

Effectively Serving Survivors with Disabilities



Understanding Disability

**Disability is a
broad category...**

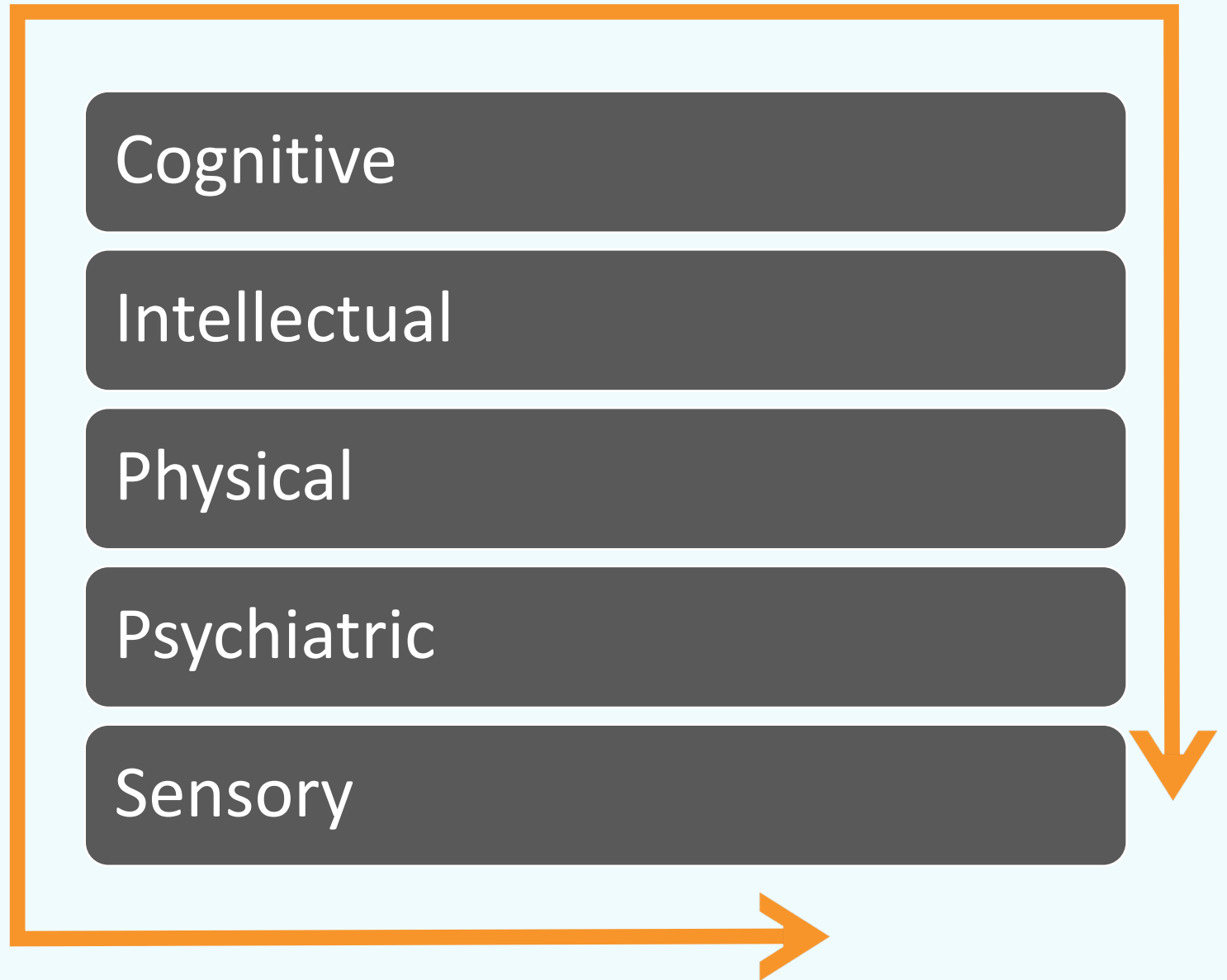
Cognitive

Intellectual

Physical

Psychiatric

Sensory



Society's Treatment of People with Disabilities

- Religious/Moral Model
- Pity/Charity Model
- Medical Model

Domestic and sexual violence in the lives of people with disabilities

People with disabilities experience high rates of violence

- Women who have experienced intimate partner violence are more than twice as likely to also report a disability.
- 14% of men with disabilities reported experiencing sexual violence at some point in their lifetime compared to 4% of men without disabilities.
- 49% of people with developmental disabilities were assaulted 10 or more times.
- 20% of Deaf adults have experienced physical abuse by an intimate partner. 15% have experienced forced sex in an intimate partner relationship.

