

ASSESSMENT-LITE

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DEFINITIONS

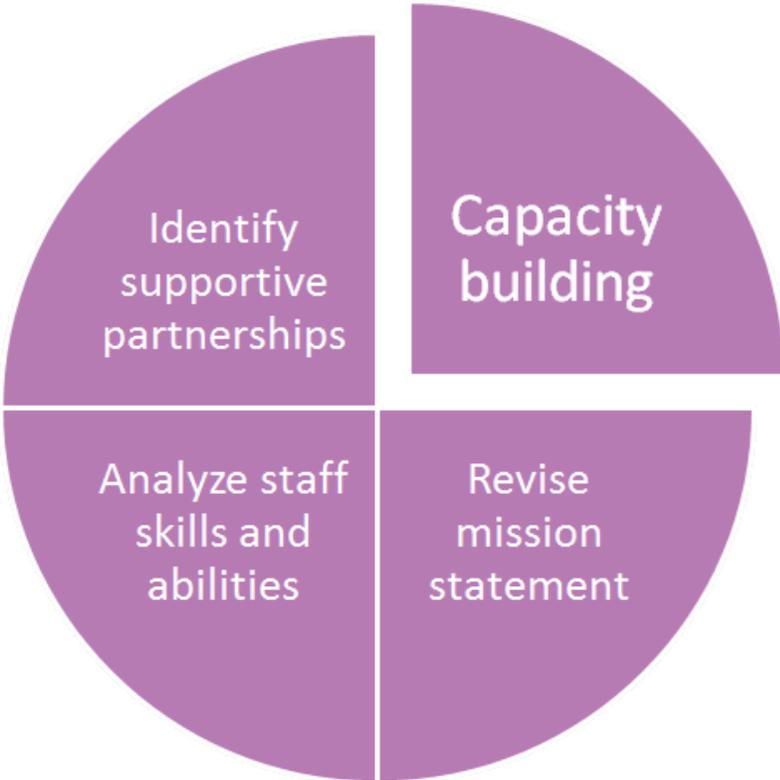
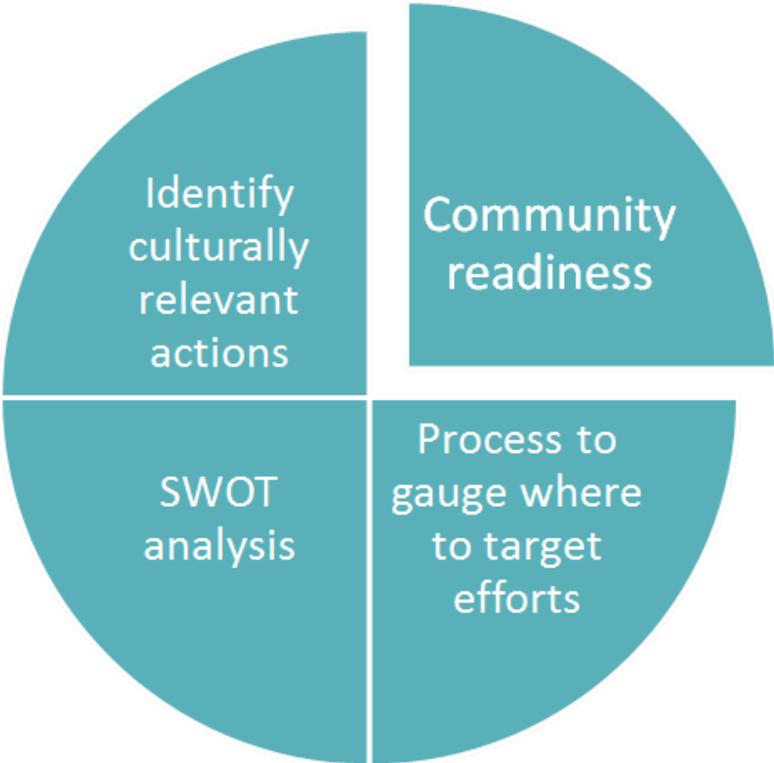
Community readiness

- The “degree to which a community is willing and prepared to take action on an issue.”

