

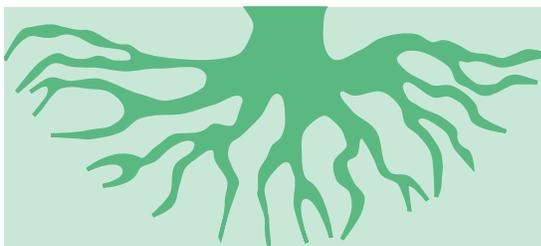


GROWING a SAFER GARDEN STATE

Field Example: Community Coalitions

Let's take a closer look at sowing the seeds of social change. Progress is an ongoing and ever-evolving process that can take many forms in different contexts. Using principles of the "Growing a Safer Garden State" framework, this resource will offer a practical look at supporting community-level change through interorganizational partnerships.

Community coalitions typically consist of members representing a wide variety of interconnected organizations. Each organization has a stake in ending sexual violence and addressing root causes of violence in general. This array of perspectives facilitates creative problem-solving, increased reach for awareness-raising, and opportunities to strengthen service delivery.



Assessing Roots.

Community collaboratives offer stakeholders an opportunity to listen to others who may be interfacing with survivors or addressing risk and protective factors for perpetration.

Sharing Harvest.

Part of the brainstorming and debriefing process includes being candid about successes and challenges, as well as holding each other accountable for anything that may have missed the mark. By bringing together a group of diverse individuals with different backgrounds, experiences, and expertise, collaboratives can shape initiatives mindfully with many different points of view. Coalitions interpret every project as a chance to grow closer to their vision of the world, so nothing feels like a failure or waste of time. Successes offer guidance on how to move forward and also offer a morale boost to the group to keep folks motivated for the future.

Positive Energy.

Truly meaningful group efforts fuel sustainability because no one person or entity is responsible for everything that happens. Group members can step in with expertise, energy, or resources when another member is overwhelmed or unable to lead at that moment. Everyone is invested in the success of the group.

Allow New Growth.

A diverse group of individuals brings unique expertise and contributions; this also means that different levels of understanding may be present. Our patience can help move everyone along the continuum at their own speed and comfort level. Growth may be slow, but every seed sown is movement in the right direction.

