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 A Community Mapping Tool

ENGAGING MEN AND BOYS OF FAITH IN YOUR WORK

**Introduction**

For many people living in the U.S. and U.S. territories, faith is a critical component of their identity. Over 70% of Americans are religiously affiliated according to the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life. Recognizing the beliefs, values, and cultural practices of your local faith communities can better equip you to meaningfully connect with faith-based organizations, engage men and boys of faith, build key partnerships, and deliver programs that are attuned to these communities and are aligned with your work to prevent and respond to VAWA crimes.

**The goals of this community mapping tool are to:**

1. Identify and engage faith-based organizations in your community and analyze ways to integrate their interests, needs, and concerns into your project.
2. Support your organization and project partners in establishing meaningful connections with faith-based organizations and faith communities to engage men and boys of faith in efforts to prevent VAWA crimes.
3. Help grantees adapt their programming to be sensitive to faith communities in their service area.

This community mapping tool can assist you in engaging men and boys of faith as you approach a new project, during your planning phase for a project, and throughout your project implementation. It is structured into four tasks, each containing at least one activity component. You can document your progress within the designated textboxes and/or tables for each activity.

This document can be a living resource that you continually update and modify based on new information and connections you establish throughout your work. It can also be employed at any point during your grant project as a tool to increase engagement with men and boys of faith communities.

**TASK 1: IDENTIFY AND DESCRIBE THE FAITH COMMUNITIES AND RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS WITHIN YOUR SERVICE AREA**

## Activity 1: Determine the religious demographics in your grant service area.

Understanding which faiths are prevalent in your area will help you prioritize your methods for engaging men and boys who identify with those faiths, enabling more effective outreach and programming.

The following resources can help you with this activity:

* [Pew Research Center](https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/religious-landscape-study/)
* [U.S. Religion Census](https://www.usreligioncensus.org/interactive-tables)

You can use the table below to outline the faith demographics in your area:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Religion** | **# Congregations in your Area\***  | **Additional Demographic Info** | **Additional Notes** |
| African Methodist Episcopal |  |  |  |
| Baptist ​ |  |  |  |
| Buddhism ​ |  |  |  |
| Catholicism ​ |  |  |  |
| Hinduism ​ |  |  |  |
| Islam |  |  |  |
| Judaism ​ |  |  |  |
| Methodist |  |  |  |
| Mormonism ​ |  |  |  |
| Protestantism  |  |  |  |
| Sikhism ​ |  |  |  |
| Taoism  |  |  |  |
| Other forms of Christianity  |  |  |  |

\* Congregations may be parishes, churches, synagogues, mosques, temples, or another site where a religious body has regularly scheduled worship services.

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**TASK 2: REVIEW & DOCUMENT RELATIONSHIPS, PARTNERSHIPS, & PROGRAMMING BETWEEN FAITH LEADERS & YOUR ORGANIZATION.**

Reviewing and documenting your existing relationships, partnerships, and programming between faith leaders, faith-based organizations, and your organization will provide a foundation for making connections and effectively engaging men and boys of faith in your VAWA crimes prevention efforts.

Note: Examples of faith-based organizations within faith communities are congregations, faith-based service providers (ex. Catholic Charities), religious schools (K-12 schools and colleges/universities), faith-based youth groups, and faith-based camps. To learn more, go to [JWI’s TTA webpage](https://www.jwi.org/ovwfaithtta).

## Activity 2.1: Identify existing connections.

 List any former or existing formal relationships your agency/organization has with faith leaders. A formal relationship is one where your organization has provided programming, training, or services to a faith-based organization or in partnership with a faith-based organization.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***Name of Faith Organization and Faith Affiliation***  | ***Name of Faith Leader and Title*** | ***Nature of Partnership: Key Activities/ Programs*** | ***History/ Timeframe and Status of Partnership*** | ***Common Goals/ Priorities*** | ***Contact Information***  | ***Additional Information/ Notes*** |
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## Activity 2.2: Document Informal Connections between Staff Members and Faith Communities in Your Service Area

Compile a list of the existing informal relationships that staff members of your agency/organization have with faith leaders/community members in your grant service area. An informal relationship refers to a connection or engagement that exists without a formal partnership.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***Staff Member Name and Title*** | ***Name of Organization*** | ***Contact Information*** | ***Nature of Connection (e.g. Board member, volunteer)*** |
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## Activity 2.3: Work with your project partners to identify and list any former or existing connections between their organizations and faith leaders.

Project partners who have established partnerships with faith leaders can act as liaisons, helping to facilitate communication and collaboration.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***Name of Partner Organization*** | ***Contact Person at Partner Org.*** | ***Faith Leader/ Institution*** | ***Nature of Partnership: Key Activities/ Programs*** | ***Timeframe/ Status of Partnership*** | ***Key Contact Information***  | ***Additional Information/ Notes*** |
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## Activity 2.4: Identify and list former or current programming, trainings, partnerships, or other engagement avenues that you have worked on that incorporates or is responsive to faith or religion.

This activity will help you consider how your priorities align with faith communities and evaluate what has worked and what can be improved. By analyzing the successes and challenges of past efforts, you can modify your strategies to better engage men and boys of faith.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***Program/ Training Name*** | ***Program Goals & Description*** | ***Target Audience*** | ***Faith Leaders Involved*** | ***Successes*** | ***Challenges*** | ***Reflections and Lessons Learned*** |
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**TASK 3: OUTREACH TO FAITH LEADERS TO ENGAGE MEN AND BOYS IN VIOLENCE PREVENTION**

## Activity 3.1: Prioritize Faith-Based Organizations for Outreach:

Using the collected information from the previous tasks, prioritize outreach, creating a timeline and outreach strategies.

