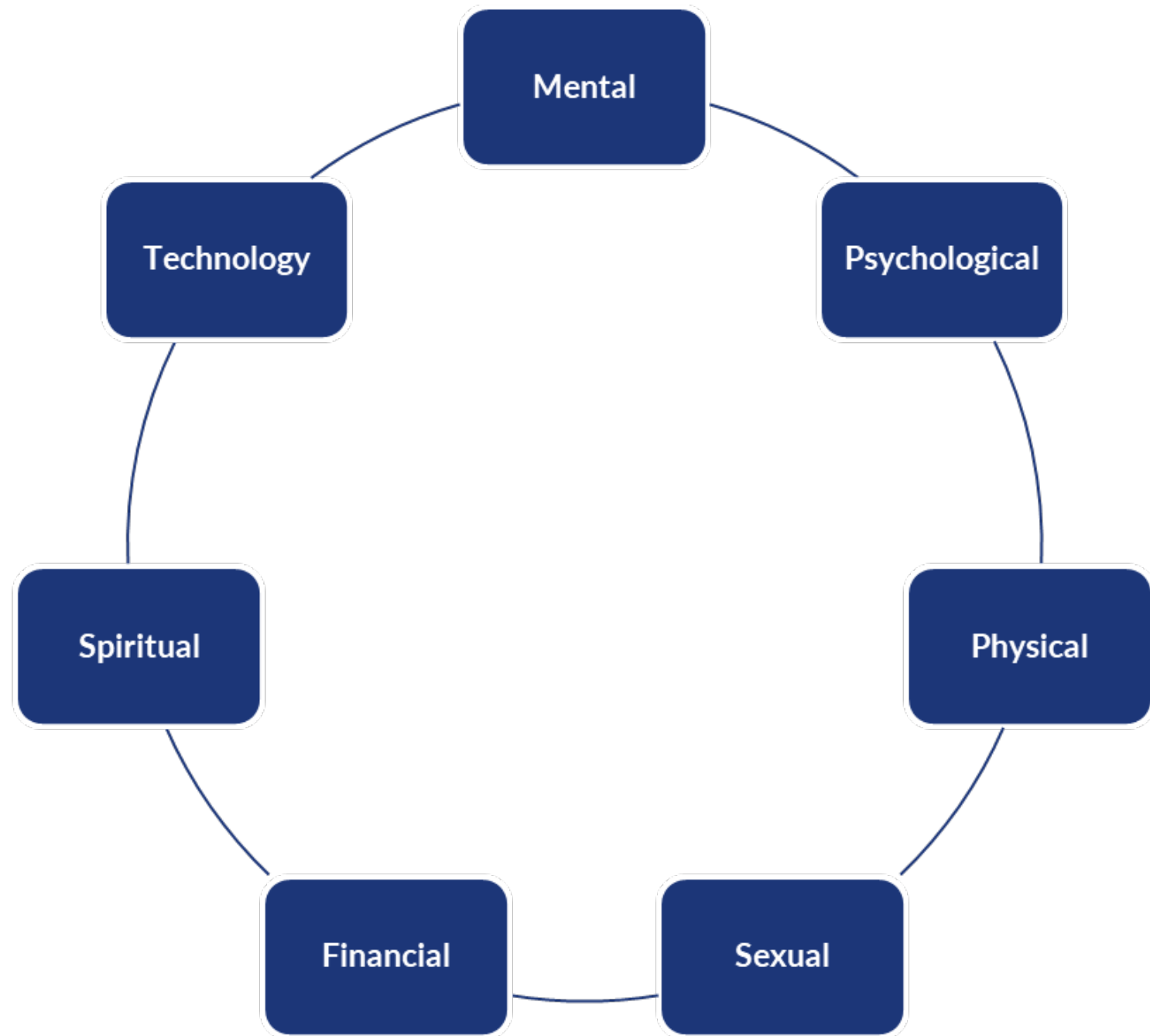
# POWER &

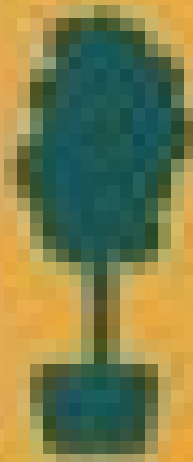


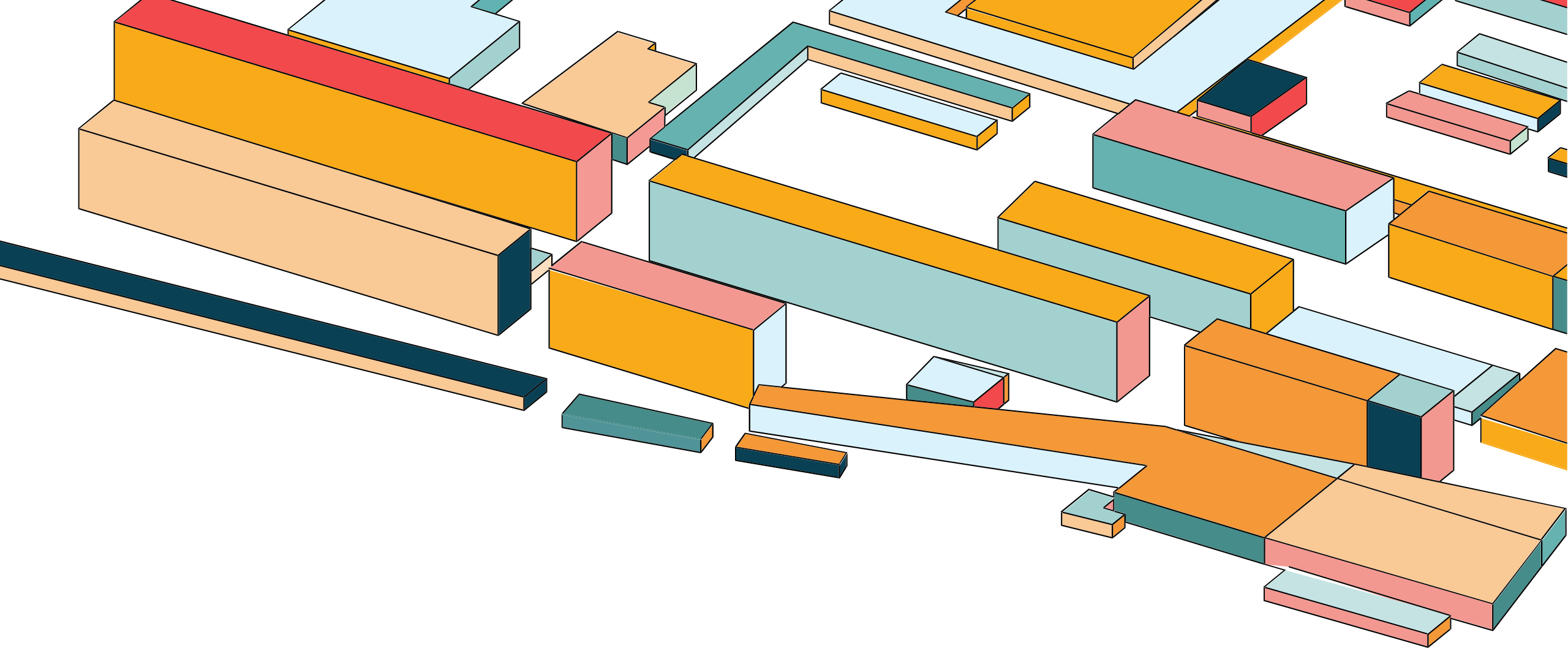
# INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE...

Takes different forms,  
and does not need to  
include physical  
violence.

Can include behaviors  
such as  
-stalking  
-gaslighting -  
possessiveness  
-using children as  
pawns -using systems  
to control and  
threaten







# ADDITIONAL BARRIERS



# THE EFFECTS OF TRAUMA

**“A HALLMARK OF TRAUMATIC EXPERIENCE IS THAT IT TYPICALLY OVERWHELMS AN INDIVIDUAL MENTALLY, EMOTIONALLY, AND PHYSICALLY.”**

Ohio Domestic Violence Network

**Trauma is:**

Event or events experienced by an individual as physically or emotionally harmful or life threatening (SAMHSA, 2012)

Can create “profound and lasting changes in physiological arousal, emotion, cognition, and memory” (Herman, 1997).





# THE LINK: IPV AND TRAUMA

80% of women who experienced rape, stalking, or physical violence by an intimate partner reported significant short or long-term effects including PTSD

Experience with poly-victimization enhances risks of mental health issues and trauma as well as substance use.

**69%**


of Texas survivors meet the criteria for a PTSD diagnosis.

The national rate is **51%**.

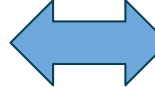
-Texas State Plan, 2019

# THE IMPACT OF TRAUMA ON IPV SURVIVORS

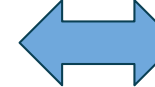
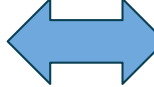
## Physical

- 
- Chronic pain
  - Disconnecting from one's body/ dissociation
  - Hypervigilance
  - Sleep disturbances
  - Self-harm
  - STIs

## Emotional & Psychological

- 
- Sense of shame
  - Loss of sense of self
  - Unable to display emotion, or emotions can feel overwhelming
  - Loss of danger cues
  - Mental health diagnoses: higher rates of depression, anxiety, PTSD, substance abuse

## Relational

- 
- Lack of desire for intimacy
  - Lack of trust in others
  - Feel isolated from others
  - Reenacting abuse dynamics
- 

