



Women of Color Network (WOCN)

Key Findings of Survey & Listening Sessions with STOP Administrators

Data Collection

Building on a survey collection of 24 responses gathered by January 2012, in the summer of 2012, WOCN consultants proceeded to collect **individualized feedback** from 17 STOP Administrators from across the nation via **Listening Sessions**.

The purpose of the survey and listening sessions were to afford STOP Administrators the opportunity to elaborate on best practices & lessons learned, assess barriers, and take feasible steps to effectively include un-served, underserved and inadequately served populations in the STOP planning, funding, and implementation process. Specifically, we mined tips and practices for **building networks with community-based organizations, enhancing reach in underserved communities, and responding to the needs of emerging populations.**

We thank each of you who participated in these sessions. An overview of key findings related to challenges and promising practices from your expertise is offered below so that we can together embolden the whole field.

Key Findings

Challenges

- There is STOP Administrator **recognition of more need to involve underserved community members in planning**: Only **9% of survey respondents** reported **Excellent** in terms of having representatives of underserved populations on State planning teams while others reported **Good (37%)** or **Average (46%)** or **Poor (9%)**. In addition, a parallel **9% reported Excellent** in terms of input solicitation of underserved population members. Others reported **Good (46%)** or **Average (32%)** or **Poor (14%)**.

- There is a **mixed response in identifying new or emerging populations within a state**. While 50% said Yes, 5% said No, and 45% indicated I don't know.
- No one reported **providing TA to CBOs** in the grant application process as **Excellent**: the respondents reported **Good (55%) or Average (25%) or Poor (20%)**. There is also a gap between providing TA and achieving outcomes for strong proposals and funded work. **Key barriers are seen to be time, funding, strength of CBOs, and logistics for equal access across a state.**

Promising Practices

Successful STOP Administrator methods **for problem-solving and increasing proposals from community-based organizations serving underserved populations** included:

- inviting groups to the table with collaborative team members;
- placing priority on service, representation, and partnerships with underserved communities;
- providing proposal and grant-writing workshops;
- discussing grant opportunities and involvement in grant planning process;
- offering trainings on inclusion of sexual assault services;
- participation in DV/SA/Native Coalition meetings and task forces;
- wide and constant outreach and RFP dispersal including bidders' conferences; and,
- input from board members representing agencies who work closely with local organizations.

A focus on **long-range planning and relationship-building** as well as attention to **CBO development** is critical: *"These projects take time to build and time to be successful. Funding cycles have to allow for time and costs that build success."*

Successful methods for funding groups included:

- mandating that all grant applications need to identify underserved populations;
- including special initiatives or special projects to enable new funding options;
- having 1-year cycles for grants but allowing for extensions;
- having 2-year grant cycles to improve outcomes;
- having 3-year grant cycles where only new programs can apply in the 3rd year;
- re-allocating unspent funds in a grant period for underserved communities;
- combining grant funds as feasible from related government sources;
- enabling funds to support agency strength and infrastructure as feasible; and,
- conducting site visits every 3-6 years.

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