

# Screening & Assessment Tools

*What you need to know before you choose a tool for your program*



## Screening vs. assessment: What's the difference?

**Screening** is the first step in identifying if a person demonstrates indicators of trafficking. A positive screening should be followed by a comprehensive **assessment**, which is a comprehensive evaluation of a person's strengths, needs, and experiences used to inform treatment or other interventions.



## Considerations when choosing a tool

### *What do I want to gain from the tool?*

Before choosing a tool, determine what your goals are for the tool. For example, are you hoping to conduct a screening or assessment? Are you interested in learning if a client is a potential victim, if they qualify for services in your program, or if they fit the legal definition of trafficking? Review the tool to ensure that it helps you reach your goals.

### *Who is the intended audience of this tool?*

Some tools are designed with a specific identity group in mind, such as children, people experiencing homelessness, or people who identify as female. Before choosing your tool, consider which populations you serve and what the cultural, linguistic, and developmental needs are of that population.

### *Is the tool validated?*

A validated tool is one that has been scientifically tested for validity and reliability, meaning that the tool is accurate in what it is trying to measure for the intended group that the tool was designed for. Utilizing a validated tool ensures that you are using an evidence-based approach to screening and assessment.

### *What process is required to administer the tool?*

Different tools utilize different methods of gathering information. Some require that you ask a set list of questions directly to potential victims, while others rely on review of existing documents and resources about the client to complete the assessment. Some tools may use simple yes or no checklists, while others require complex documentation and calculation. When selecting a tool, consider the amount of time or training the tool will require of staff to implement that tool effectively.