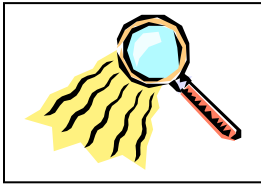


WORKING WITH CLIENTS INVOLVED IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

This module is designed to heighten the awareness of providers about women who may be involved in domestic violence to assist them to take measures for personal safety.



Evaluate

National statistics indicate that 95% of adult spouse abuse victims are women. Many of these women conceal their involvement in domestic violence. A first step in working with women is to evaluate whether they are being battered. Evaluation involves asking questions and looking for signs of domestic violence.

The first section of this module, **Looking for Cues of Domestic Violence**, lists a variety of ways to determine a woman's involvement in domestic violence. **Framing questions** and **Direct Verbal Questions** give examples for providers to ask every woman about domestic violence. **Potent Signs, Revealing Words by Clients** and **Hardening Evidence** give lists of signs that indicate domestic violence involvement.



Inform

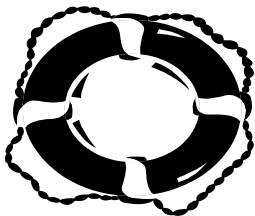
This section is divided into several parts to assist providers to help women to recognize that they are being abused, and come to terms with their situation. This section of the module gives, **Questions to Ask**, and **lists the Reasons for Staying and Barriers to Leaving**, that women may give. Asking questions and listening carefully can help inform women about their situation.



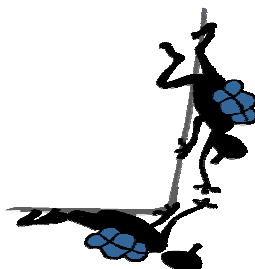
Act

Realizing that one is being abused is the first step. Thinking about what to do takes time and help to identify a plan for one's life. The provider can use the **Benefits and Cost Work Sheet** to help a woman determine what her next step will be. In addition, the **Steps to Change** may help her to identify a goal and the steps to get there. **The Equality and the Nonviolence Wheel**, and the **Power and Control Wheel** are

excellent visuals to help women to examine closely the dynamics of abuse in relationships



This section also focuses on the safety of women involved in domestic violence. One part gives providers examples of **Things to Say** to communicate concern about safety. Providers can also **look and listen for factors** that might increase the likelihood that a woman will seek assistance.



On Going Follow-up

Domestic Violence is a complex problem. The shame, self-blame, stigma and the erosion of self-esteem in women involved in domestic violence impair change. During subsequent visits, the provider can continue to use the parts of the module to evaluate, inform and act in ways to assist women toward safety.