

Strengthening Advocacy Foundations

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“

Build Bridges Not Walls

Martin Luther King Jr.

Building a Bridge

How will the first step impact the rest of your plan?



Information gathering: location of bridge, timeline, community needs, purpose of the bridge, type of bridge

Planning- develop blueprint, budget, etc.

Identify Resources: Money, Materials, Tools.

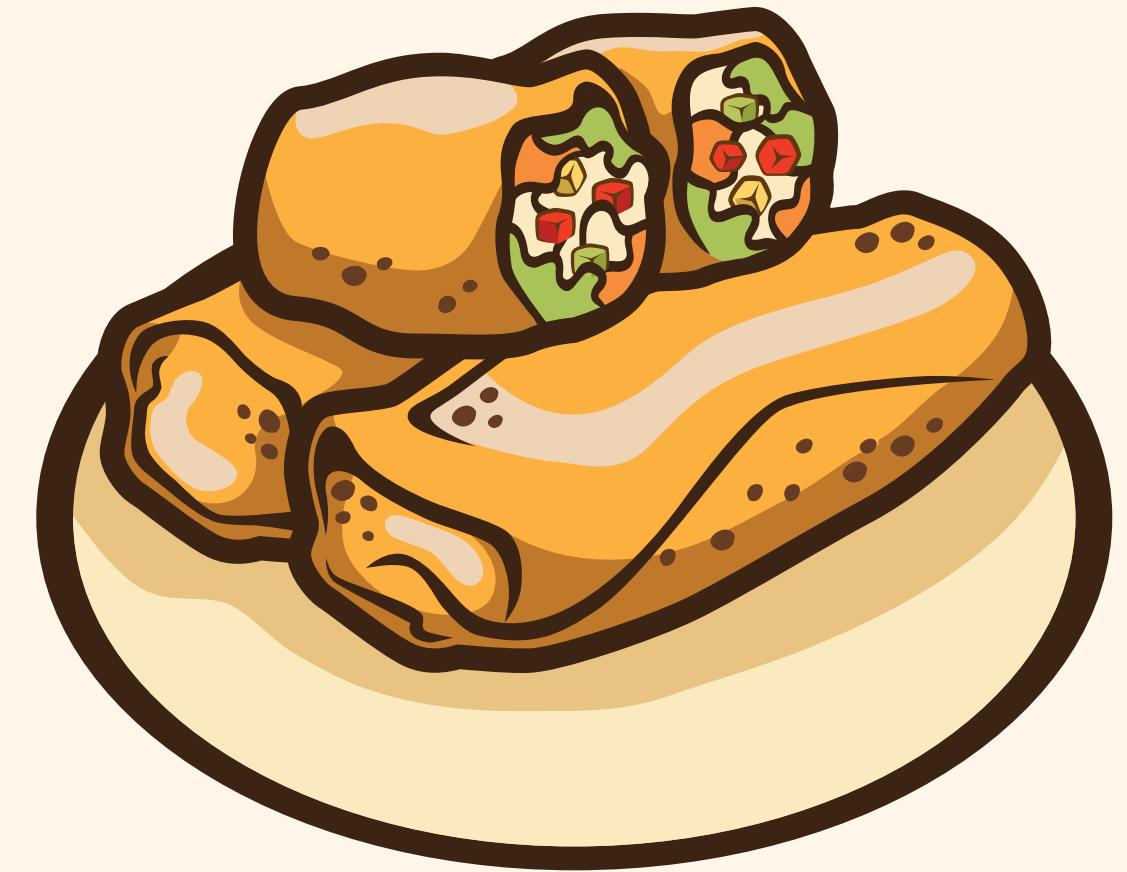
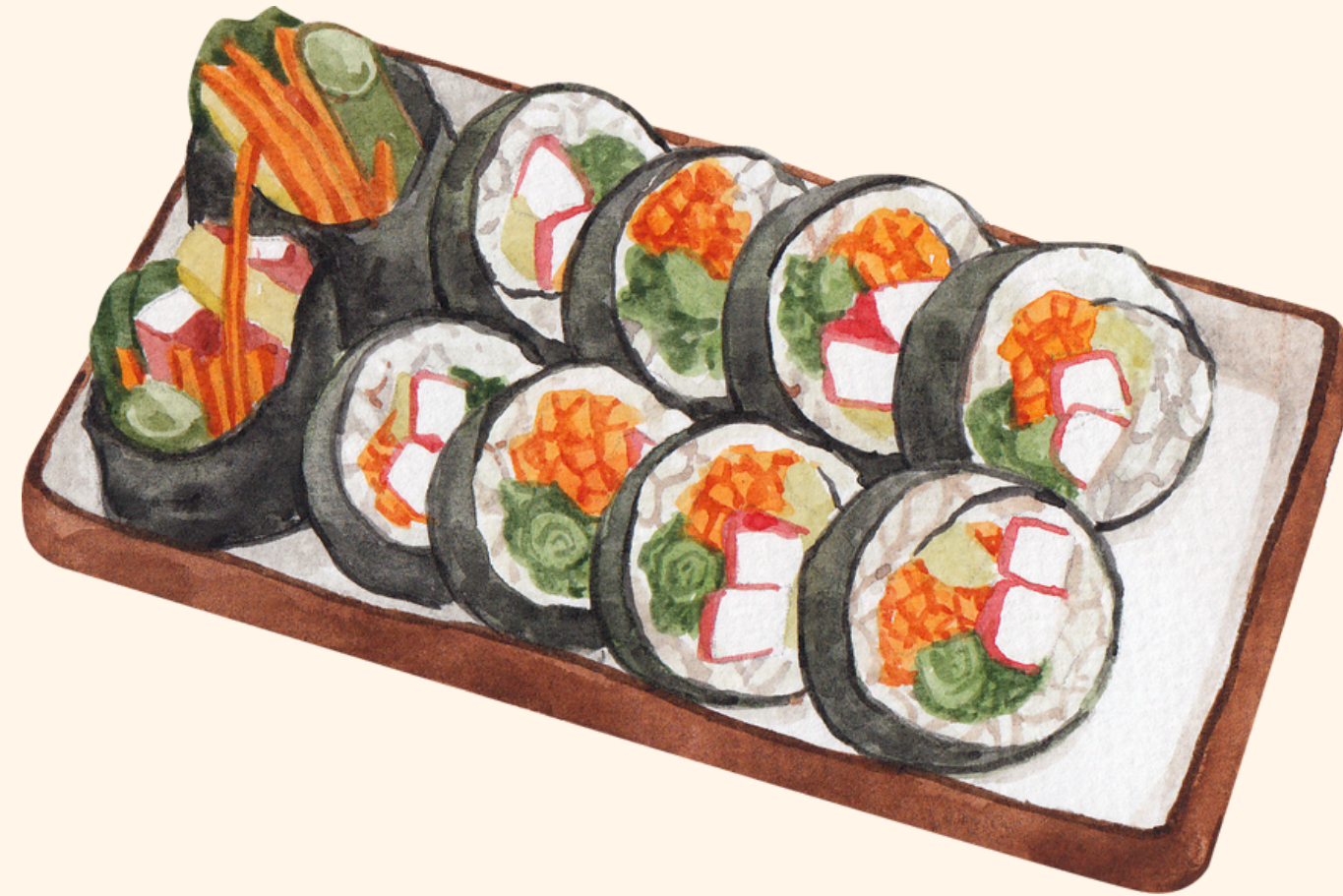
Identify professionals/skills needed to complete the project.

