

This product was supported by contract number GS-00F-008DA, awarded by the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this product are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.



-
-
-
-

Honoring Healing: Responding to Human Trafficking from a Community Framework

April 11, 2024

T-VSTTA
OVC TRIBAL VICTIM SERVICES TRAINING
AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE



Agenda

- 01 Human Trafficking Overview
- 02 Intersections of Violence
- 03 Spectrum of Survivor Care
- 04 Supporting Survivors
- 05 Centering Healing

Meet the Presenters



Elsie Boudreau (Yup'ik)

Elsie has 30+ years of experience in victim services. She is an empathetic and authentic voice in trauma, trauma-informed care, sexual abuse, substance use, and the child protection system. Elsie has significant experience working with Alaska Native villages, understanding challenges to supporting survivors and their families. She educates communities, creates platforms that unify voices, and strengthens and heals communities.

Elsie.Boudreau@t-vstta.org



Samantha Samuel-Nakka

Samantha brings over a decade of experience in addressing gender-based violence and human trafficking, in a variety of roles including community engagement, direct victim services and developing programs focused on long-term healing. She works through the lens of equity, intersectionality, and cultural humility.

Samantha.Samuel-Nakka@t-vstta.org

Tribal Victim Services Training and Technical Assistance(T-VSTTA)

- T-VSTTA is a capacity-building program for American Indian and Alaska Native communities. T-VSTTA provides tailored, victim-centered, and trauma-informed assistance to Tribal grantees and potential grantees.
- It supports victim services providers as they develop sustainable programs and walk with victims and survivors of crime on their healing journey. The U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime funds the T-VSTTA program, available at no cost to those who qualify.



T-VSTTA
OVC TRIBAL VICTIM SERVICES TRAINING
AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE



T-VSTTA Program Goals

- Offer victim-centered, trauma-informed support.
- Use the healing process as a touchstone.
- Deliver high-quality, culturally relevant resources, training, and gatherings.
- Ground service offerings in an understanding of sovereignty and history.
- Make it easier for grantees to develop victim services programs.

Reflection

As you think about your culture, what brings you joy? What brings you comfort?



Human Trafficking

Knowing the signs and honoring the stories



T-VSTTA
OVC TRIBAL VICTIM SERVICES TRAINING
AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Human Trafficking

- Human trafficking is a crime involving the exploitation of a person for the purpose of **compelled sex or labor**.
- There is **no single profile of a trafficking victim**. Victims of human trafficking can be anyone.
- **Any person under the age of 18** who is engaged in commercial sex acts, regardless of the use of force, fraud, or coercion, **is a victim of human trafficking**.

Federal Definitions of Human Trafficking

Sex Trafficking

Sex trafficking is the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a person for the **purposes of a commercial sex act**, in which the commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age.

(22 USC § 7102)

