

# **ThriveTogether Maine: Empowering Survivors, Supporting Choices**

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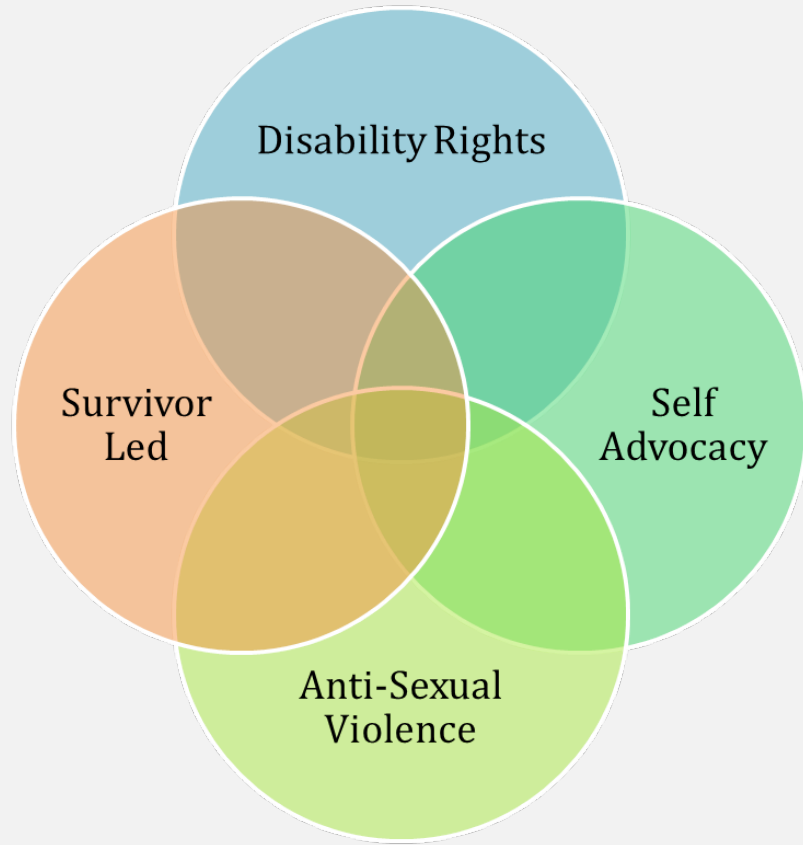
# OVW Grant

- In 2022 DRM was awarded a [Disability Grant by the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.](#)
- This 3-year grant is designed to support agencies in improving their capacity to address sexual violence against people with disabilities.
- Structured around 5 Deliverables-Charter, Statement of Focus, Needs Assessment Plan, Findings Report, Strategic Plan.
- Technical assistance provided by [Activating Change](#) (fka: Vera)

# Focus

- ThriveTogether was formed to specifically address the needs of people with Developmental Disabilities (DD) in Maine who are survivors of sexual violence.
- We assembled the collaboration team with the shared expertise and statewide reach to address these specific needs, inclusive of the needs of survivors with DD who are also Deaf or Hard of Hearing, and use non-traditional communication (NTC).

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## The Collaboration Agencies:

- DRM
- SUFU
- MACSP
- MECASA

# Disability Rights Maine (DRM)

- DRM is Maine's designated Protection & Advocacy agency for people with disabilities whose mission is to advance justice and equality by enforcing rights and expanding opportunities for people with disabilities in Maine.
- DRM's services include information about rights and service systems, referrals to appropriate services, representation of individuals at meetings and hearings, legal representation of individuals or groups, training on rights and advocacy skills, systemic advocacy and public policy reform.

# Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MECASA)

MECASA is organized to end sexual violence and to support high quality sexual violence prevention and response within Maine communities.

MECASA works toward ending sexual violence through:

- Supporting sexual assault support centers and other partners in the anti-sexual violence movement through coordinating training and peer sharing opportunities; developing resources; and providing one-to-one support and advice.
- Funding victim services and prevention efforts in Maine's communities; and
- Advocating for victim-centered public policy and systems change.

# Speaking Up For Us (SUFU)

- SUFU is a statewide nonprofit organization run by and for people living with developmental disabilities. SUFU's mission is to create new opportunities for adults living with developmental disabilities to discover their abilities, exercise freedom and contribute to their communities.
- SUFU serves as a statewide network of self-advocates and provides programs and opportunities for education, collaboration and advocacy. SUFU believes that all people have a right to live, work, and belong in their community.

# Maine Association of Community Service Providers (MACSP)

- MACSP is an association of organizations that provide supports and services to children and adults with intellectual disabilities, Autism, and brain injuries in Maine.
- Their mission is to represent individuals and organizations that support persons with disabilities to live, learn, and work in the community of their choice through public policy advocacy, organizational advocacy, training, and public education.
- MACSP members represent more than ninety organizations operating in all sixteen counties of Maine providing comprehensive services across the state.



# ThriveTogether Maine's Vision & Mission

- We envision a Maine free from sexual violence where survivors and people who live with developmental disabilities are believed, valued, empowered and have the supports needed to make choices about their bodies, their sexuality, and have what they need to thrive.
- Our mission is to create a Maine where people with developmental disabilities can recognize and disclose sexual violence and where they experience a safe, knowledgeable, and affirming response by:
  - centering people with developmental disabilities' lived experiences,
  - building deep relationships among disability and sexual violence victim service providers to provide holistic support for survivors, and
  - challenging long-held norms and beliefs about people with disabilities and sexuality.

# Our Goals for Needs Assessment

- **Map what is.** What is the current landscape of response and support for people with DD who have experienced sexual violence?
- **Identify best practices.** What are best, promising, and innovative practices for supporting people with DD who have experienced sexual violence?
- **Identify our strengths.** What are our strengths and assets (including alignment with best practices) in providing inclusive, trauma informed services for people with DD who have experienced sexual violence?
- **Identify areas for improvement.** What are our gaps, barriers, and areas for improvement in providing inclusive, trauma informed support for people with DD who have experienced sexual violence?
- **Identify the resources needed for change.** What resources do we have and what resources do we need to address identified gaps, barriers, and areas for improvement?

# Who we want to reach

ThriveTogether wants to know what the intersecting needs are for survivors of sexual violence and people with DD in the state of Maine.

In order to find this out we will be talking to:

- Survivors of Sexual Violence
- Survivors of Sexual Violence with DD
- People with DD
- People who support people with DD
- Staff and leaders of our member agencies

# Methods

- Focus Groups
- Individual interviews
- Online surveys

# How to Get Involved

Contact the Project Director:

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# Training Survey



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DRMFY24Feedback>