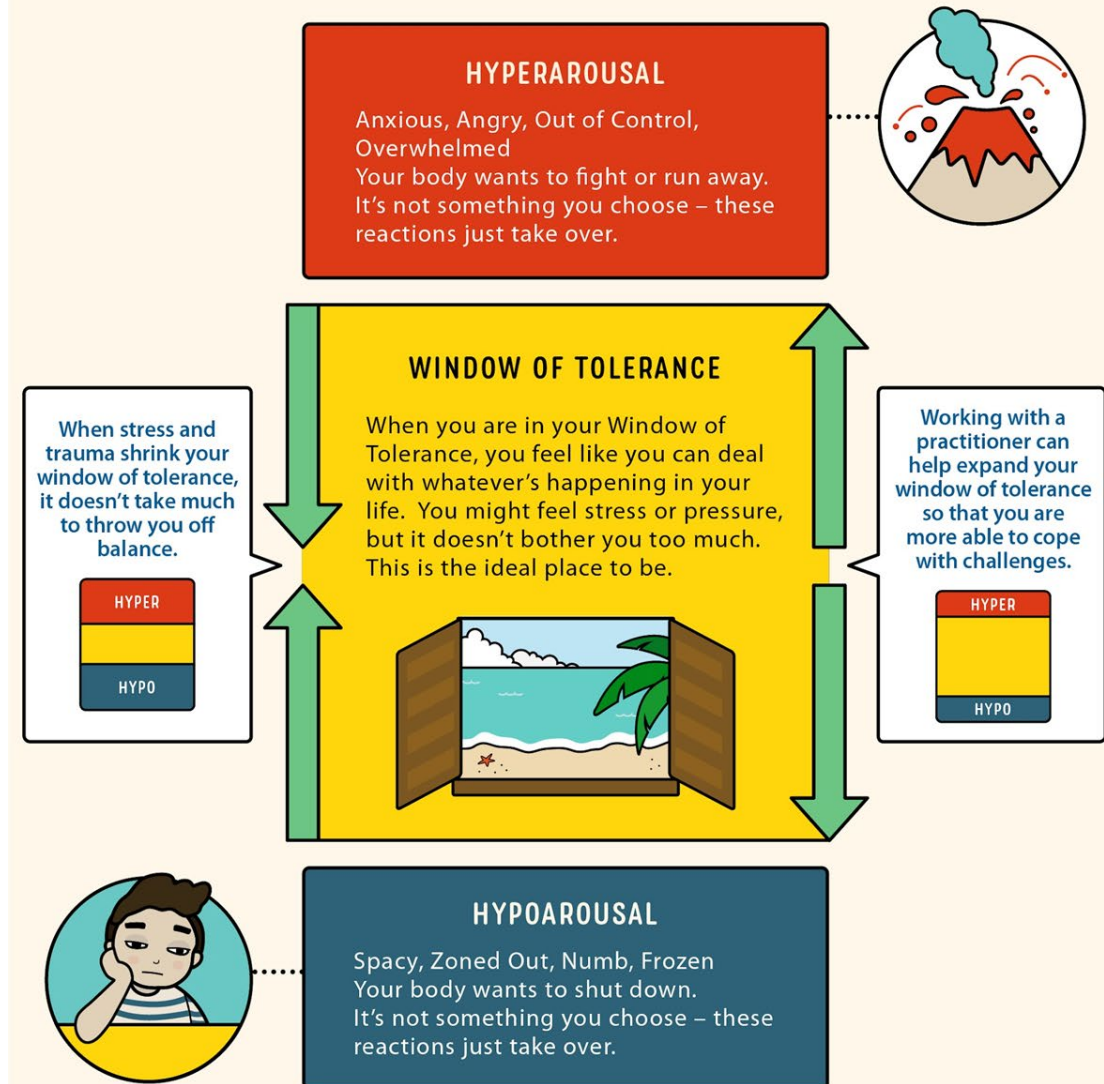
# Trauma is Stored in the Body

- Tolerance: Calm and neutral state
- Hyperarousal: Fight or Flight
- Hypoarousal: Freeze
- “Fawning” can also occur, when someone seeks to appease or please others and avoid conflict as a way to stay safe

For further reading:

*The Body Keeps the Score*, Bessel van der Kolk  
*My Grandmother’s Hands*, Resmaa Menakem

## How Trauma Can Affect Your Window Of Tolerance



nicabm

# TRAUMA RESPONSES



Response Type	Fight	Flight	Freeze	Fawn
<b>Behavioral or Emotional Reaction:</b>	Irritable, or aggressive, verbally or physically	Fearful, worried, anxious, or avoidant	Stuck, shut down, or even dissociates	Ignores their own needs to accommodate others.
<b>Appears to be:</b>	Impulsive, uncompromising, “lashes out”	Lost in their internal world, workaholic, perfectionist, aloof	Isolated, reclusive, shameful, disinterested, or depressed	A “people pleaser,” entertainer, conflict avoidant, poor boundaries

# Trauma Responses Can Look Like...

Being jittery or  
distracted

A lack of energy  
or motivation,  
being tired all  
the time

Having  
difficulty  
focusing

Struggling to  
regulate emotions

Memory  
problems,  
missing  
appointments

Becoming  
aggressive

Numbing or  
dissociating,  
shutting down

Not being able  
to talk about  
what happened

Saying things  
that seem off-  
topic

Seemingly  
disproportionate  
responses

Being labeled as  
"difficult," "lazy"  
or "unwilling to  
cooperate"

Being  
suspicious or  
distrustful of  
staff

Health issues—  
muscle pain,  
headaches,  
digestive problems

Avoidance of  
certain activities

Isolating  
themselves from  
others



# trauma responses can look like:

craving control

agreeing to things just to keep the peace

feeling on guard all the time

a negative world view, dwindling trust for other

seeking constant escapism



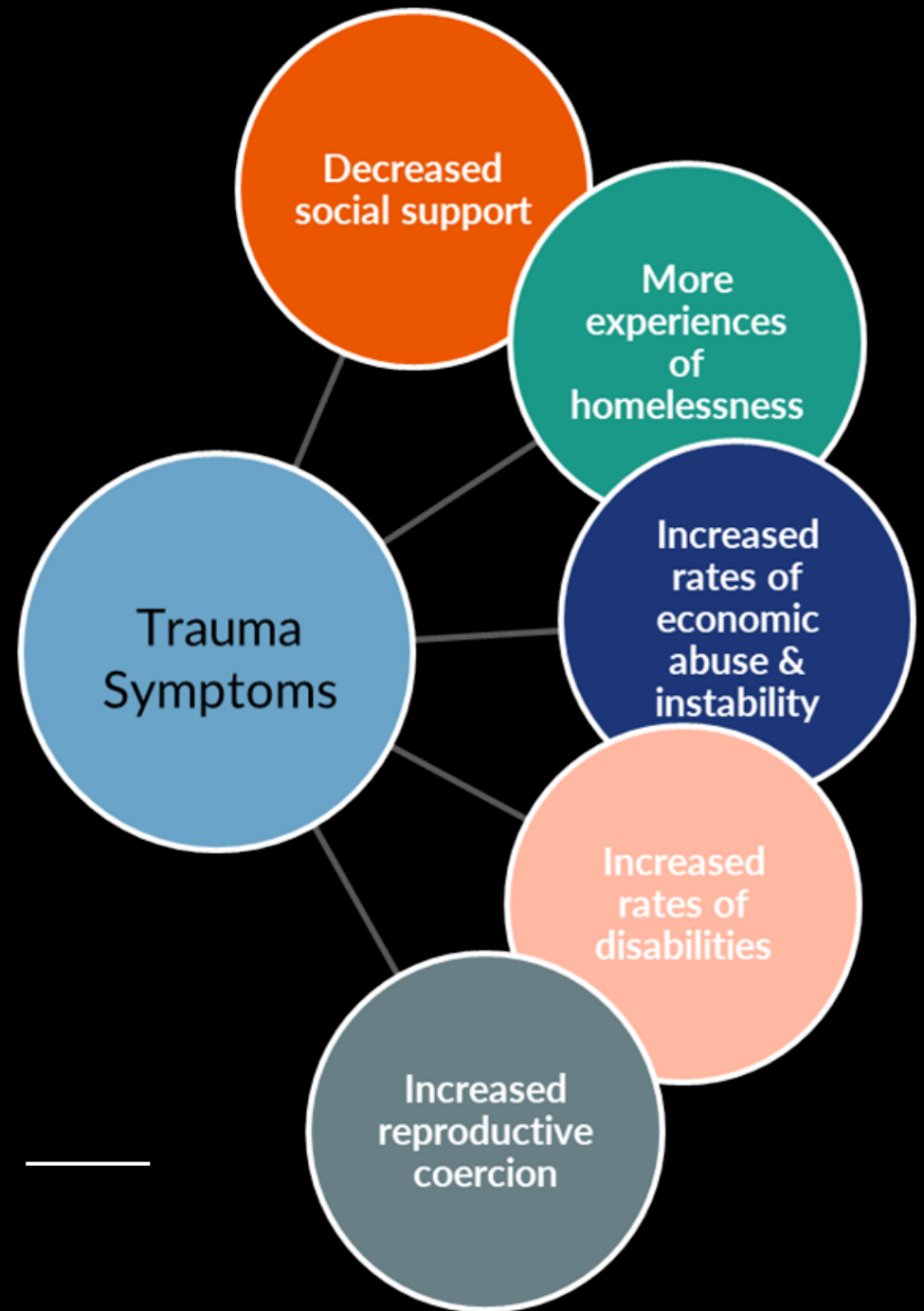
feeling responsible for other's happiness

saying "yes" because you're scared of losing security

chronic feelings of emptiness

giving in to reckless impulses, not caring for personal safety

# EXPERIENCING TRAUMA CAN HAVE RIPPLING IMPACTS





# KEY COMPONENTS OF TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE



# SAMHSA & CDC'S 6 PRINCIPLES OF TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE



# Safety



# Choice



# Collaboration



# Trustworthiness



# Empowerment



---

## Definitions

Ensuring physical and emotional safety

Individual has choice and control

Making decisions with the individual and sharing power

Task clarity, consistency, and Interpersonal Boundaries

Prioritizing empowerment and skill building

---

## Principles in Practice

Common areas are welcoming and privacy is respected

Individuals are provided a clear and appropriate message about their rights and responsibilities

Individuals are provided a significant role in planning and evaluating services

Respectful and professional boundaries are maintained

Providing an atmosphere that allows individuals to feel validated and affirmed with each and every contact at the agency













Trauma informed care is NOT:

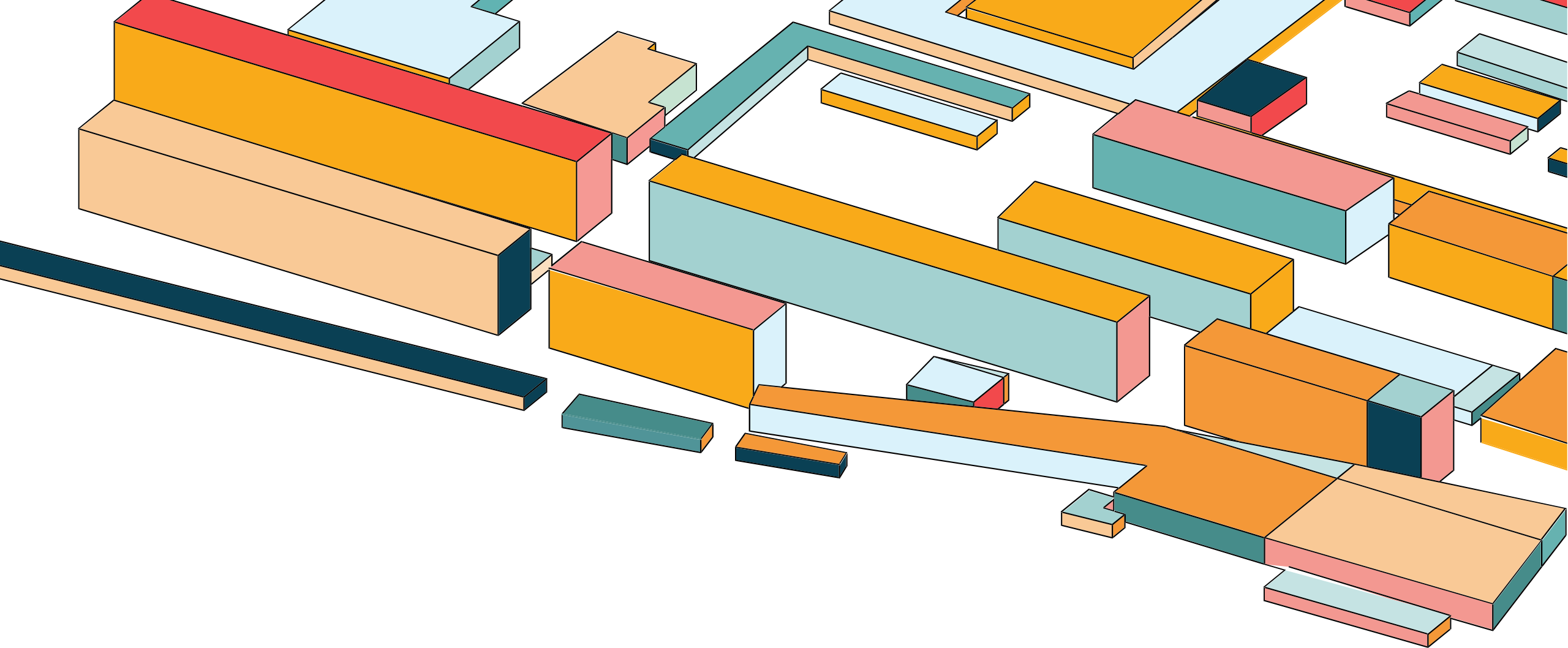


# Retraumatization

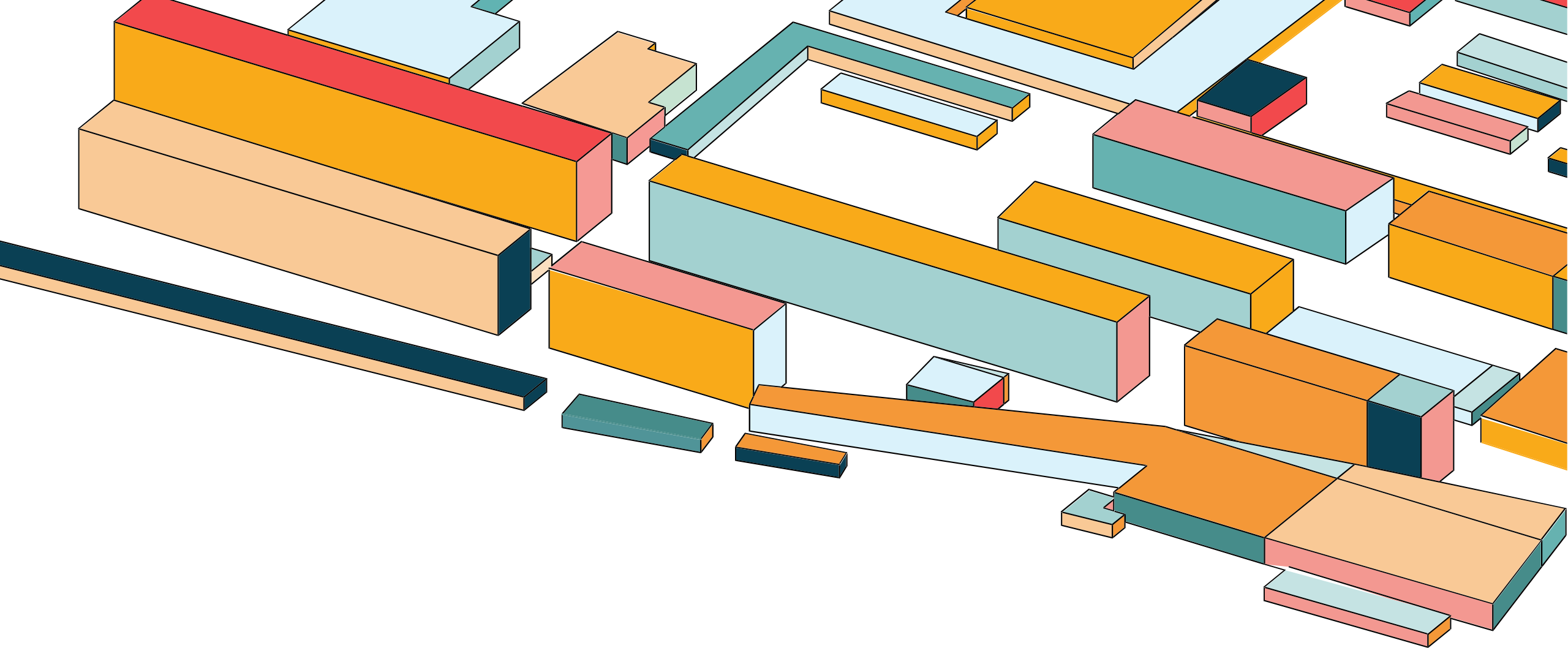


## WHAT HURTS?

SYSTEM (POLICIES, PROCEDURES, "THE WAY THINGS ARE DONE")	RELATIONSHIP (POWER, CONTROL, SUBVERSIVENESS)
 HAVING TO CONTINUALLY RETELL THEIR STORY	 NOT BEING SEEN / HEARD
 BEING TREATED AS A NUMBER	 VIOLATING TRUST
 PROCEDURES THAT REQUIRE DISROBING	 FAILURE TO ENSURE EMOTIONAL SAFETY
 BEING SEEN AS THEIR LABEL (I.E. ADDICT, SCHIZOPHRENIC)	 NONCOLLABORATIVE
 NO CHOICE IN SERVICE OR TREATMENT	 DOES THINGS FOR RATHER THAN WITH
 NO OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE FEEDBACK ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCE WITH THE SERVICE DELIVERY	 USE OF PUNITIVE TREATMENT, COERCIVE PRACTICES AND OPPRESSIVE LANGUAGE



# **SURVIVOR ADVOCATE EXPERIENCE**



# **SURVIVOR-INFORMED BEST PRACTICES**



# DISCLOSURES OF IPV

# WHAT CAN YOU DO WHEN SOMEONE DISCLOSES IPV?

- Address immediate safety
  - Privacy & confidentiality concerns
  - Listening with empathy, to understand survivor's experience and needs
  - Let survivor know what you can and cannot do
-

# WHAT CAN YOU DO WHEN SOMEONE DISCLOSES IPV?

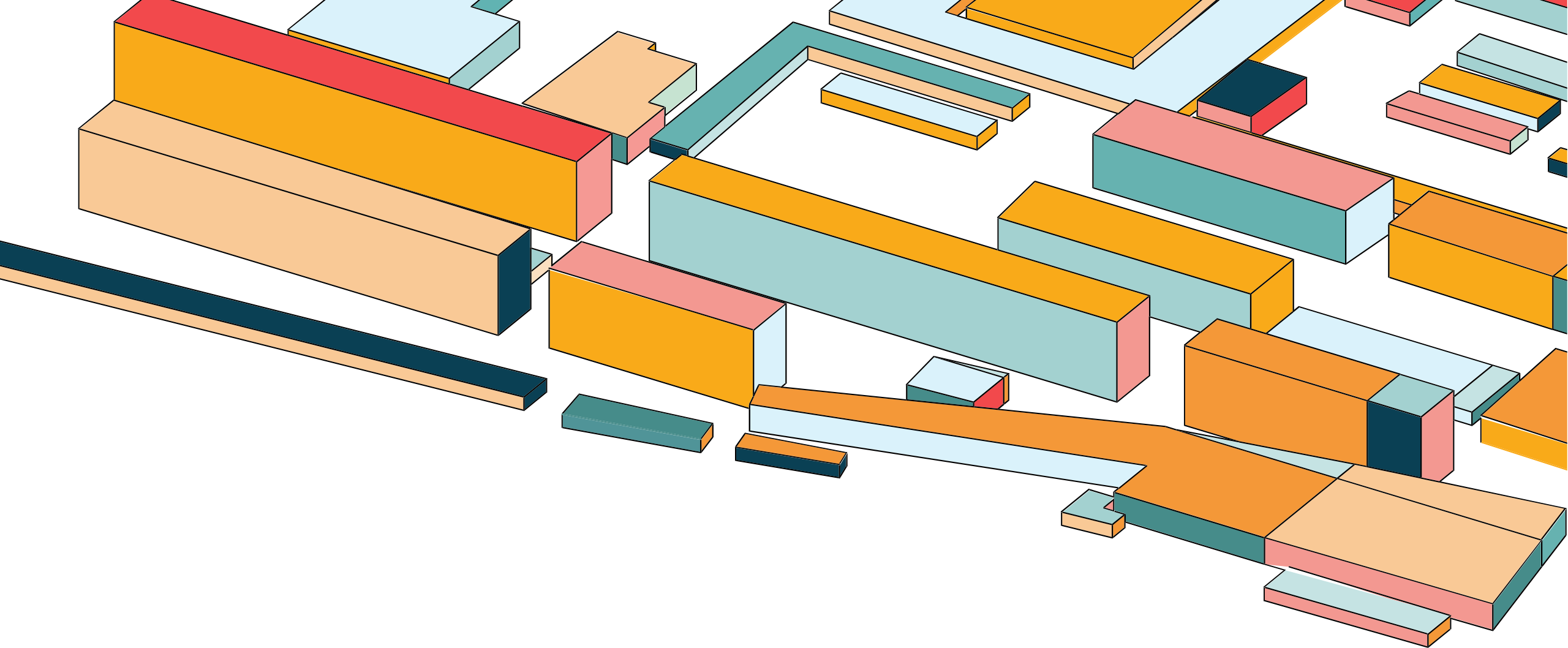
- Offer connection to local FV program and/or National Domestic Violence Hotline
  - Offer other resources as needed such as CCRs, DA's Office
  - Contacting law enforcement? Should be the survivor's choice whenever possible
  - Contacting CPS? Witnessing DV in itself does not fall under mandated reporting
-



