

Multi-Sector Partnerships in Prevention

Prevention work is most successful when done in collaboration with community. Multi-sector partnerships within prevention help to build capacity and increase community buy-in. Using a multi-sector partnership in prevention can also increase idea and resource-sharing, as well as boost creativity and innovation. When we collaborate on a prevention project with partners from sectors outside of prevention, we help to ensure that prevention efforts are more holistic, community-informed, and unified.

What is a multi-sector partnership?

Multi-sector partnerships involve working with one or more community entities on a violence prevention project. These are usually sectors that aren't necessarily explicitly connected to DV / SA work. Violence has root causes that stem from many different factors and conditions present within our communities. Multi-sector partnerships recognize that no one entity can prevent violence on their own and that working against isolation and silos is in fact a protective factor against violence.

Examples of sectors (not an exhaustive list)			
Local businesses	Other prevention efforts (suicide prevention, overdose prevention, bullying prevention etc.)	Media (local newspapers and news channels)	Unions (labor and / or tenant unions)
Housing	Faith communities	Governance (city council, county council, Mayor's office, school boards etc.)	Healthcare (Mental and physical) and public health
Education (Grade school and higher education)	Social service providers	Criminal justice (law enforcement, court system)	Public resources (libraries, parks department, farmer's markets,

How do I begin developing multi-sector partnerships?

Outreach and relationship-building are key tenants on intentional prevention work and also when it comes to building multi-sector partnerships. For a multi-sector partnership to be successful, there first needs to be a relationship and buy-in from the sector you are wanting to partner with. Begin by thinking

about which community sectors you already have a relationship with. It could be a housing resource provider or a local business that regularly sponsors or supports your program events. It could be your local library or community center where you host healthy relationship skills classes. Maybe you have a relationship with your local public health department or local youth after-school program. Maybe you have a local org working on LGBTQIA+ rights or anti-racism that you want to partner more with. Think about where you already have connections while also examining where you could begin to build intentional relationships.

How do I know if a sector is ready to begin a partnership?

Readiness is crucial to multi-sector partnerships and is something that should be discussed with that sector. You'll first want to come up with a general idea for your partnership. What do you want to work on collaboratively? What role would the partner play and what would their involvement entail? What resources (time, labor, materials etc.) would it require of them? From there, you can move into more concrete discussions on if a partnership with this sector makes sense. Contact WSCADV Prevention Staff for more info and personalized technical assistance!

What are some examples of multi-sector partnerships?

- Work collaboratively with your local youth-substance use prevention coalition to bridge the gap between youth substance-use prevention and DV / SA prevention. Programming could entail addressing shared risk and protective factors through joint projects, a joint media campaign, or working to update policies and practices within the youth substance-use prevention coalition itself.
- Work with a local labor union on a campaign related to increased protections for workers against sexual harassment in the workplace.
- Work collaboratively with other local resource providers on a community-resource fair that can be held while you provide prevention programming.
- Work with a local business to update their policies and practices to strengthen gender equity.
- Work with your local newspaper to run a positive social norms campaign on healthy relationship practices.
- Work with a local youth after-school program and a local culturally specific organization to provide culturally relevant prevention programming.

Multi-sector partnerships can help make our prevention efforts more holistic, wide-reaching, and collaborative while also leveraging resources and relationships to better connect and support our communities. The more connected we are to the various sectors within our communities, the greater the opportunity for intentional collaboration.

Want to chat with WSCADV Prevention Staff about your programming? Contact Jessie Spinney (jessie@wscadv.org) and Ward Urion (ward@wscadv.org) to set up a meeting!

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