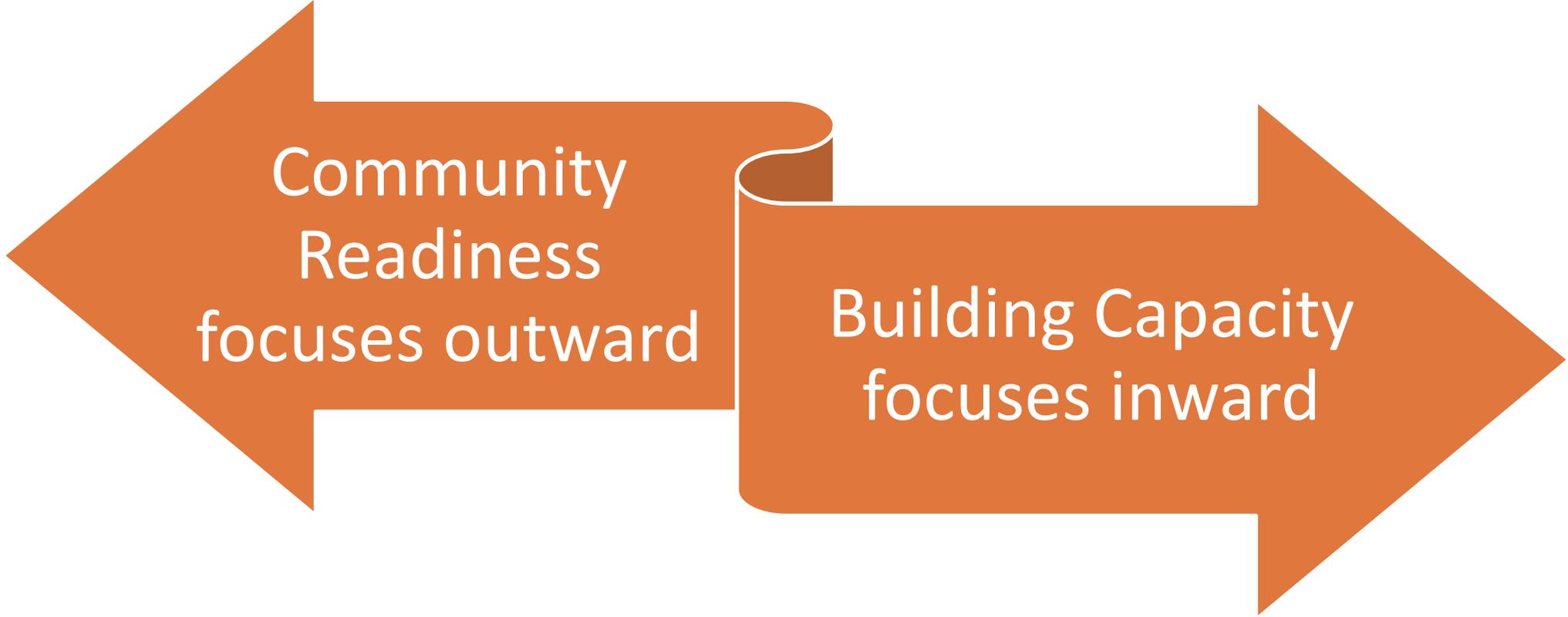
Capacity building

- An “agency’s ability to support and implement DV prevention efforts. When the agency fully embraces prevention, the work becomes part of the organizational culture, existing in all departments, volunteers, board members, and administrators.”