Hire workers for different roles (engineer, builders, project managers, marketing consultants

Meet with experts and community members to identify gaps or risks within plan

Ensure plan follows all building regulations/codes and test for safety

Roles Matter



How does the role of an advocate differ from other roles?

What's the role of an advocate?

Roles Matter

Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners

- Provide medical care and collect potential evidence.
- Provide survivors with the opportunity to have an advocate.
- Testify to what the survivor shares.

SAP Advocates

- Provide confidential support with/without reporting to systems*.
- Help survivors understand rights, explore options, resources, etc.
- Specialized ongoing support that is free from conflict.

Systems-Advocates

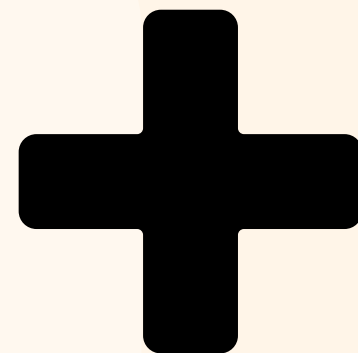
- Provide support within context of criminal justice process.
- Help survivors understand their rights, explore options, resources, etc.
- Specialized support related to systems.

What makes someone a sexual assault program advocate?



What makes someone a sexual assault advocate?

The individual has completed **a sexual assault training program (SATP)** certified by the attorney general



They are an employee or volunteer of a **sexual assault program**



Sexual Assault Training Program

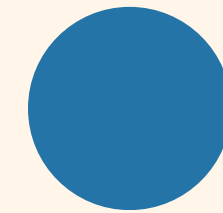
Requirements

Employees and volunteers must successfully complete:

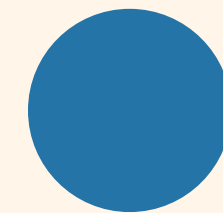
- 40-hour initial training that meets SATP Curriculum Requirements
 - Minimum 30 hours in classroom setting
 - Up to 10 hours can be “outside the traditional classroom” (including on-the-job training and other local program information specific to sexual violence services, policies, and practices)
- On-the-job training and supervision
- Overall training assessment that covers topics in the training
- 6 hours of continuing education each year following the initial training
- Only a Sexual Assault Program can have their training program certified

What is a Sexual Assault Program?

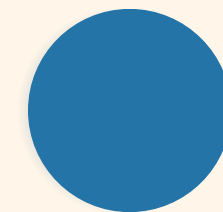
Texas Government Code Chapter 420.003 (7) defines a "Sexual assault program" as:



a local public or private nonprofit corporation, **independent of a law enforcement agency or prosecutor's office,**



that is operated **as an independent program** or as part of a municipal, county, or state agency and



that provides the **minimum services to adult survivors** of stranger and non-stranger sexual assault.

