

# 2023

## ANNUAL REPORT



Interagency Task Force  
on Human Trafficking

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**New York State Interagency Task  
Force on Human Trafficking**

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# Interagency Task Force on Human Trafficking 2023 Annual Report

This report is submitted by the New York State Interagency Task Force on Human Trafficking as required by Section 483-ee (c) of the New York State Social Services Law. It details information about the Task Force's activities and the individual agencies and their efforts to fight human trafficking throughout New York State.

Representatives from two state agencies, the Division of Criminal Justice Services and the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, serve as co-chairs of the Interagency Task Force and staff from those agencies support its work.

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## Overview

The “New York Anti-Trafficking Statute” took effect on November 1, 2007, defining the crimes of “Labor Trafficking” (Penal Law § 135.35) and “Sex Trafficking” (Penal Law § 230.34). These Penal Law sections establish that compelling or inducing another person to engage in labor or commercial sex by the use of force, fraudulent promises, or coercive threats is a crime. In 2018, the crime of “Child Sex Trafficking” was added (Penal Law § 230.34-a).

Sex Trafficking presents in many ways. It may include a runaway minor whose need for housing results in them being coerced into sex, or those in abusive relationships who are threatened with physical harm if they do not engage in sex for money, or a massage parlor worker who is hired under fraudulent terms and then made to engage in sex with customers. Labor trafficking can occur in any industry. It has been found in New York State in the construction, domestic work, hospitality, and retail industries. Workers may be threatened with physical force, or an undocumented worker may be threatened with deportation to induce labor. It is important to understand that trafficking means analyzing the means (force, fraud, or coercion) used to compel someone to work or perform commercial sex.

An individual who is unhoused or whose economic situation is precarious may have these factors used against them in trafficking situations. Populations that are subject to discrimination on the basis of race, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, or disability are more vulnerable to trafficking. Societal discrimination can result in an individual having fewer employment options, leading them to seek income outside of the formal sector and be vulnerable to trafficking. Sex Trafficking often co-occurs with gender-based violence, such as when a person is compelled into commercial sex by threats of violence from a partner. Individuals who experience discrimination on more than one basis, such as sex, race, or gender identity, have compounded vulnerability.

The New York Anti-Trafficking Statute also created Social Services Law Article 10-D (“Services for Victims of Trafficking”).<sup>1</sup> Section 483-cc of the Social Services Law established the state’s Confirmation process (Confirmation) to rapidly connect trafficking survivors with services. Law enforcement representatives and established legal or social services providers may submit referrals for Confirmation when an individual “reasonably appears” to have been trafficked. Confirmed individuals are referred to either their local [social services district](#) (district) or the regional [Response to Human Trafficking Program \(RHTP\)](#) service provider. Section 483-dd of the Social Services Law also directs state or local law enforcement agencies and district attorneys’ offices to provide T nonimmigrant status endorsements for trafficked persons upon request. New York State has developed a protocol for the issuance of such endorsements by four agencies: the State Police, the Department of Labor, the Division of Human Rights, and the districts.

Section 483-ee of the Social Services Law additionally established the NYS Interagency Task Force on Human Trafficking (ITF). The ITF is co-chaired by the commissioners of the Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) and the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA), or their designees, ensuring a focus on both systemic criminal law enforcement and the identification and provision of services to individual survivors. The ITF enabling statute also places an emphasis on preventative policies. ITF member agencies use data-driven public health approaches to examine the social and economic determinants of health and well-being to identify those with increased vulnerability and implement targeted prevention strategies.

These goals are reflected in the wide variety of constituent services and expertise of member agencies: State Police (NYSP), Department of Labor (DOL), Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS), Department of Health (DOH), Office of Mental Health (OMH), Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS), Office of Victim Services (OVS), the Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (OPDV), and the Department of State (DOS).<sup>2</sup> The New York State Bar Association (NYSBA) also appoints one member to the ITF.

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<sup>1</sup> This report generally does not use the word “victim,” as survivors have reported that they find the word “victim” to be a negative label. Where the word appears as a term of art (such as in statute), the usage has been retained.

<sup>2</sup> In 2023, the Department of State was formally added as a member of the ITF by statute.

The ITF functions as a state agency-level collaborative, communicating best practices, effective partnerships, and serving as a resource for the state on anti-trafficking work. The ITF is tasked with the coordination of New York State's activities regarding human trafficking, including evaluating training programs and outreach strategies; collaborating on a federal, state and local level; identifying services to known trafficked persons; collecting and evaluating data; and developing recommendations to strengthen anti-trafficking efforts, protect and assist survivors, and prosecute traffickers. The ITF has established a Youth Working Group to discuss the trafficking of minors in New York State. The ITF Annual Report highlights the work of the agencies, individually and collaboratively.

## Scope of Trafficking in New York State

Confirmation serves to rapidly connect individuals identified as having been trafficked with services. Referrals for Confirmation can be made by law enforcement or established social or legal services providers when an individual reasonably appears to have experienced human trafficking. Referrals are submitted to DCJS and OTDA. DCJS, in consultation with OTDA, interviews referral sources and determines if the individual meets the statutory criteria.

Once an individual is confirmed by DCJS, OTDA sends the "New York State Notice of Confirmation of Human Trafficking" (Notice of Confirmation) correspondence to the referral source and refers the individual to services. Confirmed individuals who meet the non-citizen eligibility criteria for public benefits are directed to their districts. Those who do not are directed to a local [Response to Human Trafficking Program \(RHTP\)](#) service provider. RHTP providers are non-profit organizations located throughout NYS that contract with OTDA to provide emergency services and case management as needed. This process is completed in a matter of days so a trafficked individual can access services in a timely manner. The Notice of Confirmation never expires and can be used for life.

It is important to contextualize that Confirmation data represents only known instances of trafficking, in which identified persons were connected to law enforcement or service providers, and therefore is likely to be only a small percentage of actual trafficking occurrences.<sup>3</sup> Established social and legal services providers must obtain their client's consent before submitting a referral for Confirmation. A lack of trust in government institutions, which may be prevalent in marginalized populations, can lead clients to decline participation in Confirmation. Trafficked individuals may also have received services from state agencies for which screening data is not reported due to health care rights and confidentiality concerns.

Referrals for Confirmation in 2023 reflected a steady increase in submissions. In 2023, 410 submissions for Confirmation were received. Of these submissions, 322 were confirmed: 104 for Labor Trafficking, 173 for Sex Trafficking, and 45 for both Labor and Sex Trafficking. This marks a significant increase in Labor Trafficking confirmations (including joint Labor and Sex Trafficking) from 78 in 2022 to 149 in 2023. Forty-eight individuals identified as male, 273 as female, and one as gender non-conforming. Fifty-three of the confirmed individuals were minors. One hundred thirty-seven referrals originated in New York City, 70 in the Long Island and lower Hudson Valley regions, 107 in the rest of the State, and 8 from out of state. Of the confirmed individuals, 199 were referred to districts, and 123 were referred to RHTP providers. Additional data can be found in Attachment B.

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<sup>3</sup> Estimates of unreported trafficking are not known. For comparison, the federal National Crime Victimization Survey established that nearly half of intimate partner and domestic violence instances are unreported. See: [Infographic of Findings from the 2022 National Crime Victimization Survey about Domestic Violence in the U.S. \(ojp.gov\)](#).

# Interagency Task Force Activities

## Legislative Enactments

In 2023, OCFS worked collaboratively with OTDA and DCJS to analyze legislative frameworks addressing human trafficking.

Social Services Law section 483-ee(a-b) was amended to update the Office of Addiction Services and Supports' name, add the secretary of the Department of State to the ITF, and direct the ITF to evaluate the use of social media and its contribution to human trafficking. The statute was also amended to extend the duration of the ITF to September 1, 2027.

Additionally, the enactment of section 17(d-1) of the Social Services Law required a report of services for trafficked persons. This report is included as Attachment C.

## Events and Meetings

The ITF began the year by hosting a webinar on Labor Trafficking with the New York State Bar Association for continuing legal education credit. The training had 300 individuals in attendance and topics included the identification of labor trafficking, New York State Confirmation, and the types of services available through RHTP providers.

The ITF held three trainings for member agencies in 2023: financial-based trafficking investigations, public health approach to trafficking prevention, and attachment disorder and minor vulnerability to online solicitation. The training for criminal law enforcement partners on investigating trafficking from a financial crimes perspective featured major bank investigators and an academic researcher on massage parlor financial structures. There were nearly 70 attendees, including officers, chiefs of police, crime analysts district attorneys, and representatives from the New York State Attorney General's Office and the U.S. Department of Justice.

The ITF's second training for member agencies featured a speaker from a multidisciplinary network of providers, including health care, on using a public health approach to trafficking prevention. The final training was on attachment disorder and vulnerability to online solicitation and sexual victimization in adolescence by a psychologist with board certification in forensic psychology.

The ITF additionally held Part II of strategic planning to discuss implementation, recommendations, and goal setting for the four prongs of anti-trafficking initiatives: prevention, protection, prosecution and partnership.

Finally, the updated ITF anti-trafficking poster is available via [download](#) in multiple languages, including [English](#), [Chinese](#), [Korean](#), [Russian](#), and [Spanish](#), among others, on OTDA's website.

