

PLANNING A BLUEPRINT FOR SAFETY PROPOSAL

The following discussions, groundwork, and information gathering help position a community to submit a grant for funding to develop and launch the Blueprint. In addition, many of the questions lead to the kind of reflection that can benefit any coordinated community response or similar interagency effort.

If you are applying to the Office on Violence Against Women under an Improving Criminal Justice Responses (also known as Grants to Encourage Arrest) or Rural solicitation, you will need to meet special requirements set by OVW.

BACKGROUND

Become familiar with the Blueprint for Safety principles, process, and templates available via the Praxis International website: www.praxisinternational.org.

READINESS QUESTIONS

Communities that can answer “yes” to the following questions are well-positioned to adapt and implement the Blueprint. How does your community compare? What are your strengths and where will you need to pay more attention?

- Community-based advocates have a central role in commenting on and shaping the criminal legal system’s response to domestic violence.
- Community-based advocates and key leaders in the criminal legal system are accustomed to working together to identify and solve problems.
- We are curious and transparent about our response to domestic violence crimes.
- We seek out best practice rather than assuming that what we have been doing is the most effective approach.
- We are committed to a united approach with a shared purpose and goals.
- We can agree upon adhering to the Blueprint foundational principles to guide the response to domestic violence crimes.
- We can establish the necessary coordination.
- We can establish sufficient authority and resources to sustain the Blueprint.

PREPARATION

By discussing and gathering the following information, you will be prepared to develop the narrative, goals, and objectives for a proposal.

- Statistical data related to numbers and dispositions of domestic violence-related crimes
- Composition of interagency group/CCR addressing criminal legal system intervention in domestic violence crimes (members and who is missing)
- Capacity of community-based advocacy to lead the interagency group/CCR and the Blueprint adaptation
- Foundation for institutional/systems change work
 - Experience in assessing and investigating how community systems and institutions respond to domestic violence crimes (e.g., conducting a Praxis Safety and Accountability Audit, Fatality Review, research studies, other assessment projects)
 - Examples of problems addressed successfully via changes in policy and practice—and the challenges
 - Criminal legal system agencies with domestic violence policies currently in place and those that are missing
 - Role of community-based advocacy in leading and sustaining institutional change work
 - Successes and problems in monitoring and maintaining changes in policy and practice
 - Extent to which criminal legal system agencies are likely to see the Blueprint adaptation as an intrusion
 - Willingness of the interagency group/CCR and criminal legal system agencies to be transparent and forthcoming about shortcomings in current practice
- Current issues that the interagency group/CCR is dealing with and how the Blueprint will help address them
- How the community is positioned—or not—to produce policy and practice consistent with the Blueprint Foundation Principles
- How the community is positioned—or not—to build a framework of justice for vulnerable populations in the criminal legal system response to domestic violence crimes
- One or more examples of a harmful unintended consequence of current practice that the Blueprint might help address

BUDGET AND RESOURCES

- Personnel and coordination resources currently available
- Salary and fringe benefits for the participation of one or more community-based advocates and the Blueprint coordinator
- Office space and equipment
- Costs involved in recruiting and facilitating community focus groups
- Training and launch events
- Printing and distributing Blueprint documents
- Web-site development and maintenance
- Other likely costs related to adapting, implementing, and sustaining the Blueprint

This project is supported by Grant No. 2010-TA-AX-K008 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions and recommendations expressed in this document are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Justice.