

## Guiding Values

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In collaboration with National Crime Victim Law Institute (NCVLI), the Center for Court Innovation's Gender and Family Justice team provides multi-disciplinary training and technical assistance to Improving Criminal Justice System Response (ICJR) grantees and offers support for planning, implementing, and enhancing coordinated community response (CCR) teams. Our work on this project is guided by the following values that reflect the ways in which Coordinated Community Response teams should address domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.<sup>1</sup>

### **Centering the Voices of People with Lived Experience**

The voices of people with lived experience must be at the center of any coordinated community response, and survivor safety, agency, and empowerment must always be prioritized. A diverse group of community members with lived experience should be engaged, especially those from communities who are often overlooked by systems. People with lived experience should lead initiatives and provide critical input to inform any prevention or intervention effort within communities and systems.

### **Reflecting Diversity and Upholding an Intersectional Lens**

Though domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking can impact anyone, women, people of color, individuals with disabilities, and the LGBTQIA+ community are disproportionately impacted and face unique challenges to accessing support and services. Coordinated community response teams should be reflective of the diversity and intersectionality of community members; committed to racial justice and anti-oppressive practice; inclusive, working to provide equitable access to services for all communities; and committed to cultural

humility, centering communities as experts and honoring the strengths of various cultures to develop truly culturally-responsive approaches.

### **Ensuring Flexible Responses**

Coordinated community responses should be expansive, allowing for a broad range of system and community-based responses to meet the unique needs of community members impacted by domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. Stakeholders must be adaptable and willing to learn about and incorporate new evidence-informed or innovative practice-based evidence approaches that may create additional pathways to healing, safety, and accountability.

### **Promoting Holistic Accountability**

Gender-based violence impacts not only the survivor but also family, friend, and community relationships. Therefore coordinated community responses must address the many relational harms of violence, create multiple pathways to accountability, and be transparent in identifying and remedying the barriers they have created for people who cause harm through gender-based violence and survivors to safety and accountability.

### **Advancing Community-Driven Responses**

Coordinated community responses should promote a collective voice that domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking are community issues that impact everyone and require full community engagement to create community conditions that support safety, accountability, and healing. Coordinated community responses should involve a broad range of community stakeholders, create opportunities for awareness about gender-based violence, education around healthy relationships and communities, and supportive services unconnected to the legal system.

### **Assuring Sustainability**

Coordinated community responses need continued commitment from systems, agencies, and individuals to ensure sustainability. This requires the development of policies and procedures, leadership development, transparent communication, clearly articulated goals, values and vision, and securing adequate funding.

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.

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### **For More Information**

Email [icjrcrta@gmail.com](mailto:icjrcrta@gmail.com) for technical assistance and further information.

To request a training or inquire about upcoming trainings and resources related to trainings, email [icjrcrta@gmail.com](mailto:icjrcrta@gmail.com).

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