1. Create a timeline for outreach: Establish deadlines for key tasks, such as initial contact, meetings, collaborative projects, etc.
2. Determine Outreach Personnel: Select individuals from your grant project team or project partners to build relationships with….faith leaders.
3. Develop Outreach Strategies:
	* Tailor your strategies for each prioritized faith-based organization.
	* Decide which direct communication methods to use, such as phone calls, emails, or personal visits to establish contact and initiate dialogue.
	* Familiarize yourself with their mission statements and priorities ahead of time to show them how your project aligns with their mission and values.

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| **Outreach List** | **Outreach Person** | **Outreach method/ contact info** | **Reason for Outreach**  | **Date of Initial Contact** | **Date of Meeting** | **Follow Up Steps and Deadline** |
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## Activity 3.2: Develop Objectives and Agenda for Meeting with Faith Leaders

*Sample Objective: Discuss the importance of and gather input for engaging men and boys of faith in violence prevention work.*

*Sample Agenda:*

1. *Introductions*
	* *Welcome and introduce team members.*
	* *Faith leader and attendees introduce themselves.*
2. *Organization and OVW Grant Introduction:*
	* *Briefly explain your organization's mission, vision, and OVW grant objectives.*
	* *Emphasize shared values and areas of alignment.*
	* *Highlight past outreach to the faith community, focusing on men and boys of faith.*
3. *Discuss the importance of engaging men and boys of faith in VAWA crimes prevention efforts.*
	* *Learn about their current and past efforts.*
	* *Work you hope to achieve with their men and boys.*
	* *Importance of community mapping*
4. *Plan/Strategy for Further Engagement:*
	* *Identify one or two faith members to participate in the community mapping.*
	* *Discuss potential partnerships, workshops, or awareness/prevention campaigns.*
	* *Identify next steps.*

## Activity 3.3: Develop and Conduct Needs Assessment

Develop a survey tool to track data and schedule a follow up meeting and execute a needs assessment with identified faith leaders.

*Sample questionnaire:*

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| --- | --- |
| ***Question*** | ***Response*** |
| What work is being done in your community to promote healthy relationships? |  |
| What messages are men and boys receiving about their roles in relationships/marriage?  |  |
| What collaborative efforts have you been engaged in to promote positive relationship behavior for men and boys?  |  |
| Are there any specific teachings or values that influence a male’s perspective on masculinity and relationships? |  |
| Have you witnessed unhealthy or abusive relationships/marriages in your house of worship/faith community? How did you respond?  |  |
| Do you think your community sees harmful relationships as a community problem, or a private problem? |  |
| What do you want young men to understand about a man’s role in a marriage? What messages should they receive? |  |
| Are you aware of any existing resources (programs, services, awareness campaigns) in your community addressing unhealthy or abusive relationships/ marriages? |  |
| Are there gapsin services that you would like to see filled? |  |
| What are your recommendations for how to engage men and boys in our project? |  |
| What role would you like to play as an ally in this project?  (E.g. promote workshops to men, be on a committee, help outreach to the community, etc.) |  |

**TASK 4: CONDUCT DATA ANALYSES AND DETERMINE FOLLOW UP**

## Activity 4.1: Analyze Data and Assess Alignment

1. Review and categorize the data collected during the community mapping to gain insights into the interests and needs of men and boys of faith in relation to your prevention work.
2. Analyze the information gathered during your outreach to faith leaders to evaluate how the goals, objectives, and services of your project align with the identified interests and needs.
3. Determine how your project can be modified or expanded to align with the identified interests and needs more effectively.

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| **Faith/Organization** | **Shared Values** | **Key Goals and Objectives** | **Reflections** |
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## Activity 4.2: Expand Outreach and Strengthen Relationships

Continue to broaden your outreach efforts and strengthen your existing relationships by:

* Continuing outreach efforts within the faith communities you are already engaged with, exploring additional opportunities for collaboration based on activity 4.1.
* Leverage existing relationships to connect with other faith communities, utilizing their connections to introduce your organization and project to new groups.

**CONCLUSION**

This is a living document that can be continuously modified as you continue your outreach efforts. As you proceed with your engagement efforts, you can use this checklist to track your progress:

**Checklist**

* Task 1: Identify and describe the faith communities and religious organizations within your service area.
	+ Activity 1: Determine the religious demographics in your grant service area
* Task 2: Review and document existing relationships, partnerships, and programming between faith leaders and your organization.
	+ Activity 2.1: Identify existing connections.
	+ Activity 2.2: Document informal connections between staff members and faith communities in your service area.
	+ Activity 2.3: Work with your project partners to identify and list any former or existing connections between their organizations and faith leaders
	+ Activity 2.4: Identify and list former or current programming, trainings, partnerships, or other engagement avenues that you have worked on that incorporates or is responsive to faith or religion.
* Task 3: Outreach to faith leaders to engage men and boys in violence prevention.
	+ Activity 3.1: Prioritize Faith-Based Organizations for Outreach:
	+ Activity 3.2: Develop Objectives and Agenda for Meeting with Faith Leaders
	+ Activity 3.4: Develop and Conduct Community Mapping
* Task 4: Conduct data analyses and determine follow up.
	+ Activity 4.1: Analyze Data and Assess Alignment
	+ Activity 4.2: Follow Up

In conclusion, this mapping tool provides a structured approach to engaging faith communities and religious organizations in your engaging men and violence prevention efforts. By utilizing the tasks and activities outlined in the tool, you can identify the religious demographics in their service area, establish and document relationships with faith leaders, and conduct targeted outreach to engage men and boys of faith in VAWA crimes prevention. This community mapping tool will help you foster meaningful partnerships with faith communities, tap into their unique resources and perspectives, and make a significant impact in engaging men and boys in preventing violence within their communities.

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