



Interagency Task Force  
on Human Trafficking

# 2022

## Annual Report

New York State Interagency Task Force on Human Trafficking  
80 South Swan Street, Albany, New York 12210  
[www.criminaljustice.ny.gov](http://www.criminaljustice.ny.gov)

# **New York State Interagency Task Force on Human Trafficking 2022 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.

**Kathy Hochul**  
*Governor*  
State of New York

**Barbara C. Guinn**  
*Commissioner*  
New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

**Rossana Rosado**  
*Commissioner*  
New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services

## Table of Contents

Overview.....	1
Scope of Trafficking in New York State .....	2
Interagency Task Force Activities .....	3
ITF Member Agency Activities .....	4
Conclusion.....	17
Attachment A .....	18
Attachment B .....	19
Attachment C.....	20
Attachment D.....	25

## 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, sex trafficking of a child 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 him being coerced into sex, a woman in an abusive relationship who is threatened with physical harm if she does 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 may include a construction worker, a domestic worker, or an undocumented worker who is threatened to compel labor.

Marginalized populations, including people living in poverty, immigrants, and individuals 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. Individuals who experience discrimination on more than one basis, such as women of color, have compounded vulnerability.

The 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 NYS Confirmation Program (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. 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 (NYS) 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 local county departments of Social Services.

Section 483-ee of the Social Services Law additionally established the NYS Interagency Task Force on Human Trafficking (ITF). The New York State Interagency Taskforce functions as a state agency-level collaborative, communicating best practices, effective partnerships, and serving as a resource for state agencies on anti-trafficking work. The ITF is tasked with the coordination of the state’s activities regarding human trafficking, including evaluating training programs and outreach strategies; collaborating on a federal, state and local level; identification of services to known trafficked persons; data collection and evaluation; 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.

The ITF is co-chaired by the commissioners of the Division of Criminal Justice Services (DJCS) and the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA), ensuring both a focus on systemic criminal law enforcement and the identification and provision of services to individual

---

<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.

survivors. The ITF enabling statute also places an emphasis on preventative polices. ITF member agencies use data-driven public health approaches to examine the social and economic determinants of health and well-being. ITF agencies work to identify those with increased vulnerability with a goal of developing 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), and the Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (OPDV).<sup>2</sup> The New York State Bar Association (NYSBA) also appoints one member to the ITF.

## Scope of Trafficking in New York State

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 in which screening data is not reported due to confidentiality concerns.

NYS 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 DJCS 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" 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 local [department of social services \(DSS\)](#). 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.

Confirmations in 2022 continued to reflect pandemic trends. In 2022, 317 individuals were referred for Confirmation. Of these referrals, 249 were confirmed: 52 for labor trafficking, 171 for sex trafficking, and 26 for both labor and sex trafficking. Thirty-six individuals identified as male, 209 as female, and four as gender non-conforming. Sixty-five of the confirmed individuals were minors. Ninety-nine referrals originated in New York City, 55 in the Long Island and lower Hudson Valley regions, and 95 in the rest of the state. Of the confirmed individuals, 185 were

---

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

<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. \(ojp.gov\)](#).

referred to district social services offices and 64 were referred to RHTP providers. Additional data can be found in Attachment B.

## **Interagency Task Force Activities**

### **Legislative Enactments**

The ITF led the implementation of a number of new laws in 2022 that mandated trafficking awareness and prevention posters in various locations: adult dance venues with licenses to sell alcohol, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey airports and bus terminals, commercial and general aviation airports, truck stops, and at NYS Thruway service centers. The ITF updated the existing poster, which can be found in multiple languages, including [English](#), [Chinese](#), [Korean](#), [Russian](#), and [Spanish](#) and is available for download on OTDA's website.

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. The webinar featured an RHTP provider, and 300 individuals attended. The training covered the identification of labor trafficking, Confirmation, and the types of services available through RHTP providers.

The ITF held a second quarterly member meeting featuring the director of the Alliance to End Slavery and Trafficking (ATEST) who presented on the 2022 Reauthorization of the Federal Trafficking Victim Protection Act. ATEST is a coalition of anti-trafficking organizations that partners with civil society, governments, and businesses to ensure federal policies and programming address the root causes of trafficking and appropriations are sufficient to provide services to identified survivors.

