Quick Guide: Community Assessment for Multidisciplinary Task Forces

TASK/ACTIVITY

Conduct a data-driven community assessment, factoring in the experiences of task force stakeholders, to identify **areas within the community where trafficking or exploitation may be occurring**.

This is **not** a needs assessment. Think of it as more of a **threat/safety assessment**.

Community Assessment	VS	Needs Assessment
• **Focuses** on identifying and understanding areas and causes of instability • **Used** to develop outreach strategies and priorities		• **Focuses** on assets and gaps in responding to cases and potential cases • **Used** to identify capacity-building priorities

REMINDER: This assessment should cover all forms of trafficking and all victim demographics (e.g., age, sex, race, ethnicity).

GUIDANCE

What

Use a mix of data and qualitative interviews to develop the community assessment. Successful task forces view this as both an activity and a process. It is an important initial step to ensure efforts are targeted and focused on trafficking in a particular jurisdiction. Regularly consider and update the community assessment to reflect changes in the area and new information.

Who

Look to both task force members and others in the community to assist in the community assessment. A key question to ask potential contributors is whether they have knowledge of or concerns about trafficking within the community.

Funds

This does not have to be a formally funded project. Instead (or in the absence) of specific funding, leverage existing resources and assets such as task force members and partnerships with community organizations and local universities.

TIP: Engage your membership. Use this as an opportunity to engage members of the task force. Host a discussion and/or brainstorm session to identify factors that are pre-cursors to trafficking, and then work backward to identify what information might be available related to those factors.

CONSIDERATIONS

The considerations here are guidance, not a tool. You may include additional items based on your jurisdiction/ geography. You may also exclude items that are not relevant for your area.

Task Force and Task Force Member Data

Victim Services
- How many victims received services in total?
- How many victims received services in a certain year?

Tips/Referrals
- Where are tips/referrals coming from?
- Where are tips/referrals not coming from?

Sex/Labor Trafficking
- What is the breakdown for victims identified by law enforcement during an investigation?
- What is the breakdown for victims who received services from a task force member?

Demographics (e.g., age, sex, ethnicity, race)
- What is the breakdown for victims identified by law enforcement during an investigation?
- What is the breakdown for victims who received services from a task force member?

Prosecutions
- How many total prosecutions?
- How many prosecutions in a certain year?

Landscape Review and Assessment

Trafficking
- Of the industries where trafficking is known to occur, how many are present in your geographic area?
  - Which ones?
  - Where are they located?
- How large are those industries (e.g., number of workers, percentage of overall economic activity)?
- Are businesses employing guest-workers (H2A, H2B, H1B visas)?
  - In what sectors?

Specific Populations to Look Into:
- What percentage of the population is unstably housed?
- How many runaway/homeless youth are there?
- What percentage of the population is in poverty?
- How many youth are involved in the child welfare/juvenile justice systems?
- What percentage of the population are temporary/transitory workers?
- How many wage and hour violations are there?

Other Groups/Stakeholders

- Regulatory agencies
- Community-based service providers
- Legal service providers
- Street and youth outreach programs
- Advocacy groups
- Other groups that regularly engage with populations that experience higher incidence of trafficking

Data Types/Sources

- Data on presence of low-wage work within your area (e.g., manufacturing, agricultural, domestic, hospitality)
- Census data on population growth
- Data on labor violations/issues
- Geographic factors (e.g., highways, borders)
- Federal and state labor department data

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