

Community of Responders: A Holistic Approach to Working with Immigrant Survivors of Abuse

July 29-30, 2015

New Orleans, LA

The logo for the National Immigrant Women's Advocacy Project (NIWAP) is displayed in white, bold, serif capital letters on a dark red background. The letters are slightly shadowed, giving them a three-dimensional appearance as if they are floating above the background.

NIWAP

National Immigrant Women's Advocacy Project,
American University Washington College of Law

Welcome

- Leslye Orloff
 - Director, National Immigrant Women's Advocacy Project
- Neelam Patel
 - Grant Program Specialist, Office on Violence Against Women, Department of Justice

Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and VAWA's Immigration Protections are Gender Neutral

- VAWA's protections, help, and immigration relief are open to **ALL** victims
- Without regard to the victim's gender or gender identity
- Men, women, and people who do not identify as either men or women can all be victims of domestic violence and sexual assault
- In the overwhelming majority of cases, the perpetrators are male and the victims are female
- During this training, we will generally use
 - “he” to refer to the perpetrator and
 - “she” to refer to the victim

Opening Plenary: Best Practices for Working with Immigrant Survivors in Rural Communities

July 29, 2015
New Orleans, LA

Introductions

- **Leslye Orloff**
 - Director, National Immigrant Women's Advocacy Project
- **Olga Trujillo**
 - Senior Training and Program Specialist, Praxis International

Learning Objectives:

By the end of this workshop you will be better able to:

- Adopt lessons learned from rural programs into your practice
- Build relationships between immigrant community based victim advocates and justice system personnel
- Creatively overcome obstacles through innovation
- Work collaboratively to reform policies and practices and increase access to justice and services for immigrant survivors

Praxis International

- Research & Training
- Rural Technical Assistance provider - since 1998 (OVW TA Provider)
- Other programs:
 - Advocacy Learning Center
 - Blueprint for Safety
 - Community Assessment (Safety & Accountability Audits)

Three Goals of Rural TA Project



Strengthen
rural
advocacy



Strengthen
rural CCRs



Central
access to
support

BEST PRACTICES: IMMIGRANT OUTCOMES

Intertwined in the Responses to
Violence Against Women in
Rural and Urban Communities

Best Practices: Rural Advocates

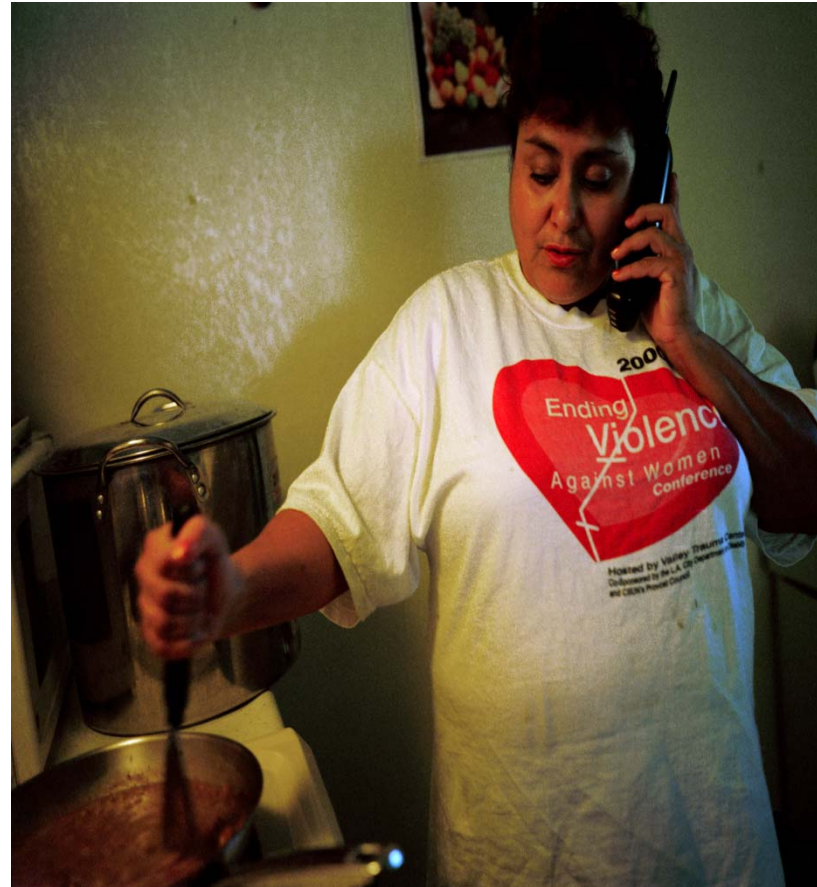
- Advocate for women in their community
- Represent the experiences of survivors
- Hold systems accountable to public safety mission
- Develop political and community will
- Engage with project partners