In the third quarterly meeting, the ITF addressed effectively identifying male trafficking survivors. The ITF invited a fellow at the U.S. Office on Trafficking in Persons' Human Trafficking Leadership Academy and a survivor of trafficking to speak on "Responding to Human Trafficking of Boys and Male-Identifying Individuals." The presentation highlighted the fellow's research on drug-facilitated sex trafficking of males, sex trafficking and LGBTQ+ communities, male victimization syndemic to substance dependency and PTSD, and gaps in acute mental healthcare for those with lived experiences of human trafficking.

Finally, the ITF held Part I of a strategic planning session in 2022. The discussion was structured on the four prongs of anti-trafficking initiatives: Prevention, Protection, Prosecution and Partnership. Prevention topics included outreach regarding Confirmation, training law enforcement on trauma-informed practices, and believing survivors. Addressing the prosecution prong, agencies discussed evidentiary techniques that are not solely reliant on survivor testimony, efficiency in court practices, and policies that do not criminalize survivors. Much of the discussion focused on prevention policies and implementation, including: housing, example-driven outreach, supportive youth policies, sexual abuse prevention education, safety and accountability on social media platforms, and intergenerational trauma. Finally, members discussed partnership approaches, including working with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), DCJS' runaway intervention working group, working with survivors and ex-traffickers, outreach and trainings, and data collection. The ITF will launch Part II of strategic planning to discuss implementation, recommendations and goals.



## **ITF Member Agency Activities**

Some ITF member agencies directly provide services, as DOH does through the NYS Hospitals and Clinics, OMH through the operation of psychiatric centers, OASAS through addiction treatment centers, and OVS through compensation of individual victims of crime. 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. OCFS and OTDA 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 are serving may have been trafficked or may be at-risk. Services provided by agencies are 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 2022 ITF activities and annual report have been 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) to avoid victimization or becoming perpetrators, or employer accountability programs that emphasize employer accountability in preventing trafficking from occurring within their spheres or throughout their supply chains.

The year began with the ITF's January Anti-Trafficking Awareness Month social media campaign, in which member agencies such as DOH, DOL, OTDA, DCJS, OASAS, OVS, OPDV, and DOS posted coordinated messaging on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter (now known as "X"). OCFS utilized social media accounts and published an op-ed on child trafficking, "The Reality of Human Trafficking: Egregious Abuse of Vulnerable Populations." OPDV also hosted a live discussion regarding NYS responses to human trafficking.

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

- OTDA conducted presentations and trainings on trafficking and NYS services for survivors to over 1,150 individuals in 2022, including presentations to the public, agency staff, and funded providers.
- The updated ITF Anti-Trafficking poster was provided to the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey for posting in bus stations and airports and the Thruway Authority for posting at Thruway stops and truck stops and is available to the public on the OTDA website.
- The New York State Bar Association co-hosted a webinar with the ITF on "Labor Trafficking for Immigration Practitioners" with over 300 participants. Topics included how to screen clients for labor trafficking, immigration remedies for trafficking survivors, and

---

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

NYS services for trafficked persons, including Confirmation and services offered by RHTP providers.

- The New York State Bar Association additionally co-hosted a second attorney training on labor trafficking for the employment and immigration bars with 59 attendees.
- DOS hosted a webinar on “Uniting for Ukraine” for over 130 participants, in which OTDA presented on sex and labor trafficking, Confirmation, and services for trafficked persons through RHTP providers.
- OTDA presented at the Brooklyn Anti-Trafficking Taskforce Housing Summit to 35 providers on funding opportunities for developing housing and OTDA oversight of state-managed shelters.
- OTDA presented to the OVS Advisory Council on Confirmation and the services available through RHTP providers. A training was also held for the Victim Assistance Programs “Support Hour” for over 50 attendees.
- DCJS presented a human trafficking training at an event hosted by DOS, which had approximately 350 attendees.
- DCJS also presented human trafficking trainings for the New York Rotary Club of New Hartford, New York (12 attendees) and OPDV (19 attendees).
- OCFS provides funding to each county in the state through the Safe Harbour program. OCFS reviews and approves materials distributed by Safe Harbour coordinators to ensure language and imagery are appropriate and in-line with current best practices. NYS counties receive OCFS funding to deliver training locally on issues related to preventing, identifying, and responding to child and youth trafficking.
- OPDV is tasked with implementing provisions of the 2015 Enough is Enough law to address sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking on college campuses. In 2022, OPDV administered funding to 52 rape crisis programs across the state that work with colleges to provide educational programming and access to services to student survivors. Funded providers reported conducting four trainings for 34 college students, 26 law students, and 105 first-year medical students on intimate partner violence that included coverage of sex trafficking, including responses and available service resources. Trainings took place in NYC, Oswego, and Suffolk Counties.