# THE IMPORTANCE OF PRIVACY

PRIVACY = SAFETY





# **ENHANCING COLLABORATION: FAMILY VIOLENCE PROGRAMS + HOUSING-CENTERED SERVICES**

# FAMILY VIOLENCE PROGRAM FRAMEWORK

- Survivor-centered, led, and guided
- Trauma-informed
- Voluntary services
- Confidentiality is required and protected by law

# FAMILY VIOLENCE PROGRAMS: ENHANCED PRIVACY

Family violence programs have unique and enhanced confidentiality and privilege obligations to survivors.

- Communication between a survivor and advocate at a family violence program is *privileged and confidential*.
- Personally identifying information cannot be shared without a properly executed release of information.



# IMPORTANT TERMS

## Privacy

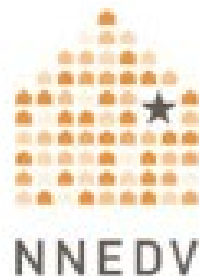
A personal choice whether to disclose information; also used as an umbrella term today for confidentiality and privilege.

## Confidentiality

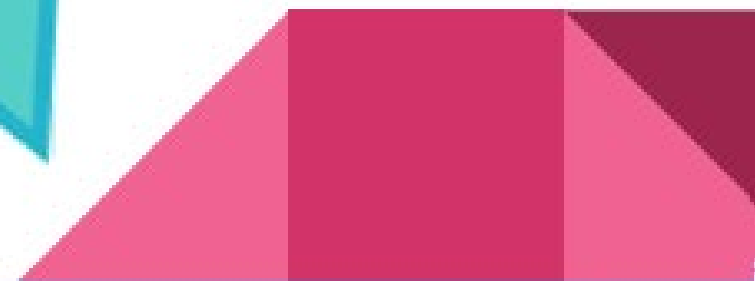
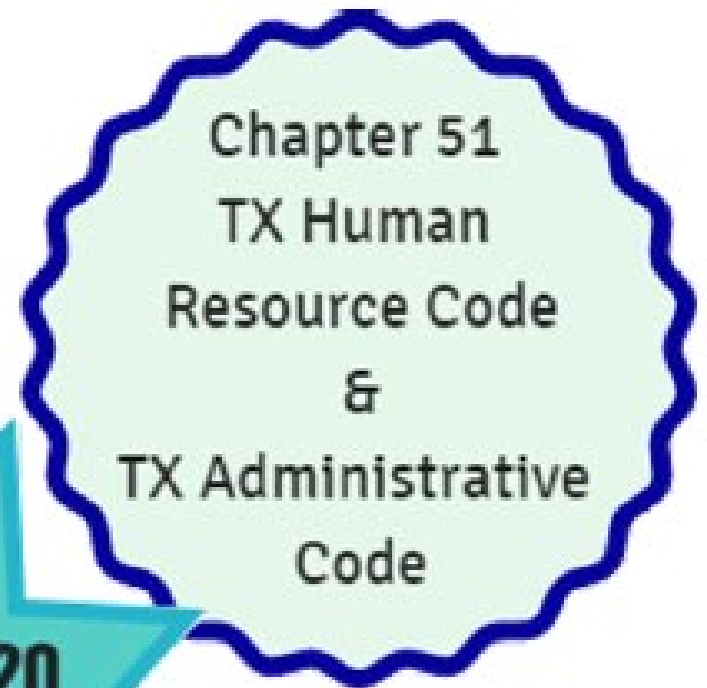
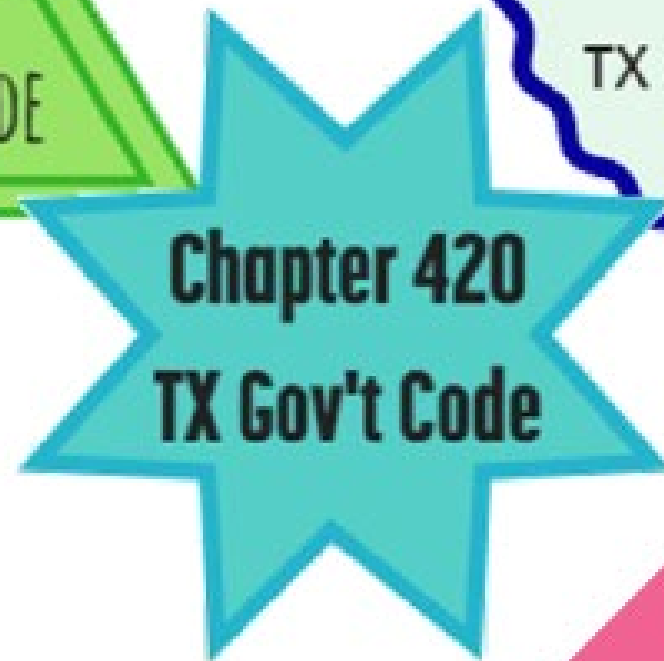
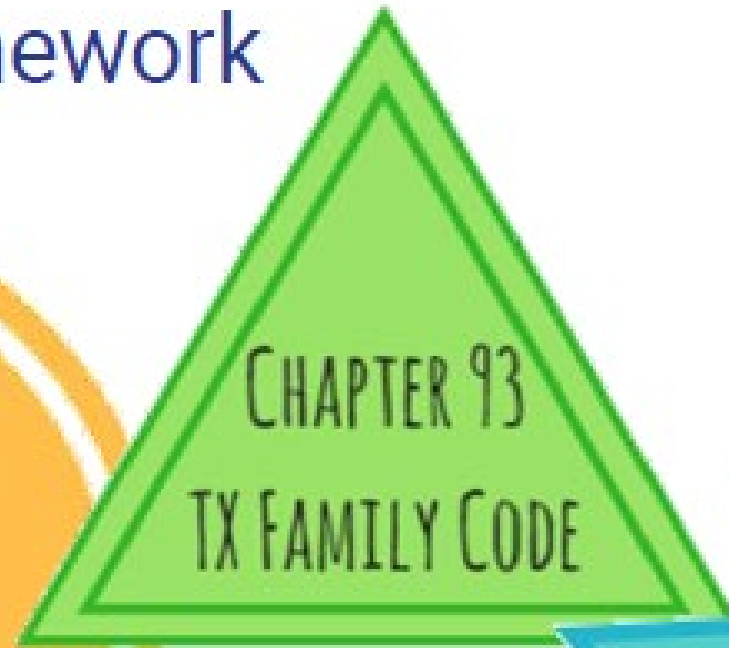
an agreement- via a grant-related responsibility- to protect someone's information.

## Privilege

A law prohibiting the disclosure of private information on someone's behalf.



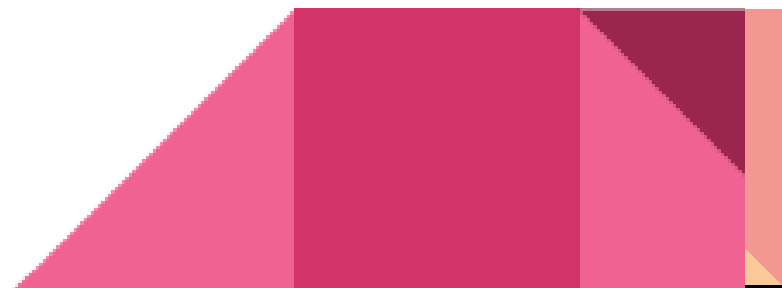
# Statutory Framework



# Personally Identifying Information (PII)

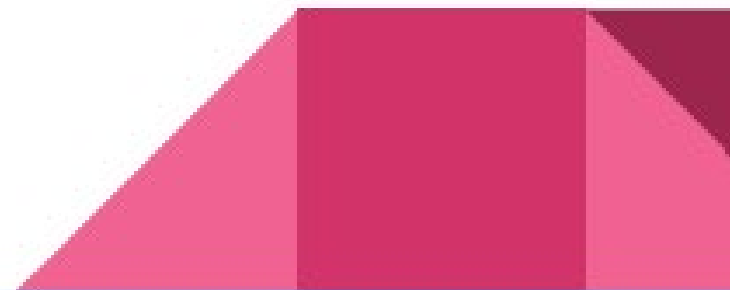
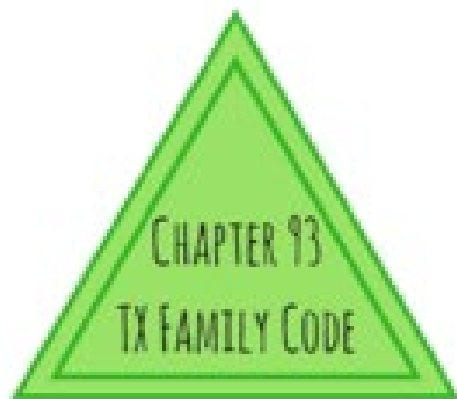
*Information likely to disclose the location of a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, including...*

- Name or address
- Contact information (telephone, email, etc.)
- Social Security number or date of birth
- Racial, ethnic or religious identity
- Any other combined information that would "serve to identify an individual"



# Confidential and Privileged Communications

“Written or oral communication between an advocate and a victim made in the course of advising, advocating for, counseling, or assisting the victim is confidential and may not be disclosed.”





