



## **Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Services Outreach Plan State of Nebraska**

### **Issue:**

It is a challenge to reach underserved victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking in the state of Nebraska. Due to this challenge, it is difficult to provide information to underserved populations regarding the services that exist in their area. It becomes complicated to adequately meet the needs of underserved populations due to this lack of knowledge of services.

### **Purpose:**

The Nebraska Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Coalition's network of 21 programs desire to provide outreach to identified underserved individuals and groups throughout our state. Outreach allows the network of programs to:

1. Create awareness among underserved populations about the network of programs, specifically the program nearest the individual in need;
2. Provide a working knowledge of the existing services that are available for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking; and
3. Make the services accessible and effective.

The Coalition/network of programs desire to increase the availability and utilization of assistance through direct service contact with the identified populations.

### **Target Audience Objective 1:**

Victims/survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking living in **rural areas**

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### **Message:**

The network of domestic violence/sexual assault programs in the state of Nebraska provides services that meet the unique needs of victims/survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking who live in **rural areas** of our state.

June 2013

**Desired Outcome:**

Victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking who live in **rural areas** will be aware of services offered throughout the state, and will be able to access those services as needed.

**Background:**

All 93 counties in Nebraska have rural service tracts according to the U.S. census, with 9 counties being “partially rural” and the remaining 84 counties being considered “fully rural”. Survivors in rural areas have limited access to services due to greater distances to travel in order to receive assistance and fewer resources being available in general. Survivors also experience a larger amount of isolation from extended family, neighbors and friends because of the vastness of space between dwellings and communities. Safety becomes a bigger challenge, as the response time from law enforcement is lengthened.

**Outreach Tools:****Print:**

Network brochures are distributed throughout service areas to partnering agencies  
Maps of the programs are made available throughout the state to illustrate locations  
Newsletters are circulated to community partners/agencies to highlight services available  
Newspaper articles focus on program services and availability of services  
Posters with “tear off” tabs listing the program name and crisis line number are displayed

**Electronic:**

Skype access is available through local resources  
Public Resource Channels share scrolling information about programs & crisis line numbers  
Posts are made to Facebook and Twitter featuring rural services/challenges  
Email signatures are visible on outgoing emails of staff promoting rural awareness  
Webinars advertise & offer to promote outreach services  
Website space is dedicated to rural programs and services  
Radio and TV interviews are held to promote services and awareness  
Access to Tele-Health resources is available  
Public Service Announcements promote program services and locations

**Visual:**

Displays are assembled at County Fairs across Nebraska  
Program service information is displayed at Health Fairs across the state  
Yard signs are strategically placed in rural areas  
Materials are displayed at organizations providing related services

**Personal Contact:**

Program staff are available at County Fairs across Nebraska  
Program staff interact with individuals at Health Fairs across the state  
Satellite offices are available in rural service areas  
Information regarding program services is presented in schools  
Volunteer trainings are conducted throughout the state  
Presentations are provided for community groups in rural areas  
Outreach events are highlighted during awareness months

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Staff provide “mobile” services by traveling to service areas

**Other:**

Network programs serve as MOU partners to the Coalition on the Rural Grant

Attorneys are recruited to provide services in rural areas

Partnerships are created with women’s centers, universities, law enforcement, medical offices, schools, cultural centers etc. to provide services through those locations

**Target Audience Objective 2:**

Victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking with unique **cultural and language barriers**

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**Message:**

The network of domestic violence/sexual assault programs in the state of Nebraska provides services that meet the unique needs of victims/survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking who have unique **cultural and language barriers**.

**Desired Outcome:**

Victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking who have unique **cultural and language barriers** will be aware of services offered throughout the state, and will be able to access those services as needed.

**Background:**

According to the 2010 United States Census, 10.3% of Nebraska’s population speaks a language other than English. Furthermore, 6.8% of the population speaks Spanish or Spanish Creole, making this the second most common language in the state.

Nebraska Population 2010 Census	
Total Population	1,826,341

  

Nebraska Population by Ethnicity 2010 Census	
Hispanic or Latino	167,405
Non Hispanic or Latino	1,658,936

Non-English speaking individuals may experience great communication barriers if the proper resources are not provided. Ensuring that translation services are available, as well as printed materials and resources, is important to adequately meet the needs of survivors.

