

How's It Working? Self-Assessment on Community Collaborations

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Creating and sustaining successful interventions and services over the long term requires more than money. This assessment tool can be used to inform the sustainability planning of community based anti-human trafficking efforts.

****Check all the options that apply to your community****

I. Assess how collaboration happens in your community, both with anti-human trafficking efforts, and in general.

- economic independence or interdependence**
- history of trust, equity, or cooperation**
- leadership demonstrated by key people**
- perceptions of where threats exist**
- tolerance or curiosity about anything new or different**

1. How did collaborative efforts begin in your community to address human trafficking?

- Response to a single negative event or discovery
- A champion who encouraged our focus
- A funding or training opportunity
- A shared growing awareness we needed to act
- Something else negative
- Something else positive
- I don't know
- Other:

2. How does your collective "story of origin" affect you today?

- It continues to motivate or inspire us
- It continues to haunt or inhibit us
- It is part of our history but not a primary motivator for our work now.
- It doesn't. People have changed, and so much else has happened.
- I don't know
- Other:

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How would you describe the progress of your collaborative effort?

- We are just starting
- We have built on other local successful relationships and protocols
- We ebb and flow in our success
- We have been much more effective in one phase (education, prevention, identification, intervention, or response) or partnership than others
- We have encountered more obstacles than progress
- Other:

3. How would you describe your community's collective experience with collaborative efforts, in general?

- Going to meetings and collaborating is the norm here.
- Some segments of our community collaborate; others don't.
- Certain people will make or break our collaborative efforts.
- We value our independence and resist collaboration.
- Other:

II. Assess your assets and challenges in terms of ideas, knowledge, and philosophies about human trafficking.

- ✓ **Whether people consider HT in similar ways**
- ✓ **Who holds what kinds of deep knowledge about HT**
- ✓ **Inconsistent or competitive ideas about HT**
- ✓ **Competing tensions of different priorities related to HT**
- ✓ **Gaps in knowledge**
- ✓ **Willful ignorance**
- ✓ **Willingness to learn**

5. Within your community collaboration, how would you describe how others perceive the local incidence of HT?

- Some say it doesn't happen here or are otherwise apathetic
- Some are not convinced it exists but are willing to listen
- Some know for a fact that it exists here
- We all know how it happens here.
- Other:

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6. Within your community collaboration, how would you describe the specialized knowledge of HT?

- We have some deep expertise about HT
- We have solid basic knowledge about HT
- We are building our HT strategies based on our knowledge of other forms of trauma
- We have significant gaps in knowledge about HT
- We have little or no knowledge of HT
- Other:

7. Within your community collaboration, how would you describe the attitudes about HT?

- Attitudes protect the status quo
- Attitudes tend to be built on stereotypes and myths
- Attitudes tend to blame the victims or protect the customers or traffickers
- Attitudes vary widely among people, professions, or positions
- Attitudes reflect competing priorities based on professional roles
- Attitudes evolve as we share facts and discuss cases
- Attitudes are victim-centered and trauma-informed
- Other:

8. Across your community, how would you describe the broad response to HT?

- Minds are closed to discussing HT
- People are willing to learn more or support our work
- People are supportive in specific cases (i.e., child victims) but not others
- People are very motivated to respond, to the point of supporting efforts in risky or inappropriate ways
- People are overwhelmed or intimidated by the issue
- Key community leaders are willing to listen, learn, or act
- Other:

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III. Assess the physical resources you have to address human trafficking.

- ✓ **Staffing**
- ✓ **Equipment**
- ✓ **Physical spaces for response**
- ✓ **Capacity to provide education or training**
- ✓ **Capacity to respond with appropriate services**

9. Within your community collaboration, how does staffing exist to support your HT work?

- There is opposition to assigning staff to HT work because it is not viewed as a priority
- HT work “flies under the radar” and is informally supported
- HT is formally added into job descriptions or expectations
- HT is a formal, full-time focus of one or a few people
- Other:

10. How would you describe the space or equipment needed for the work (education, prevention, identification, intervention, response) of the community coalition?

