



# ENGAGING COMMUNITY PARTNERS TO SUPPORT SURVIVORS

## USE THIS RESOURCE TO

DEVELOP A COORDINATED COMMUNITY RESPONSE TEAM (CCRT) ON YOUR CAMPUS OR TO EXPAND AND IMPROVE YOUR CURRENT CCRT.

## A SUCCESSFUL CCRT WILL:

1. Assess the school's climate in regard to sexual violence through the use of campus climate surveys;
2. Foster coalitions and networks;
3. Promote safe campuses free from sexual misconduct;
4. Provide trauma-informed services and support for survivors;
5. Develop fair and effective policies and protocols;
6. Hold perpetrators accountable under these policies and protocols;
7. Strengthen student knowledge and bystander intervention skills;
8. Promote campus and community education and collaboration;
9. Change organizational practices; and,
10. Measure the effectiveness of the school's efforts.

## WHY IS IT HELPFUL?

Each survivor has unique physical and emotional needs after experiencing sexual assault. All institutions of higher education and their students should be aware of the resources offered both on campus and in the local community to ensure they are providing all possible options to survivors. Each community is also unique and may have local organizations that meet the specialized need of survivors – such as resources for LGBTQIAA or survivors with disabilities.

## WHAT IS A CCRT?

A coordinated community response team joins community members for a multidisciplinary response to sexual violence. According to Doctor Rebecca Campbell, survivors who have access to an advocate are more likely to seek health services or report to law enforcement and experience less secondary victimization from legal and medical service providers. Providing access to survivor advocates and other multidisciplinary response options increases options for healing for survivors and decreases the likelihood of miscommunication and malpractice.

## WHO SHOULD YOUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS BE?

A community partner is any organization in your local community that your institution has a formal or informal relationship with. A community partner can be an individual, a private business, a public organization, direct service providers (rape crisis center, counseling center, etc.), and anyone who can help you provide a service for students.

Start with your Title IX or Victim Services Office on campus to begin finding the partners below. These offices that house these individuals or groups can vary. Work with your Title IX Coordinator to locate the right point of contact for each.



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## PARTNERS & ROLES

**Survivor Advocate:** Provide support and information on available resources for survivors. It is important to ask your police department about the local policies for advocates, as some laws do not allow law enforcement, investigators, or anyone else to ask advocates to leave the survivor at any point. This is a right survivors should be aware of. Check with your school and local police about advocate confidentiality. This may also vary.

**Campus & Local Law Enforcement:** The structure of your community's law enforcement jurisdictions may vary. It is important to know whether you have both a local police department and a campus police department or only one of the two, as this affects survivors that may want to file a formal police report. Sometimes, the local police department has jurisdiction over local campuses as well. If the police department is interested in tips and information from national experts on ways to improve response, [this report](#) may be helpful.

**Local Rape Crisis Center, Domestic Violence Shelter, or Other Response Group:** Provides support off campus to survivors of any type of sexual violence or harassment. This is often a helpful resource for survivors who do not feel comfortable seeking on-campus services. The Rape Crisis Centers can also connect survivors with other local resources, such as mental health providers, legal assistance, or hospital support.

**Local Hospital:** It is important for survivors to know which hospital to go to to receive proper care. NOTE: If you are in a city, there may be multiple hospitals near you, but they might not all provide services for survivors of sexual violence.

**Campus Clinic:** Some schools have clinics on campus that are often much more accessible than the closest hospital. It is important to know what the hours are and if sexual assault kits are provided and conducted by a trained professional. Not all campus clinics accept all types of health insurance.

**Resident Housing Association/Office of the Registrar:** Many survivors need accommodations on campus as part of their response for both their healing and safety. Resident Housing can help coordinate moving to another dorm, ensuring staff and dorm security are aware if a student has a no-contact order or persona-non-grata ([example policy and definitions from Miami University](#)), and can sometimes even help a student move off campus. The Office of the Registrar or class advisors are helpful when changes to class schedules are needed.

**Any other group that students might report to in your community (ex: campus LGBTQ center):** Each campus is unique, so your CCRT should be unique as well. Students in marginalized communities (LGBTQ, students of color, undocumented students) are disproportionately affected by sexual violence. Include groups that can help you meet this need on campus.