# Why is it Important?


- Abusers often use extraordinary measures to locate their victim after the victim takes steps to cut off access,
- Advances in technology, especially in the **ability to remotely access information**, have only increased these risks for victims,
- Survivors often have their daily movements and social interactions controlled by the abuser; **regaining control in their lives, including control of their personal information, is important to moving forward.**

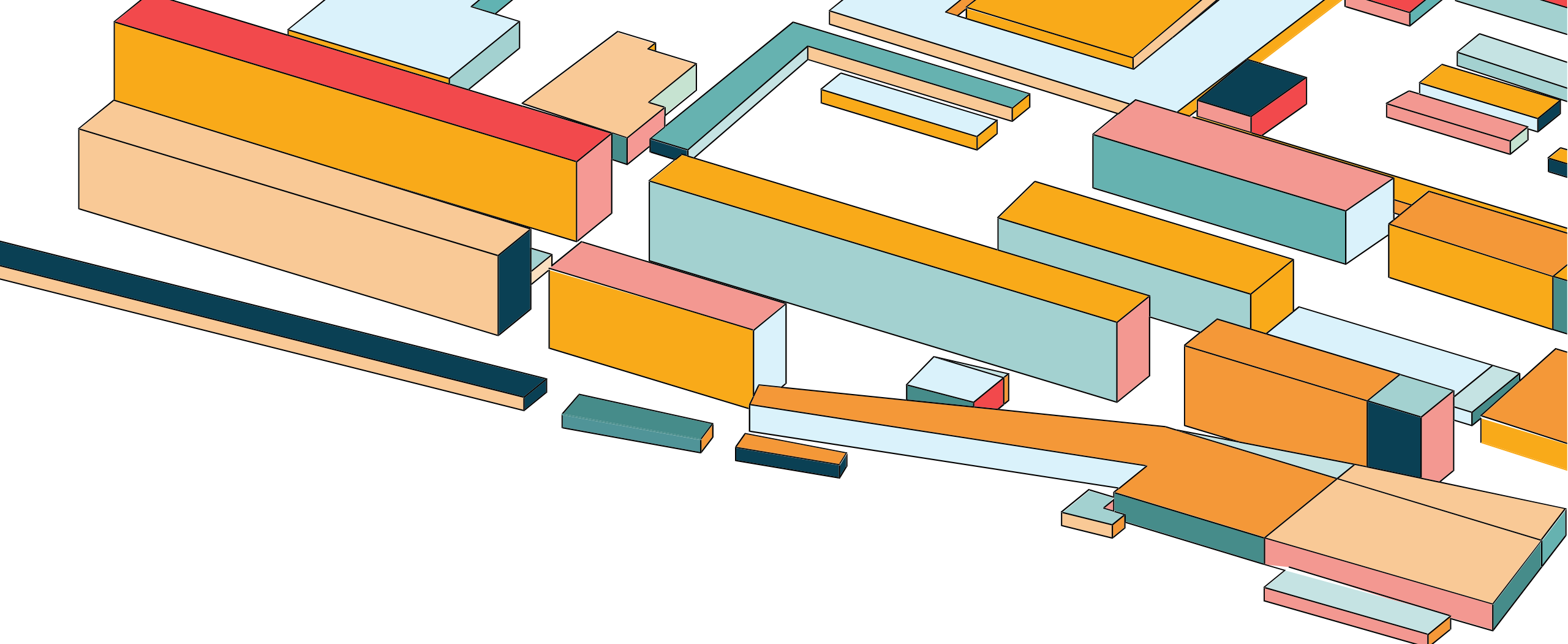


Communication  
and  
Collaboration  
is Key!

—

# MAKING CONNECTIONS

- Know the local FV program(s)
    - What do they offer?
    - What can someone expect when they call/go to the program?
    - How can your agency collaborate with the FV program? Is there a liaison or point of contact you can reach out to at the FV program, and someone at your agency the FV program can reach out to?
  - [TCFV Service Directory of FV Programs](#)
  - National Domestic Violence Hotline
    - Call 1.800.799.SAFE (7233)
    - Text "START" to 88788
    - Chat live with an advocate at [www.hotline.org](http://www.hotline.org)
- 

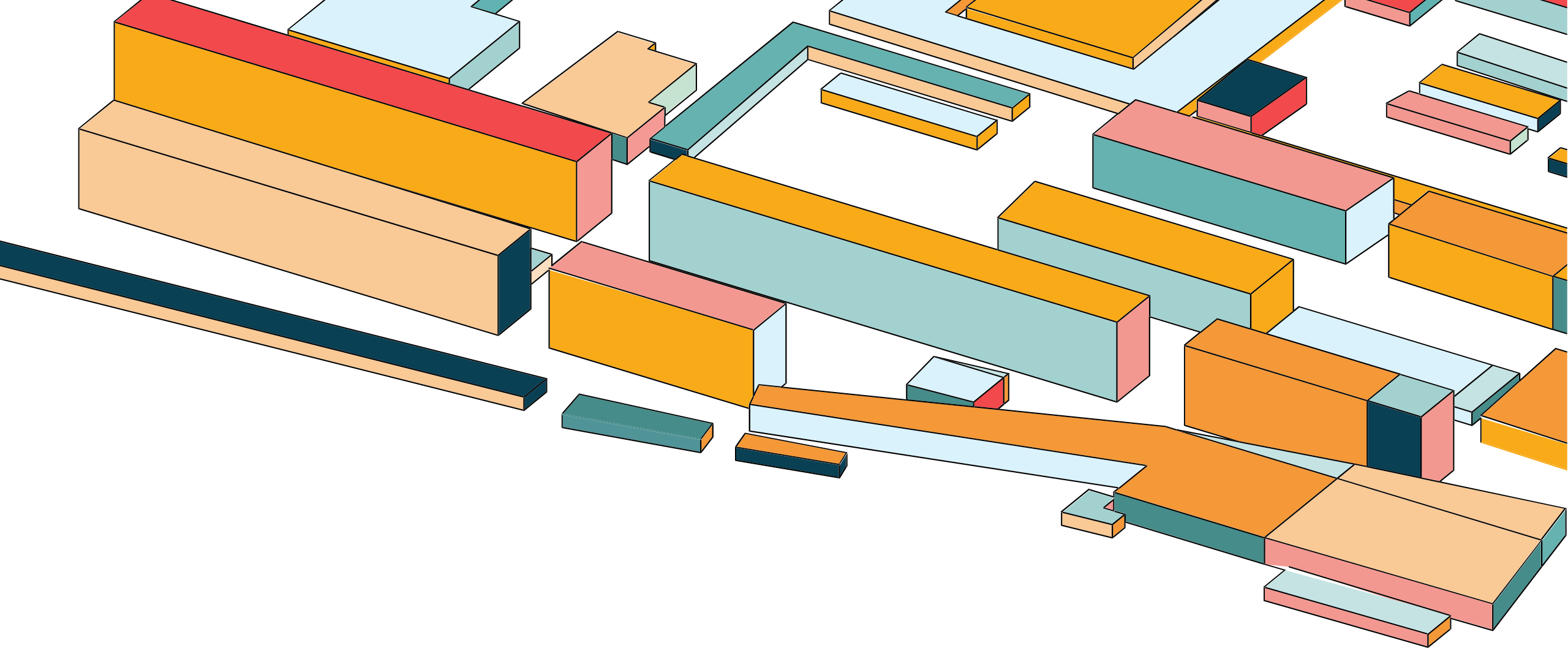


# HOUSING PROTECTIONS

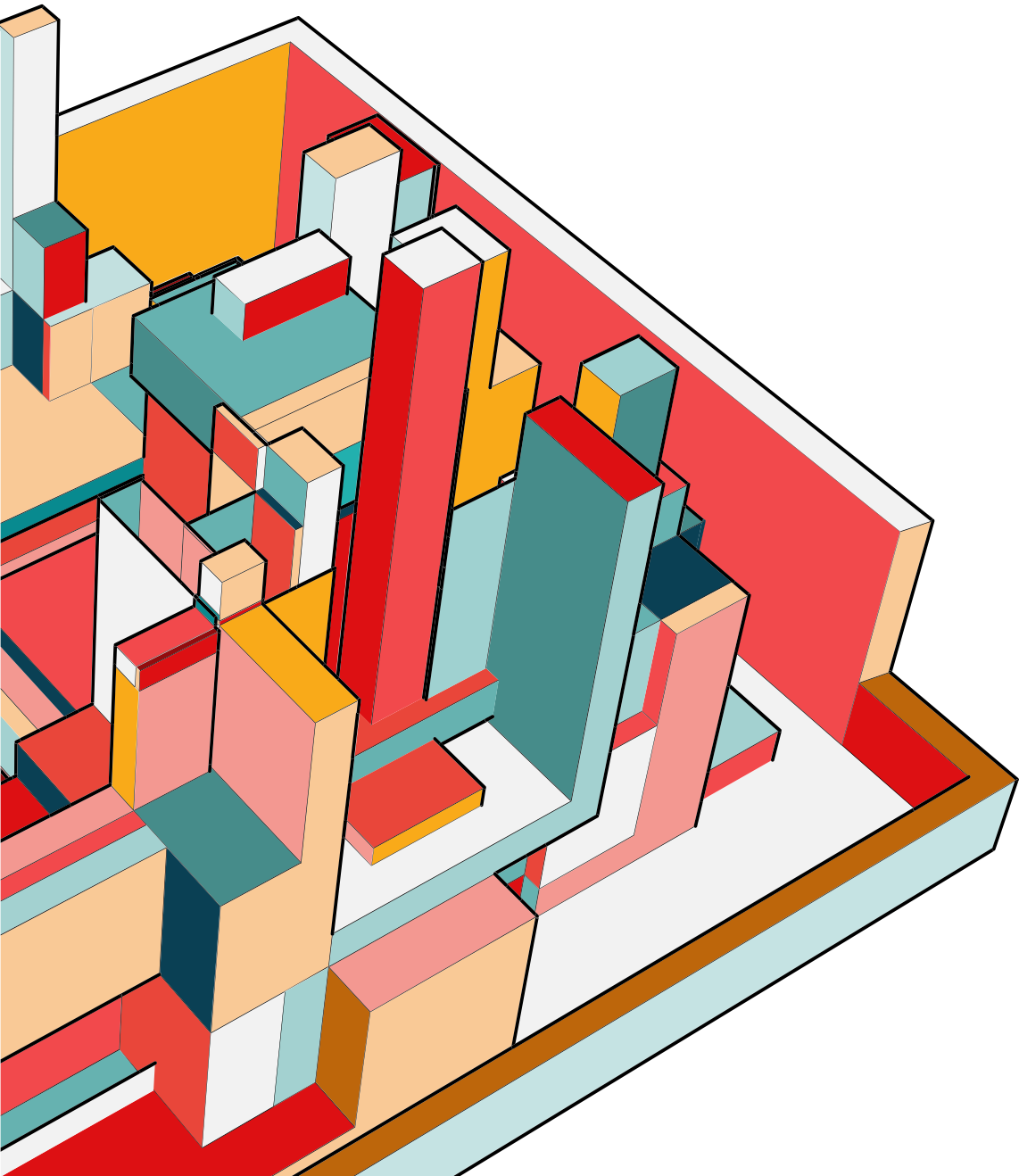
STATE + FEDERAL

**victims are more likely to have a problem finding housing because of their unique & often urgent situation, poor credit, rental & employment histories, & limited income due to inability to collect and/or enforce child support & alimony payment  
-reif**

