



**Bridging the Gap: Creating a
Community of Support for Deaf
Survivors**

**2013 National Conference on Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence
Against Deaf Individuals**

**November 5 - 6, 2013 • Vancouver, WA
Hilton Vancouver Washington**

CALL FOR WORKSHOP PROPOSALS

Proposals Due by May 24, 2013 at 5:00 pm EDT

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Acknowledgments

Sponsors and Planning Committee

The conference is sponsored by the Vera Institute of Justice's Center on Victimization and Safety, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women. Planning committee members include representatives from Advocacy Services for the Deaf (ASADV), Communication Service for the Deaf (CSD), Disability Rights Wisconsin, Deaf Abused Women's Network (DAWN), ARISE, SafePlace, as well as other Deaf advocates, and representatives from the interpreting community.

About Vera's Center on Victimization and Safety

The Center on Victimization and Safety (CVS) at the Vera Institute of Justice works to ensure that traditionally underserved victims of crime have equal access to victim services and supports, as well as criminal justice interventions. It does this by fostering collaboration and building organizational capacity among victim service organizations, population and/or culturally specific service providers, and the criminal justice system. CVS combines research, technical assistance, and training to assist policymakers and practitioners to close gaps in systems and ensure all survivors have access to services and supports. Since 2005, CVS has served as an ally to the Deaf community and has been working with organizations and communities around the country to improve responses to domestic and sexual violence against Deaf individuals. CVS provides training and technical assistance on creating safe, accessible and culturally and linguistically-specific services for Deaf survivors to victim service and Deaf organizations, criminal justice personnel, American Sign Language interpreters, and other allied professionals.



Call for Workshop Proposals

Proposals Due by May 24, 2013 at 5:00 pm EDT

Overview

The Vera Institute of Justice is excited to announce the 2013 national conference, ***Bridging the Gap: Creating a Community of Support for Deaf Survivors***. The conference will be held on November 5 and 6, at the Hilton Vancouver Washington, situated just minutes away from Portland Oregon in the beautiful Pacific Northwest.

Limited research suggests that Deaf women experience domestic violence and sexual assault at rates equal to or higher than hearing women. However, they are much less likely to receive services and supports from mainstream hearing victim services. Lack of outreach, communication barriers, including lack of TTYs and access to American Sign Language interpreters, and the lack of Deaf cultural competency, are all barriers that contribute to Deaf survivors not receiving the services and support they need. When a Deaf survivor does get connected to an agency, oftentimes communication barriers prevent them from being able to fully participate in the services and supports offered. Due to this, Deaf survivors and advocates report high levels of isolation among Deaf survivors. This isolation can keep Deaf survivors in dangerous situations with no perceived way out, or leave them without critical health support after an assault. *The purpose of this conference is to provide mainstream hearing victim service providers an opportunity to learn more about how to best meet the needs of Deaf survivors.*

To that end, the Center on Victimization and Safety at the Vera Institute of Justice seeks workshop proposals for the 2013 national conference on sexual assault and domestic violence against Deaf individuals.

2013 Important Dates

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| • Proposals Due | May 24 |
| • Notification of Selection | June 28 |
| • Contracting with Trainers and Exhibitors | July 12 |
| • Preliminary Presentation and Materials Submission | July 31 |
| • Presentation and Materials Feedback | August 15 |

2013 Important Dates

- Final Presentation and Materials Submission August 31

About the Conference

The *Bridging the Gap* conference will bring together approximately 200 professionals from a variety of fields including representatives from anti-domestic and sexual violence service providers, Deaf service providers, criminal justice professionals, and other allied professions. The conference will include 4 keynote sessions and over 15 workshops on topics related to meeting the needs of Deaf survivors of domestic and sexual violence. The conference will convene from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm over the course of 2 days.

Conference Theme

Bridging the Gap: Creating a Community of Support for Deaf Survivors

Over the course of the last two decades, advocates in the Deaf community have worked hard to create Deaf specific domestic violence and sexual assault services. While Deaf specific programs have been created in several communities across the country, mainstream hearing victim service providers and criminal justice personnel are also integral to ensuring safety, healing and justice for Deaf survivors. Moreover, most communities in the country do not have the benefit of having Deaf specific domestic and sexual assault services. Deaf survivors in these communities rely solely on mainstream hearing victim service providers. Significant barriers exist for many Deaf survivors leaving them without the services and support they need. The theme and title of this conference recognizes that mainstream hearing service providers must partner and build their capacity to serve Deaf survivors, Bridge the Gap, and create a full range of support for Deaf survivors.