#### Training of NYS Agency Staff:

- DOL mandates all frontline staff, including investigators, career center staff, and others who have contact with the public to receive annual anti-trafficking training. This training focuses primarily on labor trafficking, and includes definitions, indicators, trauma-informed practices, and referral protocols.
- OCFS staff are required to complete an introductory training on human trafficking within their first year of employment.



- OPDV conducted training on gender-based violence, which included basic information on sex trafficking, for 556 staff members from OTDA, NYC Human Resources Administration and local district social services offices.
- OPDV additionally conducted trainings on gender-based violence, which included basic information on sex trafficking, emphasizing the coercion element, for 125 law enforcement and probation employees.
- OASAS created a webpage, "[Survivors of Human Trafficking](#)," for staff and providers that highlights the increased vulnerability to sex trafficking associated with drug use, such as the placating or introduction of drug use during recruitment stages and the subsequent use of access to drugs as a form of control.
- OVS ensures staff awareness by sharing anti-trafficking information and featuring trafficking articles in the quarterly newsletter during Anti-Trafficking Awareness Month in January.

#### Training of NYS Agency Funding Recipients:

- OCFS held its annual summit for Safe Harbour programs and anti-trafficking service providers. The week-long virtual event included presentations from national anti-trafficking organizations and experts in trafficking restorative justice. The event also included presentations from OCFS' Safe Harbour partners on harm reduction, innovations in service delivery, and how to grow programs in rural communities.
  - OTDA presented at the "10 Year of Safe Harbour Conference" to 60 Safe Harbour coordinators on NYS Confirmation and services available through RHTP providers.
- OCFS additionally delivered train-the-trainer curricula to local partners twice during the calendar year. While the target audience is district social services staff and youth-serving agencies, the training was live-streamed and open to the public. Sessions were recorded and are posted on OCFS' YouTube channel.
  - OCFS presented a training at the annual conference for NYS Center for School Health professionals on how to identify youth at-risk of trafficking and best practices in working with such youth.
- 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 additionally holds weekly "learning Thursday" for providers and agency staff, two of which were focused on trafficking in the calendar year. The first, "Counselor Sensitivity to Sex Work and Substance Use Disorders," has enrolled nearly 7,000 participants since its inception in 2019. The second training, "How we can Identify, Support & Prevent Trafficked Youth" has included 1,114 participants since its inception in 2022.
- OVS hosted two cohorts in Victim Service Academy Trainings for nearly 100 social services professionals. Each three-day training focuses on providing entry-level victim advocates with basic principles of trauma-informed care, including how to support others and themselves. Course topics also focus on adapting to the needs of different victim

populations, including trafficking victims, and on providing culturally competent care that takes into consideration the worldviews and lived experiences of those served.

- OVS additionally re-launched the OVS Training & Technical Assistance Request Program (TTARP), a customized, no-cost training and technical assistance pairing service for OVS-funded programs. This program's Catalog of Services includes the option for OVS-funded organizations to request special topic training, including anti-trafficking and special population engagement. The service will remain available to programs through 2025.
- 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. DOH provides links to relevant trainings on their website, "[Resources for Health Care Professionals](#)," including the training by the federal Administration for Children Services, Stop, Observe, Ask and Respond (SOAR), the Health, Education, Advocacy and Linkage (HEAL) training for health care settings, and the Polaris National Human Trafficking Hotline training tools for health care professionals.
- DOS held a webinar on "Human Trafficking's Impact on New York State's New Americans" which had 367 participants. Many of the presenters were representatives of ITF member agencies, including DCJS and OTDA.

