

Multicultural Training Resource Center

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"...Building strength through diversity."

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Multicultural Training Resource Center

The Multicultural Training Resource Center (MTRC) of San Francisco was established in 1984 as the first national center to provide multicultural and culturally specific AIDS and substance abuse prevention services.

MTRC's philosophy is based on the following:

Multiculturalism:

a concept that celebrates culture and cultural differences, not limited in definition to race, ethnicity, and color (e.g. women, elderly, lesbian/gay and homeless).

Prevention:

a proactive process which promotes the empowerment of individuals, families and communities.

MTRC provides supportive services for multicultural and culturally distinct organizations, and promotes the establishment of cross-cultural linkages for collaborative community empowerment.



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he problems of drug abuse and addiction are highly complex. The fact that drug use patterns vary widely between and within cultural groups illustrates the inappropriateness of any generic prevention model. Thus, successful prevention programs utilize culture as a critical factor in the development and implementation of all their services.

MTRC's drug program assists service providers in defining and addressing the specific needs of multicultural communities. Our goal is to enhance service effectiveness and support community drug prevention activities.

Drug Services:

Information:

- Uses/Effects
- Cultural communities
- Resources/Referrals
- Treatment information
- Prevention curricula

Training/Technical Assistance:

- Multiculturalism
- Cultural communities
- Programming
- Networking
- Community events

Materials Development:

- Posters
- Brochures
- Educational curricula
- Newsletters
- Video tapes



A

lcohol prevention and treatment materials which address the needs of distinct cultural populations are very difficult to locate. Adaptations of generic or mainstream designs do not address the issue of cultural diversity, thus are not acceptable for

multicultural usage.

MTRC's alcohol program provides supportive services for alcohol providers who work with diverse communities. Our goal is to assist service providers in educating and empowering individuals, families, and communities to establish alcohol-controlled lifestyles and environments.

Alcohol Services:

Information:

- Uses/Effects
- Cultural communities
- Resources/Referrals
- Treatment information
- Prevention curricula

Training/Technical Assistance:

- Multiculturalism
- Cultural communities
- Programming
- Networking
- Community events

Materials Development:

- Posters
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ulturally based AIDS service organizations play an essential role in preventing the spread of AIDS. Through the process of culturally specific AIDS prevention strategies, cultural communities are appropriately educated and assisted in combatting this deadly disease.

Our role in AIDS prevention is to provide support for AIDS service organizations. Our goal is to help combat the spread of AIDS through culturally relevant strategies. MTRC assists AIDS service providers by enhancing their strategies targeted for multicultural communities.

AIDS Services:

Information:

- Programs
- Cultural communities
- Resources/Referrals
- Treatment alternatives
- Training strategies

Training/Technical Assistance:

- Multiculturalism
- Cultural communities
- Substance abuse
- Programming
- Networking
- Grantsmanship

Materials Development:

- Posters
- Brochures
- Comic books
- Video tapes
- Audio tapes
- Training materials

(available in multiple languages)

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p-to-date, accurate AIDS and substance abuse information is essential, but often not readily available. Information specifically designed for cultural communities is even more difficult to obtain.

MTRC's goal is to locate and collect these unique informational materials and add them to our computerized database where they are stored for easy retrieval.

The library serves as a comprehensive resource center for all agencies, organizations and individuals concerned with the epidemic of drugs, alcohol and AIDS.

Library Services:

In-House Materials:

- Video tapes
- Books
- Research papers
- Periodicals
- Conference proceedings
- Articles
- Newsletters
- Manuals

(Available for use on drop-in basis, but appointment suggested.)

Computer Services:

- Database search of library materials
- Computer search of AIDS information databases
- Library collection search via modem
- Consultants listings by cultural affiliation, gender, geography, etc.

Bulk Literature Distribution:

- Clearinghouse for selected articles, pamphlets, and brochures

Materials Development

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ulturally appropriate materials are particularly valuable in the fight against AIDS and substance abuse because they educate service providers, as well as the general public. However, these materials often do not exist for specific populations, and must be developed.

MTRC assists in all aspects of this essential materials development, including appropriate illustrations and layout. All materials selected and designed are based on the targeted audience.

MTRC provides assistance in the production of:

Informational/Educational Materials:

- Video tapes
- Audio tapes
- Brochures
- Comic books
- Posters
- Buttons

Training Materials:

- Manuals
- Curricula

Publicity Materials:

- Corporate brochures
- Flyers
- Workshop announcements

(Materials available in multiple languages.)

Training

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Training formats, designed specifically for service providers who serve distinct cultural populations, are essential to prevention efforts. Effective training strategies should result in effective prevention services.

MTRC training provides a "hands-on" approach to program service delivery. Our goal is to devise training strategies that will result in successful culturally specific prevention services.

We provide trainings for:

- Community organizations
- Community leaders
- Government representatives
- Students, teachers, administrators
- Health professionals
- Workplace managers

Training Content:

- Multiculturalism
- Drug and alcohol abuse prevention
- AIDS and substance abuse
- Cultural and systemic literacy
- Organizational transition
- Environmental assessments
- Community empowerment

Training Formats:

- Workshops
- Symposia
- Conferences
- Forums

Information

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any variables complicate the provision of AIDS and substance abuse prevention/treatment services to culturally diverse communities: myths exist; biases must be overcome; and information is difficult to locate. These problems impede the successful delivery of services to multicultural communities.

MTRC assists in solving these problems. We help providers to understand the complex cultural differences in alcohol, drug and AIDS issues, and to carry this information directly and effectively into the communities targeted for service.

We provide information by:

Topic:

- AIDS
- Alcohol
- Drugs
- Cultural communities
- Prevention
- Treatment

Viewpoint:

- Biological
- Psychological
- Sociological
- Economic
- Epidemiologic
- Statistical

Uses:

- Education
- Dissemination
- Training

Technical Assistance

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rganizations providing services to culturally diverse communities can experience obstacles such as unsuccessful outreach efforts, high client and staff turnover, negative feedback, and a lack of referrals from other agencies. These problems reflect the need for technical assistance.

MTRC's technical assistance enables organizations to provide services more effectively to cultural communities. We assist in all aspects of program design and operation from a multicultural perspective.

Our services apply to all phases of program development including program planning, proposal development, implementation, and evaluation.

Samples of the tools utilized to assist programs include:

- Assessments
- Program adaptation models
- Proposal enhancement
- Evaluation instruments and procedures