

**Safety through Connection:
Building Community Capacity to Prevent Partner Violence**

July 2018-December 2019

With support from Blue Shield of California Foundation (BSCF), Prevention Institute is awarding one-year (November 2018-October 2019) planning and capacity-building grants of \$50,000 to five well-established, multisector collaboratives. After an open application process, the following collaboratives were selected: The Center at McKinleyville (McKinleyville), Department of Violence Prevention Steering Committee (Oakland), REACH Coalition (Fresno), LA Worker Center Network (Los Angeles), and the East African Men and Boys Collaborative (San Diego). These five groups will build on their strengths and engage in collective dialogue, planning, and capacity building to intentionally integrate community-level partner violenceⁱⁱ prevention into their local work. Each of the five collaboratives will deepen their shared understanding of community conditions that contribute to partner violence and those that can promote safe relationships; leverage strengths and broaden engagement of local organizations; and adopt strategies that create community environments conducive to safe relationships and prevention of partner violence. The five collaboratives will also work together to support learning and growth as a community of practice, supported by Prevention Institute, and will identify lessons and implications to inform future multisector partner violence prevention efforts in California.

Background: Prevention Institute has been laying the foundation for expanding multisector, community-level prevention of partner violence through the BSCF-funded Sectors Acting for Equity (SAFE) project. Our efforts have included synthesizing research and writing reports such as [A Health Equity and Multisector Approach to Preventing Domestic Violence](#), fostering multisector engagement at the state and local levels, and providing training and technical assistance. Through SAFE, we've learned that multiple sectors shape community-level factors associated with partner violence. We've also learned that safe relationships are supported by strong connections between individuals and among families and communities, and that prevention of partner violence is connected to many related issues that shape our health, safety, and wellbeing. We believe that safety is achieved through strong connections to each other and through a holistic approach to collaboratively promoting healthy, safety, and wellbeing.

Activities: Through this planning and capacity-building program, Prevention Institute will support the five collaboratives in deepening understanding and broadening engagement in community-level partner violence prevention. Each collaborative will:

- Cultivate shared understanding of the extent, nature, and dynamics of partner violence as a relationship and community issue.
- Identify community-level factors associated with partner violence (e.g., norms that support gender inequities in relationships, lack of community sanctions against partner violence, harmful media and marketing practices, etc.), and community-level factors associated with safe relationships (e.g., norms that support engagement in family matters, social inclusion and cohesion, housing and economic security, etc.).
- Recruit new partners and/or strengthen existing partnerships and develop or update work plans to include new prevention strategies, and/or integrate partner violence components into existing strategies.

Technical Assistance & Support: During the year, grantees will participate in capacity building activities, including an in-person kick-off convening, virtual community of practice meetings, tailored coaching and support including site visits and guidance on work plans, and an in-person closing convening. In these

gatherings and throughout the year, it is anticipated that collaboratives will address common challenges such as building a unified understanding of the issue and potential solutions, engaging sectors that may not currently see themselves as having a role, and orienting collective efforts toward proactively supporting safe relationships while also fostering community healing and accountability (and countering isolation and punishment).

ⁱ **Community-level prevention:** Efforts that engage community members, culturally-rooted organizations committed to racial and gender equity, and various sectors such as family support, public health, community development, businesses/work places, etc. in strategies that increase community-level resilience factors associated with safe relationships and decrease community-level risk factors associated with domestic violence, and thereby systematically work to reduce rates of domestic violence and inequities in rates of domestic violence at a neighborhood, community, or population level.

ⁱⁱ **Partner violence,** also known as domestic violence or intimate partner violence: physical violence, sexual violence, stalking, and psychological aggression, including coercive acts, by a current or former intimate partner.