**Praxis helps rural advocates
develop advocacy & leadership
skills**

Example: Rural Advocacy Initiated Response

- Law enforcement contacts advocacy program after a DV-related call
- Advocates, not victims, initiate contact
- More women receive post-arrest advocacy
- Advocates know more about what is happening – services, language access & immigration
- Advocates can better advocate for system reform



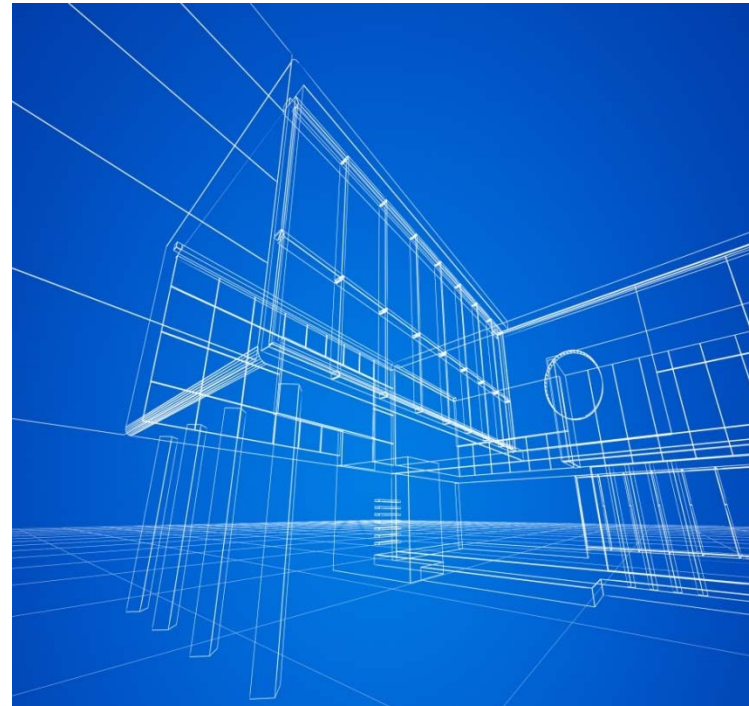
NIJ Funded Immigrant Victims and Protection Order Study Findings (2006)*

- With advocate support immigrant victims will use and benefit from justice system assistance
 - 60.9% of victims first learned about protection orders from their advocates
 - 81% got a protection order with help from advocate
 - 96% found them helpful
 - 68.3% of violations of immigrant victims' protection orders were ongoing immigration related threats and abuse

*Mary Ann Dutton, Nawal Ammar, Leslye Orloff, and Darcy Terrell, Use and Outcomes of Protection Orders By Battered Immigrant Women (November 10, 2006)

Coordinated Community Response (CCR)

