

# Improving Access to Direct Services for Survivors Who Are Men



# Presenters



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Why is it important to talk about survivors who are men?

Why did you come to a workshop about this?

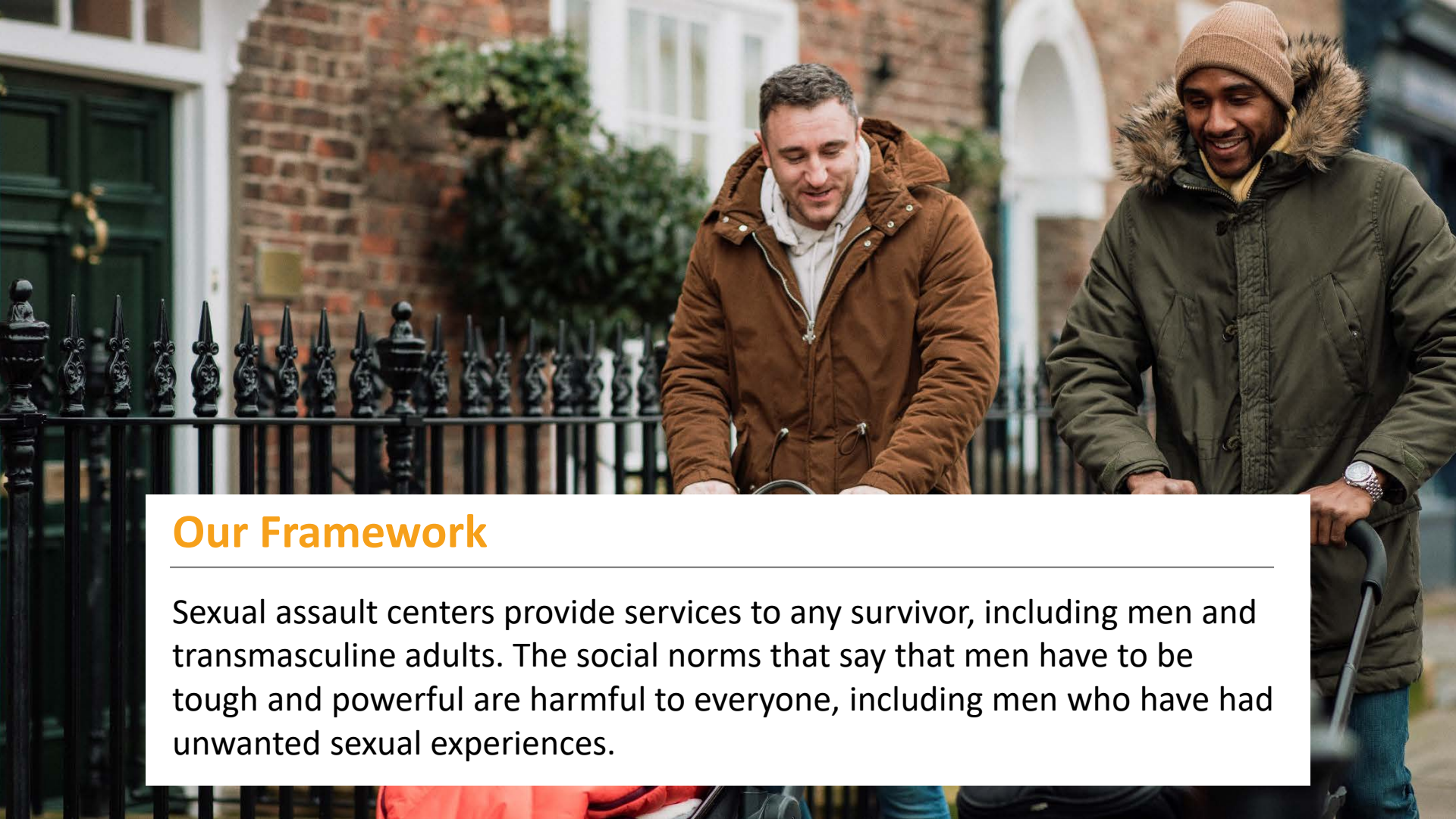


- 1 in 4 men experience contact sexual violence (Basile et al., 2022)
- 43% of men reported experiencing some form of sexual harassment and/or assault in their lifetime (Stop Street Harassment, 2018)
- About half of men who survived sexual assault reported experiencing their first victimization before age 18 (Smith et al., 2018)



- 1 in 10 formerly incarcerated adults reported being sexually abused while in a detention setting (Beck & Johnson, 2012)
- Just over half of transgender men have experienced sexual assault in their lifetime (James et al., 2016)
- Lifetime prevalence of sexual violence varies among racial/ethnic groups of men; multiracial men (31.6%) have the highest lifetime prevalence of sexual violence other than rape (Black et al., 2011)





## Our Framework

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Sexual assault centers provide services to any survivor, including men and transmasculine adults. The social norms that say that men have to be tough and powerful are harmful to everyone, including men who have had unwanted sexual experiences.