### **Outreach Tools:**

#### **Print:**

Materials are displayed and printed in various languages  
Statewide Spanish Crisis Line number is advertised in Spanish newspapers  
Immigration relief services are advertised in Spanish newspapers  
Culturally specific services are highlighted in newsletters  
Brochures are distributed in strategic areas that explain cultural services  
Curriculum from Casa De Esperanza is promoted  
Safety plans are available in Spanish

#### **Electronic:**

Cultural services are highlighted on websites  
Statewide Spanish Crisis Line is available  
National Domestic Violence Hotline is promoted with access to multiple languages

#### **Visuals:**

Posters are displayed in various languages  
Videos are available in various languages and their availability is promoted  
“I Speak” cards are utilized to identify the language spoken by the survivor  
“Victim’s rights” cards are visually displayed

#### **Personal Contact:**

Services are taken directly to cultural centers  
Speakers take information regarding cultural services to community groups and schools  
Cultural Outreach meetings are held in various communities  
Interpreters are accessed to assist survivors  
Support groups are provided in Spanish

#### **Other:**

Access to the Language Line is provided for interpretation services  
Partnerships are created with the FBI, Attorney General’s Office, state senators, Salvation Army etc.  
Legislative task force exists to work on Human Trafficking issues  
Efforts are coordinated with partnering agencies that provide immigration services  
Partnerships exist with the four tribes in the state for networking and training  
Immigration relief services are provided by the Coalition for those in need

#### **Target Audience Objective 3:**

Victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Transgender or Queer/Questioning (**LGBTQ**)

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#### **Message:**

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The network of domestic violence/sexual assault programs in the state of Nebraska provides services that meet the unique needs of victims/survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking who identify as **LGBTQ**.

**Desired Outcome:**

Victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking who identify as **LGBTQ** will be aware of services offered throughout the state, and will be able to access those services as needed.

**Background:**

There are no precise statistics on the LGBTQ population, since the United States Census does not have questions about sexual orientation. The Census does state that by 2005 there were 776,943 households with same-sex couples. In addition, according to a Williams Institute review conducted in April 2011, approximately 3.5% of American adults identify themselves as lesbian, gay or bisexual, while 0.3% are transgender—which would correspond to approximately 11.7 million Americans as of the 2010 Census. LGBTQ survivors often have greater obstacles to receiving services. They may be more hesitant to seek assistance due to fear of being judged, misunderstood, or “outed” in their community. Service providers must make their environments welcoming and must train their staff to be sensitive to LGBTQ issues.

**Outreach Tools:**

**Print:**

A brochure is circulated regarding LGBTQ individuals and intimate partner violence  
Two curriculums are circulated regarding LGBTQ Intimate partner violence  
Articles are shared in newsletters to reach these populations

**Electronic:**

Webinars are held to focus on services for LGBTQ populations  
Services for and challenges of LGBTQ populations are addressed through Facebook & Twitter posts  
Website is promoted to focus on services for LGBTQ individuals

**Visuals:**

Information is shared regarding videos available at the Coalition office  
Pink Triangle signs and/or rainbows are displayed at service locations  
Posters are displayed highlighting these populations

**Personal Contact:**

Unisex bathrooms are available at service sites  
“Partner” language is used when serving survivors

**Other:**

An existing partnership exists with Outlinc to make the staff and volunteers aware of services as well as to provide training on best practice service provision

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**Resources:**

The staff and volunteers from the 21 domestic violence/sexual assault agencies across Nebraska will be involved in this outreach effort, as will the staff and board members of the Nebraska Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Coalition. The funds used for this project are provided by the State of Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services as well as the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act.

**Distribution:**

Outreach messages and materials will be distributed across the entire state of Nebraska by the network of 21 programs as well as the Coalition.

**Implementation of Results:**

The network of domestic violence/sexual assault programs in the state of Nebraska will implement results with the assistance of the Nebraska Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Coalition.

**Timeframe:**

This outreach project is an ongoing effort.