Conference Goals

The *Bridging the Gap* conference has three primary goals:

1. To increase knowledge of Deaf culture, and sexual and domestic violence within the Deaf community;
2. To share best practices for meeting the needs of Deaf survivors;
3. To provide the tools necessary to collaborate with Deaf organizations and advocate on behalf of Deaf survivors.

Considerations and Guidelines

Sessions at the *Bridging the Gap* conference will include keynote and workshop sessions. **Keynotes will be by invitation only.** This Call for Proposals is for workshop sessions only.

General Considerations

Trainers should:

- a. Have an understanding of the Deaf community and Deaf culture.
- b. Have an understanding of the dynamics of domestic violence, sexual violence, or stalking in the lives of Deaf individuals.
- c. Have experience working on issues related to domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and/or trauma in the Deaf community.
- d. Have experience creating effective presentations, and presenting in front of an audience.
- e. Use a Deaf-friendly, accessible and survivor-centered approach to all sessions and materials.

Workshop Guidelines

Workshops may be panel, lecture, interactive, and/or discussion format. Most workshops will be 90 minutes (1.5 hours) in length; however, proposals will be accepted for multi-part sessions for up to 3 hours in length. Accepted workshop proposals will be assigned a day and presentation time. Additionally, some sessions may be repeated, at the discretion of the conference organizers.

The conference will feature keynote/plenary sessions that all participants attend on the following core topics: audism and oppression of Deaf people in the United States, Deaf culture, and what it means to be a hearing ally.

Therefore, we are not accepting workshop proposals on these topics.

Instead, we are seeking proposals on the following topics:

- Accessibility for Deaf survivors
- Assistive technology for Deaf survivors
- Co-advocacy between Deaf and hearing advocates
- Collaboration between hearing and Deaf organizations
- Creating Deaf friendly environments
- Crisis intervention for Deaf survivors
- Diversity within the Deaf community
- Domestic violence in the Deaf community
- Effective communication strategies for Deaf survivors from crisis to healing

- Hospital accompaniment for Deaf survivors of sexual assault
- Mental health and/or substance use in the Deaf community
- Outreach to the Deaf community
- Policies, procedures, and strategies to support the inclusion of Deaf survivors in outreach, education, services, and supports offered by victim services.
- Research on violence and the Deaf community
- Safety planning for Deaf survivors
- Securing and working with American Sign Language and Certified Deaf interpreters
- Sexual assault in the Deaf community
- Stalking in the Deaf community
- Strategies to maintain confidentiality in small communities
- Supporting Deaf children in programs that address domestic and sexual violence
- Trauma-informed services for Deaf survivors
- Understanding the Deaf way of life and experience
- Victim rights for Deaf survivors
- Violence prevention in the Deaf community

Other relevant workshop proposals are also welcome.

Workshops should:

- a. Have a clear and relevant workshop title and description;
- b. Provide relevant, and practical information for mainstream hearing victim service providers, criminal justice personnel, or other allied professions;
- c. Provide participants with tools or strategies that they can implement in their own work and organizations;
- d. Demonstrate evidence of knowledge and skill in the subject area;
- e. Support a professional and high caliber conference;
- f. Help attract conference attendance and participation;
- g. Be accessible to the widest variety of participants and support a survivor-centered approach.
- h. Incorporate adult learning principles. *(See attached access guidelines and learning considerations.)*

Members of the Deaf community and survivors are encouraged to submit proposals. Preference will be given to interactive formats. Presentations should NOT promote services or products for purchase.

Compensation and Responsibilities

Compensation for Selected Trainers

- 100% of the conference registration fee will be waived for the primary trainer.
- Airfare and up to 2 nights of hotel accommodations. No other compensation will be provided.
- No airfare or hotel accommodations will be paid for any other co-trainers, please plan accordingly.
- Honorariums will not be provided.

