

# Rural Sexual Assault Response Teams

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Hosted by the Institute for Coordinated Community Response



# Objectives

- Define SARTs, community, and system change work
- Describe the phases of system change
- Explore the structure of SARTs
- Discuss the habits of effective SARTs

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# Chat In!

- Name
- Pronouns
- Organization
- Are currently part of a SART?



# About MNCASA

MNCASA is a statewide coalition driving transformative culture change to address sexual violence through advocacy, prevention, racial justice, and systems change.

**We envision** a world free of sexual violence in which all human beings are treated with dignity and respect and communities are transformed through safety, healing, and partnerships.



# Our Work



## ADVOCACY

We provide leadership and resources to advocates in providing services to all victims/survivors in their communities.



## PREVENTION

We work to prevent harm and address root causes of sexual violence using an anti-oppression lens.



## RACIAL JUSTICE

We work toward a Minnesota where BIPOC survivors have access to safety, affirmation, and systems they can trust and use.



## SYSTEM CHANGE & POLICY

We invest in community-focused work alongside our efforts to transform systems, prioritizing underserved communities.

# SVJI @ MNCASA

**Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MNCASA)** is a statewide coalition driving transformative culture change to address sexual violence through advocacy, prevention, racial justice, and systems change.

**The Sexual Violence Justice Institute (SVJI)** is a national program operating within the Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault. SVJI creates long-term sustainable systems responses to sexual violence that meet the specific needs of each community.

# Our Values





# What We Offer:



## Training

- Webinars
- Workshops
- Conferences
- Special Topics



## Support

- Brainstorming
- Meeting Facilitation
- Problem Solving



## Resources

- Templates
- Fact Sheets
- Blog
- Tool Kits & Guidebooks



## Connections

- Experts
- Technical
- Peers
- Mentors

# What is a SART?



# What is a SART?

- Sexual Assault Response Team
- Multi-disciplinary representatives
- Focused on collaboration and systems change
- Devoted to changing SV response in community
  - Uses a continuous improvement process
- Strategy to improve outcomes for V/S



# Types of SARTs

## ► Acute Response

- Focus: single case
- Changes: individual responders
- Needs: individual participation
- Processes depend on each responder
- Results: targeted, small scale change

## ► Systems Change

- Focus: cases and processes
- Changes: agencies and systems processes
- Needs: agency-wide participation
- Embeds processes
- Results: long-term and wide spread change



# Unique Needs of Rural SARTs

- Variety of landscapes, needs, demographics
- Similar issues, different strategies
- Response needs to be tailored to community
- Build on the connection, creativity, and resilience



# Community and Systems Change



# What is Community?

- There are many different ways to conceptualize “community”. It can be used to define groups of people that share something in common (e.g., shared geographical location, ethnicity, religion, etc.).



# Know Your Community



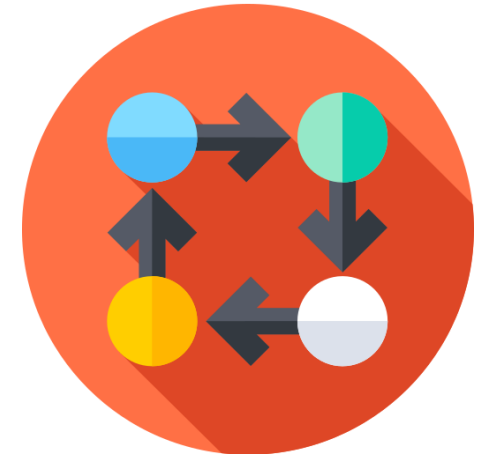
**Who?**



**What?**



**Where?**



**How?**



# What do we mean by systems?

- Set of interconnected parts that make up a whole
- Each part is both its own system AND a part of a bigger whole

