

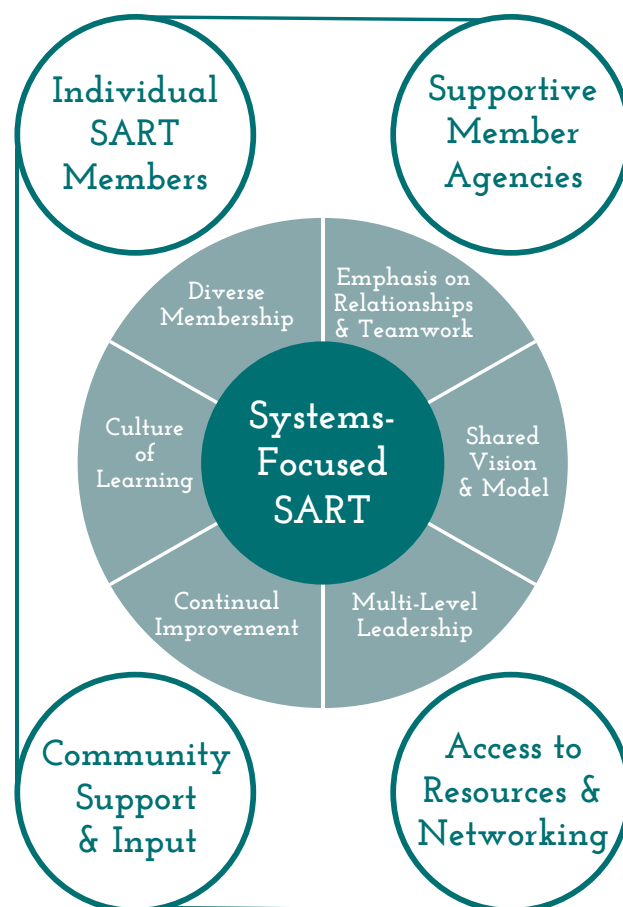
Summary of A Ten-Factor Framework for Sexual Assault Response Team Effectiveness

Ten Internal & External Factors That Facilitate Success for Systems Change Sexual Assault Response Teams

Created by The Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault



Systems change sexual assault response teams (SARTs) are community-based multidisciplinary teams that work to create long-term improvements to the local response to sexual violence. SARTs enable communities to maximize their available resources and improve relationships between institutions like law enforcement, victim services, prosecution, and local hospitals. The following [framework for SART effectiveness](#) breaks down ten factors that can help to facilitate the success of [systems change SARTs](#). These ten factors include six internal team characteristics and four external supports.



Internal Factors: Six Characteristics of Successful Systems Change SARTs

Shared Vision and Model

All SART members agree on an appropriate model for the team including structure, leadership, and decision-making processes. This should also include the SART's purpose, scope of work, future vision, the intended impact on the community, and how the SART plans to be [victim-centered](#).

Multi-Level Leadership

Responsibility and power needs to be equitably distributed amongst SART member agencies. [Leadership](#) should come from multiple disciplines and interdisciplinary power imbalances should be addressed.

■ Culture of Learning

SARTs should maintain a culture of learning that emphasizes the importance of seeking to understand the unique context of every situation, documenting and examining successes and setbacks, identifying emerging strategies, and applying new information to continually improve.

■ Continual Evaluation & Improvement

The ongoing cycle of assessing the status quo, making changes based on the assessment, and [evaluating the success of those changes](#) is the foundation of the systems change model of SART work. SARTs can evaluate themselves by monitoring the implementation of the changes made, assessing gaps and barriers, and conducting surveys, focus groups and case file reviews.

■ Diverse Membership

SARTs that include [many disciplines](#) and community members typically thrive, because this encourages members to think beyond the boundaries of their own institutions and disciplines, expands the unique networks and points of leverage for collaboration for the team, and may better represent the makeup of the community.

■ Emphasis on Relationships & Teamwork

Collaboration is the ultimate vehicle for change in SART work and strong individual and interagency [relationships](#) are what make effective collaboration possible.

External Factors: Four Key Supports Needed by Systems Change SARTs

■ Confident Individual Team Members

SART members need a high level of confidence in their work and to believe they are capable of successfully advocating for systems change within the SART.

■ Supportive Members Agencies

Support from member agencies is essential for the SART to maintain team cohesion, achieve its goals, and create meaningful systems change. Member agencies should support the team by allocating time and resources to SART goals and activities and by signing [Memoranda of Understanding](#) to formalize the partnership.

■ Access to Resources & Networking

SARTs often need to attend or facilitate trainings and conferences to pinpoint current challenges, address new opportunities to create systems change, and learn from other teams doing similar work.

■ Community Support & Involvement

SARTs must have support and involvement from their communities, not just the disciplines involved in sexual violence response. Community engagement should regularly involve the [community for input](#) and team membership and can include victims/survivors, community leaders, culturally specific communities, faith leaders, and more.