**Poll: How comfortable are  
you, personally, working  
with survivors who are men?**




- A – Very comfortable
- B – Comfortable
- C – Neutral
- D – Uncomfortable
- E – Very uncomfortable

**Poll: How comfortable do you believe your agency is with working with survivors who are men?**



- A – Very comfortable
- B – Comfortable
- C – Neutral
- D – Uncomfortable
- E – Very uncomfortable





# Assessing Our Capacity for Serving Male Survivors of Sexual Violence

What barriers to accessing rape crisis services do you see in your local community for men who are survivors of sexual violence?





# Barriers to service for men

## Socialization and stigma

Men are socialized to suppress emotions, and to see victimhood as feminine.

## Perception of sexual assault centers

Men perceive that services are for women, and outreach language from centers may not reflect men's experiences.

## Staff readiness to work with men

Advocates may view serving men as "extra" or as a "distraction" from the mission.

## Access needs for survivors who are the most marginalized men

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Presenters will reflect on a series of questions, emphasizing men of color, incarcerated and formerly incarcerated men, and transgender men. We hope this will be a discussion, so please add your ideas and questions in the chat!



What can sexual assault centers do to decrease some of the barriers discussed at the beginning of this session?



# Decreasing barriers to service for survivors who are men:

- Use materials and language that reflects that people of all genders, including men, can get services at your center.
- Conduct active outreach in spaces where men are.
- Hire a diverse range of staff.

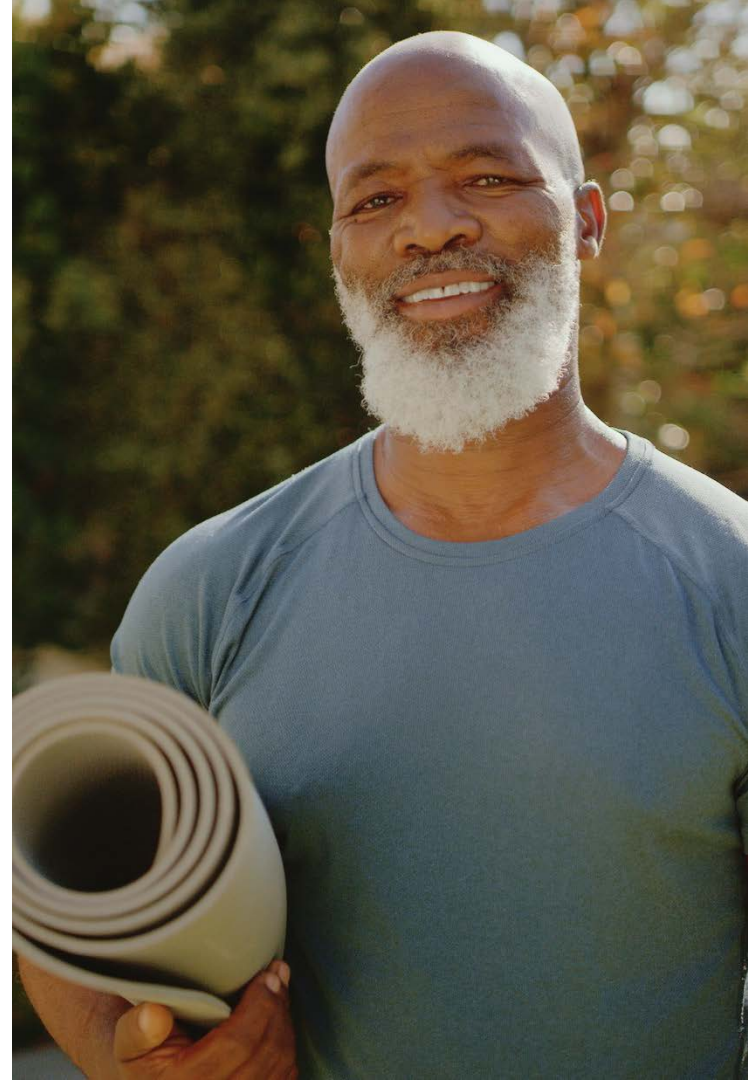


What do trauma-informed services look like for survivors who are men?



# Trauma-informed services for survivors who are men

- Develop comfort discussing ranges of reactions to sexual assault.
- Allow additional time for building rapport.
- Facilitate gender-inclusive support groups.