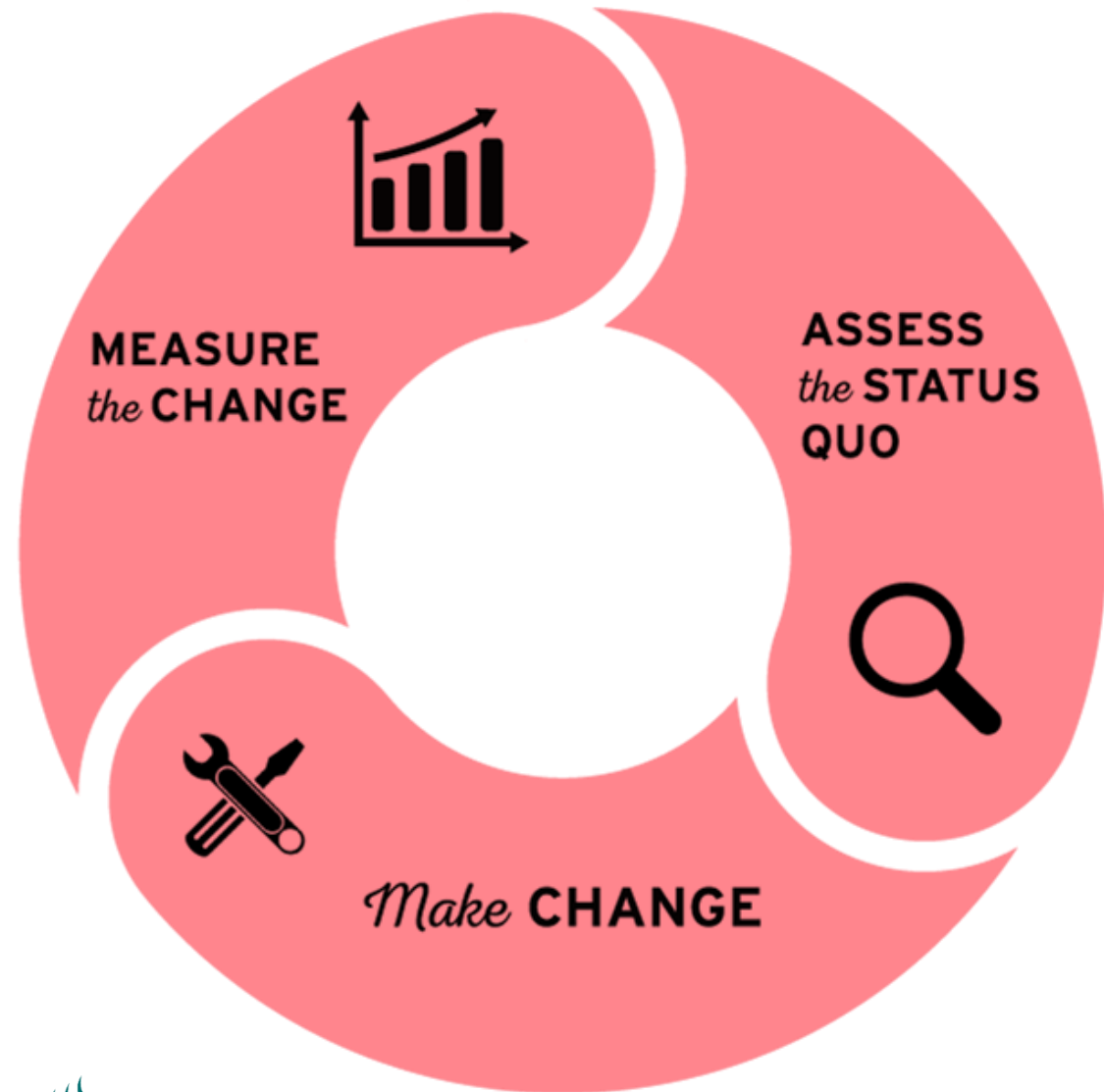


# What is Systems Change?

- Systems change is working towards **improving** individual systems response to sexual violence while also **increasing** collaboration between systems.
  - **Enhancing the strengths** of practice, policy, procedures, and collaboration
  - **Addressing the shortcomings** of practice, policy, procedures, and collaboration
  - **Ensuring support and engagement** for victims throughout all processes
  - **Continuously improving** over time and as communities change



# Phases of Systems Change





## Assess the Status Quo (ASQ)

- Take inventory of existing service providers
- Bring in the voices of victims/survivors
- Community Needs Assessment



## Make Change



## Measure the Change





## Strategies for ASQ

- Inventory existing services
- Voices of victims/survivors
- Community needs assessment
- Map current processes
- Observe service providers
- Form *curious questions*



## Assess the Status Quo (ASQ)



## Make Change

- Develop/revise interagency protocol
- Identify training needs (knowledge/skills)
- Create programs/tools/resources



## Measure the Change



## Strategies for Change

- Interagency protocol development/revision
- Training to meet knowledge and practice gaps
- Changes to individual practice
- Changes to agency policies
- Cross-training with team agencies
- Changing information sharing
- Increased collaboration



## Strategies for Change

- Team development
  - Mission, timelines, etc.
- Development and adherence to victim-centered approaches
- Raising community awareness
- Create innovative programming (reporting options, audit, exams)
- Adding critical SARTners
- Inter and intra agency trainings





