

Instructions: Using the Community Needs Assessment

Purpose of the Assessment

The Community Needs Assessment is a tool designed to gather information about the needs and resources available for vulnerable adults in your community. This assessment helps identify gaps in services and informs the development of effective adult protection multidisciplinary teams (MDTs) to better support these individuals.

When to Use the Assessment

Professionals in the adult protection field may want to use the Community Needs Assessment:

- when beginning the process of forming an MDT;
- to assess community needs and service effectiveness;
- to periodically update and refine support strategies; or
- to provide data-driven justifications for funding and resource support for the identified needs of your community.

Audience for the Assessment

The Community Needs Assessment may be distributed among key stakeholders, including community members and professionals who work in the field of aging and adult services. This may include but is not limited to:

- social workers,
- health care providers,
- mental health and substance use providers,
- law enforcement officers and prosecutors,
- legal professionals,
- judges, clerks of court, and other court officials,
- public guardians,
- long-term care ombudsmen and area authority on aging representatives,
- victim advocates,
- faith community representatives,
- financial institution representatives,
- fire department and emergency medical technicians, and
- community organizers and housing, disability, sexual assault, and other advocates.

Instructions for MDT Coordinators

- Share the assessment with key stakeholders. To ensure a diverse range of responses, reach out to a wide variety of stakeholders within the community.
- Compile and analyze the responses to identify common themes, pressing needs, existing resources, and service gaps in the community.



- Summarize the findings and share them with relevant stakeholders, including MDT members (if the MDT is already formed).
- Use the insights gained to inform the development and operation of your MDT, ensuring it is responsive to needs and gaps identified through the assessment.
- Periodically revisit the assessment process to update findings and adjust strategies as necessary.

By using the Community Needs Assessment to collect information, MDTs (and those who are interested in forming MDTs) can ensure that their efforts are responsive to the feedback of key stakeholders in the community.

Community Needs Assessment: Services and Resources for Vulnerable Adults

Introduction

Thank you for participating in this community needs assessment. The purpose of this assessment is to identify the needs of vulnerable adults in our community, assess the existing resources available to them, identify any gaps in services, and explore the formation of an adult protection multidisciplinary team in our community. Your input is vital in understanding the challenges faced by vulnerable adults and improving the support system available to them.

Part 1: Needs of Vulnerable Adults

What do you perceive as the most pressing needs of vulnerable adults in our community?

Are there specific populations of vulnerable adults (e.g., elderly, disabled, or homeless adults) that require specialized support?

Have you or someone you know experienced challenges accessing necessary services for vulnerable adults in our community?

Based on your experience, what factors contribute to the vulnerability of adults in our community?

Part 2: Existing Resources

Are you aware of any existing resources or services available to support vulnerable adults in our community? Please specify.

How would you describe the effectiveness of these existing resources in meeting the needs of vulnerable adults?

Are there any gaps in the services currently available to vulnerable adults in our community? If so, please describe.

Part 3: Formation of a Multidisciplinary Team

Do you believe there is a need for an adult protection multidisciplinary team to address the needs of vulnerable adults in our community? Why or why not?

Would you be willing to serve on an adult protection multidisciplinary team in our community?

If yes, please indicate your identified role (e.g., social worker, health care provider, law enforcement officer, legal professional, victim advocate, community organizer, etc.).

What potential barriers do you foresee in establishing and maintaining an adult protection multidisciplinary team in our community?

Conclusion

Thank you for taking the time to participate in this community needs assessment. Your input will help guide efforts to improve support services for vulnerable adults in our community. Your responses will be used solely for the purpose of this assessment.

If you are willing to share additional insights or are interested in serving on an adult protection multidisciplinary team, please provide your name and contact information below. We appreciate your contribution.

Name _____

Email Address _____

Phone Number _____

Mailing Address (Optional) _____