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## Member Recruitment

There are a couple of different approaches for recruiting members to be a part of your CCR team.

### 1. Start with a Core Group

CCR teams are often initiated by one or more professionals/agencies who are driven and passionate about bringing the community together to address domestic violence and/or sexual assault. Victim advocates, corrections agents, offender treatment, district attorneys and judges are all examples of individuals who have begun teams in Wisconsin. These individuals have talked to others with whom they work and have formed a small group (four to six people) who represent various community or government agencies who share the vision. This group may then take on an advisory capacity and help to move the group into the process of holding meetings and recruiting other needed members.

#### Advantages to the Core Group Approach:

- It isn't one agency or person, so there is less likelihood that the group will be seen as "the advocates' team" or the "DA's team", etc.
- This group is connected to various community entities and so the reach of the group will be broader than that of an individual agency
- Members of the core group who are seen as community "power" players lend credibility to the team and give it clout

### 2. Send a broad Invitation to Community Partners

The success of a CCR team will be affected by the "degree to which you have included the voices of those stakeholders **most directly affected** by the actions your council will take."<sup>1</sup> It is often difficult to predict who will be enthusiastic about a multidisciplinary approach to problems of domestic violence and sexual assault. Some communities choose to take a broad-based strategy from the start by sending a letter to those they'd like to participate.

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<sup>1</sup> Allen, Nicole E., Hagen, Leslie, A., *A Practical Guide to Evaluation Domestic Violence Coordinating Councils*, National Resource Center on Domestic Violence, Harrisburg, PA, 2003, p. 58

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## Sample Invitation Letter to a CCR Meeting

Date

Organization or Individual name

Address

City, State, Zip

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

My name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I am a representative of \_\_\_\_\_ County's Coordinated Community Response to Domestic Violence Team. This group is focused on addressing the prevention, intervention, and response to domestic violence in our community. A Coordinated Community Response (CCR) is a team of multidisciplinary professionals and citizens committed to examining the response of our community systems to domestic violence. Wisconsin has had such teams since the mid-1980's, and there have been great collaborations and successes that have come out of this effort. Locally, we (have been working on/would like to work on) \_\_\_\_\_, and feel that a representative such as yourself or someone from your organization would add valuable perspectives and suggestions for our team. In exchange, we hope that participation in this forum would provide you with helpful information to take back to your organization or business.

We are asking if you might consider designating one or two individuals from your organization or business to represent you on the Domestic Violence CCR Team of \_\_\_\_\_ County. These representatives would ideally be familiar with how domestic violence is (or has the potential to be) addressed within your business or organization, and have an interest in improving the coordination and communication between victim and perpetrator service providers, law enforcement, public officials, corrections officers, schools, places of worship, and the many others who regularly encounter individuals affected by domestic violence in their work.

This team does not discuss specific cases, but rather the systems, processes, and policies that surround domestic violence incidents. We try to identify any gaps in systems coordination and problem-solve about solutions to improve our community's response to domestic violence. The team currently meets (every month/every other month/quarterly) and the meetings last approximately (60-90 minutes). (Name days) have historically been our meeting day, but we would be open to any input about conflicts this would present for you or your staff. Our next meeting is scheduled for (insert relevant date, time, and location). We would love to see you there!

Please feel free to contact (insert name and phone number) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,  
Initiating Individual/Agency