## Assess the Status Quo (ASQ)



## Make Change



## Measure the Change

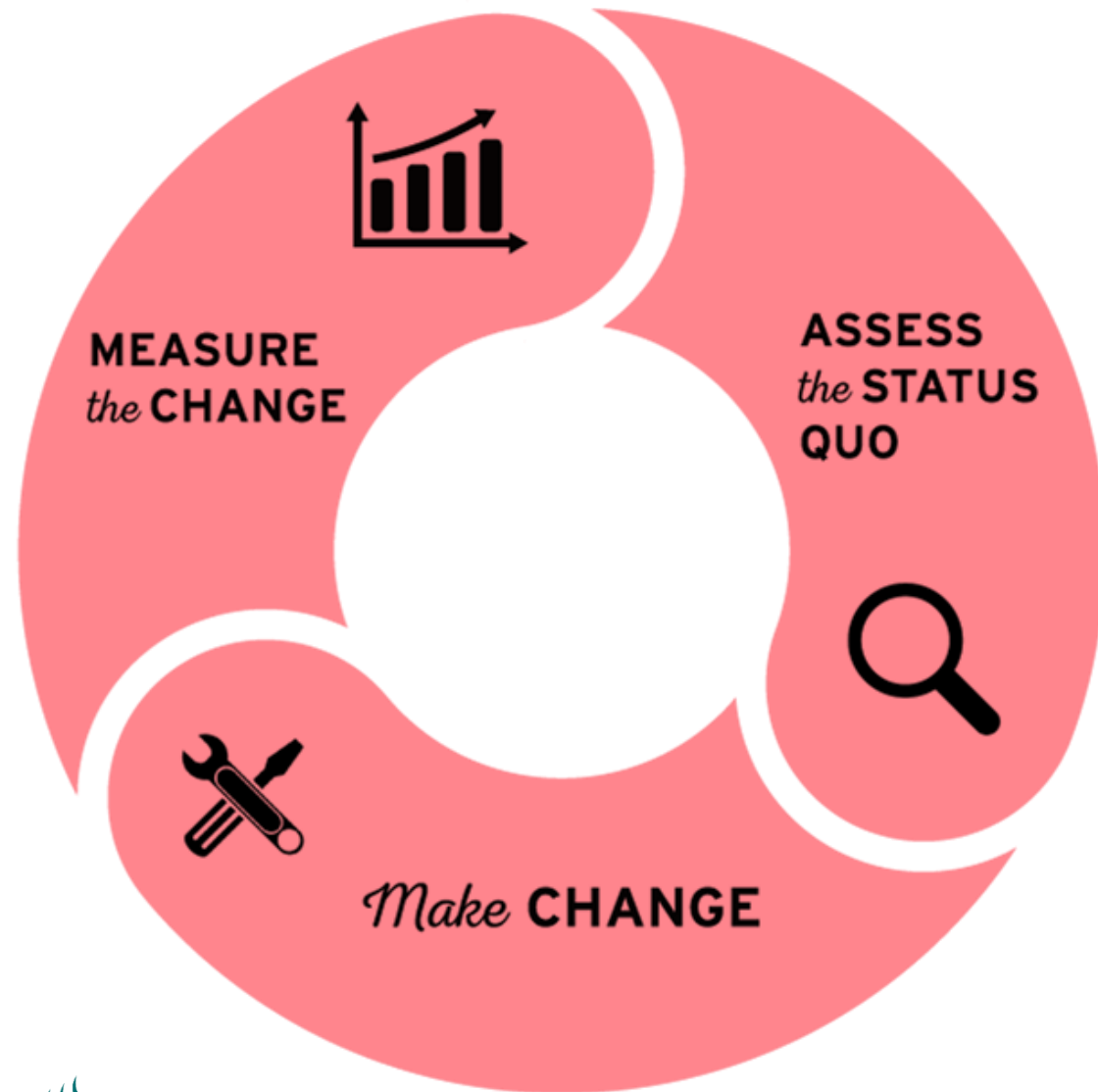
- Monitor implementation of change
- Assess gaps and barriers
- Surveys, Focus Groups
- Case Review



## Strategies to Measure

- Monitor implementation
- Assess gaps and barriers
- Surveys, numbers, observation
- Case File Reviews
- Victim/survivor voices

**Systems  
change is a  
cyclical  
process.**



# Poll

- Where in the phases of system change is your multidisciplinary team?
  - Assess the Status Quo
  - Make the Change
  - Measure the Change