- We have little to nothing to work with
- We patchwork together what we need from our other community programs
- We rely on key resources of partners outside our community
- We have chronic gaps in services that are connected to but not exclusive to HT
- We have most of what we need
- Other:

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11. Think of the services your community wants to have. Which of them are best provided by local service providers, and which are best provided by working with other organizations on a regional or state level?

Service	Best provided by local service providers	Best provided by partnerships, or regional/state service providers	Other? Comments? (For example, "We need examples to adapt to our community.")
Community awareness campaigns			
Community education			
Professional training			
Prevention			
Crisis intervention			
Shelter – emergency or short term			
Shelter – long term			
Food and clothing			
Substance abuse treatment			
Mental health services			
Physical health services			
Legal assistance			
Immigration assistance			

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IV. Assess the energetic resources available to support the work of your community coalition.

- a. Curiosity or interest
- b. Volunteerism
- c. Willingness to align efforts across private and public organizations
- d. Willingness to contribute support across organizations
- e. Impact of negative developments, such as fatigue or secondary PTSD

12. How would you describe the interest or energy available within your community coalition?

- More often than not, our members are tired, disappointed, or despairing about our progress.
- More often than not, our members can summon up the energy they need to do our work.
- Our members stay positive and proud most of the time about our progress.
- The interest and energy of our members seem permanently positioned at varied levels.
- The negative dynamics within our coalition divert our attention from making progress.
- Other:

13. How would you describe the interest received from other community organizations (businesses, faith-based organizations, other nonprofits, etc.)?

- We encounter passive resistance to our work
- We encounter active resistance to our work
- There are a few key organizations showing interest
- There are a few key organizations we can absolutely rely on
- We enjoy broad support and interest for our work
- We need help appropriately managing the volume and diversity of community interest
- Other:

14. How would you describe the alignment of values and interests within your coalition?

- We are tightly aligned
- We have alignment over a few critical issues
- The coalition members with the most authority, resources, or access determine our values and interests
- We have little or no alignment now
- Other:

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V. Assess the types of diversity represented in your community coalition.

Type of Diversity	Present in the coalition	Not in the coalition, but within easy access
Professional:		
✓ Law enforcement		
✓ Medical		
✓ Judicial system		
✓ Legal services		
✓ Mental health		
✓ Public schools		
✓ Dept. of Social Services		
✓ SA/DV/Victim Advocates		
✓ Public Health Dept.		
✓ City and County Managers		
✓ Agriculture		
✓ Private sector		
✓ Economic development		
✓ Faith communities		
✓ Local philanthropies		
✓ Community College		
✓ College/University		
✓		
✓		
✓		
Geographical:		
✓ Counties		
✓ Townships		
✓ Neighborhoods		
✓		
✓		
✓		
Ethnicities:		
✓ Caucasian		
✓ African American		
✓ Hispanic		
✓ Asian American		
✓		
✓		
✓		

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Type of Diversity	Present in the coalition	Not in the coalition, but within easy access
Characteristics of useful personality types and skills. We have people who:		
✓ Organize the work		
✓ Lead good meetings		
✓ Follow instructions		
✓ Cheerlead the effort		
✓ Handle conflict productively		
✓ Speak truth to power		
✓ Build on what unites us		
✓ Facilitate complex discussions		
✓ Think inclusively		
✓ Think logically		
✓ Think creatively		
✓ Think strategically		
✓ Inspire us to act		
✓ Use humor appropriately		
✓ Understand the way things are		
✓ Challenge the way things are		
✓ Speak multiple languages		
✓ Can plan/manage our fiscal health		
✓ Are willing to reflect and learn		
✓ Are political strategists		
✓ Are change-makers		
✓ Are gatekeepers		
✓ Are decision-makers		
✓ Are special event planners		
✓ Are fundraisers		
✓ Are sanity checkers		
✓		
✓		
✓		
Personal Attributes		
✓ Long term residents with deep roots		
✓ Newcomers		
✓ Foreign-born/immigrants		
✓ Gender/gender identity		
✓ Spiritual faith/religion		
✓		
✓		