

## Needs Assessment and Cultural Competence: Questions to Consider

The following questions will help to ensure that your assessment process is inclusive and culturally relevant:

### **Epidemiological Data**

- Are sub-populations experiencing different consequences?
- Are sub-populations exhibit different consumption patterns?
- What is the magnitude—versus impact—of the problem in specific sub-populations?

### **Assessing Resources**

- What resources are available to/used by diverse populations?
- Does the coalition currently have membership that reflects the cultures present in the community?
- Do stakeholders from across the diverse community participate in planning activities?
- Are there prevention programs in place for these sub-populations? Are they culturally relevant? Are they offered by culturally competent staff?
- Do culturally competent organizations exist that can deliver the necessary services?

### **Assessing Readiness**

- What tools are you using to assess readiness? Are these appropriate for diverse communities?
- Have you looked at levels of readiness within diverse communities? How do these levels vary across communities?
- Is your “priority problem” viewed differently within/across racial or ethnic communities?
- What types of cultural differences might explain why your priority problem is viewed differently across racial or ethnic groups?