Building Bridges that last

24 hour
Hotline

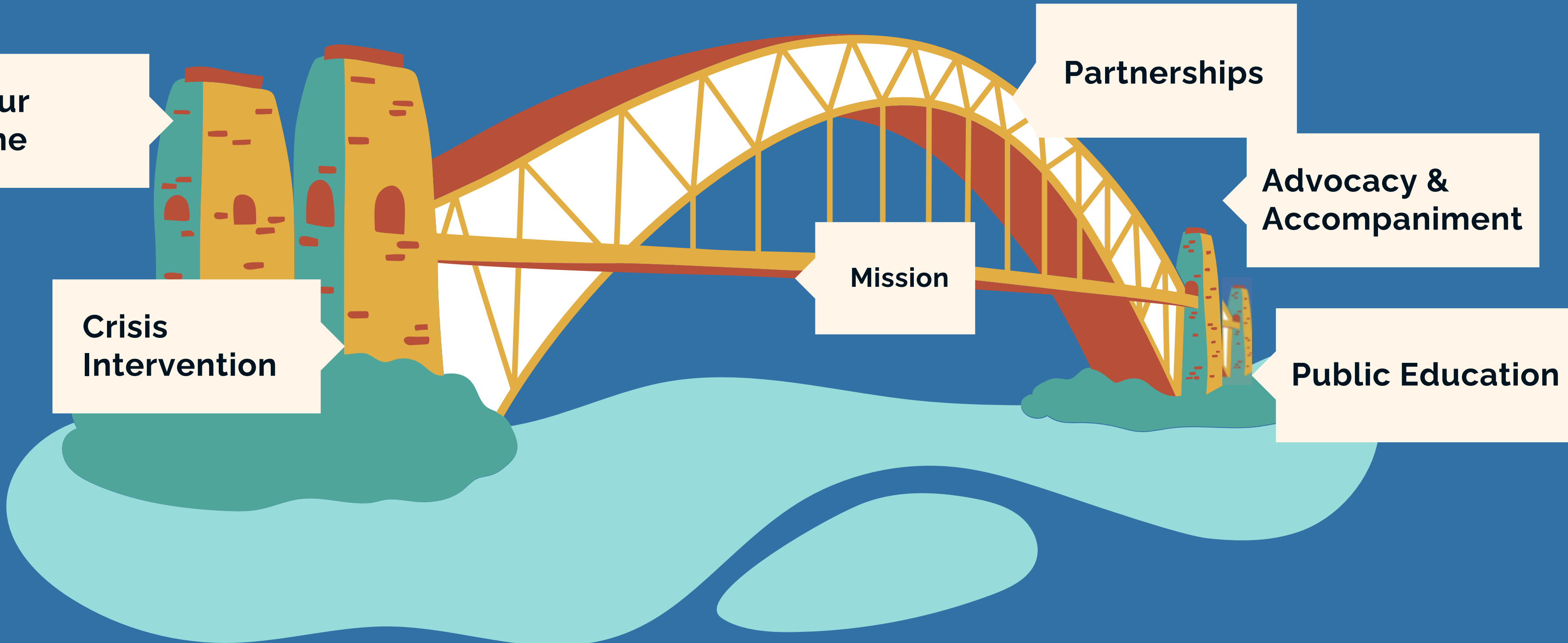
Crisis
Intervention

Mission

Partnerships

Advocacy &
Accompaniment

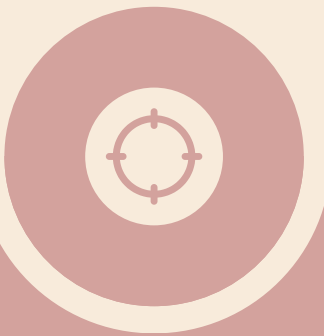
Public Education



Overview: Sexual Assault Minimum Service Standards

Each service must be:

- 1) provided by staff/volunteers who have completed all the OAG SATP training requirements
- 2) supervised by someone who has at least 1 year experience providing direct services to survivors of sexual violence, and
- 3) be evaluated regularly and adjusted as needed



24 HOUR CRISIS HOTLINE

- 24/7 Confidential Support
- Publicly available number
- Accommodate multiple calls
- Equipped for callers who are deaf or have LEP



CRISIS INTERVENTION

- Immediate support to reduce distress
- 24/7 through crisis line and accompaniment
- Walk-in during office hours
- Responsive referrals



ACCOMPAINMENT

- Confidential in-person support and assistance with different systems.
- Hospitals, law enforcement, Prosecutors' Offices, and Courts.
- Accommodate multiple calls



ADVOCACY

- Confidential support and navigating next steps.
- Advocate on behalf of survivor w/third parties (if needed).
- Advocate for rights
- SART participation



PUBLIC EDUCATION

- Increase knowledge
- Workshops and printed materials
- Crisis support for outcries
- Specific to SV
- Inclusive of underserved populations

Confidentiality & Privilege



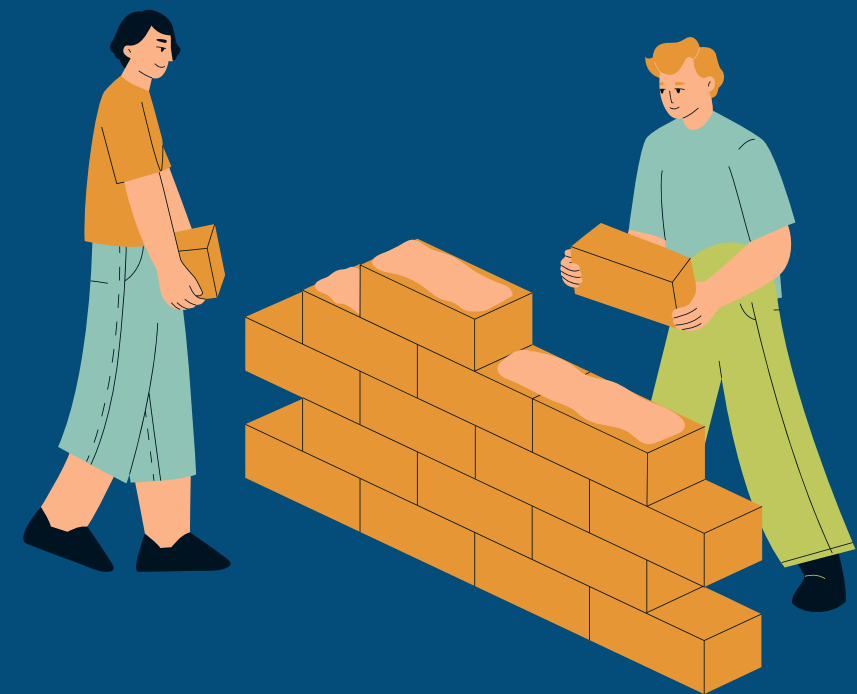
- Any communication between an advocate and a survivor that is made in the course of advising, counseling, or assisting the survivor is confidential.
- Communication or records that are confidential can only be disclosed in limited circumstances.
- Survivor has the privilege to refuse to disclose and to prevent the advocate/sexual assault program from disclosing communication or records that are considered confidential.