Labor Trafficking

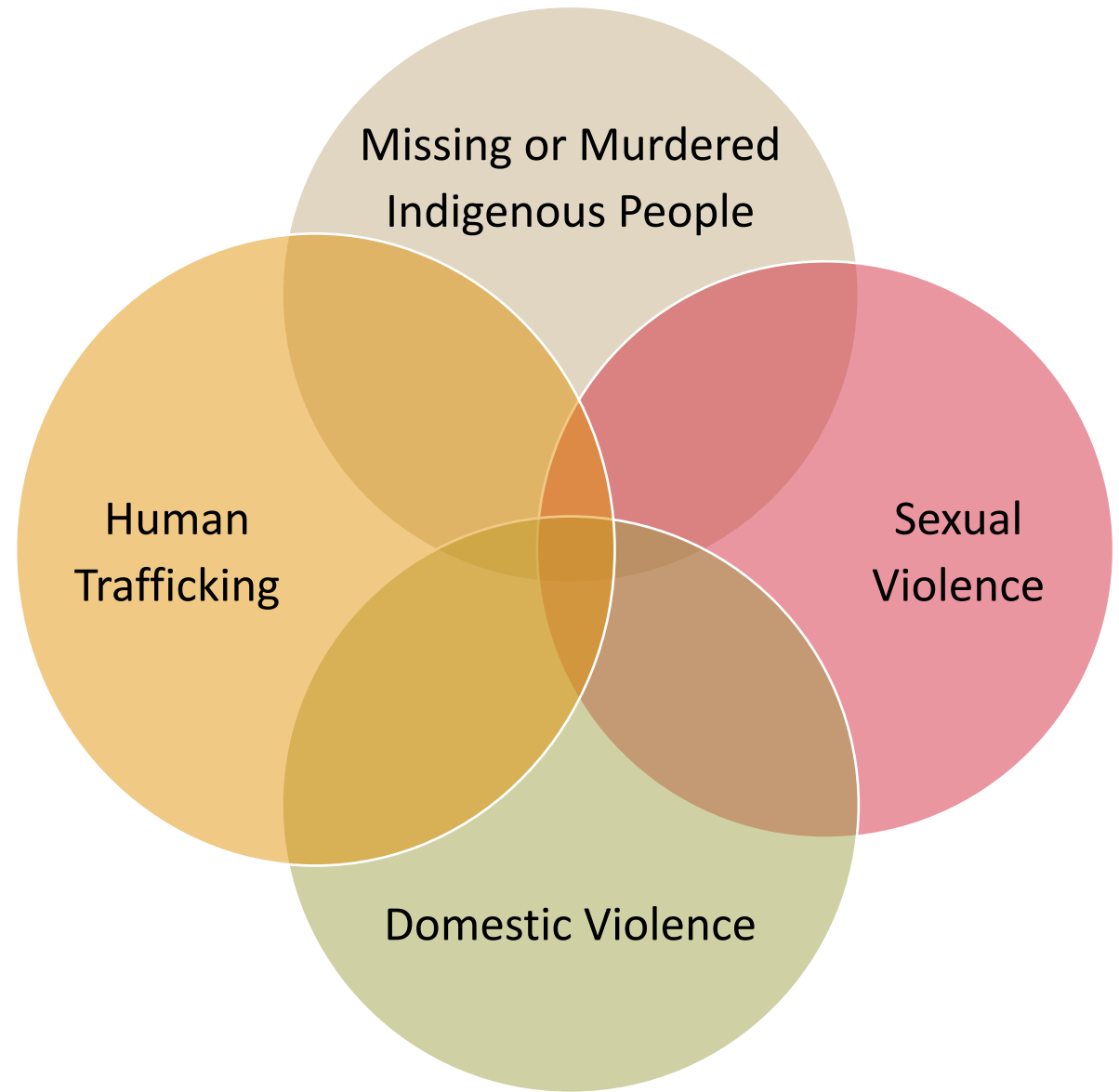
Labor trafficking is the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purposes of **subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.**

(22 USC § 7102)

Definitions are from the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000.

