

Training Marriage Education Practitioners

Proper training of your program's marriage educators is vital for success.

Marriage educators are the face of your marriage and relationship education program. Proper training is critical to your program's success. These individuals must have the knowledge and skills to appropriately respond to questions about the curriculum, identify unhealthy (and potentially violent) relationships, set boundaries, and effectively facilitate and/or present information. This is no small task, and training should be an on-going priority for quality MRE programs.

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- **Policies/procedures** – Cover the basics. Make sure your educators understand the general program procedures, their roles and

responsibilities and any protocols that may be in place. Train your educators on the technical aspects of conducting workshops and how to troubleshoot when equipment is not functioning properly.

- **Connecting with your audience** – It is important for your educators to understand the target audience your program serves. This will help them connect with and adjust the presentation to fit the needs of the audience.
- **Special issues** – Special attention should be given to cultural values, beliefs, customs and the language used by the audience. Trainings on a specific topic or issues are best left to the experts, whether they are part of your organization or are a third party. For example, you may want to identify experts in the community to train your workshop leaders on topics like domestic violence, substance abuse and special populations such as refugees and military families.