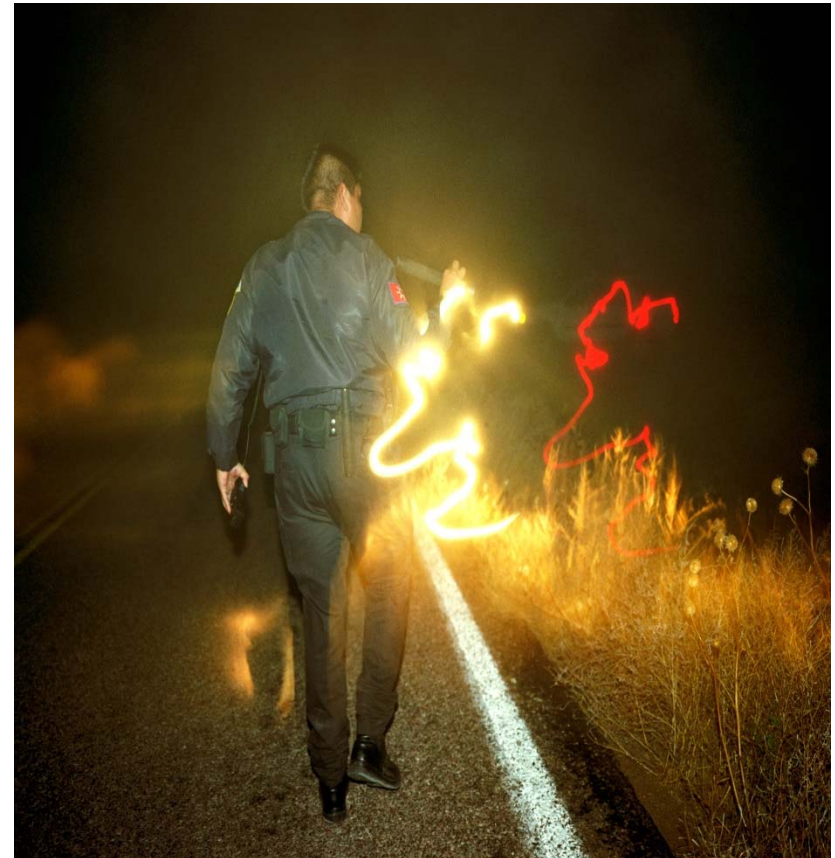
- Implement replicable models
- Adopt best practices
- Boost role and profile of community-based advocacy
- Individualized support to CCR leaders
- Customized training and support for criminal justice system (CJS) partners



Praxis helps *rural* CCRs to implement best practices and model responses

Example: Patrol officers assess risk & danger

- Do you think he/she will seriously injure or kill you or your children? What makes you think so? What makes you think not?
- How frequently and seriously does he/she intimidate, threaten, or assault you? Is it changing? Getting worse? Better?
- Describe the time you were the most frightened or injured by him/her



Best Practice: Screen for Immigration Related Abuse

- Immigration Related Abuse as a Lethality Factor
 - 10 times higher in relationships with physical/sexual abuse as opposed to psychological abuse*
 - Lethality factor can predict abuse escalation
 - Corroborates existence of physical and sexual abuse

*Mary Ann Dutton, Leslye Orloff, and Giselle Hass, Characteristics of Help-Seeking Behaviors, Resources and Service Needs of Battered Immigrant Latinas: Legal and Policy Implications (Summer 2000)

Immigration-Related Abuse Locks Immigrant Women in Abusive Relationships

- Keeps victims from:
 - Seeking help from advocates and attorneys
 - Getting protection orders
 - Calling police
 - Cooperating in prosecutions
- Affects victims who are documented and undocumented
- 65% of immigrant victims report some form of immigration related abuse (NIJ 2003)*

*Edna Erez and Nawal Ammar, Violence Against Immigrant Women and Systemic Responses: An Exploratory Study (2003)

Small Group Activity

- List examples of immigration related abuse
- List the benefits of including identifying immigration related abuse as part of this assessment of risk and danger in a domestic violence case for
 - Law enforcement
 - Victim advocacy
 - Attorneys

Large Group Report Back

Best Practice:

Advocacy Makes a Difference*

- Safety planning and advocacy work
 - Victims learned about protection orders
 - Advocates assessed lethality
 - Including immigration related abuse
 - Coercive control in the relationship
 - When there was a high risk of lethality, more immigrant victims sought orders
 - With this help, process was easier than women expected

*Nawal H. Ammar, Leslye E. Orloff, Mary Ann Dutton and Giselle A. Hass, Battered Immigrant Women in the United States and Protection Orders : An Exploratory Research (August 1, 2012)

Barrier: When Service Providers DO NOT Have Accurate Information About....

- Immigrant victims' legal rights to
 - Legal services
 - Life and safety programs including
 - Shelter, transitional housing, and victim services
 - Certain forms of health care
 - Language access
 - Immigration relief
 - Non-discrimination

Benefits to These Collaborations*

- Factors positively affecting LEP/immigrant victim's willingness to call the police:
 - To protect children
 - Severity of abuse
 - Learned from others in the community who received help
 - Safety planning/victim advocacy
 - Obtained a protection order that was violated

*Natalia Lee, Daniel J. Quinones, Nawal Ammar & Leslye E. Orloff, National Survey of Service Providers on Police Response to Immigrant Crime Victims, U Visa Certification and Language Access (April 16,2013)