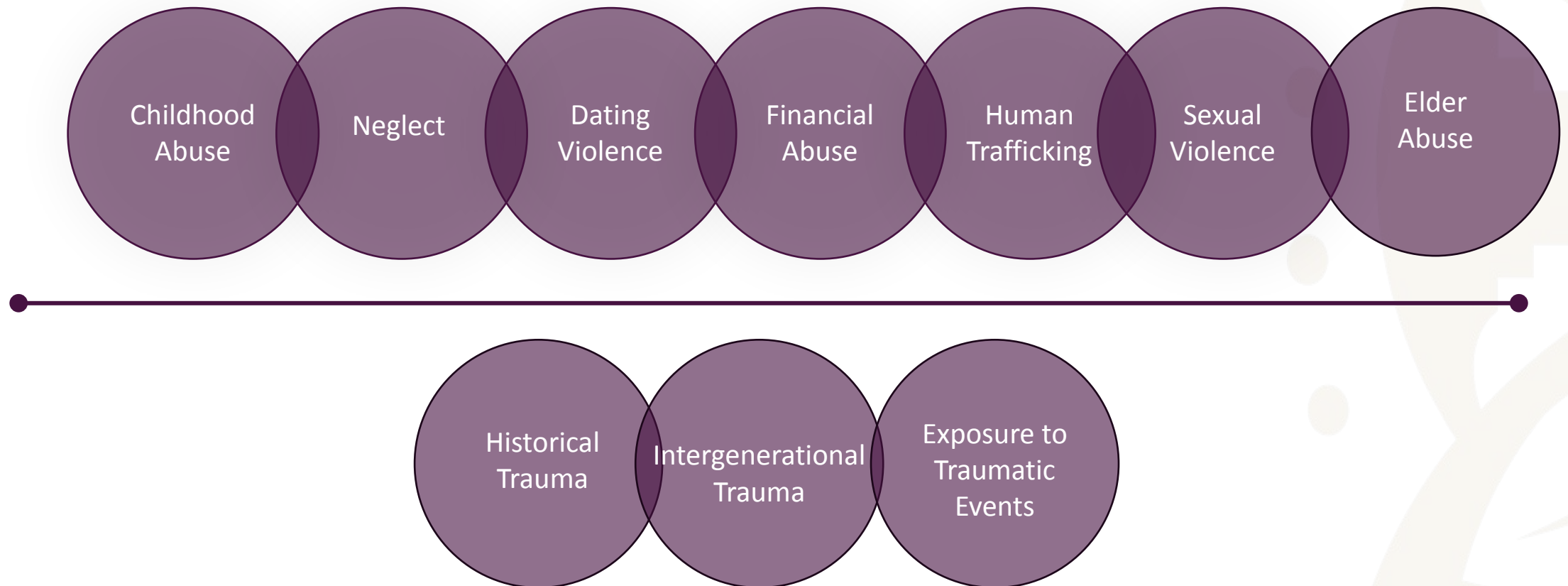
Intersections

In the United States, overlapping connections exist between domestic violence, sexual violence, human trafficking, and the high incidence of Missing or Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP).



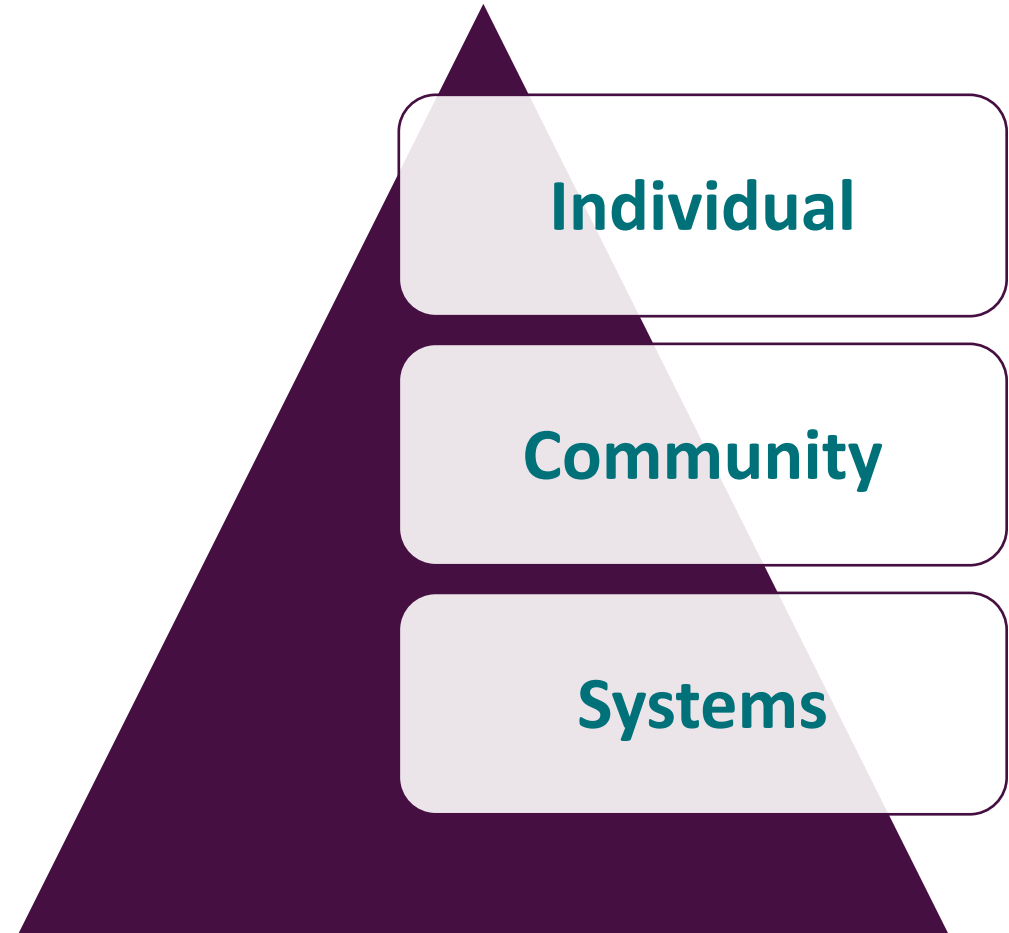
Complex Trauma and Violence Across the Life Course

Understanding the intersections of human trafficking in the context of an individual's entire trauma history is critical to meeting survivor needs.



