

## Core Values of the Nebraska Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Coalition

To support its Mission and Vision statements, the Nebraska Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Coalition established eight core values to provide definition and direction for the work of the Coalition and network of programs. These values guide our beliefs and actions.

Safety	Collaboration
Prevention	Education
Accountability	Empowerment and Autonomy
Diversity & Equality	Leadership

**Safety:** Every person has the right to live without fear of violence in all forms in their personal and professional life. We will promote best practices and policies that improve victim safety, which includes maintaining confidentiality when it is promised and informing victims of the limitations of confidentiality when it exists. We also value providing trauma-informed care. We will put safety at the heart of all our interactions and strive to do no harm.

**Prevention:** We strive to stop violence before it occurs and to change conditions to stop it from occurring again. We work to change beliefs and behaviors that support the use of violence and we will model non-violence in our interactions with each other and those we serve.

**Accountability:** We value holding perpetrators accountable for their actions. We also hold ourselves accountable for our own behaviors and beliefs when they support or fail to prevent violence. We will be transparent in our dealings, financial and otherwise, displaying “courageous honesty.” Just as we ask or expect from each other and those we serve we will follow through on agreed tasks, own our mistakes and work together to make corrections.

**Diversity & Equality:** We actively value all people touched by our work and welcome diversity in those we serve, those providing services, and those in positions on the Coalition Board. We will represent the residents of Nebraska on our boards, staff, and committees. We are open to different viewpoints and experiences when considering decisions and policies. To be respectful of differences, we will model an inclusive behavior by providing culturally relevant and appropriate services that reflect the communities served.

**Collaboration:** We recognize in our efforts to prevent violence and increase safety we must work with a variety of people and agencies. In this collaborative work, we model our values of diversity, equality and accountability. We recognize we must continuously build relationships on local, state and national levels while also remembering to bring victims’ and survivors’ voices into these efforts to expand collaborations into effective partnerships when appropriate. We will work with entities who are interested in knowing about the issues of domestic violence, sexual assault, and prevention, assuring we maintain our core values.

**Education:** We recognize the importance of educating our communities about domestic violence and sexual assault. We value creating awareness in order to end the silence and ignorance that perpetrators leverage to justify their behaviors. We denounce the cultural beliefs that support the use of violent and abusive tactics to gain power. We are committed to having highly trained staff members who can assist victims in gaining information that will help them move forward as a survivor. Our staff will educate other providers and professionals with clear, consistent and informed information about stopping violence and abuse. We will continually monitor research, assess trends, and evaluate policies and legislation, including promoting change when appropriate. We strive to learn from others and be open to new ideas that will help us better accomplish our mission.

**Empowerment and Autonomy:** We strive to empower those we serve and those who are providing services. We support an individual's increased spiritual, political, social, educational, gender-based, or economic strengths in order for them to make informed, un-coerced decisions. We engage people in ways that promote individual empowerment, understanding that each person is the expert of their own experience. We respect each individual's right to make choices about their own lives, and embrace each person's value system without imposing our own beliefs upon others.

**Leadership:** We will act in a leadership role, not as an entitlement, but rather in recognition of the urgent need to stop violence and abuse. We will devote consistent and determined effort toward changing beliefs that support the use of violence and abuse. Our leadership role includes identifying the change we seek and exemplifying that transformation in our behaviors by advocating for needed changes and sharing our expertise with others through community training and education.