Trainer Responsibilities

- Support the goals of the conference.
- Provide high quality, accessible materials.
- Provide all materials, including any video clips, which must be captioned, exercises, etc., for review.
- Meet all due dates for workshop materials and making logistical arrangements.
- Create a safe and accessible learning environment (*See attached access guidelines and learning considerations*).
- Help promote the conference.
- Bring a laptop computer for use during their session. Laptops will not be provided.
- Communicate and coordinate with any co-presenters about conference logistics.
- Attend a pre-conference orientation session.

Vera Responsibilities

- Vera will provide American Sign Language (ASL) Interpreters and captioning services, as requested.
- Vera will ensure that each workshop room is equipped with an LCD projector for PowerPoint presentations, a microphone, an audio jack for videos, and signage.
- Vera will work with trainers and exhibitors to ensure access of all materials.

- Vera will provide all presentations and handouts to participants on a USB flash drive. *Please note: hard copies of handouts will NOT be provided.*
- Upon request of conference participants, Vera will convert and provide materials in Braille, large print, and plain text.
- Vera will collect, analyze, and distribute evaluation information to all trainers within 90 days after the conference.

Due to conference cost restrictions, hard copies of handouts, easels, televisions, VCRs, DVD players, etc., cannot be provided.

Proposal Submission Process

We invite you to submit an online proposal for the *Bridging the Gap* national conference. We recommend you first read through the proposal information to find out what type of information you will need to provide for your online submission. *See attached Proposal Information.* When you are ready to submit your proposal, please select the following link:

[Survey Monkey \(www.surveymonkey.com/s/BTG2013CFP\)](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BTG2013CFP)

More than one proposal may be submitted per person; however, a separate proposal is required for each workshop session.

Proposals are due by May 24, 2013 at 5:00 pm EDT.

Proposals will be selected based on meeting the guidelines detailed in the previous sections, and based on how well the proposal supports the conference theme and focus.

Notification Process

Notifications regarding selection of workshop proposals will be emailed no later than June 28, 2013. Contracts will be completed by no later than July 12, 2013.

Presentation and Materials Review

Vera staff will work with you to develop drafts of presentations, handouts, and other materials, which are due by July 31, 2013. All materials will be reviewed for educational content, suitability for the audience, and for

accessibility. Feedback will be provided by August 15, 2013. Final presentation and material submission is due by August 31, 2013. Materials submitted after this due date will not be included in the conference. *All materials must be reviewed and approved prior to the conference.*

2013 Important Dates

- **Proposals Due** **May 24**
- **Notification of Selection** **June 28**
- **Contracting with Trainers and Exhibitors** **July 12**
- **Preliminary Presentation and Materials Submission** **July 31**
- **Presentation and Materials Feedback** **August 15**
- **Final Presentation and Materials Submission** **August 31**

Questions about Proposals

If you have questions about submission of proposals, please contact the Center on Victimization and Safety at cvs@vera.org or at 212-376-3096.

Attachment A: Accessibility Guidelines and Learning Considerations

All presentations and materials must be accessible to all participants. Vera will work with trainers to ensure accessibility of all materials. In order to ensure that all presentations and materials are accessible, please keep in mind the following guidelines and learning considerations.

Deaf Culture

While not everyone who is deaf or hard of hearing identifies with Deaf culture, many members of the Deaf community do. The term Deaf, with a capital D, is used to reflect their cultural identification. Their culture, known as Deaf culture, was developed based in part on a shared language, which in the United States is American Sign Language (ASL). Like any other culture, Deaf culture has its own values, norms, community institutions, and history that are important to understand and incorporate when serving Deaf survivors. Please use Deaf with a capital D to refer to Deaf survivors, and people who are hard of hearing, do not use the terms hearing impaired, deaf-mute, or deaf and dumb.

People First Language

All presentation and materials must use people first language. Put the person before the disability; use person with a disability or who has a disability or people with disabilities or who have disabilities. Avoid using language such as disabled, handicapped, patients, or crippled. Other examples include:

- Use wheelchair user or uses wheelchair, do not use the terms wheelchair bound/confined to a wheelchair.
- Use people who have a development disability or people with developmental disabilities do not use the terms mentally retarded or retarded.

Power Point Presentations

All PowerPoint presentations must be provided in an accessible format.

Vera will provide a PowerPoint template that will address basic accessibility considerations. In addition, please keep in mind the following considerations:

- Use simple slide backgrounds, for example, avoid backgrounds with images. Chose backgrounds that are in sharp contrast to your font color.