### **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 regulate 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 that 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 is also one of four NYS agencies authorized to issue endorsements that can be used as part of an immigrant survivor's application for U or T nonimmigrant status. In addition, in 2022 a process was developed at the federal level to assist 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) with a "Statement of Interest" that can be used to request prosecutorial discretion or deferred action on the basis of the worker's involvement in the investigation.

---

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

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

OASAS provides prevention, treatment, and recovery services for people with substance use disorders in NYS 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 people in New York impacted by addiction to thrive and lead healthy lives.

The OASAS Addiction Treatment Centers (ATC) conduct outreach to the 12 NYS Human Trafficking Intervention Courts on identification and services for individuals. Patients in the ATCs receive trauma-informed care and services, including referrals to other services that may be needed 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.

### ***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 249 individuals confirmed in 2022, 185 were directed to their local District Social Services (DSS) office or the NYC Human Resources Administration (HRA) to apply for benefits, and 64 were referred to RHTP providers for case management to assistance with service provisions. Of those individuals referred to DSS, approximately 89% applied for public assistance, and 81% 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. During the most recent grant cycle (2021-2025), the providers increased from six to 11, including new providers in the Finger Lakes, Long Island, and Western New York regions, along with existing providers in New York City, the Capital Region, and Westchester. Please see Part ii of 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 also includes an option for providers to use funds for survivor advisory boards. Several providers train survivors on volunteering and advocating and have hired survivors to run

peer groups. Providers may also use survivor-led methods to identify and work toward long-term goals.

Housing is a major area of need for both sex and labor trafficking survivors. When fleeing trafficking, survivors may also be leaving their partner, home, 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 the New York State Office of Victim Services.
- 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 an important source of personal and emotional validation for survivors of human trafficking.

### ***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 26 programs that serve victims of crime, although any of the 200 victim assistance programs funded by OVS may serve trafficked persons. In the federal funding reporting year of 10/1/21-9/30/22, there were 57 claims for victim compensation related to human trafficking. Of these 57 claimants, 35% (20) were for victims under age 18. Eighty-eight percent (51) of these individuals sought financial compensation related to physical injuries, and 12% (6) sought only financial compensation for essential personal property losses. OVS also 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's "Trauma-Informed Network Program" and Resources Programs operating under the auspices of OMH are mandated to refer identified trafficked persons to the OTDA/DCJS NYS 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 state agency field staff receive resources and trainings on trafficking and are encouraged to contact OMH central office on protocols for referrals for Confirmation.

OMH has also provided expert guidance to ITF partner agencies on identifying mental health and trauma-informed resources available both within the OMH system and in the broader sector. In November 2022, OMH provided guidance and resources to OPDV for use with domestic violence service providers who work with individuals who have complex mental health conditions, including mental health outpatient treatment and recovery services, crisis, and housing, and available resources and strategies to address mental health needs, including programs associated with the Trauma-Informed Network.

OMH is evaluating the treatment assessment program standards and guidelines to consider how human trafficking screening could be standardized. If changes are made to these requirements, OMH will collaborate with OCFS, DCJS, and OTDA to ensure the agency's policies align with the policies of our ITF partner agencies.

### ***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 with the program 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 have relocated to be eligible for participation.

ONA 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 state-wide 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. Under New York's language access policy, agencies must provide interpretation services in any language and translation services in the top 12 most common non-English languages spoken by Limited English Proficient New Yorkers. ONA's Language Access Program works to ensure that access to information on DOS 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, and the Ramirez June Initiative for intellectual and developmentally disabled populations. 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 through training and regular communications.

### ***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.

Safe Harbour programs submit data to OCFS quarterly. This de-identified data reflects the youth identified by the program as being a victim or at-risk of trafficking. The data for 2022 has been collected and a report is in process. 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 and is available at: [OCFS Safe Harbor Program Data Reports](#). This report also includes outreach and trainings conducted by Safe Harbour coordinators.

### **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 abuse, neglect, and maltreatment. Counties may indicate the specific allegation of "child sex trafficking" or trafficking may also be identified as part of an investigation conducted under a different allegation.

