Identifying Culturally Specific Populations

Questions to Ask: Identify Populations

☐ Has your organization prioritized any populations in the grant?
☐ Which cultural groups are in your geographic service area?
☐ Which cultural groups are likely to need the services your organization offers under the grant (e.g., young survivors are more likely to need education services than family law services)?
☐ Have you identified community resources where survivors are likely to access services (e.g., rape crisis centers, homeless shelters, culturally-specific programs, etc.)?
  o Have you asked these resources about the populations that they serve?

Questions to Ask: Identify Population Needs

☐ How do your target populations communicate?
  o Do you speak their language (literally and slang)?
  o Do they communicate in-person, via text, email, etc.?
☐ What privacy concerns might be unique or particularly important to the populations you serve? For example:
  o Is this cultural community very small or close-knit?
  o Is sexual assault stigmatized in this community?
  o Consider intersectionality: is some other facet of their identity stigmatized or not accepted within their cultural or social group?
  o Are you required by law to share their information with a third-party?
☐ What safety concerns might be unique or particularly important for the populations you serve? For example:
  o Will the survivor be in danger from the community if their community learns of the assault?
  o Will the survivor experience increased danger or harm by seeking services from certain institutions/providers?
  o Is the perpetrator a member of their community?
  o What forms of transportation are available to the survivor?
Chapter 6 Assessment Tool

☐ How will the survivor’s identity or membership in a particular community impact their legal remedies?
  o Are there legal remedies that the survivor is not willing to consider due to their identity or community membership?
  o Will the remedy be effective and meaningful within the survivor’s community?
  o Will the remedy isolate the survivor from their community or support system?


Serving Unique Populations

Questions to Ask: Review Organizational Capacity to Meet Population Needs

☐ Do your organization’s recruitment, retention, and promotion policies and patterns reflect a commitment to increasing the accessibility of your services to culturally-diverse populations?

☐ Does your organization seek out training/resources for all staff on cultural competency and population-specific needs (e.g., immigrants, LGBTQ, minors)?
  o Do you know where to find such training/resources

Questions to Ask: Accessibility of Services

☐ Do your written materials and website speak to your community and target populations?
  o Can survivors see themselves in the images used on your materials?
  o Are the materials written in a language that survivors understand?
    ▪ Slang & colloquial language.
    ▪ Written in plain language rather than legalese.
  o Do your materials indicate (expressly and implicitly) that you are welcoming to individuals of all gender identities, sexual orientations, immigration statuses, etc.?

☐ Are your materials and services available in languages other than English?
  o See Sample Release of Information.
Chapter 6 Assessment Tool

□ Do you have a Language Access Policy?
  o Have you contracted for interpretation services?
  o Do you have a language line account?
  o See Interpreter Tip Sheet.

□ Are your services accessible?
  o Is your physical space accessible for individuals with mobility limitations?
  o Do you inquire about special accommodations needed for survivors to access services? For example:
    ▪ Do they need written materials in a larger font or alternative format?
    ▪ Do they need written summaries of conversations (e.g., due to memory loss or processing disorders)?

□ What barriers might prevent survivors from accessing your services? For example:
  o Physical/transportation services that prevent the survivor from accessing services
  o Privacy concerns about their community learning of the assault
  o Communication barriers

□ How might your overcome these barriers or reduce their impact? For example:
  o Meeting the client outside of the office or at a community-based service provider
  o Identifying safe and secure methods of communication. See Social Media & Privacy Tip Sheet.
  o Learning the language they use surrounding sexual assault; contract for interpretation services for foreign language speakers

□ Is your organization inclusive and welcoming in the promotion and provision of services?
  o How does your organization community this philosophy (i.e., website, non-discrimination policy, presence at community events, materials on your wall, etc.)?