- Use at least 18-point font. For body text, use a sans serif font, for example, Arial or Tahoma. Use font colors that contrast sharply with your background.
- Be clear about the goals of your presentation.
- As much as possible, use common 1-2 syllable words. Define unfamiliar, but necessary, words and terms.
- Be consistent with words and terms used, use the exact same wording each time.
- If possible, convey complicated concepts using pictures and stories.
- As much as possible, present information in bullet points with a maximum of 4-5 points per slide. Try to avoid slides heavy in text.
- Use headers to identify new sections and topics.
- Line-up or justify the left margin, but do not justify to the right or center.
- Any video or audio elements must be closed or open captioned.
- Pace your presentation, as a general rule, use 1-2 slides per minute of your presentation.
- Be prepared to fully describe any graphics or pictures used in your presentation.

Handouts

All handouts and materials must be provided in an accessible format.

- Use at least a 14-point font. For body text, use a sans serif font, for example, Arial or Tahoma.
- Use headers to identify new sections and topics.
- Line-up or justify the left margin, but do not justify to the right or center.
- Handouts should be provided in a format that can easily be converted to a larger font size.
- Hard copies of handouts will not be provided, however, handouts will be included on a USB flash drive for all participants.

During the Presentation

- Speak clearly at a nice, easy pace; this allows for optimal translation via the interpreter.
- Be mindful of your position in the room; keep the line of sight to your presentation and to the interpreters clear. Do not walk, or stand, in front of interpreters.
- Be mindful about the type of directions that you give the audience; for example, not asking the audience to refer to a handout and continuing to speak at the same time. Give the audience time for review.

- Be sure to always use the microphone (or to have your interpreter use the microphone) and remind audience members to use the microphone also.
- Ensure that interpreters can be seen if the lights are dimmed.
- Be mindful to face the audience as interpreters and participants using other accommodations may rely on your facial impressions.
- Avoid jargon and acronyms. If you use an acronym, or terms specific to your field of work, be sure to explain them.
- Be sure to slow your speaking rate if you are a rapid speaker.
- Be sure the audience is clear about any questions or comments. Repeat or paraphrase all questions and comments from the audience.
- Be mindful of varying abilities when asking for audience participation. For example, some people may not be able to raise their hands to participate in question and answer periods.
- If you are planning to read something aloud (a quote, a bio, a paragraph) during your presentation, please read slowly.
- When conversing with a Deaf participant via an interpreter, look at the participant and address her directly.

Learning Considerations

Create a Supportive Environment

- Convey respect for individuals and the learning process.
- Draw on previous experiences of participants.
- Listen to each person's questions and viewpoints.

Emphasize Personal Benefits of Training

- Express how the course relates to participant's work.
- Encourage participants to think about or write down specific actions they will take in response to the training.

Use Training Methods that Require Active Participation

- Encourage participation and sharing of experiences.
- Weave discussion sections with exercises that require trainees to practice a skill or apply knowledge.

Use a Variety of Teaching Methods

- To engage all learners and learning styles, it is best to vary the methods in which information is communicated.

- Training methods can include group discussion (small and large), skill practice (role-play), lecture, case study, panel, question and answer, and demonstration (media, video, computer, interactive).

Provide Structured Learning Opportunities

- Include learning tools such as structured note-taking, problem-solving exercises, idea generation, and evaluating own work and the work of others

Provide Immediate Feedback on Practice

- Provide gentle, constructive, timely criticism.
- Provide opportunities for self-feedback, peer feedback, and trainer feedback.

Meet Trainee's Individual Learning Needs

- Effective trainers never forget they have a group of individual learners with varying abilities, experiences, and motivation.
- Encourage individual creativity and initiative.
- Acknowledge cultural differences.

Make Course Content Relevant and Coherent

- Begin with the basic and build on each part in sequential order when presenting course content.
- Be sure that exercises and content can be applied to real-life situations of the trainee.
- Provide overview of course with objectives; relate each new component to previous component.
- Provide examples of concept that are relevant to trainees' work.

Attachment B: Proposal Information

We invite you to submit a proposal for the Bridging the Gap national conference. We recommend you first read through the information below to find out what type of information you will need to provide for your online submission. When you are ready to submit your proposal, please go to: [Survey Monkey \(www.surveymonkey.com/s/BTG2013CFP\)](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BTG2013CFP).