Risk Factors and Vulnerabilities

- Poverty
- Housing Insecurity
- Substance Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Child Welfare System
- Geography
- Jurisdiction
- Historical and/or Intergenerational Trauma



Discussion

What does human trafficking look like in your community?



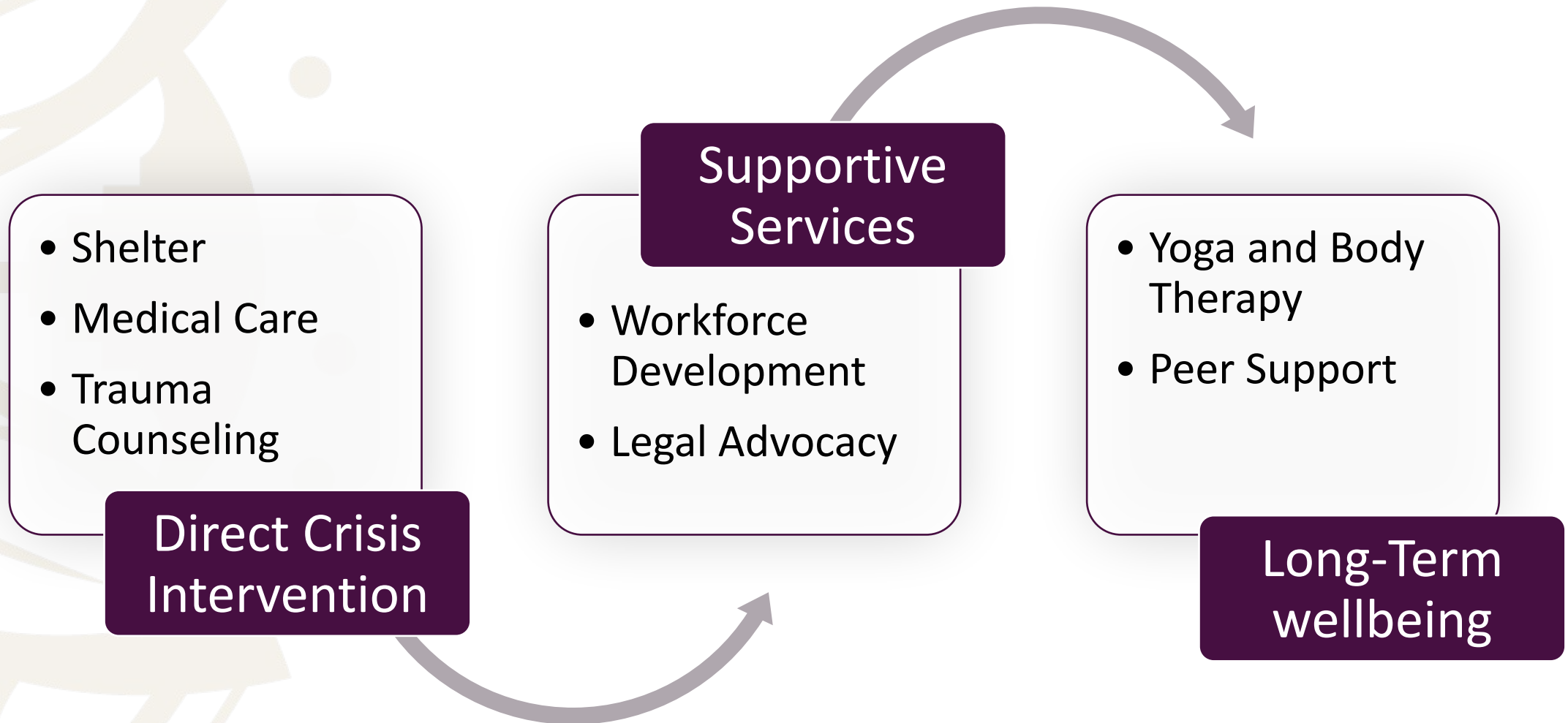
Supporting Survivors



T-VSTTA
OVC TRIBAL VICTIM SERVICES TRAINING
AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Spectrum of Survivor Care

Each human trafficking survivor is unique and central to guiding their path.