**THIS LEVEL OF PROTECTION ONLY APPLIES TO SEXUAL ASSAULT PROGRAM ADVOCATES.
IT DOES NOT APPLY TO ALL PROGRAMS AND ADVOCATES**

Breaking Points:

Common barriers that impact services
for survivors of sexual violence



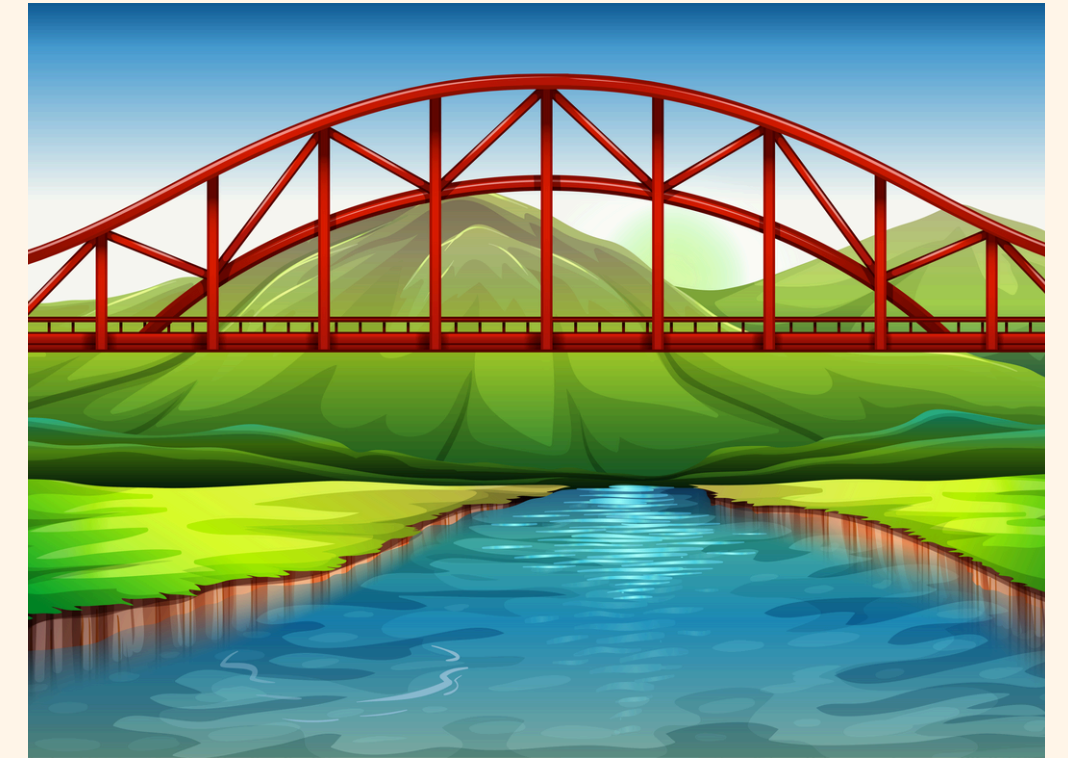
What Makes these Bridges Different?