DEFINITIONS

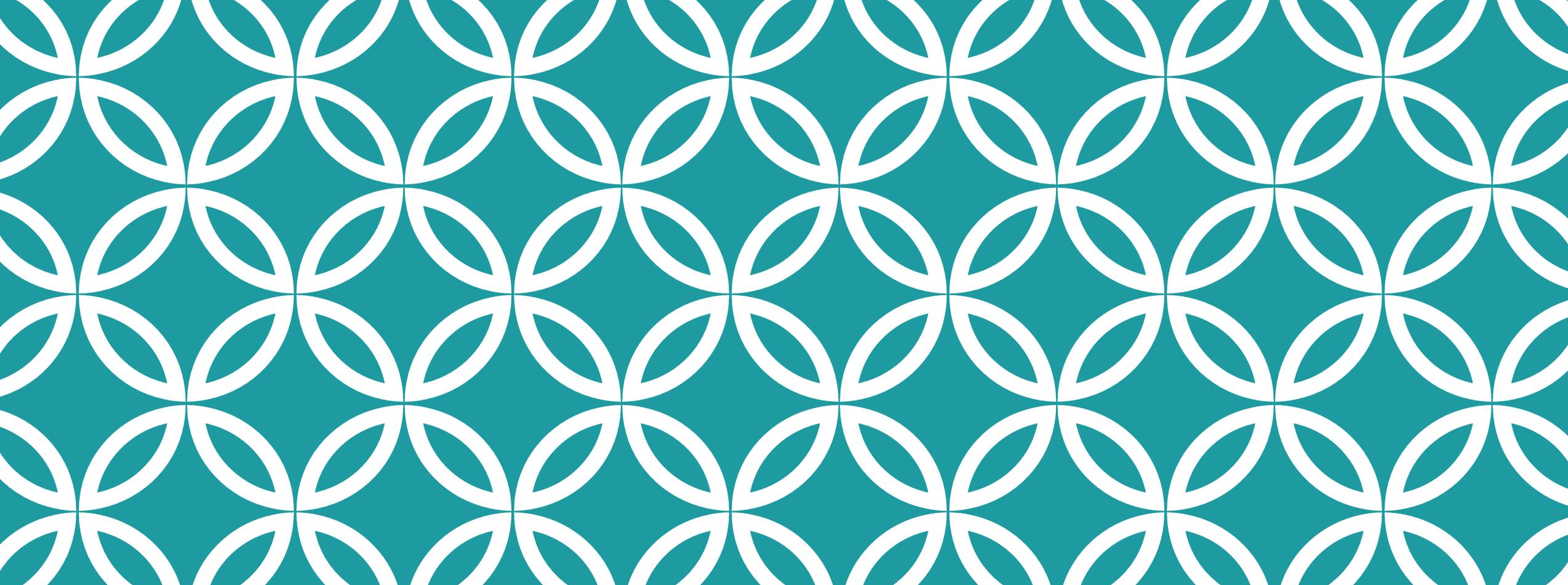


WHERE DO YOU NEED TO FOCUS YOUR EFFORTS?



Community
Readiness
focuses outward

Building Capacity
focuses inward



ASSESSMENT-LITE

Community Readiness Assessments are helpful tools to get you started down the path of prevention. And they can also feel like overwhelming and huge endeavors. Here is a process for “assessment-lite”.

*MUCH OF THE FOLLOWING INFO HAS BEEN ADAPTED FROM THE [KANSAS COALITION AGAINST SEXUAL AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE](#)

COMMUNITY READINESS *

*ADAPTED FROM THE [COMMUNITY TOOLBOX](#)

The degree to which a community is ready to take action on an issue.

Readiness can range from none at all to already having successful programs in place and making real headway.

It's issue-specific. A community can be more than ready to address one issue, while being at the very earliest stages of readiness in relation to another.

It's measurable. You can collect data.

It can vary across dimensions. A community may be more ready to address an issue in some ways than in others.

It can vary across different segments of the community. Some groups – those directly affected by the issue, for example – may be far more ready to deal with it than others.

It is essential knowledge for addressing an issue. You can easily doom an effort by trying to push a community into something it's not ready for.



An understanding of community readiness allows you to tailor an intervention or strategy to what the community is willing to accept and get involved in. By taking small steps forward – by setting goals that necessitate a stretch for people, but not so great a stretch as to be beyond their current ability and understanding of the issue – you can make steady progress.

