

# How States Are Bolstering Address Confidentiality Programs



**WASHINGTON**  
Secretary of State

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Address Confidentiality Program

Presented by  
Secretary of State Steve Hobbs

# History



## 1990

- Public Records Act exemption
- Each individual agency:
  - reviewed each individual record request;
  - determined need for confidentiality; and
  - redacted each record prior to release.

**REPEAL**

# History



## 1991



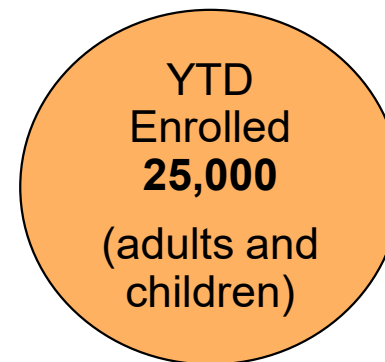
- One agency, OSOS, creates a substitute address for survivors
- State and local agencies use substitute address in public records
- Confidential mail-forwarding
- Voter and marriage protections

# Background



## Eligibility

- Survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and trafficking
- Criminal justice employees
- Election officials
- Health care professionals



2002  
Susan Laurence Memorial Award  
Professional Innovation in Victims Services

# 2017 Summit



## 45 Community Leaders

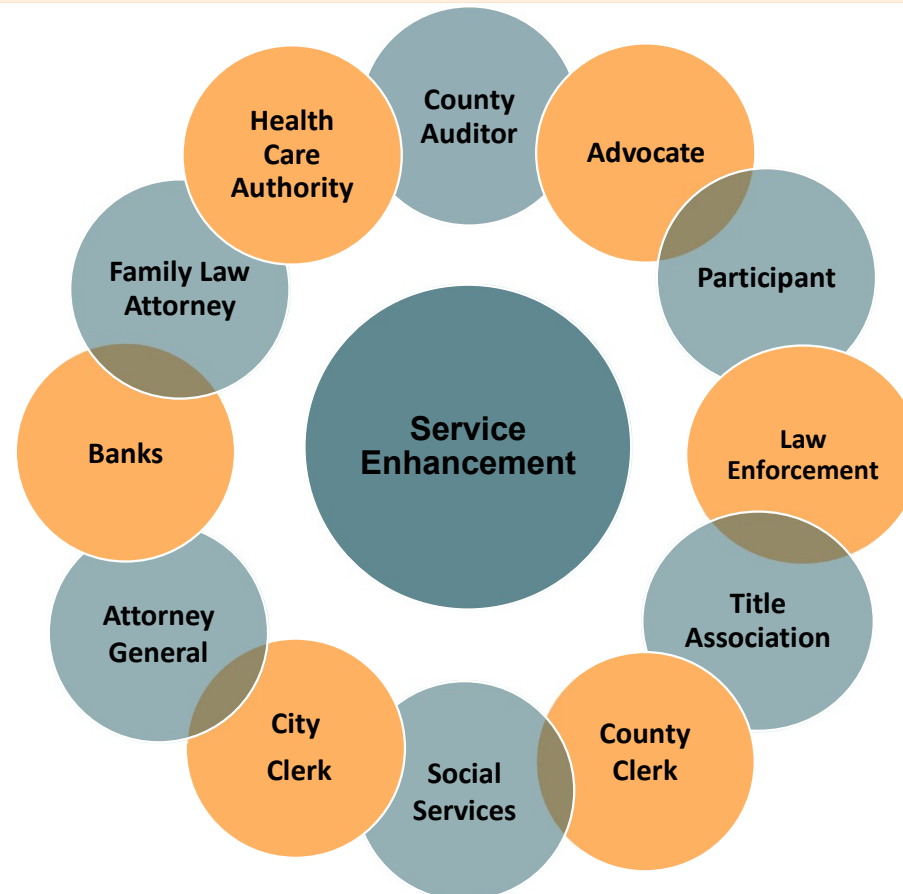
- Advocates
- Archives
- Attorney General
- Auditors
- Banks
- County Clerks
- Courts
- DV Coalition
- Elections
- Law Offices
- Police Dept/Sheriff
- **Program Participants**
- Program Users
- Realtors
- School Districts
- Title Companies
- Victim Assistance Programs

Is the ACP still a viable program?

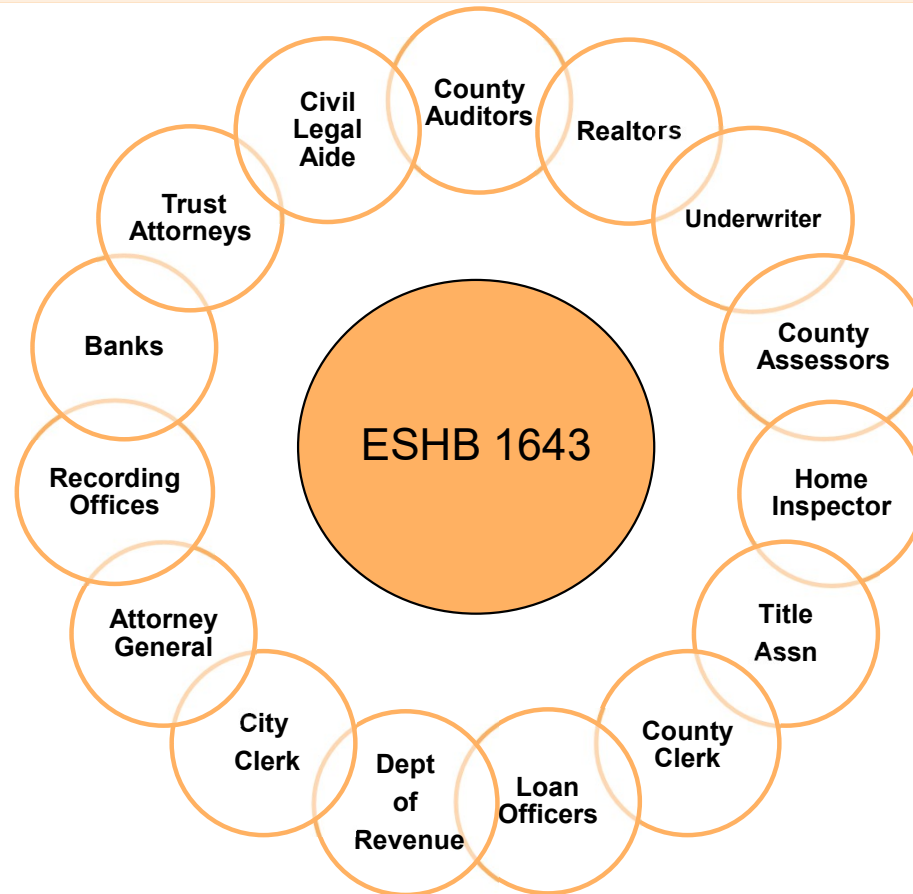


How can we provide protections to participants when purchasing a home while still maintaining the strength of our land records?

# 2018-2019 Advisory Council



# Housing Task Force



# Task Force Results



- Revocable living trust
- Online resources
- Public trustee – signs recorded documents (public)
  - Mortgage, deed of trust
  - ACP address – real estate excise tax affidavit
- After closing, the “public” trustee can resign.





# Next Steps



- Beta-testing trust model
- Explore OSOS acting as Public Trustee
- Recruit real estate attorneys

# Thank You



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