

Statewide Coalition Standards

All statewide coalitions shall operate in accordance with the philosophy statement of the crime specific area they represent. A coalition is a grassroots, statewide, membership-based organization that supports the elimination of violence, advocates on behalf of crime victim issues, challenges ideas and attitudes which permit violence and the systemic oppression of victims to continue, and responds to the needs and concerns of communities through input from its members. Coalition activities should increase the capacity of direct service providers to promote and provide crime victim services.

Education and Outreach. Activities must include, but are not limited to:

- a) **Educate and raise awareness** in the general public about the root causes and scope of victimization, prevention strategies, available services, and the need for social change;
- b) **Develop an ongoing, proactive method of communication** with coalition members, the media and policy makers;
- c) **Provide outreach** that creates meaningful access for under-represented communities; and **support**, encourage and nurture grassroots service organizations and potential member programs.

Training. Activities must include, but are not limited to:

- a) **Assess the needs of the membership and provide** effective materials and training that may include, but not be limited to: workshops, symposiums, conferences and technical assistance;
- b) **Provide orientation** and/or training sessions for new board and coalition members; and
- c) **Provide training to systems personnel** (i.e., human and health services, criminal justice, law enforcement, policymakers, corrections personnel, public safety personnel, human rights personnel, etc.) on a statewide level.

Systems Response. Activities must include, but are not limited to:

- a) **Respond to requests for information** from public policy makers as to how public policy decisions impact victims of crime.
- b) **Work towards improving** the effectiveness of systems in responding to victim issues and concerns, on a statewide level.

Information Clearinghouse. Activities must include, but are not limited to:

- a) **Gather, disseminate and have available information** from local, regional and national sources regarding data, current trends, special needs and concerns; and
- b) **Maintain a library** of resource materials.

Networking and Referrals. Activities must include, but are not limited to:

- a) **Maintain a listing of service providers** to refer victims of crime to agencies appropriate to the victim's circumstances.
- b) **Promote and encourage networking**, collaboration and ongoing communication between members, and with other crime area coalitions to: facilitate improvement of community services, disseminate information, assist victims of crime, provide legislative updates to coalition members and provide service referrals to crime victims.

Accessibility. Activities must include, but are not limited to maintenance of a toll-free (800 or 888) telephone line to ensure access and communication to and from membership, victims and other persons interested in crime victim issues.

Diversity. Engage in outreach and promotional activities that will ensure leadership, staff and membership from a wide range of diverse organizations, communities and populations. Outreach efforts shall include the following: communities and individuals of color; elders; immigrant, migrant and refugee populations; gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender communities; and people with physical and/or mental disabilities.