



## Before You Start

### A Checklist for Rural Service Providers Reaching Out to Faith-Based Organizations Regarding Sexual and Domestic Violence

- ❖ Learn about the faith-based organizations in your area.
  - ❖ Are there congregations and/or faith-based gatherings?
  - ❖ Faith leader or clergy associations?
  - ❖ Faith-based nonprofits?
  - ❖ A group of congregations? Representing one faith? Or many? Comprising faith leaders, laity, or both?
- ❖ If the organization is a congregation, learn about the congregation.
  - ❖ What do they call themselves?
  - ❖ When are the important holidays and special seasons?
  - ❖ If there are sacred texts, what are they called?
  - ❖ Are there special food requirements?
  - ❖ On which day(s) do they gather as a community?
  - ❖ Do they have recognized leaders? If so, what are they called? If not, who makes decisions?
  - ❖ What are the basic tenets of the faith that might affect victims and survivors?
  - ❖ Are there denominational or geographical similarities to other congregations with which you are working?
- ❖ Talk to members of your staff and/or friends of your agency who may be able to connect you with someone in the congregation. Start with a congregation where you have a connection.
  - ❖ What is the best way to make an appointment?
  - ❖ Who is the best person to talk to?
    - ◇ Community leader?
    - ◇ Lay leader?
    - ◇ Administrative assistant?
    - ◇ Faith leader? Pastor, Priest, Rabbi, Imam, Minister, etc.?
    - ◇ Religious Education Director?
    - ◇ Visitation Minister?
    - ◇ Congregational president?
    - ◇ Parish nurse?
  - ❖ What are the congregation's current concerns and focus? How do they connect to your work?
- ❖ Gather resources.
  - ❖ Business card and agency resources.
  - ❖ Symbolic gift (agency t-shirt, mug, booklet, etc.)?
  - ❖ Safe Havens' resources for rural faith-based communities. For more information, see [www.interfaithpartners.org](http://www.interfaithpartners.org).