Supporting Survivors

Create Safe Relationships

Create safe spaces for survivors to feel seen, share their stories and authentically connect.

Focus on Small Positive Changes

Plant seeds or feelings of security, safety, confidence, inclusion, happiness.

Offer Individualized and Community-Specific Support

Meet survivors and relatives where they are in their healing journey.



Draw on community to support
human trafficking survivors

Discussion

How do you currently support human trafficking survivors in your community?



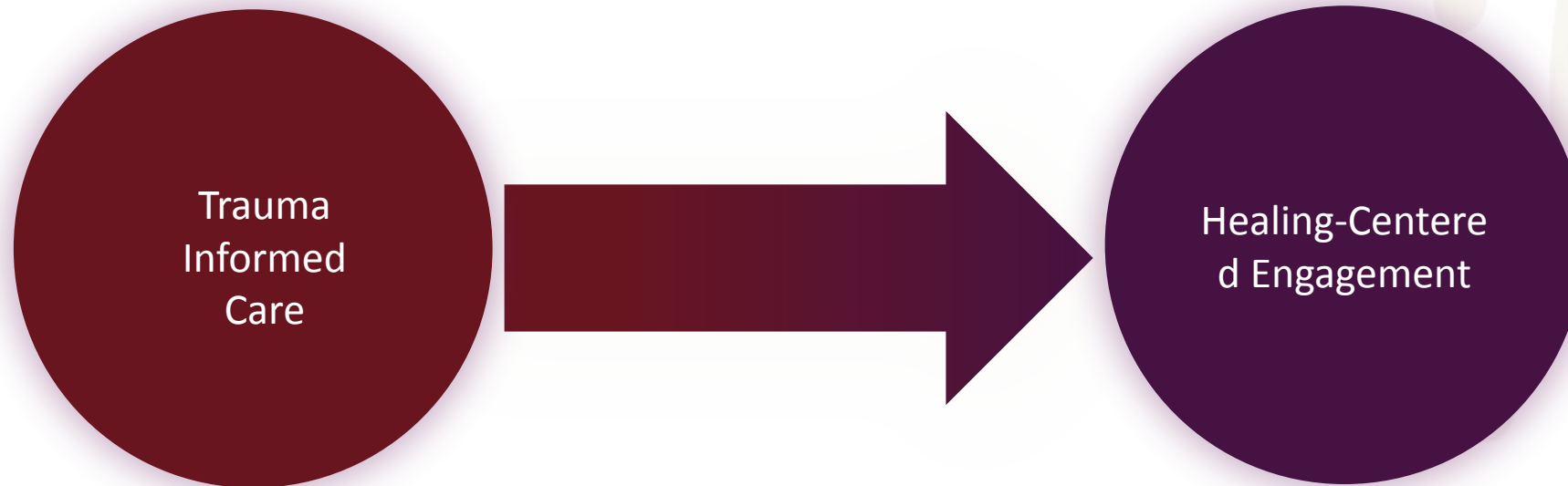
Centering Healing



T-VSTTA
OVC TRIBAL VICTIM SERVICES TRAINING
AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Healing Across the Life Course

Building on trauma-informed care principles to center a focus on healing supports sustainable individual and community well-being.



Healing-Centered Engagement

"I am more than what happened to me, I am not just my trauma."



Discussion

What does healing-centered engagement look like for the survivors you serve?



Closing Reflection

*“We are free to be who we are—
To create our own life
Out of the past and out of the present.
We are our ancestors.
When we can heal ourselves,
We also heal our ancestors,
Our Grandmothers,
Our Grandfathers and
Our Children.
When we heal ourselves, we heal
Mother Earth.”*

Dr. Rita Pita Blumenstein



T-VSTTA Contact Information

T-VSTTA provides a single-entry point for Tribes and organizations working with Tribes to access healing and support services from OVC.

Visit T-VSTTA's website at:
ovc.ojp.gov/t-vstta

support@t-vstta.org or 1-833-887-8820

