

WORKING TOGETHER FOR VICTIMS

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

The Power of Partnerships

Organizations often partner together to achieve shared goals. Partnerships can broaden and improve the assistance available to victims of all forms of human trafficking and link clients to services not available from the primary service provider. By working together, partnering organizations offer service referrals and can collaborate in training, advocacy, and fundraising opportunities. A strong partnership can enhance both the quality and quantity of services offered to victims of human trafficking.

Partnership Organizations

Partnerships vary in size, involving nonprofit, for-profit, faith-based organizations, and government organizations. Building strong community partnerships can benefit all victims of human trafficking and are most successful when they are mutually beneficial.

Partnerships may include relationships between—

- Multiple service provider organizations.¹
- Public agencies² and a service provider organization.
- Local businesses and a local service provider organization.
- Academic institutions and a local service provider organization.
- Donor organizations and recipient organizations.

TYPES OF PARTNERSHIPS

Collaboration – Establish referral agreements to share information about service offerings and partner to deliver a broader range of client services. Partner to meet a grant match requirement through supplies, volunteers, or services to support project implementation.

Task Force or a Multi-Disciplinary Response Team – Victim service providers and partners create a structure to achieve program objects.

Funding – Receive a donation or grant; recipient organizations or multiple partner organizations share funding; the partnership is between a donor and a recipient organization.

¹ Service provider organizations may include domestic violence and sexual assault, labor rights, and culturally specific advocacy organizations.

² Public agencies may include a civil legal organization; federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies; federal, state, local and tribal prosecutors; and government agencies at all levels.

Knowing what is needed prior to seeking a partnership can help determine which partnerships will be most helpful to an organization.³ Follow these steps when seeking a partner organization—

- [Identify organizational needs or gaps](#) in service delivery that could be addressed through assistance from other entities.
- [Assess organizational strengths and weaknesses](#), including assets, services, or expertise that could benefit or hinder a partner organization.
- [Identify potential partner organizations](#) with a shared mission and/or goal.
- [Contact potential partner organizations](#) to determine interest and if shared goals can be best achieved by working together.
- [Consider a funder](#) (corporate, nonprofit, foundation) to support the work and achieve a mutually beneficial goal; reach out and make the request.
- [Create a subgrantee relationship](#) with another organization where one is the "lead" organization responsible for program deliverables and grant management, and a second organization is a "sub-grantee" solely responsible for grant deliverables.
- [Determine how a partnership will operate](#), including identifying roles and responsibilities for each organization, decision making, protocols and procedures, and expected outcome(s).
- [Develop protocols](#) for communication, resource and knowledge management, decision making, and conflict resolution.
- [Create a partnership work plan](#) to structure work and assess performance.
- [Culminate the start of a partnership](#) through a written agreement between organizations (e.g., memorandum of understanding or a letter of agreement), specifying roles and responsibilities, management, and operating structure.
- [Maintain reasonable expectations](#) for partnership benefits and outcomes.
- [Invest in long-term relationships](#) with partner organization.

Additional Information

Community-Based Partnerships

Partnerships: Frameworks for Working Together

³ Please refer to the developing a network document available from the Center for more information.