Bridge 1

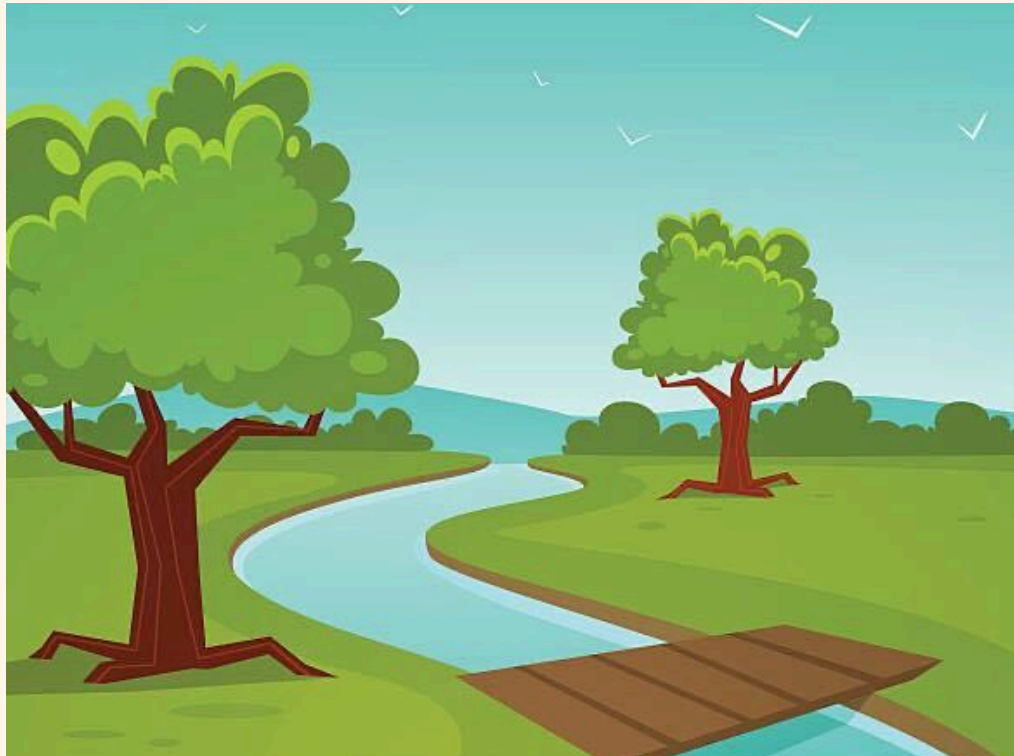


Bridge 2



Bridge 3

Building Stronger Bridges



This bridge works, but it can only hold so much weight before it breaks.



Trusses help spread out the weight that the bridge has to carry



Cables are anchored in multiple places. So when pressure is applied, the system is built to pull tightly together, allowing it withstand the weight placed at all points

What systems do you have in place to strengthen your foundation?

- **Training:** Continuing education, implementing changes after legislative sessions, etc.
- **Evaluation:** Minimum services and/or partnerships evaluated from the lens of sexual assault survivors, community partners, stakeholders etc.
- **Supervision:** Staff/volunteers receive regular supervision and support.

Considerations:

Small changes over time have a large impact.

“Goals are good for setting direction, but systems are best for making progress” -James Clear

- Who is at the table?
- How do your materials and services reflect sexual assault experiences (indecent assault, incest, adults w/ past assault, etc.)
- What languages are services offered in?
- How do you partner with other organizations?

How are you doing?

QUICK REFLECTION: SELF-ASSESSMENT

Take a moment to assess the current status of your services:

- What services are you providing consistently?
- How stable are your services?
- What partnerships do you have to support services?
- Where are your strengths?
- What are your opportunities?



Assess and Reassess

Strengthening Foundations

Define Problem:

- Ask questions to identify the root problem, rather than the symptom.
- Consider scaling



Identify the Current State

- Engage different perspectives to gain a clear picture of how the program is experienced.
- Map connections



Identify Connections

- How does this problem show up internally on individual levels?
- How does it show up organizationally?
- How does it show up in the community?



Design

- Collaborate at multiple levels develop plan that includes **policies, programming, and awareness**
- Challenge assumptions & assess risks/benefits
- Consider power dynamics, resources, and responsibilities



Implement

- Be flexible, expect growing pains
- Connect regularly to track implementation
- Provide space to share and document challenges and successes



Regularly Evaluate

- Did we address the problem
- Assess stability and success
- Ask for feedback from staff, survivors, and community members
- What did you learn?



Working Together

The survivor walks into the police department wanting to make a report



LE ADVOCATE

Advocate informs survivor of their right to receive an exam and helps transport the survivor to the hospital

SAP ADVOCATE

LE Advocate waits with the survivor and does a "soft hand-off" to the SAP Advocate



SAP ADVOCATE

Advocate provides support during the exam and provides information for follow-up services



SAP ADVOCATE

During follow-up survivor expresses needing support with accommodations on campus. The advocate helps connect the survivor to the university advocate



UNIVERSITY ADVOCATE

Advocate provides support in navigating accommodations and title IX





TAASA Support

Assessing Minimum Standards

Support with SATP Certification

Advocacy training and support

Developing systems

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We value your
feedback!

