



Pieces of a Bigger Picture

Faith Communities and Service Providers Working Together to Support Victims of Sexual and Domestic Violence

Before You Start

A Checklist for 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 dietary 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?
- ❖ Start with a congregation where you have a connection. Talk to members of your staff and/or friends of your agency who may be able to help you connect with someone within the congregation.
 - ✦ What is the best way to make an appointment?
 - ✦ Who is the best person to talk to?
 - ◇ Community leader or 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 areas? Are they responding to particular challenges such as homelessness, poverty, racism, or xenophobia? How do these challenges connect to your work, and how can you highlight these connections?
- ❖ Gather resources.
 - ✦ Business card and agency resources.
 - ✦ Symbolic gift (agency t-shirt, mug, booklet, etc.)?
 - ✦ Safe Havens' resources for faith-based communities. For more information, see www.interfaithpartners.org.

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