



AFRICAN AMERICAN/BLACK* WOMEN AND INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

*African American/Black is used to be inclusive of the collective experiences of the communities involved in GCADV's Community Conversations and the larger community this document refers to.

African American/Black survivors need access to culturally specific programs that operate in the context of the African American/Black community. This involves giving consideration to microaggressions* and to historical trauma, often accompanied by a sense of hopelessness. These factors differentiate African American/Black survivors from others.

*Microaggressions are the everyday verbal, nonverbal, and environmental slights, snubs, or insults, whether intentional or unintentional, which communicate hostile, derogatory, or negative messages to target persons based solely upon their marginalized group.

Consideration needs to be given to the total spectrum of historical trauma that an individual has faced. In advocacy work, it's important to have a wholistic understanding so that one can adequately work to meet the needs of African American/Black survivors. Below are some tips that can be used by advocates:

- Get to know each survivor as an individual.
- No two African-American/Black survivors will have the same experiences and/or coping skills.
- Pay attention to the messages sent in shelters (e.g., what hair products are available, the TV stations watched or not, foods considered to be comforting, and other cultural preferences and practices).
- Work toward having more women of color in leadership positions.
- Provide training to staff and volunteers on incorporating inclusivity into organizational practices.
- Develop interventions with African American/Black women which build on their strengths.