What are some  
other tips for  
reaching and  
serving survivors  
who are men?



# Additional Tips

- Allow for celebration of identity.
- Invite feedback from men seeking services about your public image, facility, services, etc.
- Form partnerships with groups that work with men.



# Working with Male Survivors of Sexual Violence



## Training

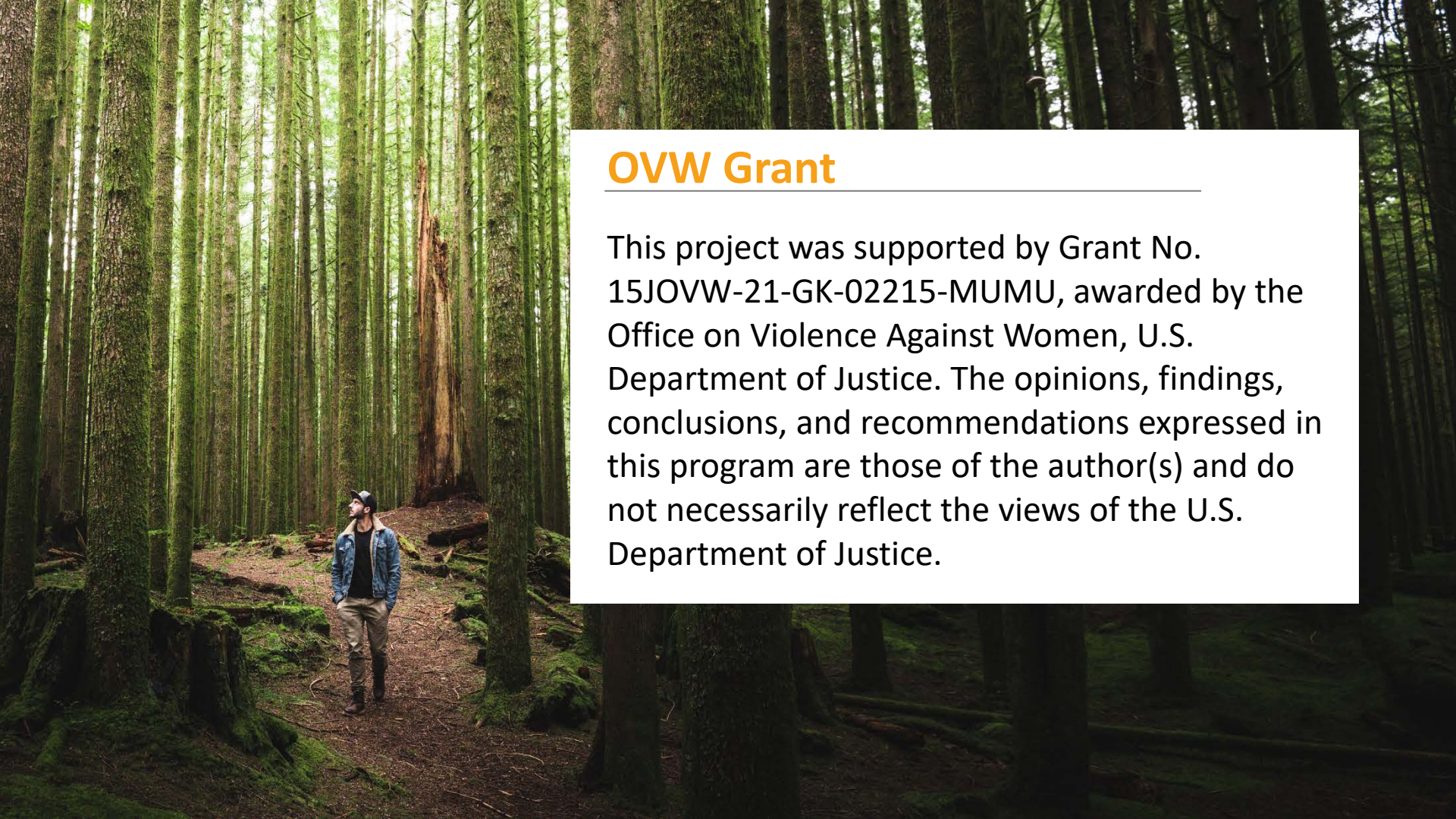
Training at your sexual assault program related to reaching and serving survivors who are men.

## Support

Support in strategizing how to better reach and serve survivors who are men, including joining our online community of advocates supporting each other in this work.

## Resources

Resources like podcasts, sample curriculum for your staff, organization assessment tool, infographics, and more in our online toolkit.



## OVW Grant

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Thank you!

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