

NNEDV FUND
 Defining State Domestic Violence Coalitions – Essential Criteria
 Self-Assessment Tool
 Revised 2-14-07

NNEDV Fund has created this self-assessment tool to accompany the *Defining State Domestic Violence Coalitions – Essential Criteria* document to assist State Domestic Violence Coalitions (SDVCs) in assessing the essential criteria for defining who and what they are.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA

1. Are you:	
▪ a non-governmental organization?	Yes/No
▪ a not for profit organization?	Yes/No
▪ an organization that is self-determining?	Yes/No
▪ an organization not under the auspice of any government office, private entity or umbrella organization?	Yes/No
2. Do you have a mission statement that includes the components described below:	
▪ promote quality services for victims that focus on safety and self-determination?	Yes/No
▪ advocate and educate on behalf of survivors, their children, and their advocates?	Yes/No
▪ facilitate partnerships among victim advocates, allied organizations, and state agencies?	Yes/No
▪ mobilize a statewide voice on domestic violence?	Yes/No
▪ connect local, state and national work?	Yes/No
▪ engage in prevention and social change efforts that challenge the social, economic and political conditions that sustain a culture of violence in which domestic and sexual violence is condoned?	Yes/No
3. Do you have:	
▪ a history of involvement in the movement to end domestic and sexual violence?	Yes/No
▪ a membership representing a majority of organizations whose primary focus is domestic and sexual violence?	Yes/No
▪ at least a majority of the domestic violence service providers in the state?	Yes/No
4. Do you advocate for Native American/Indigenous survivors?	Yes/No
5. Do you advocate for those marginalized on the basis of:	
▪ race?	Yes/No
▪ color?	Yes/No
▪ religion?	Yes/No
▪ ethnicity?	Yes/No
▪ national origin?	Yes/No
▪ ancestry?	Yes/No
▪ citizenship?	Yes/No
▪ gender/gender identity?	Yes/No
▪ sexual orientation?	Yes/No
▪ physical/cognitive ability?	Yes/No
▪ age?	Yes/No
▪ marital status?	Yes/No
▪ class?	Yes/No
▪ legal status?	Yes/No

PRINCIPLES

1. Does your mission statement include:	
▪ survivor safety?	Yes/No
▪ survivor self-determination?	Yes/No
▪ perpetrator accountability?	Yes/No
2. Do you have:	
▪ a vision statement?	Yes/No
▪ principles of unity?	Yes/No
▪ guiding principles that expand and clarify the purpose of your coalition work?	Yes/No
3. Are members of your domestic violence coalition asked to sign on to principles of unity as part of their commitment to the values of the coalition?	Yes/No

STRUCTURE

A. Board

Does your board include:	
▪ Member program representation?	Yes/No
▪ Regional representation?	Yes/No
▪ Survivor representation?	Yes/No
▪ Diverse representation?	Yes/No
▪ Representation from the community at large?	Yes/No
▪ Representation of organized task forces or caucuses?	Yes/No

B. Membership

Does your membership include:	
▪ private, non-profit domestic (and sexual) violence programs?	Yes/No
▪ gradations of membership with corresponding benefits and responsibilities?	Yes/No
▪ allied organizations that are aligned with coalition mission?	Yes/No
▪ individuals?	Yes/No
▪ diverse representation?	Yes/No

C. Common Elements

Does your coalition have:	
▪ primary constituencies of private, non-profit community-based domestic violence programs?	Yes/No
▪ commitment to provide an array of services to these programs?	Yes/No
▪ involvement of these programs in the development of coalition services?	Yes/No
▪ accountability to these programs?	Yes/No
▪ survivor driven leadership?	Yes/No
▪ diversity in board and membership that reflects survivor diversity?	Yes/No

SCOPE OF WORK

A. System Change and Reform

1. Do you work to create social change and to reform systems that are not responsive to the needs of survivors?	Yes/No
2. Do you work with institutions at the local and state level to develop and implement policies that will improve their methods of responding to domestic violence?	Yes/No
3. Do you work with institutions such as:	
▪ the criminal and civil legal systems?	Yes/No
▪ law enforcement agencies?	Yes/No
▪ child protective services?	Yes/No
▪ public and private workplaces?	Yes/No
▪ social service agencies?	Yes/No
▪ health care providers?	Yes/No
▪ public assistance programs?	Yes/No
▪ others affecting the lives of battered women?	Yes/No

