Assessing and Strengthening a Reproductive Rights and Justice Infrastructure in Michigan

Interview Questions

Program for Sexual Rights and Reproductive Justice
University of Michigan
Ford Foundation Grant
Updated August 4, 2014
Introduction

In order to better understand your organization, we have prepared this set of questions to discuss together at our meeting. Your answers will help us to understand the obstacles you face and subsequently move your issues forward. At our meeting, we will do our best to get to know you and your organization, and to think with you about next steps. For example, we may consider networking, academic-advocacy collaborations, grant-writing, student internships on projects you choose, strategies for multi-organization cooperation, social network creation and maintenance, including how we might assist on specific projects, and more.

Anything specific you share with us will not be disclosed to anyone outside our program without your express permission. We deeply appreciate your taking the time to assist us.

We thank the Groundswell Fund, with Korwin consultants, for permission to incorporate questions and formatting from its 2014 Impact Evaluation Survey.

Background about us and our grant

- Introduce ourselves and SRRJ.
- Explain our grant and what we are hoping to accomplish.
- End result will be SRRHJ needs assessment.

How much time do you have today?

Organizational infrastructure

1. When was your organization founded?
2. How? What was the process? What is its legal structure? Kind of non-profit status, if any?
3. Why was your organization founded? What was the identified need?
4. Do you have a mission or vision statement that you can share with us?
5. What was your budget for your last fiscal year? How do you raise funds to finance your organization?
6. Tell us where you are based: Do you have an office? Share? Rent? Work out of someone’s home?
7. Staffing: What is your total number of FTE (full-time equivalent) staff? Has it grown significantly in the past several years?
8. What positions of leadership do women hold in your organization? Executive director? Board member? Management staff?

Primary issues and strategies

9. Which of the following topics is your organization’s primary area of focus? Check as many as apply.
   - Sex education/other education
   - Contraceptive access
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INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

☐ Abortion access
☐ Maternity/prenatal care access
☐ Access to alternative maternity care/VBAC/midwifery care
☐ Reproductive health care access for young people
☐ Access to prenatal, labor, and postpartum doula support
☐ Reproductive loss/infant and maternal mortality
☐ Health care quality
☐ Birthing/parenting rights
☐ Civil rights/racial justice
☐ Parenting support/employment protections
☐ Services for LGBTI youth
☐ Health care and outcome disparities/segregation
☐ Poverty/economic development/Self-sufficiency

☐ Unemployment/underemployment
☐ Hunger/food insecurity
☐ Housing
☐ Legislative advocacy
☐ Health care insurance/Medicaid/Medicaid expansion
☐ Prison-industrial complex/incarceration
☐ Criminalization of pregnancy/substance use
☐ Child Protective Services involvement
☐ Welfare
☐ Services to rural populations
☐ Disability rights
☐ Domestic violence/Intimate partner violence/gender-based violence
☐ Environmental health/justice
☐ HIV prevention
☐ Immigrant rights
☐ Labor/Worker rights
☐ Other ______________

10. Which of these issues does your organization engage the largest number of people around? (Please select all that apply.)
☐ Sex education/other education
☐ Contraceptive access
☐ Abortion access
☐ Maternity/prenatal care access
☐ Access to alternative maternity care/VBAC/midwifery care
☐ Reproductive health care access for young people
☐ Access to prenatal, labor, and postpartum doula support
☐ Reproductive loss/infant and maternal mortality
☐ Health care quality
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☐ Birthing/parenting rights
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☐ Environmental health/justice

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☐ Domestic violence/Intimate partner violence/gender-based violence  ☐ Immigrant rights
☐ HIV prevention  ☐ Labor/worker rights

11. What issues are emerging as top priorities for your organization? What is a typical day like?

12. What were your organization’s most important contributions to those top priority issues this year?

13. What strategies does your organization employ?
☐ Advocacy/public policy  ☐ Communications: online media (e.g. online news outlet articles, blogs, programs, websites)
☐ Community organizing  ☐ Communications: social media (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, Instagram)
☐ Mobilizing  ☐ Communications: other forms of public education
☐ Alliance building/networking/coalition building  ☐ Arts, including performance, literary, and other genres
☐ Movement building  ☐ Building the capacity of other organizations
☐ Civic engagement  ☐ Legal action
☐ Policy  ☐ Skill building/training
☐ Research/analysis/documentation  ☐ Voter engagement
☐ Service delivery  ☐ Other ______________
☐ Communications: traditional media (e.g. print media, radio, television)
☐ Other ______________

14. What are the general roadblocks in your work? Laws, regulations, access, community support?

15. What are your greatest needs as an organization?

16. Who are the community leaders in your area? What do they know about you and your work? Are they supportive or opposed?

17. Reproductive Justice has been defined as the trifold right to have a child, not have a child, and raise that child in a supportive and healthy environment. Would you describe your organization as a RJ organization? Please explain why or why not. (See longer definition at end of this document.)