## Interagency Task Force Member Agency Activities

Some ITF member agencies directly provide services, as DOH does through the state's hospitals and clinics, OMH through the operation of psychiatric centers, OASAS through addiction treatment centers, and OVS through compensation of individual victims of crime. Agencies such as OVS, OTDA, OCFS, and OPDV also function as funders to non-profit direct service providers. Several member agencies also work in an enforcement capacity, such as NYSP and DOL. Many agencies also have oversight of corresponding county agencies.

These agencies provide a wide array of services and encompass varied data tracking mechanisms specific to their functions. The populations they serve may have been trafficked or may be at risk. Services may be both preventative for at-risk individuals, addressing issues that can increase vulnerabilities to trafficking, and protective of trafficked individuals by meeting their needs.

## Prevention, Protection, Prosecution, and Partnership

The National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking<sup>4</sup> was developed using the Four Pillars approach: Prevention, Protection, Prosecution, and Partnership. The 2023 ITF activities and annual report are structured using this framing.

### Prevention Activities

Prevention activities are wide-ranging and can include public awareness campaigns, training to identify trafficking, educational programming to support individuals (including youth) with avoiding victimization or becoming perpetrators, and employer accountability programs that emphasize employer accountability in preventing trafficking from occurring within their spheres or throughout their supply chains.

#### Human Trafficking Prevention Month

The ITF coordinated state agencies' participation in a social media campaign against human trafficking for Human Trafficking Prevention Month which included a press release and proclamation from Governor Hochul. In January 2023, DCJS, OTDA, OASAS, DOL, OPDV and other state agencies participated in outreach activities. In addition:

- OVS shares anti-trafficking awareness month information every January with all OVS staff. OVS additionally issues a call for articles in the quarterly newsletter, and, if chosen, anti-trafficking articles are published in the winter edition of the newsletter.
- OCFS supports the outreach events and campaigns of the Safe Harbour: NY programs during the month of January and highlights these events in a monthly newsletter that is delivered to partners within New York State and across the country.

#### Member agencies conducted outreach campaigns to the public, including the following:

##### OTDA:

- OTDA conducted presentations and trainings on trafficking and New York State services for survivors to over 1,100 individuals in 2023, including presentations to the public, agency staff, and funded providers.

##### DCJS:

- In 2023, DCJS Missing Persons Clearinghouse convened a working group of state agencies, law enforcement, the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC), and other stakeholders on the topic of runaway youth. The working group (and its subcommittees) continues to meet regularly, discussing and drafting interventions for runaway youth and preventative measures. Youth who run away from home or placement may end up homeless with limited or no means to support themselves. Traffickers frequently exploit youth who lack social or financial supports. The working group benefits from the diverse expertise of its members and aims to provide trauma-informed and culturally appropriate recommendations.
- DCJS spoke at the Rockland Immigration Coalition meeting about Confirmation and RHTP services (11 individuals trained).

##### OCFS:

- In 2023 OCFS delivered two virtual train the trainer sessions of its commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) curriculum to over 35 professionals across New York State. After completing this training, these individuals are able to deliver the CSEC curriculum in their local areas to continue raising public awareness.

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<sup>4</sup> [National-Action-Plan-to-Combat-Human-Trafficking.pdf](#) (whitehouse.gov) (2021).

**OVS:**

- OVS conducted a 12-week public awareness campaign, which highlighted the wide range of support and services available at no cost from victim assistance programs. The outreach emphasized how to access financial help from OVS for expenses resulting from a crime.

**OPDV:**

- OPDV staff conducted trainings for law enforcement, probation entities, court personnel and the general public which included gender-based violence and sex trafficking.
- OPDV spoke on a panel about sex trafficking to an audience of approximately 35 people in Brooklyn.
- OPDV developed a flyer on economic abuse, with input from OTDA and DCJS on trafficking content, for social service organizations, law enforcement agencies, childcare providers, and shelters.

**DOL:**

- Currently, DOL provides “Know Your Rights” trainings to vulnerable populations, such as the immigrant community and minimum wage workers. In 2023, DOL conducted five trainings for two coalitions and three individual service providers, including those for trafficked persons, with a total of 94 participants.
- DOL additionally participated in a webinar for the public conducted in January 2023 and targeting attorneys and advocates, but other workers were also welcomed to attend.

**Training of NYS Agency Staff:****OASAS:**

- OASAS Addiction Treatment Centers reported that staff attended the “2023 Anti-Trafficking Summit” held by OCFS. In addition, OASAS staff received trafficking training from community-based organizations.

**DOL:**

- In March 2023, DOL conducted trafficking training on what specific steps investigators and worker-protection front-line staff can take when they see indicators of trafficking. There were about 70 participants at this live training, which was also recorded for DOL investigative and front-line staff members who could not attend. Twelve staff were trained on how to identify trafficking when they conduct field visits.

**OPDV:**

- OPDV conducted training for social services district staff on gender-based violence awareness for over 6,500 people.
- OPDV has a gender-based violence training for supervisors, human resources personnel, and Domestic Violence Agency Liaisons, which has been completed by 70,000 individuals since its inception.

**OCFS:**

- All OCFS employees are required to complete an introductory training about human trafficking within their first year of employment.
- In 2023, OCFS delivered its train-the-trainer curriculum to approximately 45 districts and their contract agencies across New York State.

**Training of NYS Agency Funding Recipients:****OCFS:**

- In October 2023, OCFS held its annual summit for Safe Harbour: NY programs and anti-trafficking service providers. This weeklong event included presentations from national anti-trafficking organizations. The training also featured a presentation from a trafficking survivor, who has been a member of panels for the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights; presentations from OCFS’s Safe Harbour: NY partners on such topics as Safe Court, Labor Trafficking in rural counties; and a panel discussion of child labor trafficking in New York State. Although the target audience for this summit was district staff



and youth-serving agencies, it was also available to the public. Sessions were recorded and are posted on the OCFS YouTube channel.

- Safe Harbour: NY coordinators additionally use OCFS funding to deliver training locally on issues related to preventing, identifying, and responding to child and youth trafficking.

#### **OASAS:**

- OASAS operates 12 [Addiction Treatment Centers](#) where doctors, nurses, and clinical staff provide inpatient and residential services to approximately 8,000 individuals per year. OASAS holds weekly “Learning Thursday” for these providers and agency staff. OASAS has made two Learning Thursday trainings available for its providers and staff. The first is “Counselor Sensitivity to Sex Work and Substance Use Disorder.” The second is “How We Can Identify, Support & Prevent Trafficked Youth, Awareness and Knowledge.”

#### **DOS:**

- In January the Department of State’s Office for New Americans (ONA) and its Ramirez June Initiative hosted a webinar for its network of immigrant community-based organizations on the topic of “Combatting Human Trafficking and Assisting Immigrant Survivors.” This webinar featured a presentation by OTDA. Participants of the webinar also heard from Unity House of Troy, Inc. regarding their human trafficking program, the Address Confidentiality Program, and available mental health programming through the State. There were 155 participants in this training.
- At ONA outreach events, including the New York State Association of Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic, & Asian Legislative Caucus, SOMOS, the New York State Fair and other outreach events, information about the Address Confidentiality Program, which assists survivors of human trafficking, sexual assault, domestic violence, and people in certain professions, among others, was shared.

#### **OVS:**

- OVS hosted more than 350 victim services professionals from across New York State for the 2023 OVS Conference, “Resilience: Redefining Victim Services in an Age of Uncertainty,” held in August in Albany. Attendees heard from nearly four dozen experts in the field about ways resilience impacts victim services and included workshops and conversation corners on adapting to the needs of different victim populations, including trafficking victims. OVS also hosted a Victim Service Academy training, for a cohort of nearly 100 victim services professionals, focused on providing entry-level victim advocates with basic principles of trauma-informed care, including how to support others and themselves.
- The OVS Training & Technical Assistance Request Program (TTARP) offers customized, no-cost training and technical assistance for OVS-funded programs. Programs may request special topic training, including anti-trafficking and how to engage with specialized populations. OVS also hosts a bi-monthly speakers’ bureau that can feature anti-trafficking training. Finally, in 2023, an OVS Victim Assistance Program grantee that specializes in services for trafficked persons conducted a presentation to OVS staff on their program and areas of service.

#### **OPDV:**

- OPDV grantees report eight trainings that included sex trafficking to 226 participants, including student employees, student athletes, and student populations.
- Funding recipients additionally conducted trainings for 206 students on trafficking in Westchester, Rockland, Suffolk, Monroe and Queens counties.

#### **DOH:**

- DOH implemented State legislation in 2017<sup>5</sup> that requires general hospitals and diagnostic and treatment centers to establish and implement policies and procedures pertaining to the identification, assessment, and referral of victims of human trafficking. As a result, DOH provides links to relevant trainings on their website, “[Resources for Health Care Professionals](#),” including the federal Administration for Children Services Stop, Observe, Ask and Respond (SOAR) training, the Health,

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<sup>5</sup> Public Health Law (PHL) § 2805-y, added by Chapter 408 of the Laws of 2016.

Education, Advocacy and Linkage (HEAL) training for health care settings, and the Polaris National Human Trafficking Hotline training tools for health care professionals.

- In September 2023, DCJS and OTDA trained 22 DOH staff and providers on human trafficking.

