

# Survivor-Informed Services: Frameworks, Principles, and Practical Guides

## A Few Objectives

1. Understand the framework for survivor-informed services
2. Discuss three principles of survivor engagement
3. Strategize on practical ways your organization can move forward on a survivor-informed project

## Pilot Project: Modeling Survivor-Informed Services

### Defining Survivor-Informed Services<sup>1</sup>:

A program, policy, intervention, or product that is designed, implemented, or evaluated with intentional partnership, collaboration, and input from survivors to ensure that the program or product accurately represents the needs, interests, and perceptions of the target victim population.

### The pilot project:

Work closely with OVC Fellow to enhance services through assessing how service delivery and programming can be more survivor-informed. Practical tools and hands-on, strategic coaching will be used to help guide this process.

Pilot grantees will think critically about survivor-informed services and obtain tangible strategies, programs, policies or interventions that fit their unique mission, vision and values. Examples of survivor-informed services include robust practices for hiring survivors as staff, a plan for creating a survivor advisory board, or enhanced programming around survivor leadership.

## Takeaways

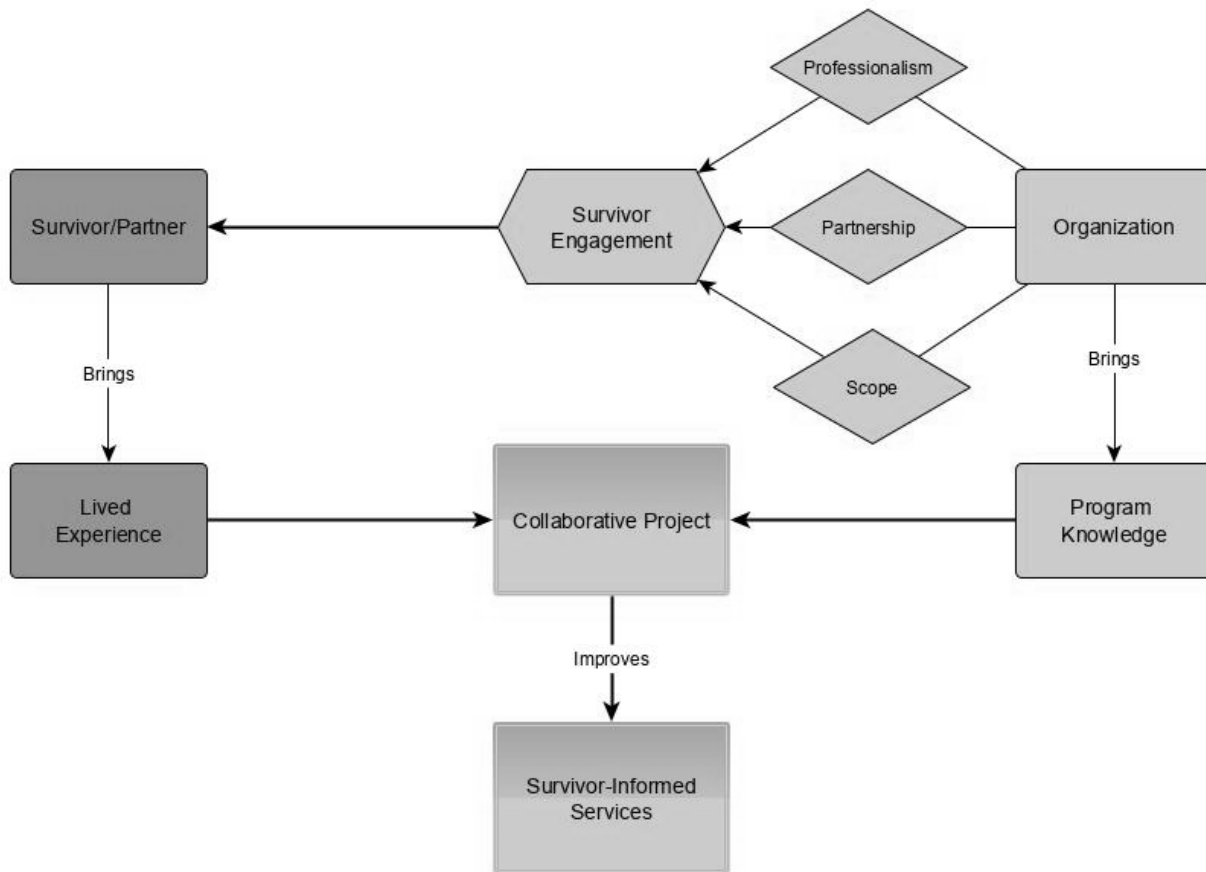
### Hands-on Coaching:

1. Time/space
  - a. Take both to step away from M-F 9-to-5 work duties.
  - b. Deconstruct every aspect of the survivor-informed project/idea.
2. “Head space”
  - a. Getting the grantee to the point where both of you are in the same head space - that’s when the best and most natural ideas flowed.
  - b. Outcome orientation vs. recruiting survivors
3. Collective knowledge
  - a. “Is anyone else doing/struggling with this?”
  - b. Highlighting what’s unique about your organization

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<sup>1</sup> Adapted from OVC Model Standards