COMMUNITY READINESS ASSESSMENTS

A process of gathering and interpreting information about the community's readiness or capacity to address sexual and domestic violence in the community.

It is important to collect community readiness data from multiple sources.



WHY DO AN ASSESSMENT?

SA/DV affect all communities

Each community has unique challenges, needs, and strengths

Fosters community collaboration and buy-in

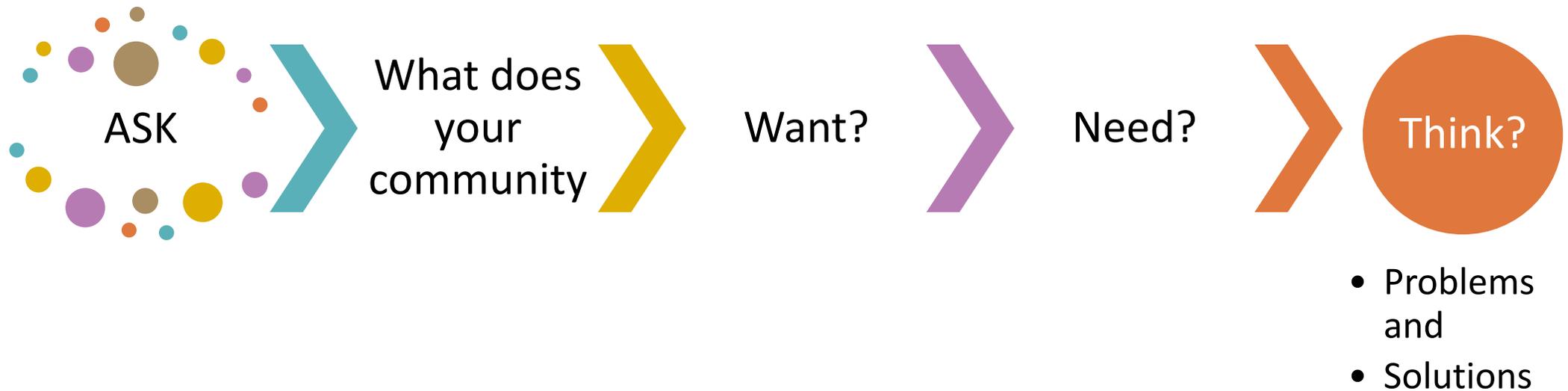
Helps to develop an informed and strategic plan



SOUNDS FANCY, BUT...

Ultimately community readiness assessments are simply tools to:

- Find out what your community WANTS, NEEDS, and what they THINK are the problems and solutions.



HOW?