#### **OMH:**

- OMH continues to distribute resources and hold trainings on anti-trafficking, including internally, to field offices, which then share materials with providers. OMH's Forensic Division completed a human trafficking training for court personnel, which will be uploaded to [NYcourts.gov](https://nycourts.gov).

## **Protection Activities**

Protection activities are those that target the identification of trafficked persons and their referral to appropriate service providers to receive necessary services.

While some NYS agencies employ front-line staff who provide direct services, other agencies fund nongovernmental service providers. Agencies, such as OCFS and OTDA, supervise the provision of services at the county level. The ITF strives to balance privacy and confidentiality with reporting on the breadth of services provided to individuals who have been identified as trafficked.

#### **Department of Labor**

DOL connects individuals to employment opportunities, supports businesses in finding workers, manages the state unemployment insurance program, and ensures worker protection through wage and safety investigations. The unpaid wages complaint form includes questions designed to illicit indicators of potential labor trafficking. Upon a positive indicator of trafficking, the complaint is referred to the Labor Trafficking Response Unit. The unit will then conduct joint site visits as appropriate, interview potentially trafficked persons, and provide referrals to service providers and criminal law enforcement.

DOL reports that nine trafficking survivors were identified in 2023, in the following industries: cleaning/janitorial, construction, domestic work, health care, hospitality/tourism, nail salons, and restaurants. Unpaid wages of \$3,000 were collected on behalf of one survivor.

DOL is also one of four New York State agencies authorized to issue endorsements or certifications that can be used as part of an immigrant survivor's application for U or T nonimmigrant status. In addition, DOL implemented the process developed at the federal level in 2022 that assists immigrant survivors of workplace violations (e.g., failure to pay wages, failure to pay minimum wage or overtime, failure to pay for all hours worked) by providing a "Statement of Interest" that can be used to request prosecutorial discretion or deferred action in immigration proceedings on the basis of the worker's involvement in the investigation of a labor law violation.

#### **Office of Addiction Services and Supports**

OASAS provides prevention, treatment, and recovery services for people with substance use disorders in New York State through oversight of one of the nation's largest substance use disorder systems of care with approximately 1,700 programs serving over 730,000 individuals per year. OASAS's goal is a data-driven continuum of addiction services delivered with equity, dignity, compassion, and respect that will allow New Yorkers impacted by addiction to thrive and lead healthy lives.

The OASAS Addiction Treatment Centers (ATC) provide trauma-informed care and services and referrals for other needs, such as housing and medical care. OASAS is additionally implementing the "Sanctuary Model," which promotes safety and recovery from adversity through the active creation of a trauma-informed community.

The ATCs conduct outreach to the 12 NYS Human Trafficking Intervention Courts on identification and services for individuals. The OASAS ATCs have connected with five different human trafficking courts in

Suffolk County, Oneida County, Monroe County, Utica, and Buffalo to offer services for survivors. Additionally, the ATCs have coordinated with three community-based providers to provide services for survivors.

### **Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance**

OTDA is responsible for helping vulnerable people meet their essential needs and advance economically by providing opportunities for stable employment, housing, and nutrition through supervising programs that provide assistance and support to eligible families and individuals, including cash assistance, food and heating support, supervising homeless housing and services programs, and providing assistance to certain immigrant populations with a goal of empowering New Yorkers to improve their financial security and household stability in support of strong families and communities.

Of the 322 individuals confirmed in 2023, 199 were directed to their district offices or the NYC Human Resources Administration (HRA) to apply for benefits, and 123 were referred to RHTP providers for case management to assist with service provision. Of those individuals referred to districts, approximately 42% applied for SNAP, and 77% were approved. Additionally, 29% applied for Public Assistance, and 65% were approved.

OTDA funds RHTP providers, which provide case management and referral services to confirmed individuals. The focus is on individuals who would otherwise not have access to needed services, such as those without immigration status. Contracts are selected through competitive procurement for funding awards to non-profit service providers with the goal of providing statewide geographic coverage. In the current grant cycle (2021-2025), there are 11 providers located throughout New York State: Finger Lakes, Long Island, Western New York, New York City, the Capital Region, and Westchester. Please see Attachment C for funding levels.

The RHTP providers offer culturally appropriate, trauma-informed, holistic case management and referrals, including shelter/rental assistance; health assessment; medical care; mental health counseling; legal services; food assistance; and other identified service needs. Generally, a client will initially receive intake, screening for areas of immediate need, crisis intervention, safety planning, and informal emotional support. Continuing case management will assess for additional areas of need and connect individuals to services, such as those offered through state agencies.

The RHTP grant also includes an option for providers to use funds for survivor advisory boards. Seven providers report having in place a survivor advisory board, which may include peer support work, training on peer support, training on public speaking and advocacy, as well as policy and protocol work.

Housing is consistently mentioned by providers as a major area of need for both sex and labor trafficking survivors. When fleeing trafficking, survivors may also be leaving their partners, homes, or employer-provided housing. While some RHTP providers have shelters, others work with community partners to fulfill emergency, transitional, and long-term housing needs. Most RHTP providers report utilizing Housing First policies, emphasizing rapid re-housing without preconditional barriers like employment, income, or sobriety, as lack of stable housing can inhibit addressing these barriers. RHTP providers' responses on the availability, utilization, and necessity of services for trafficked persons can be found in Attachment C.

In addition to access to services, the Notice of Confirmation can be used in other ways:

- As evidence the individual is a victim of a crime when applying for assistance from OVS.
- To support a request to the courts to vacate criminal convictions associated with actions that resulted from being trafficked.
- As evidence of a trafficking determination when requesting removal of adverse consumer credit reports that resulted from the trafficking, under the Debt Bondage Repair Act.
- As a supporting document for U and T nonimmigrant status applications (commonly referred to as "U and T visas") or for shelter and housing applications.
- As supporting documentation for other legal matters, such as aiding in school transfers, filing a civil lawsuit, or case transfers to the trafficking court.
- Confirmation can also provide personal and emotional validation for survivors of human trafficking.

In 2023, OTDA developed a Confirmation flyer to explain the process and benefits to referral sources and their clients. In addition, DCJS and OTDA worked together to revamp the Confirmation referral form to include additional instructions, enhance clarity and ease of use, and streamline the process for referrals from law enforcement and established social/legal services providers.

### **Office of Victim Services**

OVS funds and supports more than 200 victim assistance programs that provide services to victims, survivors and their families, including: crisis counseling, advocacy, emergency shelter, civil legal assistance, and relocation assistance. The agency also provides financial assistance and reimbursement to eligible victims of crime for medical and counseling expenses, funeral and burial expenses, lost wages, and support, in addition to other assistance. Survivors of trafficking are eligible for the OVS compensation program for unreimbursed losses incurred by victims of crime.

OVS currently funds 24 programs that serve victims of crime, including human trafficking, although any of the 200 victim assistance programs funded by OVS may serve trafficked persons. In the federal funding reporting from Oct. 1, 2022, to Sept. 30, 2023, there were 79 claims for victim compensation related to human trafficking. Of these 79 claimants, 11 percent (nine individuals) were for victims under age 18. Eighty-two percent (65) of these individuals sought financial compensation related to physical injuries, and 18 percent (14) sought financial compensation for essential personal property losses.

OVS provided a total of 6,486 individual services in the categories “Human Trafficking Sex,” and “Human Trafficking Labor.” The types of individual services funded include medical/ambulance, crime scene cleanup, security device/system, counseling, vocational/rehabilitation, lost wages, domestic violence shelter, moving/storage, personal transportation, medical/counseling, court-related, and, in the instance of a claim on behalf of a deceased individual, funeral/burial, and loss of support. Unique to trafficking victims, OVS allows the use of the Notice of Confirmation issued by OTDA as proof that a crime occurred, in lieu of a police report.

OVS’ Advisory Council assists in the formulation of policies related to the field of victim services, provides recommendations to the director to improve the delivery of services, and advises OVS in establishing statewide goals and objectives for advancing innovative solutions in the field of victim services. The Advisory Council is made up of 16 members appointed by the director of OVS. In addition to these 16 members, the Advisory Council is also represented by survivor members, standing members, and ex-officio members. Standing members include the New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NYSCADV); the New York State Coalition Against Sexual Assault (NYSCASA); and the New York State Children’s Alliance (NYSCA). Ex-Officio State agency members include OCFS, DOH, OTDA, OPDV, DCJS, and DOCCS.

### **Department of Health**

DOH oversees the health, safety, and well-being of New Yorkers from sanitation and vaccinations to utilizing new developments in science as critical tools in the prevention and treatment of infectious diseases, with the goal of living in communities that promote health, are protected from health threats, and having access to quality, evidence-based, cost-effective health services.

While health care facilities are not mandated to report on the provision of services to trafficking victims, DOH trains service partner staff in the identification of trafficking victims and available resources. DOH additionally maintains a Human Trafficking page that provides resources designed for health care professionals, including identification, action steps, and State and national resources.

### **Office of Mental Health**

OMH is a large, multi-faceted mental health system that serves more than 900,000 individuals each year, through the operation of psychiatric centers across the state and the certification and regulation of more than 4,500 programs operated by local governments and nonprofit agencies. OMH provides trauma-informed care to individuals served by the agency and its programs, which may include individuals who have experienced human trafficking.