### **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. In Western New York, BCI participates in the Anti-Trafficking Taskforce and has used connections with the Erie County Child Advocacy Center and the International Institute of Buffalo to facilitate survivor services.

Two units within NYSP, Major Crimes Unit and Computer Crime Unit, along with backroom investigators, continuously assist the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Homeland Security Investigations with various child predatory investigations, which may contain a trafficking of minor component.

### **NYSP Law Enforcement Actions:**

- In Western New York, a Trooper on routine patrol encountered a Spanish-only speaking female at a low-cost motel and was able to connect her to the International Institute of Buffalo for services.
  - Execution of a search warrant resulted in the identification of an adult male at the residence that was abusing and trafficking his juvenile stepdaughters.
- The Computer Crime Unit (CCU) handles numerous Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) cases reported through the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). These cases involve the possession, distribution, and production of child sexual abuse material. In 2022, the CCU executed 49 ICAC search warrants in Broome, Chenango, Cortland, Delaware, Otsego, Tioga, and Tompkins counties. These search warrants led to dozens of arrests resulting in both state and federal indictments. Images

and videos obtained during these investigations are reported to NCMEC for the purpose of identifying the victims and determining if the files contain unknown victims yet to be identified.

- The CCU for Sullivan, Green, Orange, Rockland, and Ulster counties investigated 117 ICAC cases in 2022. The cases led to six search warrants being executed which resulted in five arrests.
  
- The CCU in Suffolk and Nassau counties received a cyber tip in April 2022 of possible child exploitation via the website Discord. Investigators discovered child exploitative photos and videos, resulting in the suspect's arrest on charges for violating NYS Penal Law 263.16, possessing a sexual performance by a child, a Class E felony.
  
- In October of 2022, NYSP BCI in Chemung County investigated allegations of forced sex of a minor. Over the course of several months, 19 adult suspects were arrested and charged with various sex offenses alleged to have been committed against a minor child to include predatory sexual assault, rape, criminal sex act, kidnapping and sexual abuse.
  
- NYSP staff in the Capital Region were involved in several arrests regarding individuals who were attempting to meet with minors for the purpose of sex acts and potential trafficking, including arresting a child student who met with an undercover officer who was posing as a parent to an 11-year-old child. The student exchanged \$200 with the undercover officer and was arrested for first-degree sex abuse, first-degree rape and other charges. The same individual was also named in several ICAC tips regarding child pornography.
  
- In October 2022, NYSP Investigators conducted an undercover operation on Fort Drum in Watertown. The operation resulted in 10 arrests. Three of the arrests were Army soldiers who showed up and paid an undercover officer for the purpose of having sexual contact with a child.
  
- In November 2022, NYSP investigators conducted an undercover operation in Plattsburgh. An individual was subsequently arrested by federal law enforcement for paying \$150 for the purposes of engaging in sexual conduct with a 13-year-old female.
  
- In August 2022, 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 Saratoga County seeking to identify victims of human trafficking and providing them services.

NYSP have additionally provided support outside NYS:

- In April 2022, an investigator assisted the FBI in Norfolk, Virginia in facilitating a human trafficking/child exploitation operation. During the operation, a Navy chief was arrested for attempted sex trafficking of a minor. The investigator testified as the main witness in the trial and the suspect was sentenced to 17 years in federal prison.
  
- In June 2022, NYSP worked with the FBI NY Child Exploitation & Human Trafficking Task Force regarding an international law enforcement request for assistance by the

Australian Federal Police (AFP) on a child sex trafficking investigation. This investigation yielded photographs of alleged suspects, credit card information, email addresses, and IP addresses which assisted the AFP in their investigation and eventual prosecution, preventing the further exploitation and trafficking of children by this group.

#### Law Enforcement Partnerships:

- Designated NYSP captains attend a monthly inter-agency meeting regarding border trends, including immigration, and an annual Northern Border Symposium which also addresses trafficking.
- NYSP participates in details for Operation Stonegarden, a federal grant program administered by the Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency to support cooperation among U.S. Customs and Border Protection, U.S. Border Patrol, and federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement agencies to improve overall border security. NYSP partners with federal agencies to try to identify human trafficking routes, couriers, and victims of human trafficking.
- NYSP participates in the United States Secret Service Electronic Crimes Task Force which provides a collaborative framework in which the resources of multiple local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies can combine resources to make a significant impact on cybercrimes involving the sexual exploitation of children.
- NYSP also has assigned an officer to Homeland Security Investigations to investigate a broad range of crimes involving human trafficking, sex trafficking, and child sex tourism.

#### Specialized Training:

- Several NYSP officers received specialized training to enhance its ability to assist victims. In 2022 members attended the following training “Sex Trafficking – preparing a winning case” (Foundation United), “Crimes Against Children Seminar” and “Advanced Human Trafficking Investigations” (by Hilbert College Institute for Law & Justice).
- NYSP attended the Clinton County Child Advocacy Center multi-day conference which addressed child abuse and trafficking.

#### Public Outreach:

- Senior investigators provided training in Western New York on sexual assault investigation training to county crisis services, local colleges/universities, and local and national area agencies.
- NYSP staff have also presented at schools on the risks of meeting people online and child exploitation.

#### ***Division of Criminal Justice Services***

DCJS coordinates the state’s criminal law system through direct training and accreditation programming to law enforcement and other criminal law professionals, managing criminal justice grant funds, analyzing statewide crime and program data, and providing research support with a goal of enhancing public safety by providing resources and services that inform decision making and improve the quality of the criminal justice system. DCJS additionally

oversees county probation departments and alternatives to incarceration programs and coordinates juvenile justice policy.

- In 2022, about 2,500 law enforcement recruits from throughout the state completed basic training and received the human trafficking training component, including information on Confirmation.
- In February 2022, DCJS conducted human trafficking training to 23 recruits at the Plattsburgh Police Academy.
- DCJS assisted local academies with finding suitable human trafficking training (including for the Broome County Sheriff's Office and NYSP).
- DCJS continued to work with OTDA on streamlining the electronic referral process for Confirmation.
- In addition, OTDA supported DCJS in training 90 new recruits in Westchester on definitions of sex and labor trafficking, how to identify trafficking in the field including likely situations they may encounter, understanding the dynamics of trafficking including vulnerabilities and power and control dynamics, and community resources including Confirmation and RHTP providers.

### **Partnership Activities**

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

### ***Survivor Engagement***

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

In 2022, Shobana Powell Consulting presented on survivor leadership engagement to OCFS and led OCFS through developing a Survivor Equity and Inclusion Model. The work will continue in 2023.

### ***Regional Anti-Trafficking Task Forces***

There are seven regional task forces in specific geographic areas of the state: Suffolk, Brooklyn, Westchester, Capital Region, North Country (which currently operates jointly with the former Central New York taskforce), Southern Tier, and Western New York. Additionally, the Center for Safety and Change operates a 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 area and provide a network of services to address the unique needs of trafficking victims.

Several of the NYS regional anti-trafficking taskforces receive funding from the federal Bureau of Justice Assistance through the Enhanced Collaborative Model to Combat Human Trafficking grant: Suffolk, Westchester, Western New York, and Brooklyn. 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 taskforces to hire a coordinator and ensure regular meetings and programming.

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.

OTDA and DCJS periodically conduct outreach presentations for the regional task forces on Confirmation and services available through RHTP providers. In 2022, OTDA presented to the Rockland Anti-Trafficking Task Force, hosted by the Center for Safety and Change. In October, the Brooklyn Anti-Trafficking Task Force held a Housing Summit to discuss trauma-informed best practices in housing services for survivors. Topics included brainstorming on addressing housing challenges including screening practices; multiple intakes; shelter availability; limited shelter availability for singles, males, and individuals whose trafficking did not involve an intimate partner; rules in housing placements; and case management services. NYC HRA presented, as did representatives from OTDA's Housing and Support Services and Shelter Oversight and Compliance divisions. Topics covered included the regulation of publicly funded emergency homeless shelters, regulatory compliance in hotels used to shelter individuals experiencing homelessness, development of Homeless Services Plans, Code Blue plans, the Balance of State Continuum of Care, and the Empire State Supportive Housing Initiative. OTDA continues to work to connect survivor service providers with housing support services, both capital grants and service program supports.