# Impact of Teams



# **Roles on SARTs**



# Who is part of a SART?

## Government Partners

- Law enforcement
- Prosecutors/DAs
- Corrections/Probation
- Adult protection
- Child protection

## Community Partners

- Advocacy
- Medical Providers
- Colleges/universities
- Faith communities
- Culturally specific groups
- Other points of disclosure

# Team Members: Agencies

- Commitment to Process via MOU





# Team Members: Individuals

- Discipline expert
- Contributor to tasks and discussions
- Agency liaison
- Site coordinator



# Team Members: Subcommittees

- A small group of team members working towards specific goal.
- Temporary and time-specific.
- Opportunity for shared leadership.
- Can be helpful when there are many multi-disciplinary teams.

# Team Members: Feedback Loop



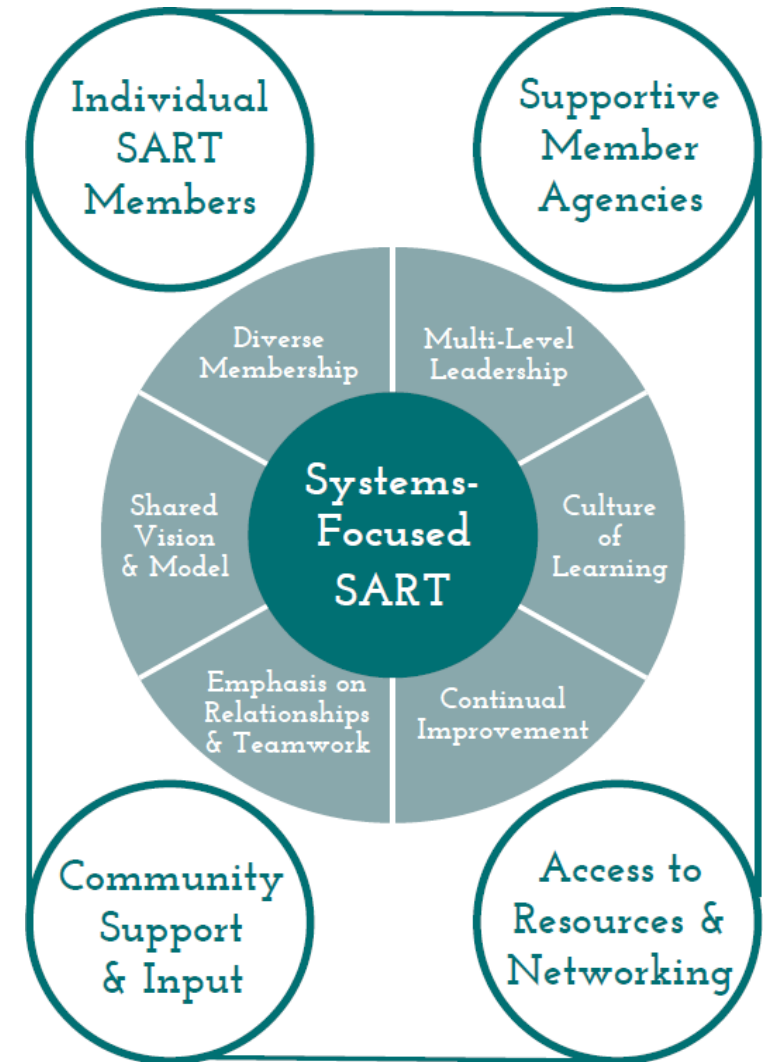
# Frameworks of SART Effectiveness





# Internal Factors

- Shared Vision and Model
- Diverse Membership
- Multi-level Leadership

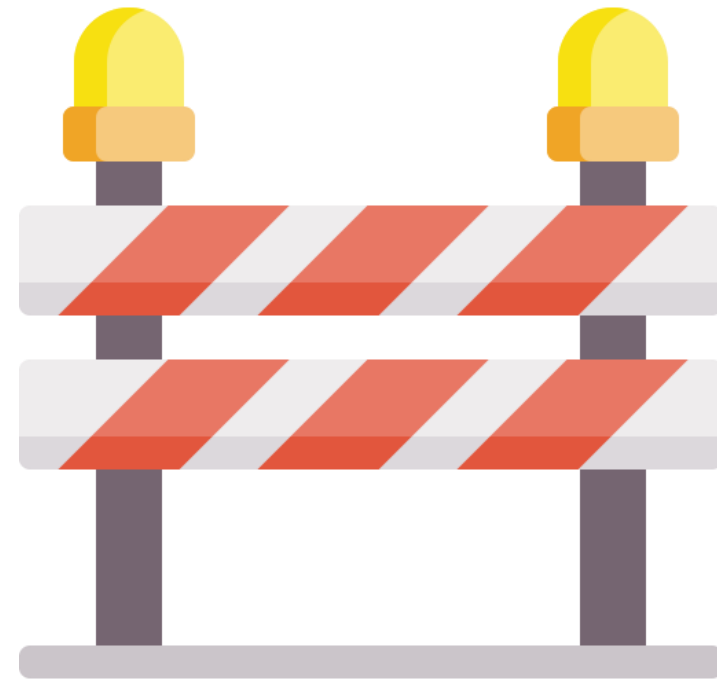


# Poll

- Does your team have a mission or vision statement?
  - Yes
  - No
  - Unsure

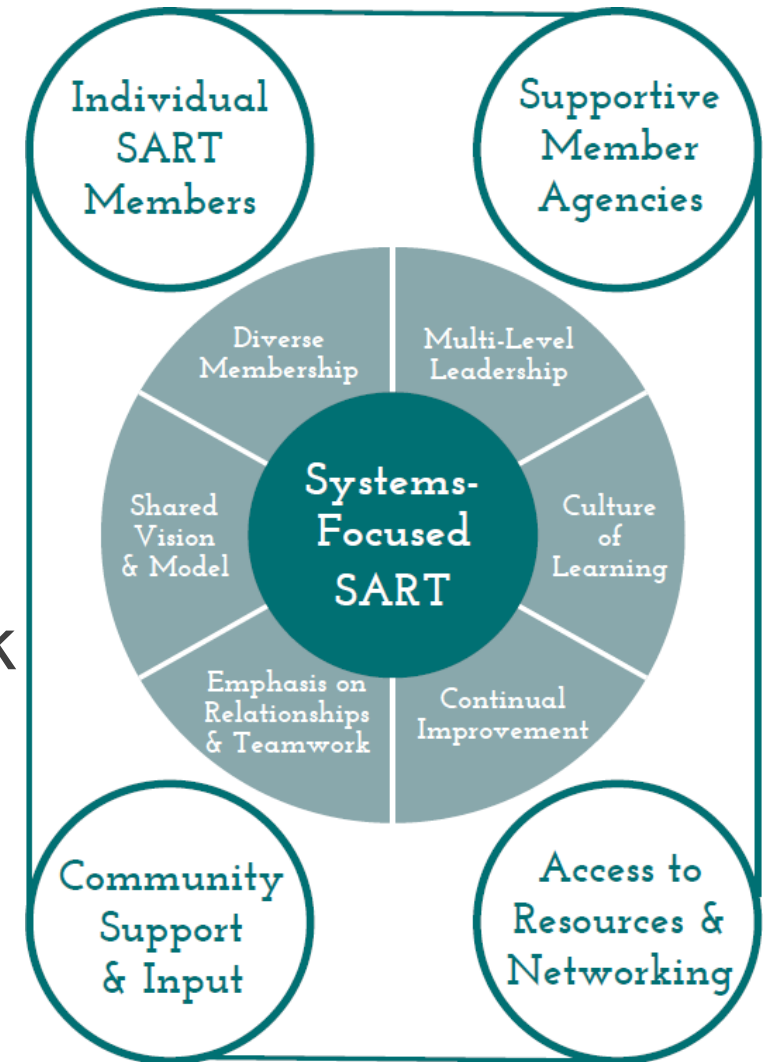
# What if ABC agency won't participate?

- Stakeholder analysis
- Use your networks
- Community pressure
- Show results!



# Internal Factors

- Culture of Learning
- Continual Improvement
- Emphasis on Relationships and Teamwork





# Poll and Chat In

- Are power imbalances addressed on the team?
  - Yes
  - No
  - Unsure
- If yes, how are they addressed?