## Framework: Survivor-Informed Services



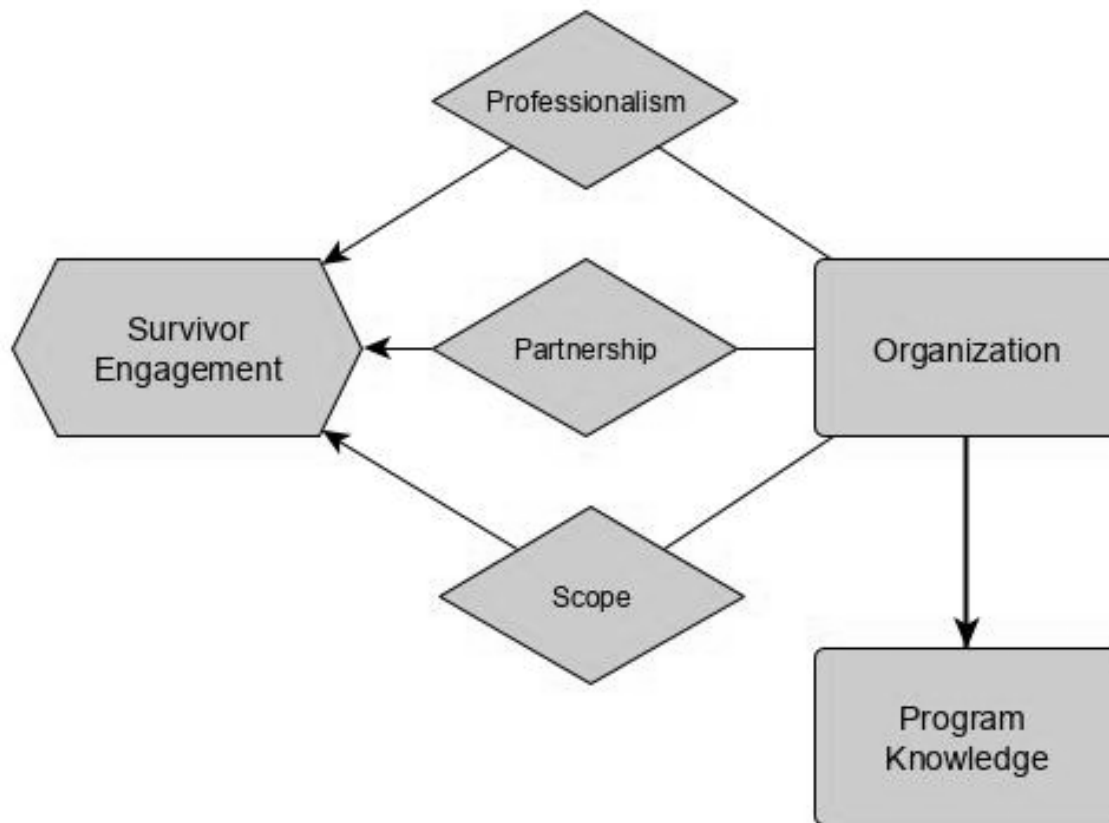
### Lived Experience

- A series of experiences stemming from, or related to, being trafficking for labor and/or sex.
- It encompasses precursors leading to and the subsequent journey of recovery from trafficking.
- This includes any and all experiences with the crime victim services field.

### Program Knowledge

- Highly specific and contextual information about how a program operates and why specific models, theories and approaches are used
- Includes mission statements, core values and programmatic strategy

## Organizational perspective: What do I control?



## Principles of Survivor Engagement

“As service providers, we believe that survivors are individuals with lived experience who bring valuable perspectives to the anti-trafficking field. As such, we encourage the field to engage survivors within service provision, considering every aspect of provision, from program design, implementation and evaluation.”

### Principles of Survivor Engagement

1. Survivors are more than their lived experience.
2. Engaging survivors as partners requires intentionality
3. Supporting partnerships with survivors requires commitment and investment of resources
4. Survivors are more than their lived experience.
  - a. Recognize the capacity of survivors to be engaged in a multitude of roles
  - b. Be strategic in engaging survivors – know what qualifications would best suit the roles needed.
5. Engaging survivors as partners requires intentionality
6. Supporting partnerships with survivors requires commitment and investment of resources
7. Survivors are more than their lived experience.

8. Engaging survivors as partners requires intentionality.
  - a. Engage survivors beyond stories of trauma and recovery.
  - b. Additionally, respect survivors' lived experience and approach partnerships with survivors with authenticity - take the time to learn about what your partners bring to the table and be prepared to do the same.
9. Supporting partnerships with survivors requires commitment and investment of resources
10. Survivors are more than their lived experience.
11. Engaging survivors as partners requires intentionality
12. Supporting partnerships with survivors requires commitment and investment of resources
  - a. If there are gaps within the collective skills, knowledge and abilities of the partnership, be willing to explore community-based resources.
  - b. Consider expanding current in-house resources to acknowledge the inevitability of having staff with trauma in their background.

## A Practical Guide: Survivor-Informed Services

### Remember these takeaways?

#### Hands-on Coaching:

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#### Practical Guide

1. Why is it important to be survivor-informed?
2. What are your desired outcomes?
3. What are the key components you need?
4. What are the roles?

#### Appendix: Resources for your organization

### Questions?

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