B. Improved Laws

1. Has your coalition historically have played a critical role in legislative advocacy?	Yes/No
2. Have you helped pass statutes such as:	
▪ creating domestic violence protection orders?	Yes/No
▪ strengthening the penal code?	Yes/No
▪ creating civil rights and remedies?	Yes/No
▪ reforming family law statutes and providing funding for domestic violence programs?	Yes/No
3. Are your legal reforms focused on bringing considerations about victim safety into the civil and criminal legal systems?	Yes/No
4. Do you continue to be involved in reforming statutes and seeking additional remedies for victims of domestic violence?	Yes/No
5. Are you involved in ongoing efforts to amend and enhance statutes?	Yes/No
6. Are you involved in more recent efforts focused on:	
▪ expanding protections in the workplace?	Yes/No
▪ public housing?	Yes/No
▪ other systems that come in contact with survivors?	Yes/No
7. Do you track legislation?	Yes/No
8. Do you keep your members informed about issues of importance to their work?	Yes/No
9. Do you employ fulltime policy staff who are more directly involved in the development of legislation?	Yes/No

C. Legislative Advocacy at the National Level

1. Do you work with the National Network to End Domestic Violence on federal policy initiatives?	Yes/No
2. Was your coalition instrumental in the passage and re-authorization of VAWA?	Yes/No

3. Are you active in securing reauthorization of the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA), which provides essential funding for community-based domestic violence programs?	Yes/No
4. Are you involved in shaping and securing passage of other federal laws impacting the safety and well-being of survivors?	Yes/No
5. Do you identify gaps in services that require a federal response and assist in drafting federal legislation and commenting on administrative rules implementing federal laws?	Yes/No
6. Do you mobilize survivors, advocates, and other community allies to educate Congress and the Administration about the need for legislative change or administrative action?	Yes/No
7. Do you, at the state level, serve as the primary advocacy group working to ensure that implementation of VAWA, FVPSA and other federal laws and rules remain focused on the needs of survivors?	Yes/No

D. Work with Local Programs

1. Do you work intensely with your member domestic violence programs by:	
▪ providing training and technical assistance?	Yes/No
▪ disseminating promising practices?	Yes/No
2. Do you bring local programs together in a variety of forums to:	
▪ share information?	Yes/No
▪ dialogue about challenges?	Yes/No
▪ develop new strategies?	Yes/No
3. Do you help local programs troubleshoot community relationships and promote coordinated community response teams?	Yes/No
4. Do you help member programs manage the growth that has come with increased public awareness and funding?	Yes/No
5. Do you help member programs keep focused on their missions and core goals?	Yes/No
6. Do you assist member programs in educating their funders and community partners about critical safety issues such as privacy, confidentiality and data collection?	Yes/No
7. Do you interact with other state domestic violence coalitions at the national level?	Yes/No
8. Do you share information about promising practices and emerging issues with your member programs?	Yes/No

E. Accountability to Survivors and to Community-Based Domestic Violence Programs

1. Do you have multiple constituents to whom you are accountable?	Yes/No
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2. Do you seek to empower battered women and help them get what they need from systems and providers?	Yes/No
3. Are you accountable to member domestic violence programs?	Yes/No
4. Do you ensure that programs have enough funding to keep their doors open and the support they need to provide quality services to survivors?	Yes/No

F. State Domestic Violence Coalitions and Anti-oppression Work

1. Do you recognize that domestic violence affects all communities but that some communities – subject to societal prejudice, oppression, isolation, or systemic poverty – are more negatively affected by the experience of violence and less able to access community and institutional response systems?	Yes/No
2. Do you strive to build sensitive and culturally appropriate alliances with immigrant communities, communities of color, faith-based organizations, and sexual orientation/gender identity advocacy and support organizations, among many others?	Yes/No
3. Do you recognize that such systems may negatively impact marginalized communities and reduce the willingness of victims to access or cooperate with that system?	Yes/No
4. Do you work with the above mentioned communities through caucuses, task forces or other efforts to focus resources and attention on those most likely to be isolated by mainstream efforts?	Yes/No