OMH's "Trauma-Informed Network Program" and Resources Programs operating under the auspices of OMH are mandated to refer identified trafficked persons for Confirmation, in accordance with Public Health Law. OMH has provided guidance on identification of individuals who are at-risk or who have experienced sex or labor trafficking to providers that utilize OMH's residential and congregate care programs. OMH has also taken steps to ensure there is consideration of potential immediate and long-term mental health service needs for survivors of trafficking. OMH's programs may also serve minors who have experienced trafficking. OMH field staff receive resources and trainings on trafficking and are encouraged to contact OMH central office on protocols for referrals for Confirmation.

OMH expects that programs operating under the auspices of the agency will continue to refer individuals identified as victims/survivors of human trafficking to OTDA and DCJS in accordance with the Public Health Law. OMH will send a reminder to OMH-licensed and funded programs as well as to Field Office staff to encourage them to contact OMH Central Office if they have questions or require further clarification on referral protocols for individuals who have been potentially trafficked.

In 2023, OMH received a request from several counties to meet after hospitals reported an increase in youth who self-identified as survivors of human trafficking in emergency rooms. OMH and OCFS met with stakeholders to share resources about information about Safe Harbour: NY services. Programs associated with the Trauma-Informed Network were also made available for support.

### **Department of State, Office for New Americans**

DOS includes the Division of Licensing Services. Licensing inspectors conduct site visits to DOS-licensed establishments, such as appearance enhancement businesses (beauty salons, nail parlors, natural hair styling), massage parlors, and barber shops, as well as security guards and athletic agents. DOS inspectors receive regular training by OTDA and DOL on identifying potential trafficking and protocols for making referrals using trauma-informed, culturally appropriate, and victim-centered practices. In practice, this means inspectors do not approach workers in the workplace, but rather make a referral to the DOL Labor Trafficking Response Unit to conduct outreach and a site visit.

Survivors of trafficking are eligible to participate in the DOS [Address Confidentiality Program](#) (ACP), a free program that allows survivors to shield their addresses by registering and using a substitute address. Any mail sent to a participant at the substitute address is processed by ACP staff and forwarded on a daily basis to the confidential location of the participant. The program is available to victims of domestic violence, stalking, sexual offense, kidnapping, and human trafficking who have moved or are planning to move for safety reasons. This program is also available to reproductive health care services providers, employees, volunteers, patients, or immediate family members of reproductive health care services providers. These individuals do not need to relocate to be eligible for participation.

DOS also includes the Office of New Americans (ONA) which was created in 2012 to welcome immigrants and support their inclusion as an integral part of New York State's diverse cultural fabric to help them in achieving their American Dream. ONA provides funding to a statewide network of community-based non-profits that provide outreach and services, including immigration legal consultations, legal services, English for speakers of other languages courses, civil leadership and knowledge of governmental systems, digital literacy, professional pathways for highly skilled immigrants, and other vital resources.

ONA keeps its network of community-based immigrant service providers informed of resources related to human trafficking which may assist them in identifying and helping victims, as needed. ONA will ensure its new Immigrant Community Liaisons in Hauppauge, Syracuse, Watertown, Albany, and Buffalo are trained on state protocols regarding trafficking prevention and reporting and connect them with the ITF member agencies, as needed, regarding referrals and resource sharing.

ONA's Ramirez June Initiative (the Initiative) is an innovative pilot program that was created in 2019 to increase access to developmental disability services for new Americans in New York State. The Initiative funded through a five-year grant with the NYS Council on Developmental Disabilities, with a mission to build

capacity at the state level to increase access to resources, information, and services for new Americans with developmental disabilities and their families. The Initiative will continue to raise awareness for human trafficking prevention for new Americans with developmental disabilities. During an outreach presentation at the Ulster County Workforce Summit, an audience member informed ONA's developmental disabilities navigator of a youth trafficking survivor who was no longer connected with services. The navigator was able to connect the individual with OTDA, and, through OTDA, connect the survivor with a RHTP services provider.

ONA additionally works to ensure that access to information on agency services is available in constituents' language of preference. Language-accessible information prevents the spread of misinformation about service delivery and supports constituents' resilience against fraud. ONA also provides support for specialized populations through Golden Door for mental health supports. ONA keeps its network of community-based immigrant service providers informed of resources related to human trafficking, which may assist them in identifying and helping victims through training and regular communications.

DOS is the statewide coordinator for NYS agencies issuances of certifications for U and T Visas. U and T visas allow non-citizens who are victims of serious crimes and/or victims of human trafficking to apply for legal status in the United States. The U.S. Congress created these visas with the express purpose of strengthening the ability of law enforcement agencies to investigate and prosecute certain crimes committed against non-citizens, while simultaneously offering protection to the victims of those crimes. For U visas (victims of serious crimes), all applications require a law enforcement agency to provide a certification that the victim assisted with the investigation or prosecution in the underlying crime. For T visas (victims of human trafficking), most applications require evidence that the victim complied with any reasonable request for assistance from law enforcement. This evidence may include a declaration from a law enforcement officer that the victim complied with reasonable requests for assistance. DOS is in the process of updating New York State's protocol regarding certification for U visa applications and declarations for T visa applications.

### **Office of Children and Family Services**

OCFS is responsible for programs and services involving foster care, adoption assistance, child protective services, juvenile justice programs, preventive services for children and families, including runaway and homeless youth, services for pregnant adolescents, oversight and monitoring of regulated childcare, and protective programs for vulnerable adults.

OCFS policy [15-OCFS-ADM-16](#) requires that all youth in the care, custody, or supervision of districts, voluntary agencies, and OCFS are screened for trafficking victimization on a regular and ongoing basis. OCFS has partnered with other agencies, including DCJS, to share its screening practices so there is consistency across the youth population.

OCFS also certifies [EMPOWER programs](#), which provide residential care to youth in foster care who are at risk of or have experienced sex trafficking. Additionally, a district can certify T and U visa applications for victims of qualifying crimes including trafficking, prostitution, sexual exploitation, or false imprisonment.

OCFS provides funding to each county in the state through the Safe Harbour: NY program. These funds are used in many counties to raise awareness locally. OCFS approves outreach materials before they are disseminated to ensure language and imagery is appropriate and in line with current best practices. OCFS has promulgated policies that require screening for signs of trafficking for any children or youth in the care, custody or supervision of OCFS or local social services districts.

Safe Harbour: NY programs submit de-identified data of youth identified as victims or at-risk of trafficking. OCFS compiles program data annually, including total referrals, geographic distribution, child-welfare involvement, type of referral source, relationship to a trafficker, types of services provided, and demographic information into an annual report, available at: [OCFS Safe Harbor: NY Program Data Reports](#). This report also includes outreach and trainings conducted by Safe Harbour: NY coordinators.

In addition to the services described above, OCFS certifies, monitors, and supports runaway and homeless

youth (RHY) programs. These settings are named as Safe House options in the Safe Harbour: NY Act and provide low barrier services to youth in need of crisis or transitional places to stay. RHY programs support young people up to age 25 to access a broad array of supportive services from a positive youth development lens.

## Prosecution Activities

Prosecution focuses on ensuring that the perpetrators of trafficking are identified, investigated, and face criminal justice penalties.

ITF member agencies may be involved in supporting victims through prosecution activities in various ways. Agencies directly working on prosecution activities include NYSP, DCJS, and indirectly, OCFS. While OCFS does not investigate crimes for the purpose of prosecution, the county agencies under OCFS' jurisdiction investigate allegations of child abuse, neglect, and maltreatment. "Child Sex Trafficking" is included as a subcategory of child sex abuse, and this specific allegation can be assigned by The Statewide Central Register of Child Abuse and Maltreatment at the time a report is made of suspected abuse or neglect. Trafficking may also be identified by a district during an investigation.

### State Police

NYSP has jurisdiction over the state's roadways, prevents and investigates crime, prepares for disasters, and supports other law enforcement agencies. The Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) is the plainclothes detective branch that handles cases requiring extensive investigation or involving felonies.

NYSP units such as the Computer Crimes Unit (CCU) and backroom investigators continuously assist the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) with various child predatory investigations, which may contain a trafficking of a minor component. The Community Stabilization Unit (CSU) investigates various types of criminal activity and combats human trafficking.

### State Police Law Enforcement Actions:

**Troop A (Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans, and Wyoming Counties):** An investigator is assigned to the Erie County Child Advocacy Center (CAC) and has continuous interaction with the International Institute of Buffalo and the Western District of New York Human Trafficking Task Force through weekly and monthly meetings. Additionally, an investigator is assigned to the FBI's Violent Crimes Against Children (VCAC) task force. Investigators continue to investigate potential human trafficking crimes and support victims of such crimes. In 2023, members attended several training courses and seminars to enhance their abilities in human trafficking investigations. These trainings included the Safe at Home Conference, NYS Crimes Against Children Seminar, Child Forensic Interview Certification, and Advanced Human Trafficking Investigations Training.

**Troop B (Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Hamilton, and St. Lawrence Counties):** High-ranking members, including members of the Violent Gangs and Narcotics Enforcement Team (VGNET), attended multiple monthly meetings with partner agencies at the federal, county, and local level. These meetings discussed trends of smuggling operations on the border, which included immigration and human trafficking. Additionally, members assist in federal interdiction efforts such as SPIDER Operations and Operation Stone Garden, which focus on illegal smuggling and can include human trafficking. Annually, high-ranking members also attend the Northern Border Symposium which addresses human trafficking from a national and international standpoint. Investigators also investigated the case of a missing 16-year-old girl and, through cooperation with Pennsylvania law enforcement, returned the girl safely home while the suspect faces numerous charges.

**Troop C (Broome, Chenango, Cortland, Delaware, Otsego, Tioga, and Tompkins Counties):** The CCU handles numerous Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) cases reported through the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) for Broome, Chenango, Cortland, Delaware, Otsego, Tioga, and Tompkins Counties. These cases involve the possession, distribution, and production of child sexual abuse

material (CSAM). In 2023, the CCU executed 45 ICAC search warrants in the Troop C area. These search warrant executions led to 48 arrests in 2023, leading to both state and federal indictments. Images and videos obtained during these investigations are reported back to NCMEC to identify the victims and determine if the files contain unknown victims yet to be identified.

**Troop D (Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga, and Oswego Counties):** In January 2023, CSU members arrested a spa owner in Manlius for providing prostitution-related services, which are often tied to human trafficking activity. CSU made additional arrests in similar cases in March, April, and May 2023. In October 2023, a trooper transferred a case to the U.S. Border Patrol for federal human trafficking charges after stopping to assist a disabled vehicle in Cicero. The CCU continues to investigate cases of child sexual exploitation and sextortion that often have a nexus to human trafficking.

**Troop E (Cayuga, Chemung, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne, Yates):** In late 2022, the NYSP began an investigation into a suspect that resided in Starkey and uncovered the sexual abuse of a minor. Over the course of several months, and with assistance of members in Troops A, C, and E, 19 adult suspects were arrested and charged.

**Troop F (Greene, Orange, Rockland, Sullivan, and Ulster Counties):** In May and June of 2023, the CSU and VGNET assisted the Town of New Windsor Police Department with suspected prostitution occurring within their jurisdiction, resulting in multiple arrests. The CCU handles the vast majority of the ICAC cases reported through NCMEC for Sullivan, Green, Orange, Rockland, and Ulster counties. These cases involve the possession, distribution, and production of CSAM. In 2023, the CCU investigated 54 ICAC cases. The cases led to 12 search warrants being executed, resulting in 12 arrests. The CCU made four arrests after “knock and talks.” Images and videos obtained during these investigations are analyzed by CCU investigators and are reported back to NCMEC to potentially identify the victims and determine if the files contain unknown victims yet to be identified. Three CCU investigators have now been trained in Undercover Chat, which will allow them to do proactive cases online. Lastly, members are assigned to the U.S. Secret Service (USSS) and the HSI and regularly assist federal and local law enforcement with various child predatory investigations.

**Troop G (Albany, Fulton, Hamilton, Montgomery, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie, Warren, and Washington Counties):** In 2023, the CCU investigated 136 ICAC cases resulting in the arrest of 36 individuals following a combination of search warrants and “knock and talks.” Images and videos obtained during these investigations are analyzed by CCU Investigators and reported back to NCMEC to potentially identify the victims and determine if the files contain unknown victims yet to be identified. In January, March, April, June, and November 2023, an investigator conducted online undercover chat investigations, leading to the arrest of five individuals who traveled to the Capital District for the purpose of engaging in sexual activities with a person whom they believed to be a 13-year-old girl. In May 2023, an investigation commenced into the sexual abuse of a 7-year-old girl, which resulted in the FBI arresting the suspect and charging him federally for trafficking.

**Troop H/ICAC Task Force:** In June 2023, members of the FBI Albany Child Exploitation and Human Trafficking Task Force, which includes members of the NYSP/ICAC Task Force, conducted an undercover operation in Warren County to identify individuals with an interest in paying for sex with children. An NYSP investigator initiated an investigation that led to the federal arrest of a man who paid to have sex with a 12-year-old female. In July 2023, members of the task force conducted an undercover operation in Saratoga County and identified and provided services to a survivor of human trafficking. In August 2023, investigators opened an investigation involving potential labor and sex trafficking in Albany County.

**Troop L (Nassau and Suffolk Counties):** The CCU handles ICAC cases reported through NCMEC in Suffolk and Nassau counties. These cases involve the possession, distribution, and production of CSAM. In September 2023, the CCU received an ICAC tip from Microsoft that photos and videos of child exploitation were being downloaded. NYSP conducted an investigation and acquired a warrant to search the suspect's residence. The suspect was later arrested and interviewed by investigators and ultimately charged. In August 2023, investigators conducted a “knock and talk” following a crime tip from Instagram that child pornography was being sent and downloaded. Investigators conducted an interview of the suspect, obtained consent to



search his phone, and ultimately charged the interviewee. Additionally, during every ICAC investigation, investigators ask the suspect if they are aware of human trafficking associated with child exploitative materials. The CCU is also a member of the USSS Crime Task Force, assisting with search warrants and investigations related to human trafficking investigations.

**Troop NYC (Bronx, Kings, New York, Queens, and Richmond Counties):** An investigator is assigned to the ICAC Task Force operated by the NYC Police Department (NYPD) in conjunction with USSS. The task force investigates all cases within the five boroughs of NYC. The investigator is fully involved in all aspects of the investigation, including drafting search warrants, examining electronic devices, collecting digital evidence, and interviewing suspects. Additionally, an investigator is designated to the USSS Electronics Crime Task Force in NYC. Finally, there are two full units (two senior investigators and six investigators in HSI), which investigates criminal activity including the illicit sex trade, child exploitation, and human trafficking.

## **Division of Criminal Justice Services**

The Division of Criminal Justice Services supports all facets of the state's criminal justice system. The agency provides direct training to law enforcement and other criminal justice professionals; oversees a law enforcement accreditation program; ensures Breathalyzer and speed enforcement equipment used by local law enforcement operate correctly; manages criminal justice grant funds; analyzes statewide crime and program data; provides research support; oversees county probation departments and alternatives to incarceration programs; and coordinates juvenile justice policy. The agency also maintains criminal history records and fingerprint files and performs background checks for employment and licensure. The agency also administers the state's Sex Offender Registry; the Missing Persons Clearinghouse; the state's DNA Databank in cooperation with the New York State Police Forensic Investigation Center; and provides staff support to independently appointed commissions and councils, including the New York State Commission on Forensic Science, which monitors and accredits the state's forensic laboratories.

In 2023, DCJS' Missing Persons Clearinghouse convened a working group of state agencies, law enforcement, NCMEC, and other stakeholders on the topic of runaway youth. The working group and its subcommittees continue to meet regularly, discussing and drafting interventions for runaway youth and preventative measures. Youth who run away from home or placement may end up homeless with limited or no means to support themselves. Traffickers frequently exploit youth who lack social or financial supports. The working group benefits from the diverse expertise of its members and aims to provide trauma-informed and culturally appropriate recommendations.

DCJS continued to attend and make connections at conferences related to human trafficking, including the 20th Annual International Human Trafficking and Social Justice Conference (September 2023) and the OCFS Anti-Trafficking Summit: 10 Years of Safe Harbour: NY (October 2023).

## **Partnership Activities**

Partnership activities address collaboration across silos and systems to achieve better results and efficiencies.

ITF member agencies continue to collaborate and share information related to human trafficking. In 2023, OMH spearheaded training and outreach to hospitals after multiple reports of emergency rooms reporting youth trafficking survivors requesting services. DCJS and OTDA conducted joint presentations at the request of DOH. DCJS and OTDA advised OPDV on the trafficking content of an economic exploitation flyer. DOL continues to collaborate with state agencies on outreach and communications. OPDV and OCFS partnered to bring the Safe and Together model to child welfare professionals statewide.

OPDV additionally convenes Domestic Violence Regional Councils in each of the 10 economic development regions throughout the state twice a year. These meetings focus on local issues and provide technical assistance on improving gender-based violence responses. Participants include local system responders, such as law enforcement, gender-based violence advocates, and social services staff.

## Survivor Engagement

The ITF is committed to engaging survivor leaders to use their expertise and lived experience to advise the task force on research, policy, planning, and implementation of programming while supporting and developing survivors through skill development, employment, and leadership initiatives.

In 2023, OCFS participated with Shobana Powell Consulting to implement the Survivor Equity and Inclusion Framework in its practice.

## Regional Anti-Trafficking Task Forces

There are eight regional task forces in specific geographic areas of the state: Suffolk, Brooklyn, Westchester, Capital Region, North Country, Southern Tier, and Western New York. Additionally, the Center for Safety and Change operates the Rockland County Task Force. Each regional group includes representatives from law enforcement, government, service providers, and advocacy organizations. Individually, the regional task forces seek to address needs specific to their areas and provide networks of services to address the unique needs of trafficking victims.

Several of the state regional anti-trafficking task forces (Suffolk, Westchester, Western New York, and Brooklyn) have been awarded the Enhanced Collaborative Model to Combat Human Trafficking grant from the federal Bureau of Justice Assistance. This grant supports law enforcement agencies and victim service organizations in building capacity and operational effectiveness in providing a range of cross-sector strategies for identifying victims of human trafficking, providing needed services, and holding traffickers accountable. The funding allows the task forces to hire a coordinator and ensure regular meetings and programming. OTDA and DCJS periodically conduct outreach presentations for the regional task forces on Confirmation and services available through RHTP providers.

ITF member agencies participate in the regional task forces, including OTDA, DCJS, DOL, OCFS, and ONA, allowing agencies to maintain regular communication with the local service providers and law enforcement participants. In addition, OTDA co-chairs the Labor Trafficking Subcommittee of the Brooklyn Task Force. OCFS participates in a variety of regional anti-trafficking task forces, including those operating in Western New York, the Capital Region, the Southern Tier, and the North Country. Participation in these groups allows OCFS to remain in touch with local and emergent needs which can be elevated to the ITF as necessary. OCFS also convenes quarterly regional meetings of Safe Harbour: NY providers to support a community of practice for local providers addressing child trafficking.

Highlighted activities of the Regional Anti-Trafficking Task forces:

- **Brooklyn Human Trafficking Task Force:** The Brooklyn Task Force kicked off 2023 with a human trafficking awareness month event titled "Empowered: Creating Change and Preventing the Exploitation of Youth." The event featured a performance and a panel of experts from the education, law enforcement, healthcare and anti-trafficking fields. In February of 2023, the Task Force hosted a Labor Trafficking Survivor Roundtable at which survivors shared their stories, thoughts, and recommendations with task force members. In March, in collaboration with the Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence, the Labor Trafficking Subcommittee continued its Labor Listening Session project with a focus group of healthcare providers sharing about potential indicators of human trafficking that they have seen among their patients. Over the summer, task force members formed a Forced Criminality Working Group that began planning a continuing legal education (CLE) opportunity for defense attorneys. The CLE, led by the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office, in collaboration with the New York State Bar Association, featured four speakers and was attended by over 50 legal professionals. Rounding out an eventful year, Task Force Co-Chair David Weiss, chief of the human trafficking unit at the Kings County District Attorney's Office, presented testimony at the Assembly Public Hearing to Examine the Current Status of Available Assistance, Services, and Protections for Victims and Survivors of Human Trafficking in New York State. Between both task force co-chair agencies - the Kings County District Attorney's Office and Safe Horizon - over 90 training presentations were conducted to over 3,600 community members and professionals.

- **Rockland County Anti-Trafficking Task Force:** The Rockland Task Force continued collaborations with community partners through outreach events, meet-and-greets and meetings tailored to the needs of the community. The task force worked with HSI, and a nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering youth through a curriculum of after school programs taught by women mentors, with a focus on teen safety. The task force chair has focused on raising awareness on human trafficking in middle schools and high schools and has done presentations in local Rockland County schools.
- **Suffolk County Anti-Trafficking Initiative:** The Suffolk task force has focused on fostering relationships with local housing authorities to ensure safe housing for survivors. The task force understands the importance of providing a safe and secure living situation for those affected. Task force members and survivor speakers have been featured in the media and have worked closely with law enforcement.
- **Bronx Human Trafficking Prevention and Response Task Force:** The Bronx Human Trafficking Task Force experienced tremendous growth and expansion in 2023. Administrative achievements included the development of a task force logo, increased membership, collaboration with a web designer and greater outreach and education. The task force now includes 20 partner agencies, representing medical, legal, law enforcement, educational, case management, housing, mental health support, and other groups. Leadership has participated in meetings with Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz regarding legislation to increase the statute of limitations on human trafficking reporting; with Homeland Security concerning growing trafficking situations related to new migrant populations; and at a United Nations hearing on sex tourism and ongoing meetings with the World Childhood Foundation. Education and outreach have also been expanded, with presentations reaching agencies and groups, locally in-person and nationally via virtual platforms.
- **Westchester County Anti-Trafficking Task Force:** The Task Force, founded in 2010, serves over one million people located in six cities, 19 towns and 23 villages across Westchester County. In 2023, the Task Force partners worked together on more than 37 cases of adult trafficking and 363 cases of minor trafficking. Other major accomplishments for 2023 include: 1) Trained over 1,060 law enforcement agents and 1,016 individuals on human trafficking and related issues including labor trafficking; 2) Completed a revision of the 2014 Task Force Protocol; 3) Finalized a new protocol “Fostering an Initial Dialogue with Law Enforcement”; and 4) Started a new initiative to address labor trafficking across the county.
- **Capital Region Anti-Trafficking Task Force:** The Task Force currently has approximately 80 members which includes local, state and federal law enforcement, representation from the U.S. Attorney’s Office Northern District of New York, local hospitals including sexual assault nurse examiners (SANE) from six hospitals, local OTDA RHTP grantees, Safe Harbour: NY program coordinators from several counties, representatives of OMH, OTDA, DOL, DCJS, the U.S. Department Of Labor, the Whitney Young Federally Qualified Health Center, and numerous local agencies serving trafficking survivors, including charter task force members from the Worker Justice Center and Equinox. The Task Force meetings included presentations from federal and state labor departments, the FBI Cyber Crimes Task Force, as well as training on keeping newly arrived asylum seekers safe and presentations on lived experience.
- **North Country Human Trafficking Task Force:** The Task Force created an updated directory of members, as well as implemented a confidentiality agreement to foster a safer space for members to discuss potential cases and events. The Task Force is creating a database of existing trainings and resources with the goal of creating a Task Force “Human Trafficking 101” for the North Country community. The Task Force has been addressing crises at the northern border, including the effects of the closing of Roxham Road. This work included connecting with local media outlets to discuss human trafficking in the North Country.

- **Western District of New York Human Trafficking Task Force:** The Task Force continued to identify and serve victims of both sex and labor trafficking, including addressing tips from a broad range of sources, such as the National Human Trafficking Hotline, Crimestoppers WNY, local law enforcement partners and NGOs. The Task Force received training on improving information sharing, confidentiality, and referral processes, resulting in modifications to the referral handling process to ensure follow-up and accountability. The Task Force has worked with HSI in multiple operations targeting sex traffickers with an emphasis on victim identification. The Task Force conducted trainings at Jamestown Community College, Genesee Community College, and Rochester Institute of Technology to reach locations and populations that were not well-represented in its membership. The Task Force is partnering with Hilbert College to develop labor trafficking identification methodology from conducting labor assessments and analyzing local occupations and labor classifications. Task Force members have begun to proactively engage with organized labor to provide outreach in the construction field.

## National Partnerships

The [National Compendium](#) (Compendium) currently includes 44 states and Washington, D.C. OTDA has been a member of the steering committee of the Compendium since 2022. The Compendium held trainings on the collection of data for trafficking; current anti-trafficking state-level projects implementing effective culturally informed policies; and coalition building. The Compendium also hosts a website of member publications and other anti-trafficking resources.

OCFS is a founding member of the National Child Welfare Anti-Trafficking Collaborative and participates in the steering committee. The Collaborative is comprised of child welfare professionals from 31 member states, with representative members creating and implementing policies and practices addressing human trafficking in state child welfare systems through peer-to-peer learning. Meetings are held bi-monthly and focus on screening, investigations, case management, placement, training, multidisciplinary approaches, specialized residential and community-based services, and other related topics.

## Conclusion

The ITF continues to coordinate State agency efforts to prevent trafficking while identifying and providing services to trafficked persons, prosecuting traffickers, and developing partnerships that educate and improve practices. Confirmations for labor trafficking continue to increase, nearly doubling in 2023 from 2022. The ITF will continue to work to ensure outreach efforts including a focus on identifying and supporting labor trafficking survivors, who have previously been underrepresented in the number of referrals for Confirmation.

The ITF has begun an examination of the existing sources of data on trafficking in New York State with a goal of providing a comprehensive overview and ensuring data-driven policy recommendations. The ITF and member agencies will continue working with law enforcement and service providers on identifying issues and implementing recommendations for improvement.

The ITF has commenced consulting with non-governmental organizations in the development of a paid panel of survivors to advise the ITF and member agencies. The goal of the panel will be to engage people with lived experience in conducting research, policy, planning, and implementation of anti-trafficking programming goals in furtherance of the ITF and member state agencies. The ITF looks forward to engaging with and supporting survivors through skills and leadership development as part of the Advisory Panel.

## Attachments

- A. DCJS Sex and Labor Trafficking Arrests/Arraignments Disposed
- B. NYS Confirmation 2023 Annual Statistics
- C. OTDA RHTP Providers Housing Services Report
- D. Applicable ITF Statutes



# ATTACHMENT A

## SEX TRAFFICKING (PL 230.34 & PL 230.34A) ARRESTS/ARRAIGNMENTS DISPOSED: 2014-2023

Region/County		Arrest Year										
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
New York State	Total Dispositions	69	49	56	77	79	36	37	24	24	5	456
	DA Declined to Prosecute	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	5
	Dismissed-Not ACD	10	7	10	6	15	5	1	6	5	3	68
	Dismissed-ACD	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
	Diverted and Dismissed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Acquitted	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
	Other Favorable	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	3
	Covered by Another Case	1	6	0	5	5	3	0	1	0	0	21
	Convicted-Sentenced	55	34	44	65	57	26	35	17	18	2	353
	Convictions to:	Sex Trafficking	16	13	14	24	16	12	16	10	10	131
		Labor Trafficking	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
		Non-Trafficking Chg	39	21	30	40	41	14	19	7	8	221
	Sentences to:	Prison	42	23	28	45	38	17	25	13	14	245
		Jail	3	5	8	7	6	1	1	2	0	33
		Time Served	3	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	0	12
		Jail+Probation	1	2	2	3	3	3	2	0	0	17
		Probation	2	2	1	4	5	2	3	0	0	20
		Fine	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
		Cond Discharge	3	1	3	4	3	1	3	1	4	23
		Uncond Discharge	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

## LABOR TRAFFICKING (PL 135.35 & PL 135.37) ARRESTS/ARRAIGNMENTS DISPOSED: 2014-2023

Region/County		Arrest Year										
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
New York State	Total Dispositions	4	8	4	3	2	0	1	3	1	0	26
	DA Declined to Prosecute	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Dismissed-Not ACD	1	3	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	7
	Dismissed-ACD	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Diverted and Dismissed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Acquitted	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Other Favorable	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Covered by Another Case	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Convicted-Sentenced	2	5	4	2	2	0	1	1	1	0	18
	Convictions to:	Sex Trafficking	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Labor Trafficking	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	4
		Non-Trafficking Chg	2	5	2	2	1	0	1	0	0	14
	Sentences to:	Prison	1	4	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	8
		Jail	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
		Time Served	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Jail+Probation	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2
		Probation	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	3
		Fine	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Cond Discharge	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	4
		Uncond Discharge	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

## ATTACHMENT B

### NYS Confirmation 2023 Annual Statistics

#### Total Submissions: 410

Confirmed: 322

Denied: 30

Not Confirmed: 70 (27 Duplicates, 41 Inadmissible/Self-Referrals, 2 Withdrawals).

#### Analysis of Confirmed Individuals

<b>Type of Victim</b>	Labor Trafficking	104
	Sex Trafficking	173
	Labor <i>and</i> Sex Trafficking	45
<b>Outcome</b>	Referred to RHTP / not eligible for public benefits	123
	Referred to social service district / otherwise eligible	199
<b>Gender</b>	Male	48
	Female	273
	Gender Non-Conforming	1
<b>Adult / Minor</b>	Adult	269
	Minor	53
<b>Region</b>	New York City	137
	Metro (Long Island & Lower Hudson Valley)	70
	Upstate	107

## ATTACHMENT C

### Response to Human Trafficking Program (RHTP) Provider Housing Services (SSL Section 17(d–1))

RHTP changed from a performance-based grant, which reported the number of survivors and what types of services were received, to a line-item grant in 2021. RHTP providers report they were able to assist all survivors with housing services, utilizing various methodologies detailed below.

#### ***Catholic Charities of Long Island (CCLI): Long Island***

**In-House Services:** Catholic Charities may use a vacant house, if available at the time of an emergency, but most of the time works with partners to provide housing.

**Partnerships and Policies:** CCLI works with facilities including Long Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence; Dominican Sisters of Amityville; and The Retreat, Sisters of Saint Joseph of Brentwood; Oblate Sisters in Roosevelt. Domestic violence shelters can be used if the trafficking involves a domestic relationship. Other places will be accessible on a case-by-case basis, which includes assessment of the level of security, gender, and availability at the time. There may be times in which CCLI will pay for a hotel when there is nothing else available.

#### ***Empowerment Collaborative of Long Island (ECLI): Long Island***

**In-House Services:** The Anti-Human Trafficking team assists with case management, court advocacy, and other support services. It also has a housing program that helps people to find and set up safe housing.

**Partnerships and Policies:** Long Island Coalition for the Homeless, Suffolk County Police Department, Suffolk County District Attorney's Office, Axis Church, and other members of the Suffolk County Anti-Trafficking Initiative (SCATI). ECLI has developed "ECLI Safety Planning Tool" and "Housing Plan Agreement" templates.

#### ***My Sister's Place (MSP): Westchester***

**In-House Services:** My Sister's Place has a total of 20 beds for men, women, and transgender individuals, age 17 and over, and their children. Residents can stay in a shelter for up to 90 days with the possibility of two 45-day extensions as approved by the Westchester County Department of Social Services.

**Partnerships and Policies:** Westchester District Social Services' Safe Harbour: NY program placement occurs with The Children's Village and through the Rehousing in Supportive Environments (RISE), a collaborative project that creates the availability of transitional and rapid rehousing in Westchester specifically for survivors of domestic violence and their families. MSP maintains a network of referral partners to connect survivors with other options for transitional housing services including LifeWay Network, Mentari USA, Lifting Up Westchester, Neighborhood Restore, and Catholic Charities.

#### ***Restore NYC Inc. (Restore): New York City***

**In-House Services:** Restore provides emergency housing for up to seven nights in hotels in NYC. Restore has transitional housing (seven beds) through its Transitional Home service, which is a 12–18-month service, with funding over three-years from the Department of Justice's Office for Victims of Crime, housing assistance grants for victims of human trafficking. Restore also provides survivors of trafficking with independent living assistance through its rapid re-housing and flexible funding service, connecting survivors to apartments and providing rental assistance for up to 24 months.

**Partnerships and Policies:** Restore has access to the network of Choice Hotels through a partnership with the National Human Trafficking Hotline to house survivors of trafficking for emergency housing. Restore also partners with Safe Stays by ReloShare, a platform similar to Expedia, that allows Restore to book hotels for survivors without a form of identification. When needed, Restore has allocated resources to provide safe emergency housing for up to seven nights. Shelter access partners include Safe Horizon, My Sister's Place, Lifeway Network, and Department of Homeless Services (DHS) Franklin Women's Shelter, HELP Women's Shelter, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, and DHS Adult Family Intake Center (AFIC). Additional transitional housing partners include Covenant House, Good Shepherd Services, and Bowery Women's Home. Restore's Rapid Rehousing Program

uses NYC's Housing Preservation and Development's list of providers, which are tied to reputable landlords and management companies. All survivors and family member enrolled in the emergency housing are provided with gift cards for daily basic needs. A trained on-call team is available for support by phone and in-person outside usual business hours.

Restore's Rapid Rehousing Program follows a Housing First, low-barrier model, grounded in the belief that individuals should have autonomy and choice when it comes to where they live. They believe survivors of trafficking are the experts of their own lives and are best positioned to make decisions about their housing needs. Housing First is a best-practice approach designed to help individuals and families quickly exit homelessness and secure permanent housing. In a Housing First framework, staff believe that everyone experiencing homelessness is housing-ready, without preconditions such as employment, income, absence of a criminal record, or sobriety. For survivors of trafficking, Restore recognizes that the majority of clients, when given the choice and opportunity, are ready for permanent housing. Their rapid rehousing services are offered without barriers and are tailored to meet the unique needs of each household. This includes housing advocacy and financial assistance for rent, move-in costs, deposits, and utilities—typically for six months or less—allowing individuals and families to move quickly from homelessness to stable housing. In a secure and stable housing environment, clients can focus on pursuing their goals, such as education, job placement, and improving their mental and physical health. Overall, Restore ensures a low-barrier approach to housing with minimal entry requirements, removing obstacles to access because it believes housing is a fundamental right. By securing housing first, survivors can address other critical needs, fostering long-term stability and recovery.

At Restore, a core value is that survivors drive the approach. This means survivor input and feedback are central to shaping programs, ensuring services are tailored to each individual's unique needs and circumstances. Survivors have access to voluntary case management and support, guided by key principles, such as trauma-informed care, safety, trust, transparency, self-determination, choice, low-barrier access, and cultural humility. Confidentiality is a critical aspect of Restore's commitment, upheld by state and federal laws, including HIPAA. Client information and locations are strictly confidential and only shared with third parties when essential and with the client's consent. Participation in services is always voluntary. Clients can choose to engage or withdraw at any time, without any requirement to participate in one service to access another. When a specific service is unavailable, Restore ensures warm referrals, connecting clients directly to trusted partner agencies across the city and nationwide.

#### ***Safe Horizon Inc. Anti-Trafficking Program (ATP): New York City***

**In-House Programs:** ATP has an internal network of eight domestic violence shelters that can serve eligible ATP clients and Streetwork, a youth-focused comprehensive homeless program.

**Partnerships and Policies:** ATP partners with Restore and Lifeway Network for clients' housing needs. Both Restore and Lifeway Network provide housing for female-identified survivors. ATP has internal policies and procedures that provide work-related guidance to ATP staff.

#### ***Sanctuary for Families Inc. Anti-Trafficking Initiative (SFF-ATI): New York City***

**In-House Programs:** SFF-ATI operates its own shelters, with four confidential locations for domestic violence emergency shelters in Brooklyn (one shelter and three safe dwellings), and one large, 58-family Bronx transitional shelter, housing a total of up to 200 adults and children each night. It offers limited accommodations to sex trafficking survivors in these shelters, as it only has two units for singles in its crisis shelters and can only accommodate families in its transitional shelters.

**Partnerships and Policies:** Where a survivor has been referred to SFF-ATI as a result of a federal law enforcement action, the provider works with Homeland Security Investigations-Immigration and Customs Enforcement (HSI-ICE), or the FBI victim assistance coordinator to obtain emergency federal funds for one to two nights' stay in a hotel room when shelter is unavailable on short notice, such as after a raid. Other individuals receive case management services and assistance for housing through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Office of Refugee Resettlement Trafficking Victim Assistance Program (TVAP), currently administered by U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI). If SFF-ATI does not have shelter availability, it will refer clients to partner

organizations including but not limited to: Lifeway Network, Restore, Womankind, My Sister's Place, Urban Resource Institute (for clients with pets), and Destination Tomorrow (for LGBTQ clients). Rental assistance, as well as emergency hotel and housing, are also provided through private funding sources such as the Gerstner Family Foundation and Havens Relief Fund.

