

## DEFINITION OF CULTURAL COMPETENCY

From Domestic Violence: Practical Applications Session. Trainer's Manual For Health Care Providers, *Family Violence Prevention Fund (1998)*.

### 1. CULTURAL COMPETANCY REFERS TO THE PROCESS BY WHICH HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

- Combine general knowledge with specific information provided by the patient,
- Incorporate an awareness of their own biases, and
- Approach the definition of culture with a self reflective and open mind.

Recognizing that individuals have different perspectives based on their diversity is the first step in a lifelong process of becoming culturally competent.

### 2. WHEN WORKING WITH DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS, A SUCCESSFUL, CULTURALLY COMPETENT INTERVENTION INCORPORATES:

- An understanding of the definition of cultural competency;
- An awareness of one's own biases, prejudices and knowledge concerning patients and their culture; and
- A recognition of professional power (such as the power differential between provider and patient) in order to avoid imposing one's own values on the patient.