Preparing Your Program:
Screening for Reproductive Coercion at Shelter Intake

☐ Ensure that staff responsible for intake have been trained using the Project Connect Advocate Curriculum¹ or equivalent reproductive coercion training

☐ Examine your intake process to ensure that it is trauma-informed²

☐ When a survivor is entering shelter, conduct a brief intake with minimal questions, including only one health question “Do you have any immediate health care concerns?”³

☐ Follow up brief intake with a standard intake (within 24 hours) that covers more detailed and specific legal and health information, including the reproductive coercion and health assessment questions³

☐ Utilize the Safety Cards during assessment⁴

☐ Note that the Healthcare Information Sheet should be given out at both levels of intake⁵

☐ Develop a list of local family planning/reproductive health clinics, including:
  - Phone numbers
  - Locations
  - Transportation options (is it on the bus line, etc.)
  - Income requirements/fees for services
  - Hours, services, and hours during which certain services are offered (what are the family planning clinics hours, when do they see new patients, when do they do STI/HIV testing?)
  - Do they have Emergency Contraception (EC) available? If so, how much is it? If the facility is not a family planning clinic, do they still offer access to EC?

☐ Develop a list of local pharmacies that carry EC over-the-counter and how much they charge

☐ Establish a formal relationship with at least one family planning and/or reproductive health clinic and conduct cross-education:
  - Attend their staff meeting to share information on your services
  - Invite a clinic staff person to attend one of your staff meetings to share information on family planning services, birth control, and services offered at the clinic
• Discuss how cross-referrals may be made to increase access to services for survivors’ reproductive health needs
• Make a plan for routine (monthly or bimonthly) presentations to program staff and residents on reproductive/sexual health and birth control

☐ Sign a Memorandum of Agreement\(^6\) with local family planning clinic(s)

\(^1\)Contact the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance for information regarding Project Connect’s Advocate training


\(^3\)See Shelter Intake Forms (brief/full), Reproductive and Sexual Coercion: A Toolkit for Sexual & Domestic Violence Advocates, Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance

