1. Event Planning

The resources in this section are intended to help with planning your faith leader training. Each local group will plan and organize the event in the way that best engages their local faith community and suits their resources. Below are some general suggestions to keep in mind as you proceed.

1. Like all audiences, leaders from faith-based organizations know best what they need and want from an educational experience. Engaging them early on in the planning process will help garner their support and allow them to give valuable input into the program feel and content.

2. Faith-based organizations are diverse – philosophically, ethnically, culturally, and politically. Be as inclusive as possible in your outreach, and be culturally sensitive in the planning of your event. For example, do not assume that experiential exercises that are comfortable for some audiences will be comfortable for all. We have found that guided meditations that lead participants deeply into feelings about death and loss may not be well-received by some groups. Keep such factors in mind as you tailor the seminar modules to your local community.

3. A culturally diverse audience and content informed by the principles of cultural humility will enrich the experience for all who attend. Again, seeking input early on from prospective participants will help accomplish this. The sample faith organization assessment in this section of the toolkit can help with this engagement process.

4. The Program Planning Suggestions document in this section will help you think through other important considerations, such as faculty and training design to help ensure a meaningful and relevant event for your local communities of faith.