You will need to complete a separate proposal for each workshop session. *As a reminder, for selected workshops, 100% of the conference registration fee will be waived for the primary trainer, and airfare and up to 2 nights of hotel accommodations, will be provided for the primary trainer only. No other compensation will be provided. No airfare or hotel accommodations will be paid for any other co-trainers, so please plan accordingly.*

If you have any questions about the proposal process, please contact the Center on Victimization and Safety at cvs@vera.org or at 212-376-3096.

- 1. Contact information**—contact information for all trainers and co-trainers (name, agency, address, email, phone, or video phone, TTY, or text.) *You can enter up to 4 trainers and their contact information. After you enter the primary trainers information, you will be asked if there are additional trainers on the proposal, and prompted to enter their contact information.*
- 2. Brief summary of the qualifications and experiences of each trainer as they relate to this proposal.** *You can enter information for up to 4 trainers. After you enter the primary trainer's information, you will be asked if there are additional trainers on the proposal, and prompted to enter their information.*
- 3. Bio for each trainer**—bios should be no more than 250 words and should be written in the third person. Please indicate your relevant education and work experience, as well as your expertise as it relates to the subject of which you are presenting. Vera may edit bios for consistency. Bios will be included in the conference program. Bios should be provided for each trainer and/or exhibitor. *You can enter*

information for up to 4 trainers. After you enter the primary trainer's information, you will be asked if there are additional trainers on the proposal, and prompted to enter their information.

- 4. Title of the workshop session.**
- 5. Brief workshop description**—workshop descriptions should be no more than 250 words and should clearly describe the content and format of the session. Workshop descriptions will be included in the conference program. Vera may edit descriptions for consistency.
- 6. Learning objectives**—please provide 3 learning objectives for your workshop. Learning objectives should be stated as goals/outcomes for participants.
- 7. Audience**—please indicate the audience for your workshop. Check all that apply (court personnel; Deaf specific domestic and sexual violence advocates; law enforcement officers; policy makers; prosecutors; sexual assault forensic examiner or sexual assault nurse examiner, or other medical personnel; staff from Deaf organizations; staff from domestic violence programs; staff from domestic and sexual violence coalitions; staff from dual domestic and sexual violence programs; staff from sexual assault programs; other)
- 8. Indicate the training level.**
 - ✓ Beginning: content is designed for those new to addressing violence against people with disabilities.
 - ✓ Intermediate: content is designed for those who have been working to address violence against people with disabilities for up to three years.
 - ✓ Advanced: content is designed for those who have been working to address violence against people with disabilities for more than three years.
 - ✓ Appropriate for all levels.
- 9. Session format.**
 - ✓ Lecture
 - ✓ Panel discussion

- ✓ Experiential learning (learning by doing, using case studies, exercises, etc.)
 - ✓
10. **Describe any interactive elements of your workshop.**
 11. **Please tell us what sets you and your workshop apart from other similar workshops.**
 12. **Have you given this workshop in the past?**
 13. **Are you open to receiving feedback on the content and accessibility of your workshop?**
 14. **Please let us know what materials you plan to use during your workshop session. Please select all that apply.**
 - ✓ PowerPoint Presentation
 - ✓ Handouts (provided via USB to participants)
 - ✓ Video Clips (with captions)
 - ✓ Audio Clips (with captions or transcript)
 - ✓ Other
 15. **If your proposal is accepted, do you agree to allow the Vera Institute of Justice to include your workshop materials (i.e., your presentation slides, handouts, and any other materials that you distribute) on a USB flash drive that will be disseminated to participants?**
 16. **Trainers are required to provide their own laptops, if they have one available. Will you be able to bring a laptop for use during your workshop?**
 17. **What kind of laptop do you have (PC or Mac/Apple)?**
 18. **Vera will provide each workshop session with a LCD projector, a screen, an audio jack for presentations, and a microphone. Due to conference budget restrictions, hard copies of handouts, easel pads, VCRs, and DVD players, etc. cannot be provided. If your proposal is selected, we will collect more specific accommodation information.**

Are you ready to submit your proposal?

When you are ready to submit your proposal, please go to:
[Survey Monkey \(www.surveymonkey.com/s/BTG2013CFP\)](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BTG2013CFP).

You will need to complete a separate proposal for each workshop session.