In December, the Westchester County Anti-Trafficking Task Force held the "Labor Trafficking: Current Challenges and Building Community Response" conference. OTDA moderated a panel featuring the directors of the Don Bosco Worker's Center, the Human Trafficking Program at My Sister's Place, and the director of Private Sector Engagement at ECPAT, now known as PACT (Protect All Children from Trafficking). Topics included the types of wage violations, labor exploitation, and trafficking cases encountered in Westchester County. The conference additionally featured the director of SEPA Mujer, a Long Island nonprofit advocating for the wellbeing and success of Latina immigrant women. She presented on their organizing and challenges in the Princess Diner labor case. Around 80 people attended.

### ***National Partnerships***

The [National Compendium](#) members are primarily from state agencies that track and inform state-level policy decisions. The Compendium currently includes 44 states and Washington, D.C. OTDA became a member of the steering committee of the National Compendium of States in 2022. The Compendium website hosts national resources and has held trainings on the collection of data for trafficking, current anti-trafficking state-level projects implementing effective culturally informed policies, and coalition building.

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 25 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. As labor trafficking continues to be under-identified, the ITF will work to ensure outreach efforts include a focus on identifying and supporting labor trafficking survivors.

Looking forward, the ITF will review the issues and recommendations for improvements identified by providers. The ITF will continue to examine existing data sources to improve collection and analysis to ensure data-driven policy recommendations. The ITF will additionally work with service providers to develop a Survivor Advisory Board with the goal of facilitating meaningful engagement between member agencies and survivor leaders.



# Attachment A

## SEX TRAFFICKING (PL 230.34 & PL 230.34A) ARRESTS/ARRAIGNMENTS DISPOSED: 2013-2022

		ARREST YEAR										Total	
		2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022		
New York State	Total Dispositions	50	69	49	56	77	78	34	31	20	10	474	
	DA Declined to Prosecute	1	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	6	
	Dismissed-Not ACD	9	10	7	10	6	15	5	1	4	3	70	
	Dismissed-ACD	0	2	1	0	1	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	0	1	1	0	0	2	
	Other Favorable	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	4	
	Covered by Another Case	1	1	6	0	5	5	3	0	1	0	22	
	Convicted-Sentenced	38	55	34	44	65	56	24	29	15	6	366	
	Convictions to:	Sex Trafficking	15	15	13	14	24	15	12	12	9	3	132
		Labor Trafficking	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
		Non-Trafficking Chg	23	40	21	30	40	41	12	17	6	3	233
	Sentences to:	Prison	22	42	23	28	45	37	16	20	11	3	247
		Jail	4	3	5	8	7	6	1	1	2	0	37
		Time Served	1	3	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	0	13
		Jail+Probation	2	1	2	2	3	3	2	2	0	0	17
		Probation	5	2	2	1	4	5	2	3	0	0	24
		Fine	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	4
		Cond Discharge	3	3	1	3	4	3	1	2	1	3	24
		Uncond Discharge	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

Note: Includes all dispositions where a PL 230.34 or PL 230.34A charge appeared as a top or underlying arrest or arraignment charge.  
Source: DCJS, Computerized Criminal History system (as of 4/21/2023).

## LABOR TRAFFICKING (PL 135.35 & PL 135.37) ARRESTS/ARRAIGNMENTS DISPOSED: 2013-2022

		ARREST YEAR										Total	
		2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022		
New York State	Total Dispositions	2	4	8	4	3	2	0	1	2	1	27	
	DA Declined to Prosecute	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Dismissed-Not ACD	0	1	3	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	6	
	Dismissed-ACD	0	1	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	2	5	4	2	2	0	1	1	1	20	
	Convictions to:	Sex Trafficking	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Labor Trafficking	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	1	0	4
		Non-Trafficking Chg	2	2	5	2	2	1	0	1	0	1	16
	Sentences to:	Prison	0	1	4	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	8
		Jail	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
		Time Served	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Jail+Probation	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	2
		Probation	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	4
		Fine	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Cond Discharge	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	5
		Uncond Discharge	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

Note: Includes all dispositions where a PL 135.35 or PL 135.37 charge appeared as a top or underlying arrest or arraignment charge.  
Source: DCJS, Computerized Criminal History system (as of 4/21/2023).