Impact Without Collaborations*

- When immigrant/LEP victim called for help, of law enforcement who responded:
 - 24.3% used the perpetrator or child to interpret
 - Spoke only with perpetrator in cases of
 - DV (10.7%); SA (8.1%); Trafficking (4.8%)
 - Did not take police report despite visible injury
 - DV (9.6%); SA (10.4); Trafficking (11.8%)

*Natalia Lee, Daniel J. Quinones, Nawal Ammar & Leslye E. Orloff, National Survey of Service Providers on Police Response to Immigrant Crime Victims, U Visa Certification and Language Access (April 16,2013)

Research Findings: Benefits of Collaboration

- Collaborations between law enforcement and community based victim advocates improves
 - Language access
 - U visa certification
- Collaborations on
 - Cases (81.3%); Trainings (71.9%); Community Education (69.2%); SART (58.8%); CCR (57.9%); immigrant community outreach (51.5%)

*Natalia Lee, Daniel J. Quinones, Nawal Ammar & Leslye E. Orloff, National Survey of Service Providers on Police Response to Immigrant Crime Victims, U Visa Certification and Language Access (April 16,2013)

Resources

- **U-Visa Legal Advocacy: Overview of Effective Policies and Practices**
(December 12, 2013)
 - LAV grantee lessons learned successful collaborations with law enforcement
- **Immigrant and Limited English Proficient Victims' Access to the Criminal Justice System: The Importance of Collaboration (2013)**

Praxis/OVW Rural TA Needs Assessment

- In 2012 Praxis Collected data from Rural Program grantees, OVW technical assistance providers, and OVW Rural Program Managers
- Connected with Rural Programs through: on-line survey questionnaire, audio focus groups, an in-person think tank, and individual phone interviews

