



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.



Positively Safe:

THE INTERSECTION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & HIV/AIDS

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.