

Community Resource Mapping for SARTs

Overview

Community resource mapping is an activity that can help sexual assault response teams (SARTs) identify and organize available resources for victims/survivors of sexual violence in the community. It can be achieved by compiling a list of resources and, optionally, creating a visual map. Depending on the team's intentions, this activity can occur during any phase of the [systems change](#) process.

Objectives

- Facilitate collaboration and partnerships among organizations in the community.
- Provide SARTs with new opportunities for collaboration and networking.
- Identify existing resources in the community.

Discussion Questions

These questions are designed to help gauge interest and provide direction for the community resource mapping process.

1. Why does your SART want to create a community resource list or map, and how does your SART intend to use it?
2. Does your SART want to focus the resource list or map on a specific demographic group, such as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ+) survivors, Asian and Pacific Islander (API) survivors, survivors with disabilities, or another group?
3. What is the size and scope of the community to be assessed? For example, is your SART looking for resources in a specific neighborhood, town, city, or region of the state?
4. Which members of your team will work on the project?

Planning for Community Resource Mapping in the Workgroup:

Forming a workgroup or subcommittee is the first step towards creating a community resource map. It is essential to identify SART members who will participate in the mapping process and to assign roles such as facilitator and note-taker(s). This is an opportunity to distribute leadership among members. Once roles are decided, the group should then answer the following questions, with responses recorded by the note-taker(s):

1. Is this an internal resource for the SART or will it be shared with other agencies and disciplines?
2. Does the group want to develop a visual map of the available resources?
3. What information sources will the group use to develop a resource list?
4. Are there existing resource lists, such as directories or lists developed by sexual assault programs?
5. Does the group want to develop the resource list individually or collaboratively?
6. Will the work group meet in-person or virtually?
7. When will the workgroup meet and how often?
8. How frequently will the team update the list or map?

Determine the Types of Resources that the Workgroup Will Explore:

As the workgroup begins the community resource mapping process, it is important to consider the specific needs of different groups within the community. Consider identifying a key group, such as survivors who identify as LGBTQ+, API survivors, or survivors with disabilities. The workgroup can utilize [needs assessments](#) or [census data](#) to help identify community demographics. Consider also spending time getting to know the community first. Getting to know the community can assist in understanding how to identify needs and resources. In addition, it is important to determine the size or scope of the community the workgroup will be assessing, such as a specific neighborhood, town or city, or region of the state.

Consider the following communities, though not limited to:

- Victims/survivors in rural areas
- Victims/survivors experiencing homelessness
- LGBTQ+ victims/survivors
- Immigrant victims/survivors
- Victims/survivors that have different language needs
- Older victims/survivors
- Victims/survivors using substances
- Victims/survivors with disabilities
- and other demographic groups

Once the workgroup has identified the key group and the scope of the community, the next step is to develop a list of organizations and services to search for.

Take into account the following resources:

- Sexual assault programs
- Dual domestic violence and sexual assault programs
- Advocacy groups or agencies that work specifically with the identified group
- Legal services
- Medical providers
- Housing shelters
- Cultural centers
- Grassroots organizations
- Community leaders
- and other possible entry points

Based on the workgroup's decision in the last section, develop a purpose statement for community resource mapping:

The SART of XXX County will create a community resource map that identifies resources for the XXX group in the XXX area.

Step-by-Step Community Resource Mapping:

Community resource mapping can be accomplished in various ways and workgroups may require multiple meeting sessions to complete the list. Below are steps designed to guide the workgroup in creating a resource list.

- Begin by creating an initial list of community resources, starting with the SART and existing lists identified in the planning process. Excel or other similar software can be used to organize the list.
- Use additional sources to expand on the list, such as online directories, other existing lists of organizations, victims/survivors of sexual violence, and colleagues who may have knowledge of resources that are not publicly listed. If the workgroup is seeking resources for a specific target population, such as a particular cultural or linguistic community, it is important to seek input from members or community leaders of that community to ensure that the resources are culturally appropriate and accessible. It is important to provide compensation for the time and expertise of community members who contribute to the resource mapping process.
- Now that the list has been developed, it is time to connect with the identified resources. Meet with the organizations or contacts that have been identified and ask if they would like to be included in the final list or map. When gathering information from these organizations, consider asking the following questions:
 1. Who is a good point of contact for your program?
 2. Are there eligibility criteria for using your program's services?
 3. What types of services does your program provide?
 4. Are there costs associated with your services?
 5. What is your referral process?
 6. Are there agencies that you are associated with?
- Visual map option: Once the workgroup has compiled a list of community resources, a visual map can be developed. The workgroup can mark resources on an actual map of the community or create a diagram. When creating the map, be sure to include important information such as the name, address, and contact information of each resource.
- Once all the necessary information has been collected, it's time to finalize the list of resources. In addition to each resource's name and contact information, it is important to include additional details such as the types of services provided, target populations, and the organization's role in supporting survivors of sexual violence. Make sure to tailor the final list to the specific needs and resources of the community.

Virtual vs. In-Person Meeting:

Community resource mapping could take place either in person or virtually. The following are examples of how meetings may be organized:

- **Virtual meeting:** If the workgroup meeting is virtual, a note-taker should share their screen and document resources mentioned by workgroup members. If the workgroup is large, members should break out into breakout rooms and document the resources mentioned. Once the groups are done, each group should share their list with the larger group.
- **In-person meeting:** If the workgroup meeting is in-person, a note-taker should document resources the workgroup members mentioned on a large post-in paper. If the workgroup is large, members should break out into small groups and document the resources mentioned. Once the groups are done, each should share their list with the larger group.

Suggested Activities for SARTs After Community

Resource Mapping:

- Strengthen current connections and determine if any connections need to be revitalized.
- Get to know your community by reviewing its census data. Check if the composition of your team is reflective of your community.
- Use community resource mapping as a part of the community needs assessment to help identify the resources available in your community.
- Cultivate relationships with new community partnerships.
- Engage in collaborative efforts with new community partners, such as organizing inter-agency training and delivering joint presentations.
- Invite new community partners to join the team.
- Assist new connections in obtaining leadership buy-in at their respective agencies.
- Develop or revise the [SART protocol](#).

Sample List

| Organization | Contact Info | Eligibility Criteria | Types of Services | Costs | Referral Process | Notes |
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Resources and Tools for Community Resource Mapping:

- [Advocacy Skills: Community Partnerships](#)
- [A Ten-Factor Framework for Sexual Assault Response Team Effectiveness](#)
- [Census Data](#)
- [Community Asset Mapping Tool](#)
- [Community Resource Map and Directory](#)
- [Community Resource Mapping Toolkit](#)
- [Hybrid vs. Virtual Meetings](#)
- [Listening to Our Communities: Assessment Toolkit](#)
- [Phases of Systems Change](#)
- [SART Protocol Template](#)
- [Training and Collaboration Toolkit](#)

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