Rural Realities

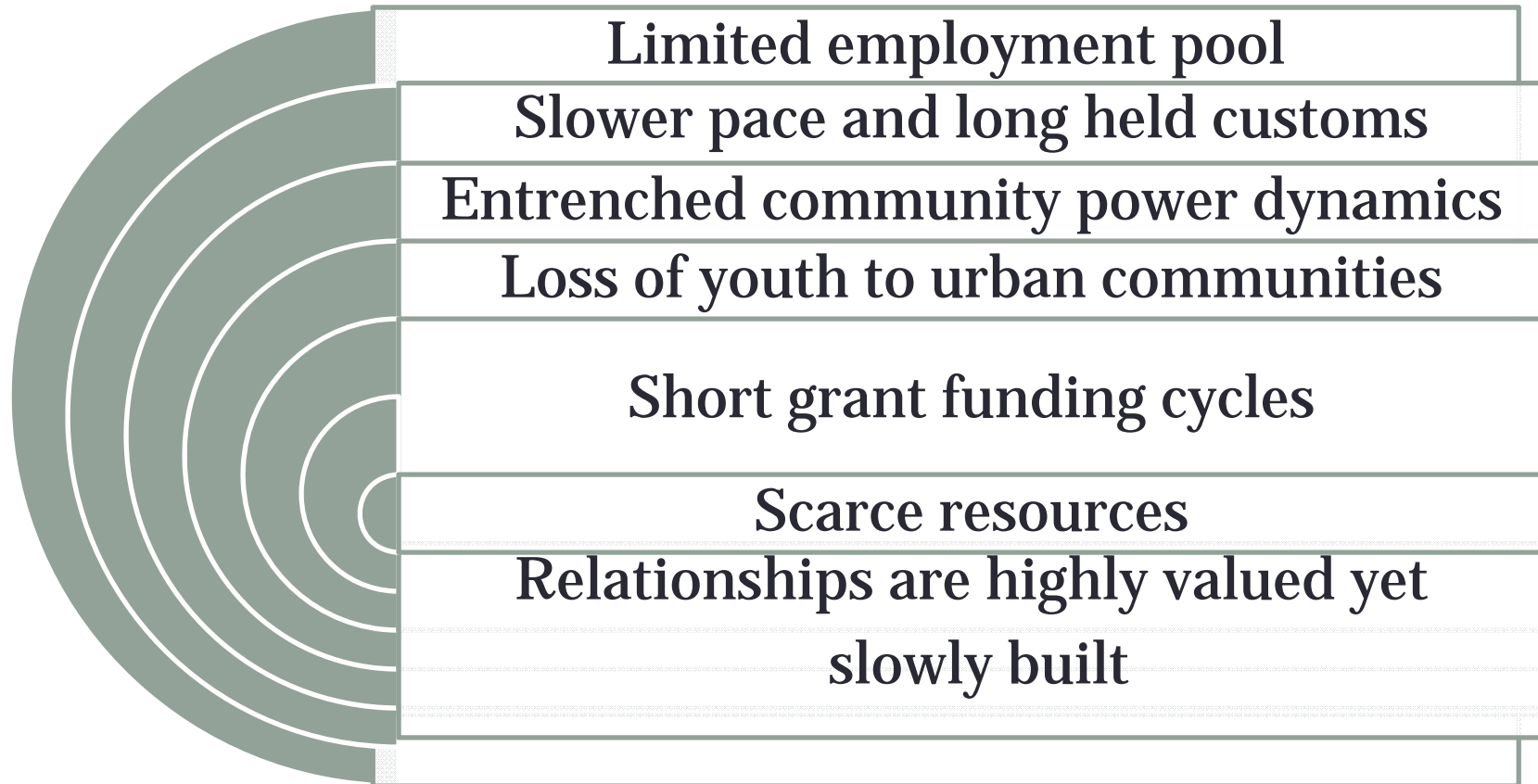


- No single “rural”
- Expertise at “making do”
- Vast and dynamic landscapes
- A distinct voice
- Connection & trust
- Long-held traditions & customs

“Making Do” Seeding Innovation: Lessons From Rural Communities

- Best Practice Exercise
- Small group activity
 - Share innovative approaches to working with immigrant, LEP, Rural or other underserved survivors that you have been impressed by
- Large group report back facilitated discussion

Challenges Advocacy Programs Face in Rural Settings



Question

Do these realities resonate with you?

- Yes
- No



NIJ Research Examining Effective Responses to Serving Immigrant Survivors Found

Rachael Rodriguez, 2007

(NIJ 1999-WT-VX-0011; 2000-WT-VX-0005)

- Rural CCR partnerships involving blend of
 - Community based victim advocates
 - Professionals with knowledge and expertise helping victims access the justice and other systems offering help
- Most effective model leading immigrant victims to receive justice system help

Best Practices:

Characteristics of Effective Partnerships

- Involves advocates from the community
 - Authentic, develop from living realities of the community
 - Have/gain women's trust
 - Help others step forward
- Real relationships with systems personnel
 - Work together on cases/systems reforms
 - On first name basis
 - Communicate with each other regularly

Question:

On what form of advocacy do you spend the majority of your time?

- a) With individuals
- b) For institutional or system change
- c) In the community (engagement, awareness, etc.)
- d) Hard to say...my advocacy is a blend of each