□ Establish a work group

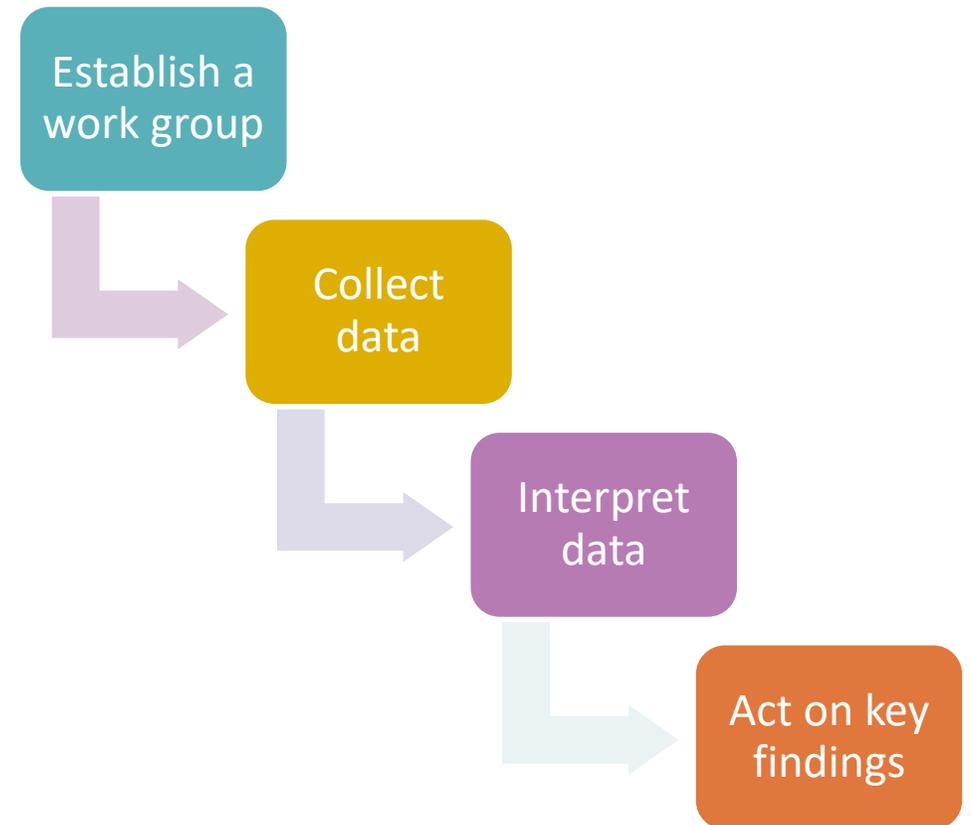
- Establish a shared understanding of the work
- Define the area of interest
- Begin to develop questions and collect data to include in assessment

□ Collect data on community readiness via

- Key informant interviews
- Surveys
- Meetings and focus groups

□ Interpret data

□ Identify key findings



ESTABLISH A WORK GROUP

- Establish a shared understanding of the work
 - Develop a common definition (what are you asking about?)
 - Decide logistics (meeting times, timeline, expectations)
- Define the area of interest
 - Consider where you want to focus your data collection
 - Small defined communities work best, but you want to know which one to start with so target a few to choose from
- Begin to develop questions and collect data to include in assessment
 - Brainstorm questions
 - Decide approach for data collection

Ask questions about:

- Community knowledge of efforts
- Leadership
- Community climate
- Knowledge about the issue
- Resources for prevention efforts (time, money, people, space, etc.)

COLLECT DATA

- Finalize questions and folks to ask
- Ask questions via
 - Key Informant Interviews
 - Conversations with important leaders and/or community representatives
 - Surveys
 - Assess the perspectives of a greater number of community representatives
 - Meetings and/or focus groups
 - Invite community individuals to a meeting and ask them a predetermined set of open-ended questions.

Consider these questions:

- What is the level of awareness and concern about DV/SA in your community?
- What is the level of visibility of your program's work to address DV/SA by community members?
- How many community members are involved in issues of addressing/preventing DV/SA?
- What policies are currently in place in the local community that support DV/SA prevention?
- Of those policies in place, how many are currently in practice?
- *Be sure to ask about key influencers for each of these questions as well.*

INTERPRET DATA

What does this data tell us about the magnitude of sexual and domestic violence in our community?

What does this data tell us about possible assets/resources to capitalize on?

What are the strengths and limitations of this data (e.g. who was left out, how was data collected)?

Do we have a clearer picture of the community's perspective on the issues of sexual and domestic violence?

Do we have the data we need to develop an informed strategic plan based upon the community's perspective?

Does the data give us clues that will help to inform our prevention efforts?

ACT ON KEY FINDINGS

What information do we need and where can we find it?

If the additional information needed isn't available, then move forward knowing that you've obtained the data that you can in order to develop an informed strategic plan.

Now you know where to focus your efforts!

REMEMBER

The readiness assessment doesn't have to be exhaustive.

Your goals are to:

- Get a good sense of where people are at with willingness and readiness to do something about domestic and sexual violence in your community.
- Help make the case for what you want to do.
- Get data to inform your strategic planning.
- Continue to come back to the data and ask more questions as you move forward.