Geographic area

18. What is your geographic target area?
☐ Local/city _________________  ☐ Local/county _________________  ☐ State ☐ National

19. What kind of the developed environment is this area?
☐ Urban ☐ Suburban ☐ Rural ☐ Reservation
20. At what level or levels is the work expected to have an impact? *(Select all that apply)*

- ☐ Local/city
- ☐ Local/county
- ☐ State
- ☐ National
- ☐ International

21. If your work extends beyond your location, please describe where and how that impact happens (e.g. if you helped implement policies in an urban area that impacted residents in surrounding counties).

### Target constituencies

22. Who are your target constituencies? Please tell us who makes up your base supporters (those who are actively and consistently involved in the activities of your organization).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnic and racial makeup of base supporters</th>
<th>Primary</th>
<th>Secondary</th>
<th>Not Applicable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>African Diasporic/Continental African/Black/African American</td>
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<td>Arab/Arab American</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asian/Pacific Islander/Asian or Pacific Islander American</td>
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<td>Latino(a)/Hispanic</td>
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<td>Native American/North, South or Central American Indigenous</td>
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<tr>
<td>Multi-racial</td>
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<tr>
<td>Caucasian/European American</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other:</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

23. Please tell us about other demographic and SES characteristics of your base supporters.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Demographic and SES characteristics</th>
<th>Primary</th>
<th>Secondary</th>
<th>Not Applicable</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Youth (Ages 20–29: Under age 30, but older than teen)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teens</td>
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<td>LGBTQ</td>
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<td>Immigrant/Refugee</td>
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<td>HIV +</td>
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<tr>
<td>Incarcerated/Formerly incarcerated</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sex Workers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Survivors of Domestic and/or Sexual Violence</td>
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<tr>
<td>No Income</td>
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<tr>
<td>Low Income</td>
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<td>Middle Income</td>
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<td>High Income</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Other:</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
24. Has the organization expanded the diversity of the populations it reaches?
   □ Yes  □ No  □ Don't know or N/A
25. If yes, in what way? If no, does your organization have a goal of expanding the diversity?

**Current and future plans and capacities (next 1-5 years)**

26. What policies or activities has your organization worked on this year?
27. What have been your biggest successes in the past two years? What have been your biggest challenges and things would you like to change?
28. In five years, where do you see your organization? How will you get there?

**Linking with other groups**

29. When you think about the organizations that support your work, what would you identify as the top three spheres they represent? (Please select top three.)
   □ Civil rights/racial justice
   □ Criminal justice/prison-industrial complex
   □ Disability rights
   □ Domestic violence/intimate partner violence/gender-based violence
   □ Education justice
   □ Environmental justice
   □ Immigrant rights
   □ Labor/worker rights
   □ LGBTQ rights
   □ Media justice
   □ Reproductive health and rights
   □ Reproductive justice
   □ Other __________________

30. When you think about organizations whose work **you** support, what are the top three spheres they represent? (Please select top three.)
   □ Civil rights/racial justice
   □ Criminal justice/prison-industrial complex
   □ Disability rights
   □ Domestic violence/intimate partner violence/gender-based violence
   □ Education justice
   □ Environmental justice
   □ Immigrant rights
   □ Labor/worker rights
   □ LGBTQ rights
   □ Media justice
   □ Reproductive health and rights
   □ Reproductive justice
   □ Other __________________

31. Would you like to be more linked to sister organizations? What could facilitate those connections (e.g. more social networking, shared workshops and conferences, etc.)?
32. What can our program, SRRJ, contribute to your mission and goals? *(Describe our program.)* What tools could we produce as part of this project that would benefit your organization?
Communications and digital capacity

33. Do you have a written communications plan?

34. What social media tools do you use?

35. Who is your target audience(s) for communication?

36. What priority goals or objectives are you using communications to help achieve?

37. How would you like to expand or enhance your communications or digital capacities?

Concluding reflections

38. Is there anything else you would like to tell us that we haven’t covered?

Needs assessment

Thank you for your participation! Once all our interviews are completed, we will compile a formal needs assessment of sexual and reproductive rights, health, and justice, as championed by these Michigan organizations. We will follow up with your organization as we analyze common needs and obstacles in the process of constructing the needs assessment.

What is Reproductive Justice?

Reproductive Justice is the complete physical, mental, spiritual, political, social, and economic well-being of women and girls, based on the full achievement and protection of women’s human rights. Reproductive Justice is grounded in these three principles:

1. The right to have a child
2. The right not to have a child
3. The right to parent our children in safe conditions and with dignity

Reproductive Justice makes use of these three disciplines:

1. Reproductive health – service delivery
2. Reproductive rights – legal issues
3. Reproductive justice – movement building

RJ analyses also incorporate intersectionality – the recognition of the interconnection of race, class, gender, sexuality, disability, and other systems of oppression.

The Reproductive Justice framework acknowledges that the ability to determine our reproductive destiny is linked directly to the conditions in our communities. These conditions are not determined merely by individual choice and access, but are also deeply affected by the social realities of inequality. Consequently, this framework includes government obligations to protect our human rights. Our options for making choices must be safe, affordable, and accessible, the three minimal cornerstones of government support for all individual life decisions.

These definitions are drawn from the work of SisterSong, Forward Together, and Kimberlé Crenshaw.