***International Institute of Buffalo, Inc. (IIB): Buffalo***

**In-House Programs:** IIB has an in-house domestic violence survivor program and Refugee Resettlement Department. IIB case managers utilize an approved list of quality landlords in Western New York who have experience providing appropriate and safe long-term rental housing to immigrants and/or vulnerable populations.

**Partnerships and Policies:** IIB regularly refers survivors to Haven House, Vive la Casa, Compass House, The Peace House, City Mission, and Cornerstone Manor for emergency and transitional shelter. IIB has also established relationships with organizations to provide shelter options for unaccompanied youth who, once identified, are transitioned into the foster care system: Child & Family Services, Gateway-Longview, and New Directions.

IIB offers several shelter and housing options based on survivors' individual preferences, perceived safety needs, and qualifying situations. IIB has memorandum of understanding (MOU) agreements with eight emergency shelters in Western New York. Each shelter has partnered with IIB to create culturally competent policies and procedures, integrating a language access plan to increase self-determination, and a sense of safety for foreign-born survivors.

***People Against Trafficking Humans (PATH): Buffalo***

**In-House Programs:** PATH offers a Survivor Support Fund, which is an application to seek potential funding for housing or temporary placement. PATH is also working on an initiative to provide transitional housing for adult survivors of sex trafficking.

**Partnerships and Policies:** PATH assists clients with the Department of Social Services applications and other resources in the community for Section 8 housing, Single Point of Access Housing through the OMH, and other low-income housing. Staff spend significant amounts of time assisting individuals with finding safe, sustainable and suitable housing that meets their needs and offers trauma-informed support.

***Safe Harbors of The Finger Lakes Inc. (SHFL): Finger Lakes***

**In-House Programs:** SHFL has a housing team that works with individuals to meet them where they are and help them decide what housing options best fit their situations. It has an emergency shelter that can house anyone 16 and older who meets the qualifications as a trafficked person or needs to flee an abusive situation. They must, however, be able to live with others and meet the other regulations of the house during the screening process. SHFL also works with its local district to advocate for housing needs for clients, and sometimes it can use a hotel as a stopgap until it can find other resources.

**Partnerships and Policies:** SHFL has housing partnerships, including Keuka Housing, Seneca Housing, Geneva Housing Authority, District Social Services, Community Action Program, and Lakeview Housing.

***Safe Inc. of Schenectady (Safe Inc.): Schenectady***

**In-House Programs:** Both Safe Inc. (for ages 16-20) and their partner CAPTAIN-CHS (formerly Community Action for Parents, Teens and Interested Neighbors and Community Human Services) (for those under the age of 18) offer emergency shelter. CAPTAIN CHS refers young adults to rapid rehousing through their partnerships with other agencies. CAPTAIN CHS has permanent supporting housing for youth and young adults. CAPTAIN CHS has provided housing services through rapid rehousing programs with OTDA Solutions to End Homelessness Program (STEHP), and CARES ACT Emergency Solutions Grant - COVID-19 (ESG-CV) and has a wealth of experience finding and securing permanent housing for homeless persons and families. CAPTAIN CHS also has a permanent supportive housing program, Supportive Housing for Homeless Youth (SHHY), which targets homeless youth and young adults, ages 18-25, with set-aside apartments for trafficked persons. CAPTAIN CHS additionally offers long-term housing assistance.



**Partnerships and Policies:** Safe Inc. and CAPTAIN CHS have partnerships with YWCA of Northeastern N.Y., Schenectady Community Action Program (SCAP), City Mission, Bethesda House, Young Parents United, Danielle's House, Catholic Charities, Shelters of Saratoga, Wellspring, WAIT House, Departments of Social Services, Public Housing Authorities, and the Veterans and Community Housing Coalition.

**Unity House of Troy Inc. (UHOT): Capital Region**

**In-House Programs:** UHOT is a New York State-licensed, 33-bed domestic violence emergency shelter and services provider in Rensselaer County.

**Partnerships and Policies:** When the relationship between the survivor and the trafficker does not make the program participant eligible for the domestic violence shelter, other homeless resources are employed, including sheltering through a number of local homeless programs, if the safety circumstances of the trafficked person allow. In the event a homeless shelter is not an option, UHOT explores other temporary housing options, including the use of a hotel or other transitional housing resources.

**RHTP Provider Funding Levels**

The current RHTP contract term is October 1, 2021, until September 30, 2026. No contracts have ended, been terminated, or not renewed.

Contractor Name	Total Annual Amount Awarded
International Institute of Buffalo Inc.	\$500,000.00
Safe Horizon Inc.	\$379,000.00
Sanctuary for Families	\$319,500.00
Safe Harbors of The Finger Lakes Inc.	\$275,000.00
My Sisters' Place Inc.	\$200,000.00
Unity House of Troy Inc.	\$124,250.00
Safe Inc of Schenectady	\$167,208.00
Catholic Charities of Long Island	\$197,099.00
People Against Trafficking Humans Inc.	\$49,581.00
Restore NYC Inc.	\$113,000.00
Empowerment Collaborative of Long Island	\$72,362.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,397,000</b>

## ATTACHMENT D

### NYS Social Services Law Section 17(d-1)

The commissioner shall, in consultation with the commissioner of the division of criminal justice, submit a report to the governor, the speaker of the assembly, the temporary president of the senate and the chairs of the assembly and senate standing committee on social services, on the services provided to human trafficking survivors for the purpose of assessing the availability, utilization and necessity for such services. The initial report shall be provided one year after the effective date of this subdivision and annually thereafter and shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- (i) the number of human trafficking referrals made to the office of temporary and disability assistance including the number of confirmed cases;
- (ii) the number of human trafficking survivors that received housing and/or services, with specific information about the type of housing or service;
- (iii) the number of human trafficking survivors that did not receive housing and/or services, and an indication as to what type of housing and/or service was requested and whether such housing and/or services were denied due to a lack of availability or because the case was not confirmed; and
- (iv) information pertaining to the types of services provided by providers such as:
  - (1) the number of current contracts to provide housing and services for human trafficking survivors and their annual funding levels, broken down by contract;
  - (2) the number of contracts and/or services that have ended, been terminated or not renewed and the reason why;
  - (3) the types of housing and/or services that are provided, as well as the availability of such services, including the geographic location of such housing or service; and
  - (4) any other information the office of temporary and disability assistance deems appropriate.

### Social Services Law section 483-ee

As required by Section 483-ee(a) of the Social Services Law, the ITF is composed of 11 State agencies and seven additional members.

The ITF consists of the following State agencies: the Division of Criminal Justice Services (co-chair); the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (co-chair); the Department of Health; the Office of Mental Health; the Department of Labor; the Office of Children and Family Services; the Office of Addiction Services and Supports; the Office of Victim Services; the Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence; the Division of State Police and the Department of State. Additionally, ITF membership includes: four representatives recommended by the Legislature, two by the Senate president and two by the Assembly speaker; two representatives recommended by the not-for-profit organization in New York that receives the largest share of State funds for providing services to victims of human trafficking; and one representative recommended by the President of the New York State Bar Association.

## Duties and Responsibilities:

- Collect and organize data on the nature and extent of trafficking in persons in the State;
- Identify available federal, State, and local programs that provide services to victims of trafficking, including but not limited to case management, housing, health care, mental health counseling, drug addiction screening and treatment, language interpretation, and translation services, English language instruction, job training and placement assistance, post-employment services for job retention, and services to assist the individual and any of their family members to establish a permanent residence in New York State or the United States;
- Consult with governmental and non-governmental organizations in developing recommendations to strengthen State and local efforts to prevent trafficking, protect and assist victims of trafficking and prosecute traffickers;
- Establish interagency protocols and collaboration between federal, State, and local law enforcement, State and governmental agencies, child welfare agencies, and non-governmental organizations;
- Evaluate approaches to increase public awareness about trafficking and make recommendations on such approaches;
- Evaluate the effectiveness of training programs on human trafficking that have been designed for law enforcement personnel, criminal defense attorneys, social service providers and non-governmental organizations, and make recommendations for improving the quality and effectiveness of such programs;
- Measure and evaluate the progress of the State in preventing trafficking, protecting and providing assistance to victims of trafficking, and prosecuting persons engaged in trafficking;
- Evaluate the use of social media in and its contribution to human trafficking;
- Convene any subcommittee necessary, provided such subcommittee has at least one of the members appointed by the speaker of the Assembly, temporary president of the Senate or governor, to consider specific issues, including, but not limited to: federal, State, and/or local cooperation; juveniles and human trafficking; the importance of training and who should receive such training; how data is compiled and shared; and services for and treatment of domestic versus foreign-born victims; and
- The task force shall report to the governor, the speaker of the Assembly, the minority leader of the Assembly, the temporary president of the Senate and the minority leader of the Senate no less than annually, and it shall additionally issue such reports and recommendations as it deems necessary to carry out its duties and responsibilities.





## Interagency Task Force on Human Trafficking

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