Unique Perpetrators

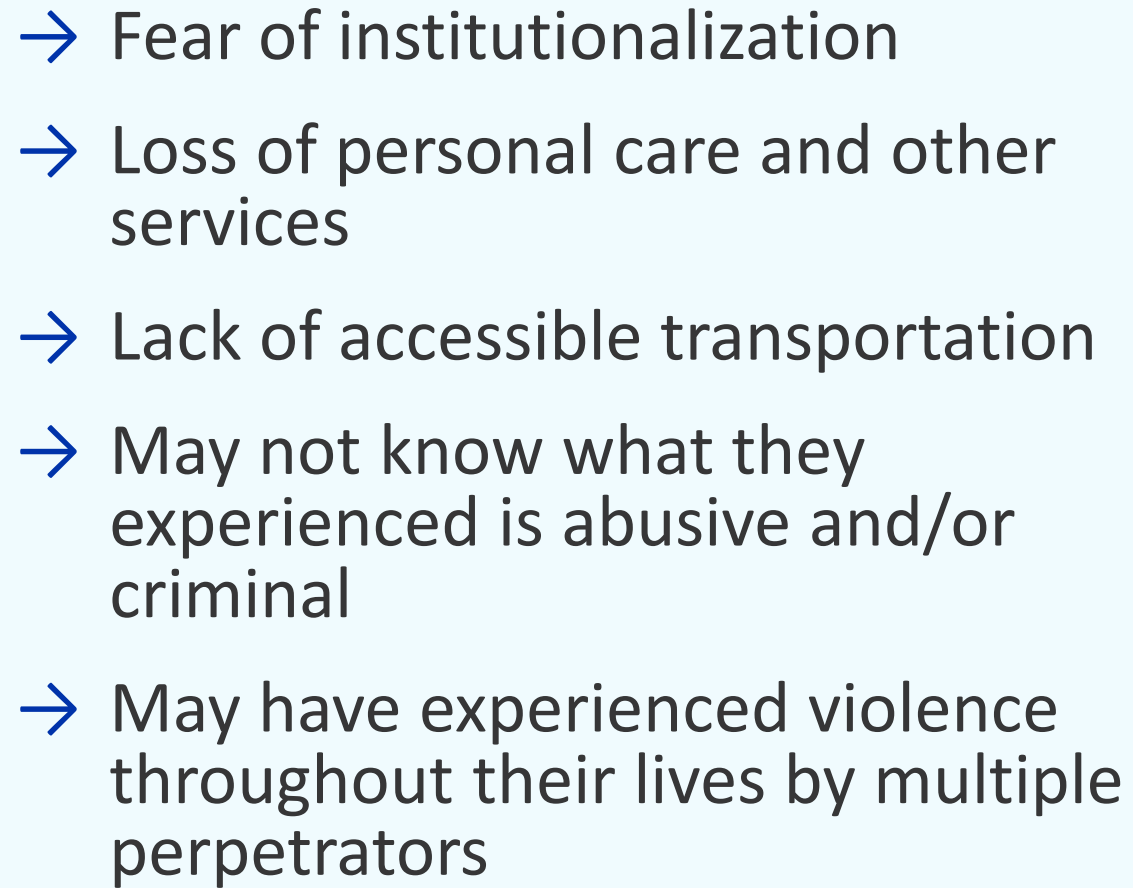
- The vast majority of perpetrators are known and hold positions of power or authority
- 44% of perpetrators have a relationship with the individual because of their disability.
 - Caregivers
 - Attendants
 - Drivers
- Family members
- Partners, Girlfriends, Boyfriends
- Acquaintances