## **HOUSING IMPLICATIONS**



# TEXAS: HOUSING PROTECTIONS



# TEXAS TAX CODE §25.025

A VICTIM OF FAMILY VIOLENCE  
MAY REQUEST TO RESTRICT  
PUBLIC ACCESS FROM  
APPRAISAL RECORDS OF  
THEIR HOME ADDRESS

# TENANT'S RIGHT TO POLICE / EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

Victims of family violence have maintained a legal right to summons the police or emergency assistance without fear of penalty since 2003

Texas Property Code Section 92.015 (a) and (b) as amended

- Extends this right to any tenant with a reasonable belief that an individual is in need of intervention or emergency assistance regardless of the reason
- A landlord may not prohibit or limit this right
- A lease is void if any provision attempts to waive this right or exempt any party from liability under this section



**LEASE  
TERMINATION  
FOR DV, SA,  
SEXUAL  
ABUSE &  
STALKING**

- **Texas Property Code §  
92.016- §92.0161**

- A victim of family violence, sexual assault, or stalking may have the right to terminate their lease

**LEASE  
TERMINATION:  
STALKING,  
SEXUAL  
ASSAULT,  
SEXUAL  
ABUSE OR  
ATTEMPTED  
ASSAULT OR  
ABUSE**

**WHO**

- A victim or parent/guardian of a victim of stalking, sexual assault, sexual abuse, or attempted assault or abuse that occurred at home or on the premises in the last 6 months may terminate once:

**DOCUMENTATION**

- Delivers documentation of a final sexual assault or stalking PO
- Delivers documentation of the assault or abuse from:
  - Licensed health care provider
  - Licensed mental health care provider
  - Victim advocate authorized under Govt. Code
- Vacates the premises and 30 days expire

# LEASE TERMINATION: FAMILY VIOLENCE

## WHO

- A victim or parent/guardian of a victim of family violence:

## DOCUMENTATION

- Temporary injunction issued under Subchapter [E](#), Chapter [6](#), Family Code;
- Temporary ex parte order issued under Chapter [83](#), Family Code;
- Protective order issued under Chapter [85](#), Family Code; or
- Order of emergency protection



## LEASE TERMINATION

- 30-Day Notice to Vacate Forms
- Third Party Certification Form
- Advocate Guide to Lease Termination



TEXAS COUNCIL ON FAMILY VIOLENCE

# FEDERAL: HOUSING PROTECTIONS

Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)



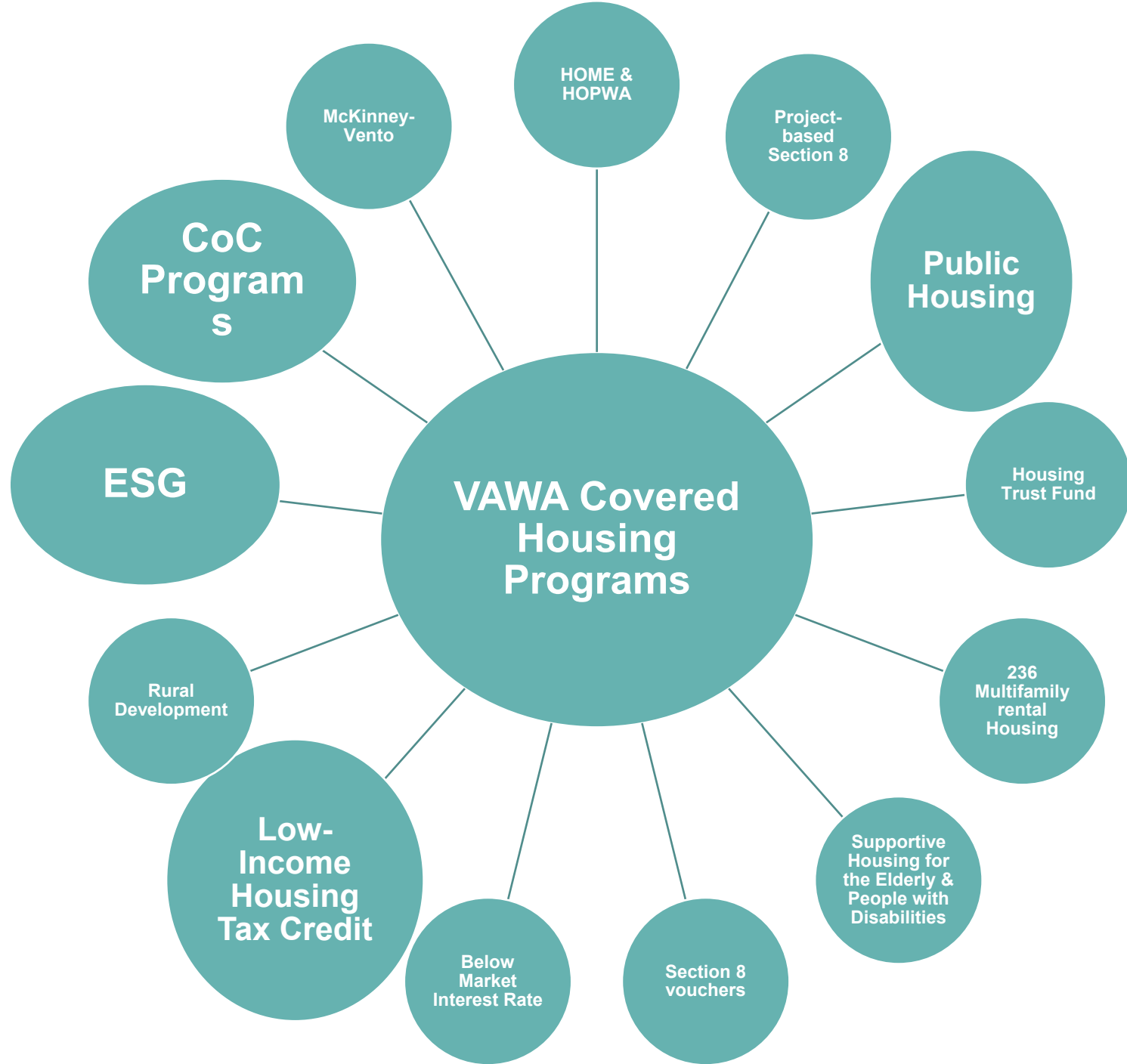
2005: Initial Housing Title included in VAWA



2013: Expands application of protections to victims residing in 'covered housing programs' that are federally administered



2022 Reauthorization



## An applicant or tenant may NOT be:

### Denied Admission or Assistance

- From participation in housing on the basis is or has been a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking

### Evicted

- On the basis that the tenant is or has been the victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking

# PROTECTIONS FROM ADVERSE FACTORS

Applicant or tenant may not be denied admission to, denied assistance, terminated from participation, or evicted ....

On the basis of OR as a direct result of victimization (e.g. criminal history or poor credit)





- **Bifurcation**
- Covered housing programs may...

- Evict, remove, or terminate the assistance of the offender

- Allow the victim, who is the tenant or lawful occupant, to remain without penalty

**Provide 90 days to establish eligibility for a covered housing program**

# EMERGENCY TRANSFERS

---

Each federal agency must adopt a model emergency transfer plan to be used by PHAs, owners, or managers of housing assisted under the “covered housing programs”

---

This transfer plan must:

**allow survivor tenants to transfer to another available and safe dwelling unit assisted under a “covered housing program” under certain circumstances, and describe policies for assisting tenants to make emergency transfers when a safe unit is not immediately available**

# 2022 VAWA REAUTHORIZATION

- VAWA Housing Title largely unchanged by 2022 Reauthorization
- Ability for survivors to enforce VAWA
  - Filing FHEO complaints alleging VAWA violations - [https://www.hud.gov/program\\_offices/fair\\_housing\\_equal\\_opp/online-complaint](https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/fair_housing_equal_opp/online-complaint)

HUD now has an Office of Gender-Based Violence & Equity with a seasoned advocate as the Director.

