GETTING STARTED: TIPS FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICE PROVIDERS

It is critical that domestic violence service providers acknowledge the need to enhance their understanding of the intersection of HIV/AIDS and domestic violence. Service providers can make small changes that can improve their response to the needs of survivors at risk for or diagnosed with HIV/AIDS. Below are a few steps that your organization can take to better address the intersection of HIV/AIDS and domestic violence:

TALK ABOUT HIV/AIDS & SEX/SEXUALITY

- Make HIV/AIDS and sex/sexuality posters and brochures available throughout your organization so that all service users can see the information. See the brochure and posters in the Positively Safe Toolkit.
- Incorporate discussions about risk reduction in individual counseling, support groups, and other supportive environments with all survivors.
- Have resources available that provide information about HIV/AIDS service providers and testing centers.

PARTNER WITH A LOCAL HIV/AIDS SERVICE PROVIDER

- Create a relationship with a local provider with whom your organization can cross-train staff and keep your organization up-to-date with best practices in working with anyone at risk of or diagnosed with HIV/AIDS. For more information on creating a successful partnership, please review the Service Provider Collaboration Guide and Collaboration Action Plan Template resources in the Positively Safe Toolkit.
- Create a referral process between the organizations to support individuals who would like to receive testing or disclose their HIV/AIDS status.

SEXUAL SAFETY PLANNING

- Discuss sex and sexuality in the context of Safety Planning with all survivors. For more information on safety planning, please review the Safety Planning Guide resource in the Positively Safe Toolkit.
- Make sexual Safety Planning a core service offered.
CHANGE ORGANIZATIONAL POLICIES & PROCEDURES

- Add HIV/AIDS to the core services you provide for all survivors, giving everyone the information that they need to reduce risk, find out their status, and know what resources are available.
- Train and prepare all staff to be comfortable and competent when discussing HIV/AIDS, sex, and sexuality.
- Review and incorporate HIV/AIDS disclosure responses, medication storage options, and confidentiality standards around HIV in your organization’s policies and procedures. To learn more about discussing HIV with victims of domestic violence, medication storage, and linkage to and retention in care review NNEDV’s additional resources in the Positively Safe Toolkit.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT HOW YOUR ORGANIZATION CAN RECEIVE INDIVIDUALIZED TRAINING ON THE INTERSECTION OF HIV/AIDS & DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, PLEASE CONTACT THE POSITIVELY SAFE TEAM AT THE NATIONAL NETWORK TO END DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (NNEDV) AT DVHIV@NNEDV.ORG.