A Self-Assessment Toolkit to Improve Economic Empowerment Programs for Survivors

Participant Needs

My Financial Situation

Purpose

This discussion guide is intended to help program staff understand a participant's financial experience, goals and needs that must be met to meaningfully participate in economic empowerment programs. This can serve as a baseline assessment and, if repeated after programming, gauge the impact of program participation.

Who is this resource for?

This resource is designed for **program staff** to guide discussions with program participants. It may be useful in both crisis intervention and longer-term services.

PROGRAM STAFF

LONG-TERM SERVICES

CRISIS STABILIZATION

Instructions

These questions are not meant to serve as a script but rather to facilitate conversation. The questions can be omitted, changed, or adapted based on the preferences and norms of your program or the unique circumstances of participants. Let participants know that there are no right or wrong answers and that they can share as much or as little as they would like.

1. Can you describe your financial situation? In general, who controls your household finances?

2. What feelings come up for you when you think about your current financial situation? (For example, secure, insecure, frustrated, proud, scared, angry, empowered, etc.)

3. Are there any ways in which your current financial situation feels connected to your safety? If so, can you explain?

4. Have you ever had trouble making or accessing your money (for example, because of a lack of transportation, the location, because you are not allowed to have access, or any other reason)?

5. Has a partner ever monitored or restricted your spending?

6. Have you ever had an account at a bank? What was that experience like for you? If you currently have a bank account(s), does anyone else have access?

7. Do you owe money to another person, credit card company, a payday lender, car title loan company, a bank, or have a payment plan for anything? This could be from an informal loan from someone you know or could be more formal, such as a credit card or other debt. This could also include if someone else took out a loan in your name or pressured you to take out a loan.

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