# IMMIGRANT ACCESS

All immigrants, regardless of status or documentation, have access to:

- Emergency Shelter,
- Transitional Housing,
- Rapid Re-Housing

HHS, HUD, DOJ Letter:

<https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/Joint-Letter-August-2016.pdf>

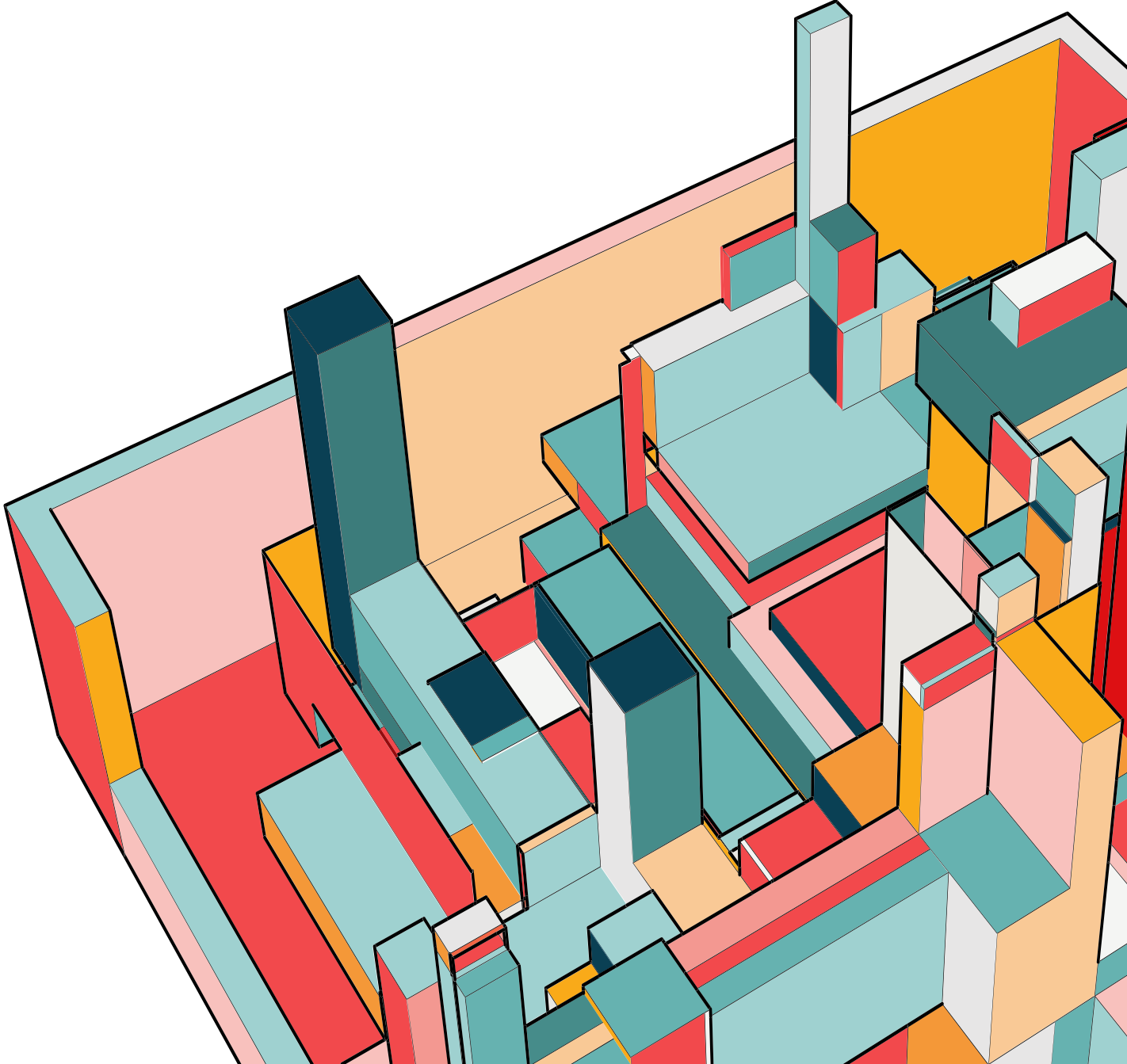
# IMMIGRANT ACCESS

VAWA self petitioners and LPR's have access to:

- HUD public housing
- Housing Choice Vouchers

Families with members of mixed immigration status can access these programs at a prorated rent based on the number of qualified members.

# CASE SCENARIO





**QUESTIONS?**



# RESOURCES



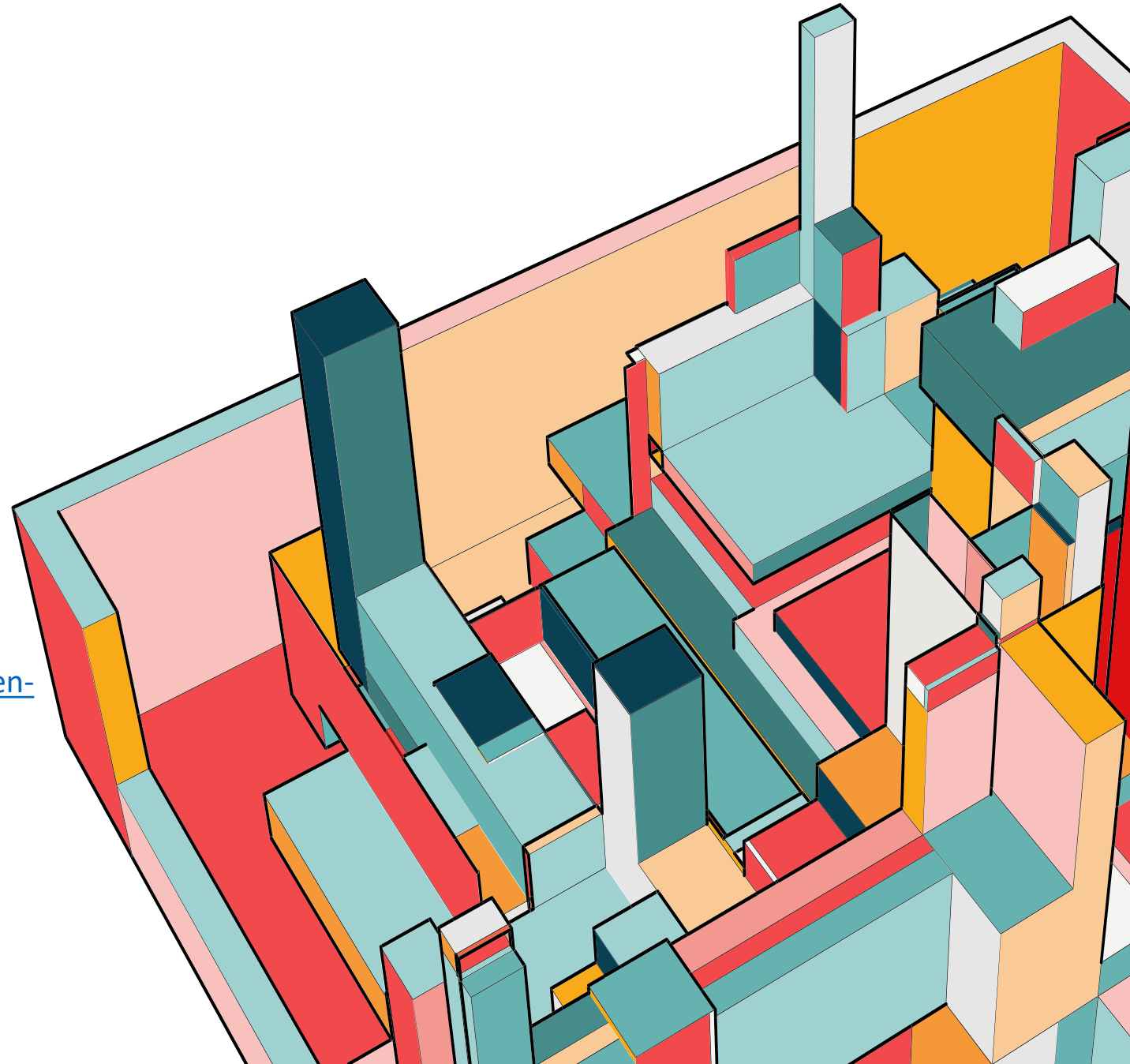
# HOUSING RESOURCES

HUD's new website:

- <https://www.hud.gov/vawa>

2022 VAWA updates by NHLP:

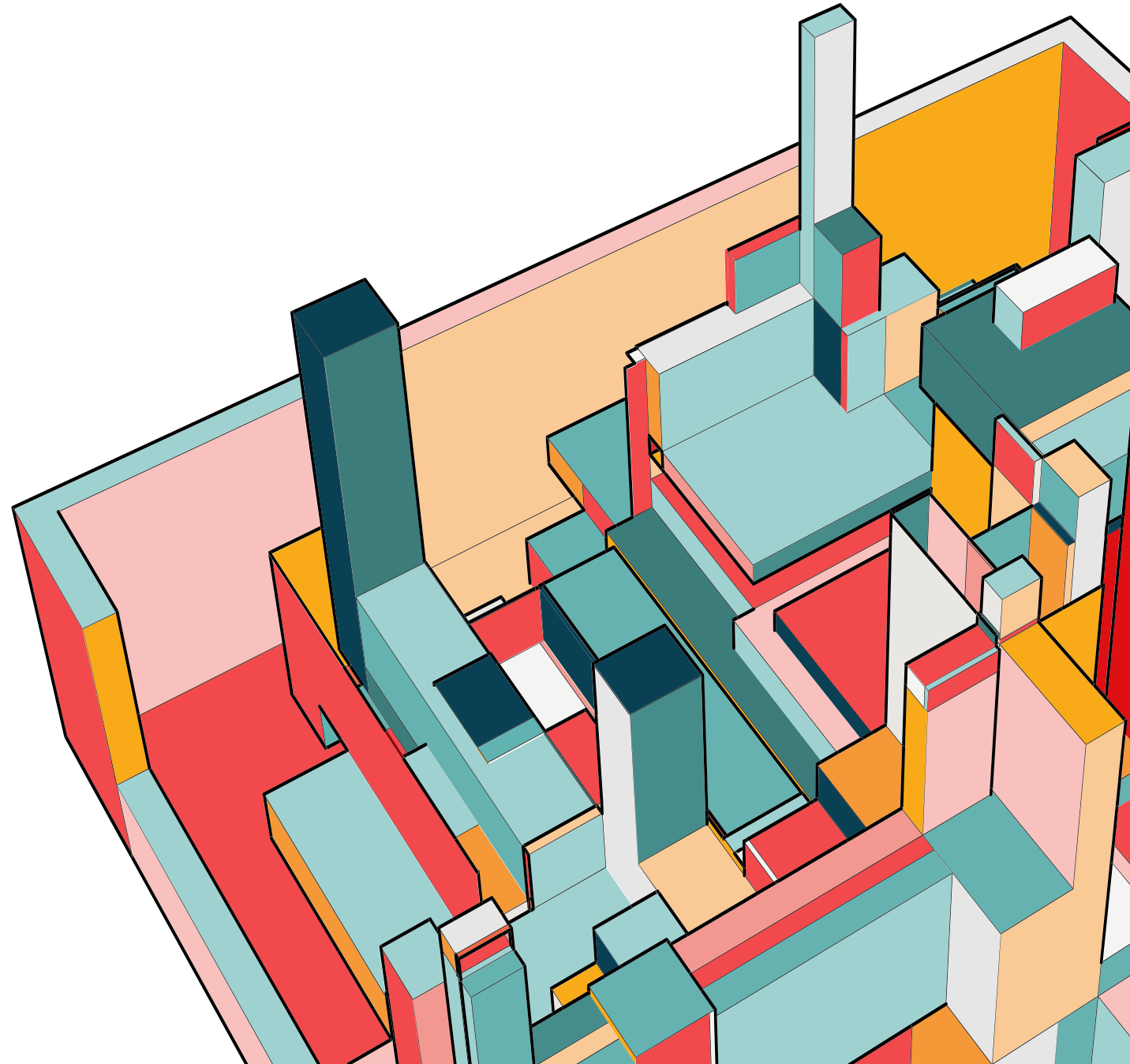
- <https://www.nhlp.org/wp-content/uploads/The-Violence-Against-Women-Reauthorization-Act-of-2022-What-Survivor-Advocates-Need-To-Know1-1.pdf>
- <https://www.nhlp.org/wp-content/uploads/2022-VAWA-Brochure.pdf>



