

# LIVED EXPERIENCE PARTNERSHIP

# Planning Tool

## FOR ORGANIZATIONS AND COALITIONS

A person with lived experience understands first-hand the unique life journey of people with mental health, substance abuse, trauma, or special needs. They use their perspectives to make systems better. Lasting transformation occurs when these wise voices are welcomed and heard.



### Reflection

Do you believe that families have strengths to offer?

Do you want honest feedback? Are you ready to hear where your system or service can improve?

Will you share power with lived experience leaders? Will they be able to fully participate in the process and help set the agenda?

### Map It Out

Name of specific project or committee for lived experience partnership:

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What will the participant DO in this project? *Examples: Co-present at conference; attend meetings; review outreach materials.* \_\_\_\_\_

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Why is there lived experience voice in this project? \_\_\_\_\_

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What kind of lived experience is most relevant to your project? Are specific qualifications needed? *Examples: participated in certain therapy modality; live in particular zip code; have previous experience on a formal committee.* \_\_\_\_\_

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What is the time commitment to participate in this project? When does the work of this project take place? Be specific with dates and times. \_\_\_\_\_

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## Map It Out (continued)

Where will this work take place? Is remote participation available? \_\_\_\_\_

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Who is the primary staff contact that the lived experience partner can connect with regarding questions, concerns, or suggestions? Write their contact information here. \_\_\_\_\_

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How will we honor the participant's time, energy, and expertise? *Examples: Stipends of \$15 per hour; mileage reimbursement at \$.51 per mile; gift cards; food at meetings.* \_\_\_\_\_

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What information does the lived experience partner need to be prepared for participating in this project? *Examples: How are decisions made? Who are the key people? What is the formality of the project? What technology is used?* \_\_\_\_\_

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### Reflection

In what ways do you personally have power in your organization?

In what ways could this power be shared with your clients?

What might change if clients had more say in your agency?

One year from now, where do you see lived experience leadership in your organization?

What active steps will you take for providing mentorship and relevant training to the participant? *Examples: Pre and post meetings; debrief phone calls; introductory orientation.* \_\_\_\_\_

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How will we as an organization/coalition know that this partnership is working effectively? \_\_\_\_\_

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What resources do we need to support meaningful leadership of individuals with lived experience? \_\_\_\_\_

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