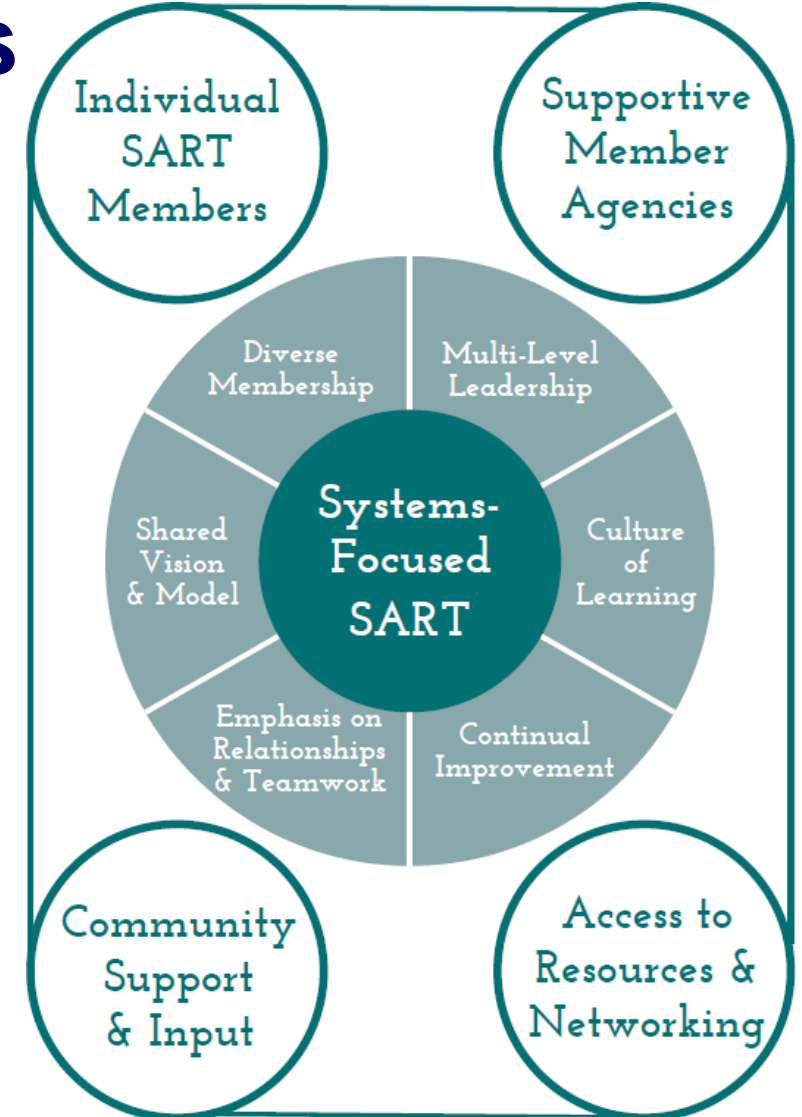
# Address Tension Points and Conflicts

- There will be differences in:
  - Agency goals and measures of success
  - Individual personalities
  - Definitions
  - Understanding of roles



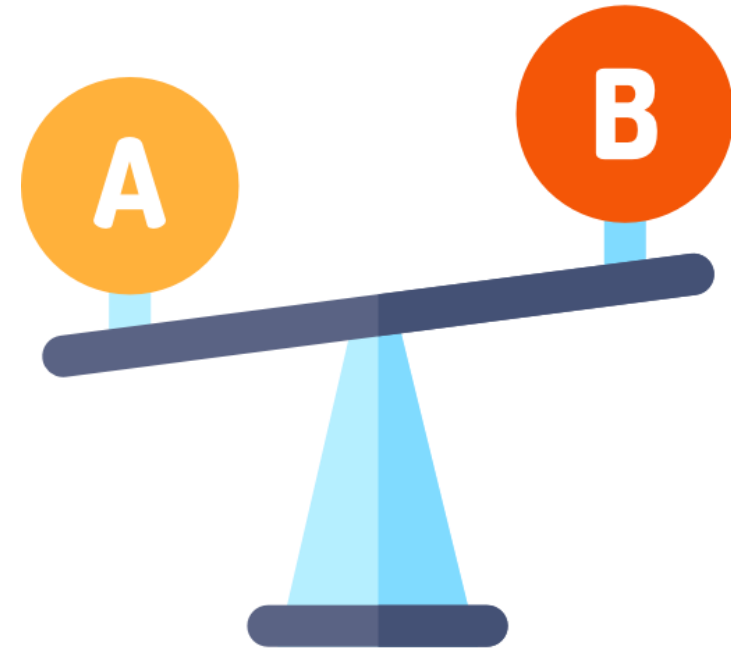
# External Factors

- Individual SART Members
- Supportive Member Agencies
- Access to Resources and Networking
- Community Support and Input



# Why can't we just do what XYZ community is doing?

- Communities are different!
  - Needs
  - Resources
  - Demographics
  - Geography



# Questions?





# Contact Information

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