Unique Dynamics

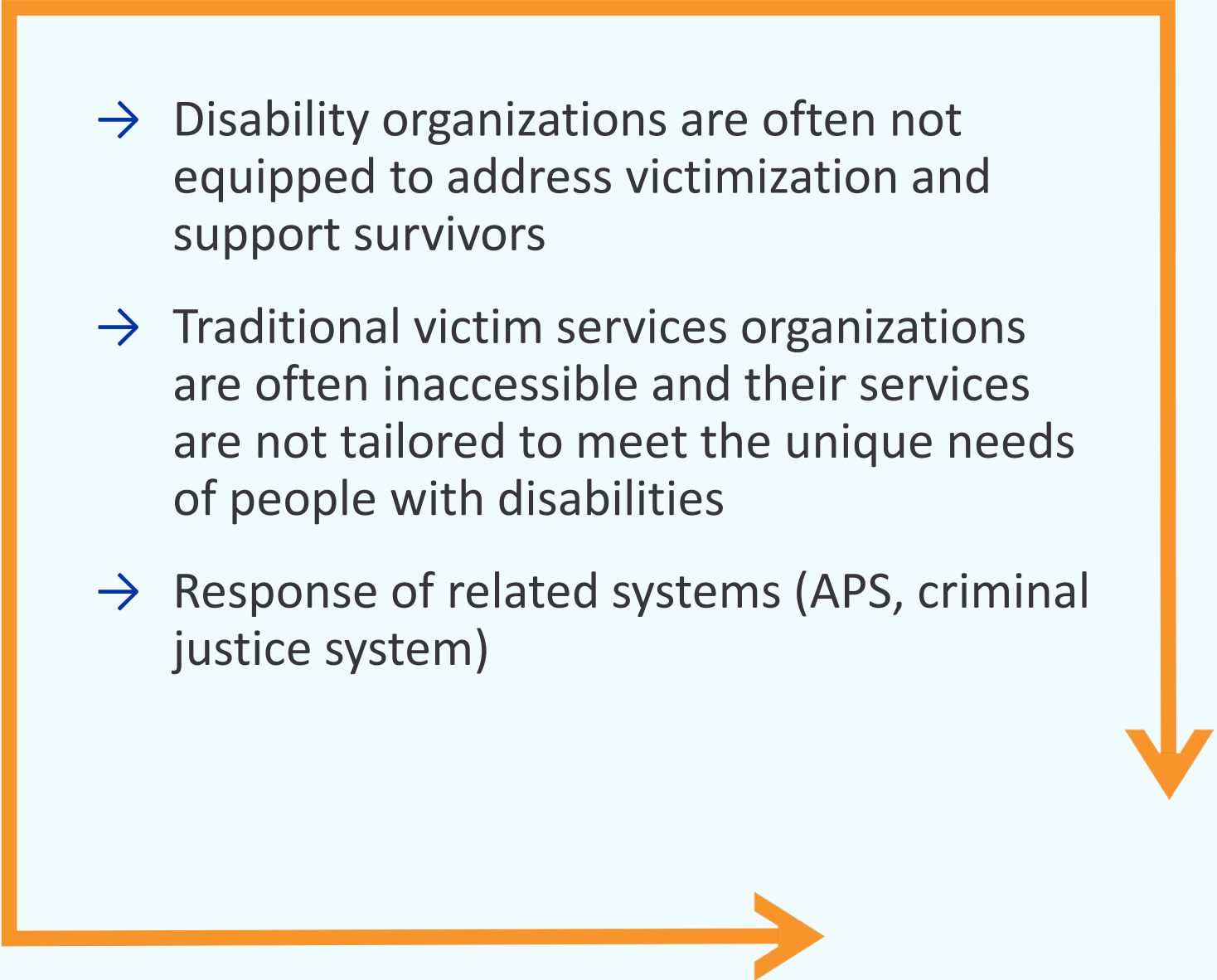
- Denial of information about healthy relationships
- Systematic oppression of people with disabilities (isolation, exploitation, marginalization)
- Lack of confidentiality:
 - Small, close-knit communities
 - Guardians
 - Mandatory reporting policies