# TCFV WEBSITE

[www.tcfv.org](http://www.tcfv.org)

- Program Resources
- Program Changemakers
- Survivor Housing
  - Regaining Balance Report +
  - Lease Termination
  - Trainings/Webinars



# SURVIVOR RESOURCES

**Family Services of Southeast  
Texas:** Emergency Shelter/Non-  
residential:

409-832-7575 (24/7)

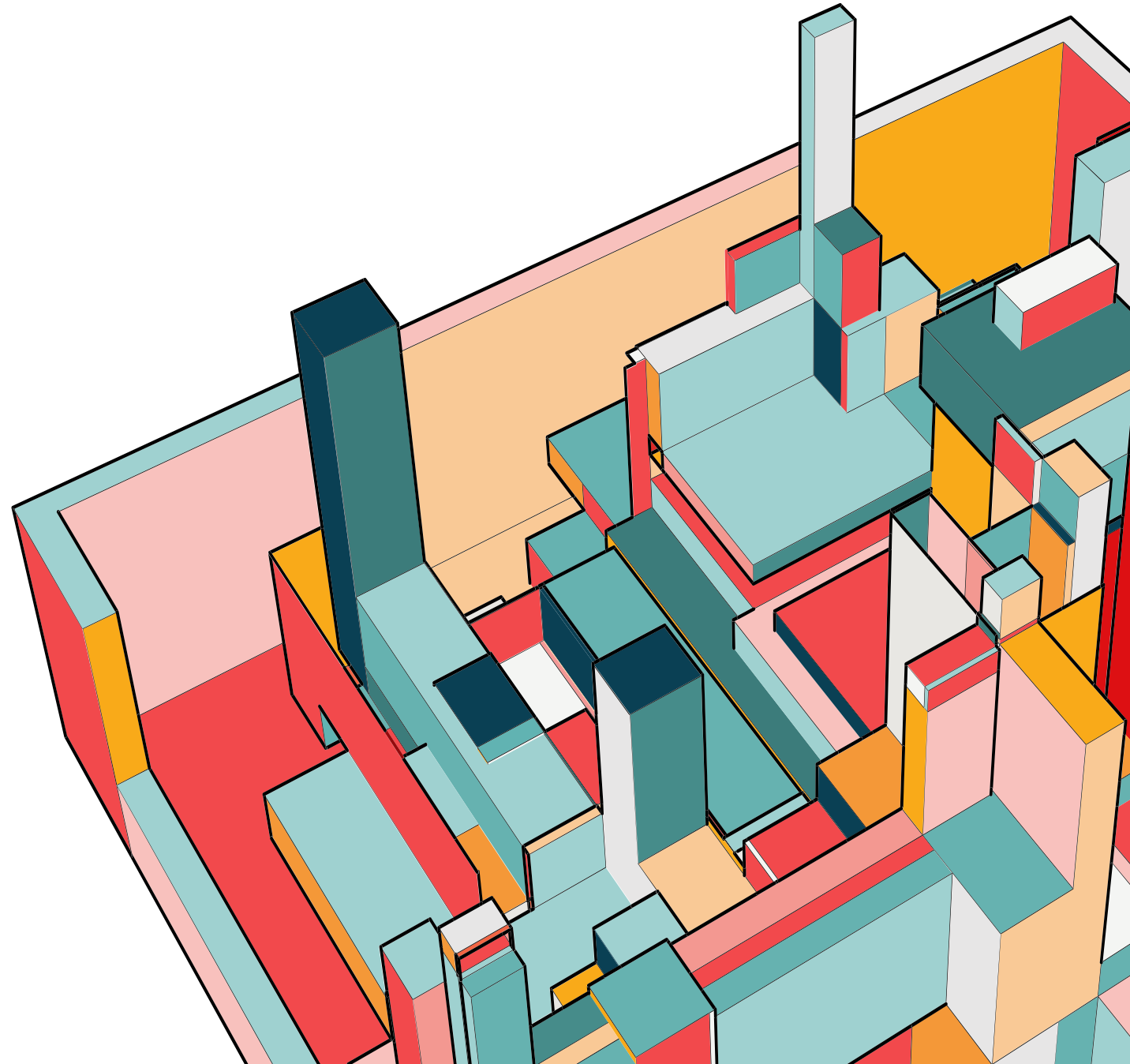
1-800-621-8882 (Toll-free)

<https://westrengthenfamilies.org/>

**National Domestic Violence  
Hotline (NDVH)**

1-800-799-SAFE(7233)

[www.thehotline.org](http://www.thehotline.org)

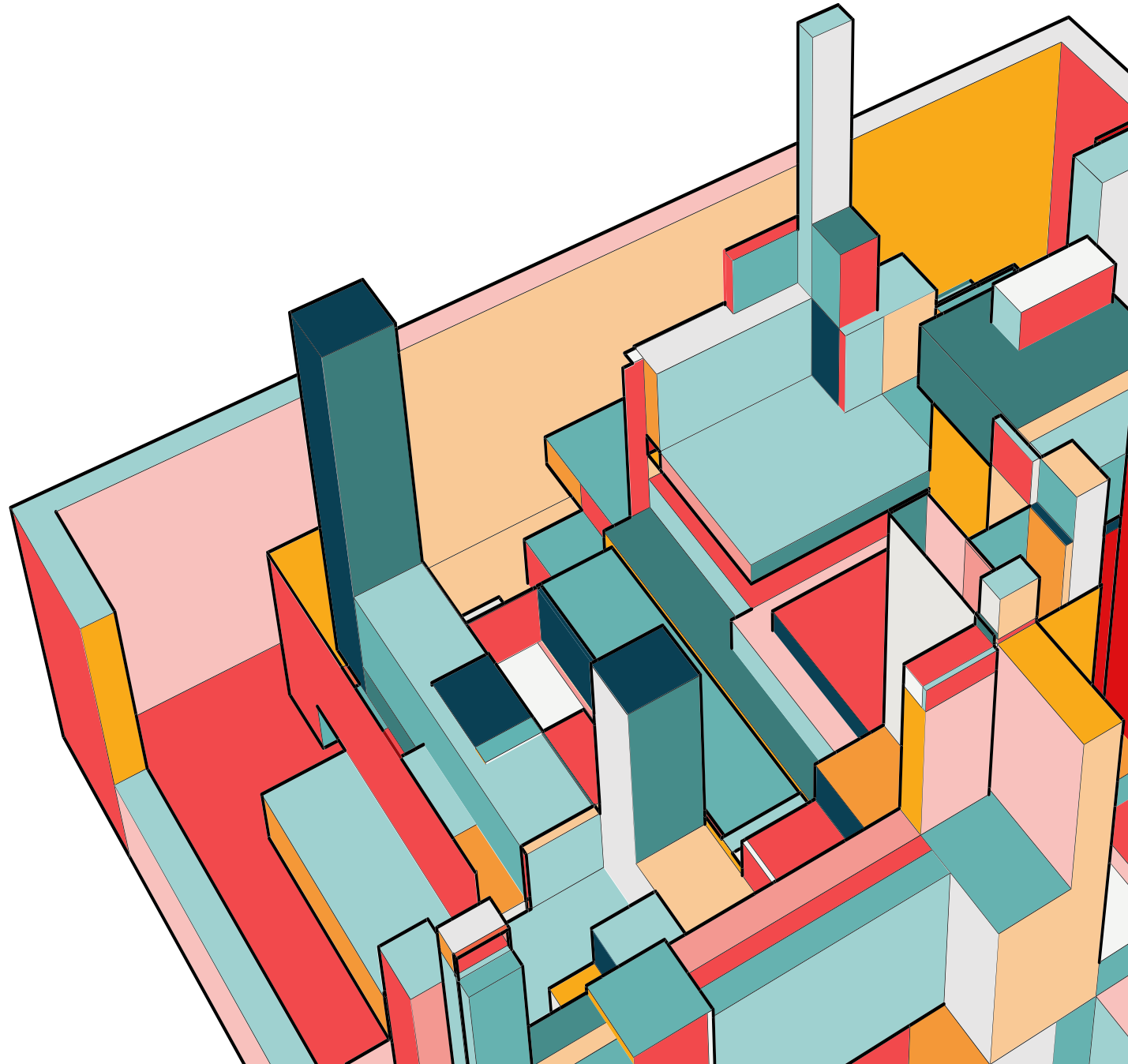


# TCFV SOCIALS: FOLLOW US!

Facebook  
and LinkedIn: Texas  
Council on Family Violence

Twitter: @TexasCouncilFV

Instagram: @mytcfv



# THANK YOU

**Chelsey Wall**

SAFE Alliance

[cmays@safeaustin.org](mailto:cmays@safeaustin.org)

**Molly Woodard**

Thibodeaux

[mthibodeaux@tcfv.org](mailto:mthibodeaux@tcfv.org)

<https://www.safeaustin.org/>

[www.tcfv.org](http://www.tcfv.org)