



# The University of Kentucky Center on Trauma and Children Secondary Traumatic Stress Practice (STS) Laboratory Training, Evaluation and Technical Assistance Services



**Organizational Assessment:** As part of an overall Trauma-Informed Care Initiative or as a separate STS project a comprehensive, tailored assessment can provide an organization with the information necessary to make data-driven decisions about how to best address STS. Baseline, as well as intermediate and post-intervention assessments and customized reports are created, and become the blueprint for organizational change. These assessments can be tailored to units, departments, divisions or the organization as a whole. **The Secondary Traumatic Stress Informed Organizational Assessment** (Sprang, Ross, Miller, Blackshear & Ascienzo, 2017) is part of the measurement packet frequently used in this evaluation.

**Focus Groups:** Organizational dynamics are complicated, and in some cases the collection of qualitative data allows for a more nuanced understanding of the assessment results, and contributes to a cooperative culture by soliciting feedback from staff in the early planning stages of a new initiative. A plan for developing and collecting focus group data, and a report that respects the confidentiality of focus group members can be useful in developing the goals and objectives of a STS project.





**Customized Training:** Using the data collected in the organizational assessment, a workforce development plan that includes specific training targets is often the next step. All training curricula is evidence-informed, and delivered by trainers who are scientist-practitioners in the field of secondary traumatic stress studies.

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# UK CTAC Secondary Traumatic Stress Practice Laboratory Training, Evaluation and Technical Assistance Services (continued)

**Consultation:** An organization may want to launch a STS initiative and contract for consultation and support as they work toward implementation. A menu of consultation services can be delivered that include in-person, telephonic and web-based support, based on organizational need. A STS Organizational Change Package informs this work.

#### **Implementation and Sustainability Planning:**

Responding to STS in the workforce is not a single episode event. Implementation and sustainability planning is an ongoing process that will increase the likelihood that actions taken today will be integrated into organizational practice to benefit the workforce over time. Specific training and implementation methods are used to help organizations achieve these outcomes. **Evaluation Services:** Some organizations need an independent, outside evaluator to assess the effectiveness of their STS projects, or to track progress over time. The STS Practice Lab at the University of Kentucky provides in-person and cloud based evaluation methods, and can customize reports to address grant or contract specific needs. All evaluation services adhere to accepted, human subject protection standards.



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