Unique Dynamics (2)

- Fear of institutionalization
 - Loss of personal care and other services
 - Lack of accessible transportation
 - May not know what they experienced is abusive and/or criminal
 - May have experienced violence throughout their lives by multiple perpetrators
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Barriers to services and healing

- Disability organizations are often not equipped to address victimization and support survivors
 - Traditional victim services organizations are often inaccessible and their services are not tailored to meet the unique needs of people with disabilities
 - Response of related systems (APS, criminal justice system)
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Disabled
people for
future!



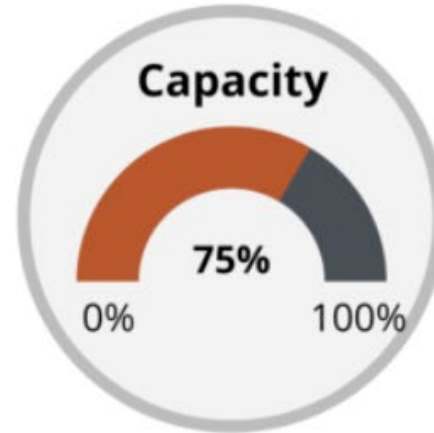
Strategies for Change

- Enhance services
- Build partnerships
- Raise awareness and foster accountability
- Strengthen prevention
- Increase research and evaluation

Enhancing Services

- Identify gaps in existing services
- Performance Indicators

Measuring Capacity to Serve Survivors with Disabilities and Deaf Survivors



Run Reports

Easy to understand reports with practical implications.



Create Plans

Ability to create a plan that addresses your strengths and growth areas.



Track Successes

Advance your mission to serve survivors with disabilities.

Using this tool requires little to no experience with conducting evaluations and it draws upon information your organization likely already has available.

Enhancing Services

Address policies and procedures

→ Mandatory reporting

→ Guardianship

→ Representative payees

→ Accommodations



Enhancing Services (3)

Provide training to your staff members on survivors with disabilities

→ Resource: Accessible and Safe Advocacy Services

FREE




Building Accessible and Safe Services through Policies and Procedures

In this course you will learn about key ingredients to include in policies and procedures to account for survivor safety and accessibility. You will also learn some of the key policies and procedures that should be in place within victim services programs and disability programs to ensure safety and accessibility.

[VIEW COURSE OUTLINE](#)

FREE




Assessing for Physical Access and Safety

In this course, you will learn the importance of conducting regular safety and accessibility reviews within victim service programs and disability programs. You will learn how to choose the right tool for your program and how to build your team's capacity to conduct reviews.

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Accounting for Access in Program Materials

In this course, you will learn how to make your intake materials, outreach materials, and other program materials accessible to survivors with disabilities. You will learn the importance of font choice, color contrast, and plain language. Additionally, we will review how to build electronic materials accessibly.

[VIEW COURSE OUTLINE](#)

Build Partnerships

- Identify disability service providers and self advocate groups in your community
 - Resource: Supporting Crime Victims with Disabilities from Crisis to Healing:
<https://www.endabusepwd.org/resource/supporting-crime-victims-with-disabilities-online-training-toolkit/>
- Develop collaborations
 - Resource: Forging New Collaborations:
<https://www.endabusepwd.org/resource/forging-new-collaborations/>

Raise Awareness and Foster Accountability

- Attend dedicated training on violence against people with disabilities
 - Resource: End Abuse of People with Disabilities Webinar Series:
<https://www.endabusepwd.org/events/category/live-sessions/>
- Advocate for accommodations in the system
 - Resource: Just ASK toolkit:
<https://www.endabusepwd.org/resource/just-ask-a-toolkit-to-help-law-enforcement-personnel-meet-the-needs-of-crime-victims-with-disabilities/>

Contact us!

We provide direct technical assistance.

→ If you have a question or are experiencing a challenge, you can request assistance at: hello@activatingchange.org or reach me directly at sharrell@activatingchange.org.

Questions?

