

DEVELOPING COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS TO ADDRESS SEX TRAFFICKING IN URBAN NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES

Purpose of this Resource: Highlight key principles for establishing partnerships and shared goals among community partners, identifying tools for effective strategies to support American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) survivors in urban areas.



TRAFFICKING INTERSECTS WITH:

- Child Welfare
- Housing Systems
- Justice System
- Medical
- Mental Health
- Substance Use
- Domestic Violence
- Economic Stability (Jobs, Educational opportunities)



Understanding that not all stakeholders carry the same knowledge because each entity brings different roles, experience, perspective, and understanding of sex trafficking in urban AI/AN communities. This helps shape how stakeholders identify, understand, and respond to sex trafficking within urban AI/AN communities.

IMPORTANCE OF COLLABORATION

Bridging the Gaps

by creating stronger connections between AI/AN organizations and mainstream urban service providers.

Coordinated Community Responses

that have shared referral processes, coordinated safety planning, culturally responsive services and stronger communication among providers.

Survivor-Centered Care

to ensure survivors are not alone. Recognizing the importance of culture, community and survivor voice.

ESTABLISH A CLIMATE OF COLLABORATION

- *Build relationships first: Identify who has to be at the table to address all survivor needs. Who are the stakeholders?*
- *Identify community priorities: Develop response protocols, toolkits, coordinated responses.*
- *Listen and honor survivors: Highlight survivor strengths and resilience, avoid revictimization.*
- *Be culturally responsive and empowerment focused: Incorporate traditional values and practices into your work and response.*
- *Invest in collaborative work*
- *Integrate traditional healing: Create safe space to enable healing, make connections to “safe” elders*
- *Obtain a “buy-in” from service providers:*

Source: Pierce, S., *Sex Trafficking of Native Women Toolkit*. NIWRC.



BENEFITS OF COLLABORATION

- *Develop innovative, culturally appropriate strategies to address sex trafficking in urban communities*
- *Foster community healing*
- *Increase visibility in decision-making spaces, in the media, in data*
- *Implement collective decision making to honor shared tribal traditions of taking care of one another, sharing resources*
- *Two-way exchange of knowledge can strengthen trust, improve coordination across systems, and value lived realities of the urban AI/AN community*