

Coordinated Community Responses

A Coordinated Community Response brings together a diverse group of community partners to develop a shared vision to collectively and consistently address the widespread impact of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking¹ and provide multiple pathways to support, healing, and accountability for families.

While each Coordinated Community Response (CCR) may identify specific goals that reflect the strengths and needs of their unique community, most CCRs have goals around the following areas:

- Addressing community harms caused by gender-based violence;
- Enhancing survivor, child, and community safety and survivor agency;
- Supporting accountability for people who cause harm through gender-based violence;
- Ensuring culturally-responsive, community-centered, and accessible responses;
- Developing mechanisms to ensure community and system effectiveness, accountability, and sustainability.

Many CCRs focus exclusively on legal system players; however, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking are community issues and require collaboration across multiple systems and a broad base of community-based groups. Participants should include but are not limited to:

- Abusive Partner Intervention Programs
- Animal Services
- Attorneys (e.g., civil legal aid, defense bar, private bar, prosecutors, victims' rights attorneys)
- Child Care Organizations
- Child Protective Service Agencies
- Colleges, Community Colleges, Trade Schools, and Universities
- Community-Based Health, Mental Health, and Substance Use Agencies
- Community-Based Victim Advocates
- Community Members with Lived Experience
- Courts
- Culturally-Specific Organizations
- Disability Services and Disability Justice Organizations
- Elders
- Faith-Based Organizations
- Law Enforcement Agencies
- Local Government and Community Leaders
- Local School Districts
- Medical Providers (e.g., doctors, nurses, sexual assault nurse examiners)
- Military Installation Service Providers (e.g., family advocacy program, special victims' counsel, victims' legal counsel)
- Pretrial Services
- Probation/Parole/Corrections Agencies
- Shelter Services
- Social Service Agencies (e.g., housing, public benefits, economic empowerment/workforce development)
- Supervised Visitation and Exchange Services
- System-Based Victim Advocates
- Translation and Interpretation Services
- Tribal Government/Leaders

CCRs have been found to reduce the incidence of gender-based violence.² Importantly, this robust collaboration ensures that survivors, oftentimes survivors of color, undocumented survivors, survivors with disabilities, survivors from the LGBTQ+ community, and other survivors from historically underserved communities, who

choose not to engage the legal system can still find the support they need.

Communities may have different multi-disciplinary collaborations that focus on gender-based violence. This chart differentiates the core elements of the most common ones.

COORDINATED COMMUNITY RESPONSE (e.g., Domestic Violence Taskforce or Sexual Assault Response Team)	HIGH RISK TEAM	MULTIDISCIPLINARY TREATMENT TEAM	DOMESTIC ASSAULT RESPONSE TEAM
Focused on macro response, including holding systems accountable	Often case-specific approach	Often case-specific approach	Law-enforcement based crisis response
Addresses all types of violence	Focus on identifying and intervening in most dangerous cases through use of risk assessment	Addresses all types of violence cases	Primary partnership between LE and civilian advocates
Ongoing monitoring and management of system response	Ongoing monitoring and management of cases	Ongoing monitoring and management of cases	Responding to specific incidents
Identifying and enhancing community resources			

The teams above that focus on gender-based violence are similarly:

- Addressing domestic and/or sexual violence
- Multi-disciplinary
- Sharing information to promote coordination and collaboration
- Striving for survivor safety and accountability for persons causing harm and addressing system gaps

Practice Strategies

CCRs should strive to:

- Develop a shared vision and set of values
- Ensure stakeholders understand each others' roles
- Develop information sharing and referral processes to promote coordination and collaboration, while honoring the privacy and safety rights and interests of survivors
- Provide training opportunities to increase community awareness and best practices for prevention and intervention
- Identify the diversity of resources available in the community and remedy gaps in services
- Evaluate responses based on the impact on survivors, children, abusive partners and community at large

1. Domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking may collectively be referred to as gender-based violence throughout this document. These are also the four crimes outlined in the Violence Against Women Act.
2. Kelly, L., & Westmarland, N. (2015). Domestic violence perpetrator programmes: Steps towards change. Project Mirabal final report. London and Durham: London Metropolitan University and Durham University.

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Email ccr@courttinnovation.org for technical assistance and further information.

To request a training or inquire about upcoming trainings and resources related to trainings, email ncvliaid@lclark.edu.

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