Themes from Rural Grantees



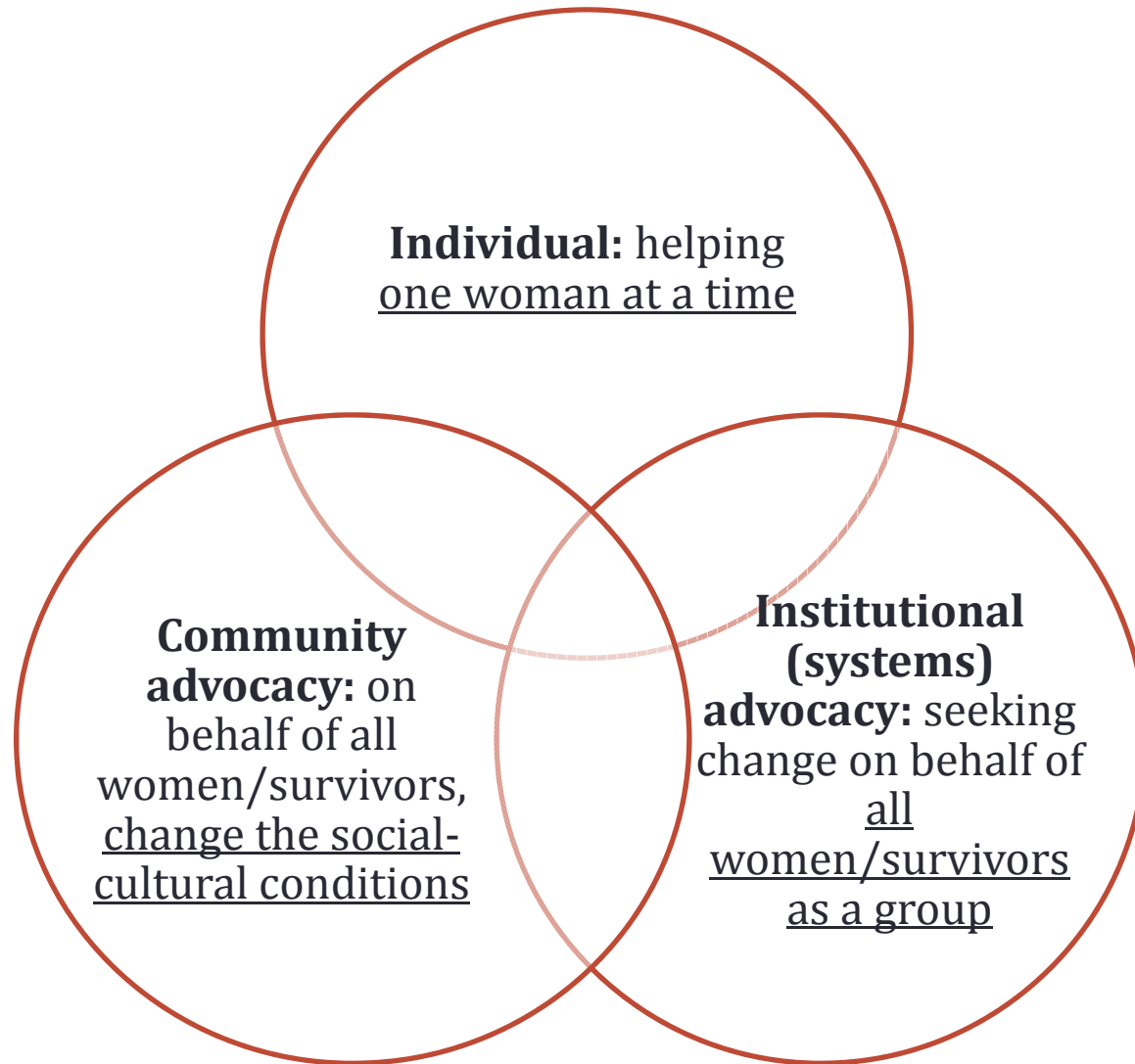
- Critical need for training and TA relating to...
 - Basic and advanced advocacy services for all forms of violence against women
 - Advocacy leadership skills and capacity
 - Enhancing institutional reform efforts, particularly related to criminal justice system response

Rural advocates want...

To learn together about social-change oriented advocacy

To strategize with each other about how to pursue social change efforts in conservative rural climates

Distinct but Interconnected Levels of Advocacy



Best Practices

- Alaska Institute for Justice • Has interpreters and maintains a statewide interpretation service
- Provides legal assistance for survivors
- Has bicultural/bilingual staff – 6 languages
- Special emphasis on interpreters of Alaska Native Languages

Best Practices (continued)

Kansas Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence

- Developed a language access toolkit
- Website
- Conducts trainings across the state to help member programs with language access plans

Best Practices (continued)

- NE Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Coalition
- Spouse Abuse Sexual Assault Crisis Center
- Volunteer Attorneys for Rural Nevada
- Tri-County Family Justice Center of New Mexico
- Family Violence and Rape Crisis Center, Pittsboro, NC
- Catholic Charities, Portland, OR
- Womenspace
- Washington Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Other Tools

- BluePrint for Safety
- Community Assessment
- Best Practice Assessment Guides
 - A good option for rural communities
- Advocacy Learning Center

Technical Assistance and Materials

- Power Point presentations and materials for this conference at www.niwap.org/go/NOLA2015
- **NIWAP Technical Assistance:**
 - Call (202) 274-4457
 - E-mail niwap@wcl.american.edu
- Web Library:
www.niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu

Questions



Evaluations



Thank you!

THIS PROJECT WAS SUPPORTED BY GRANT NO. 2013-TA-AX-K009 AWARDED BY THE OFFICE ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. THE OPINIONS, FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS EXPRESSED IN THIS PUBLICATION/PROGRAM/EXHIBITION ARE THOSE OF THE AUTHOR(S) AND DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE VIEWS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, OFFICE ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN.

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