## Attachment B

### NYS Confirmation 2022 Annual Statistics

#### Total Referrals: 317

Confirmed: 249

Pending: 3

Not Confirmed: 53 (10 denials; 22 duplicates; 21 inadmissible/self-referrals)

#### Analysis of Confirmed Individuals

<b>Type of Victim</b>	Labor Trafficking	52
	Sex Trafficking	171
	Labor <i>and</i> Sex Trafficking	26
<b>Outcome</b>	Referred to RHTP / not eligible for public benefits	64
	Referred to social service district / otherwise eligible	185
<b>Male / Female</b>	Male	36
	Female	209
	Gender Non-Conforming	4
<b>Adult / Minor</b>	Adult	184
	Minor	65
<b>Region</b>	NYC	99
	Metro (Long Island & Lower Hudson Valley)	55
	Upstate	95

## Attachment C

### Response to Human Trafficking Program (RHTP) Provider Housing Services (SSL § 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 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 can provide emergency housing for up to seven nights in hotels in NYC. Restore has transitional housing (seven beds) through its Transitional Home Program, which is a 12-18 month program, with 50% funding (\$200,000 per year) from a three-year Department of Justice -Office of Victims of Crime Specialized Services grant. Independent living program through the rapid re-housing and flexible funding service connects survivors to apartments and provides rental assistance for up to 24 months.

**Partnerships and Policies:** Restore has access to 51 hotels through the Wyndham Hotel Program 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. Shelter access partners include Safe Horizon, My Sister's Place, LifewayNetwork, and Department of Homeless Services - Franklin Women's Shelter, HELP Women's Shelter, PATH, and AFIC. Additional transitional housing partners include Covenant House, GEMS, 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.

Restore's Housing First interventions are a best-practice approach designed to help individuals and families quickly exit homelessness and return to permanent housing. Staff in a Housing First organization believe that all individuals experiencing homelessness are housing-ready. For survivors of trafficking, Restore believes the great majority of clients would choose and be ready for permanent housing, when given the opportunity to access this housing resource. Rapid re-housing is offered without preconditions – like employment, income, absence of criminal record, or sobriety – and the resources and services provided are tailored to the unique needs of the household. The focus of the intervention includes housing advocacy and financial assistance to cover rent, move-in costs, deposits, and utility assistance, typically for six months or less, to allow individuals and families to move immediately out of homelessness and to stabilize in permanent housing. There, the client can focus on their education and obtaining job placement, as well as attending to other basic needs and health concerns. Housing First believes housing is a right and when housing is secured as a first point of intervention, other basic needs and vulnerabilities can be adequately addressed.

Restore additionally maintains a low-barrier housing model. Low-barrier housing's requirements for entry are limited or minimal and seeks to eliminate any barriers or obstacles that would hinder an individual in acquiring housing.

Restore's program philosophy is "the survivor drives our approach," which means that staff tailor services to meet client needs and match the context of clients' lives. All survivors are offered voluntary case-management and other supportive services leveraging trauma-informed program principles of safety, trust and transparency, self-determination and choice, and cultural humility. Confidentiality is an integral part of its code of ethics and Restore is required by state and federal laws, as well as HIPAA, to maintain appropriate steps to ensure privacy and confidentiality of all survivors at Restore. All client information and survivor locations are kept confidential utilizing confidential record systems and, with the consent of the client, sharing only essential information with third parties.

***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 guidance to ATP staff related to the work.

***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 the result of a federal law enforcement action, the provider works with the agency's (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 where 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 the western NY area. 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. Our 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 at and help them decide what housing options best fit their situations. It has an emergency shelter where it can house anyone 16 and older who meets the qualifications as a trafficked person who 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 Social Services Office to advocate for housing needs for our 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 provides 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 will be 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 will explore 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.

<b>Contractor Name</b>	<b>Total Contract Amount</b>
International Institute of Buffalo Inc.	\$836,040
Safe Horizon Inc.	\$2,500,000
Sanctuary for Families	\$1,895,000
Safe Harbors of The Finger Lakes Inc.	\$361,810
My Sisters' Place Inc.	\$1,375,000
Unity House of Troy Inc.	\$565,000
Safe Inc of Schenectady	\$985,495
Catholic Charities of Long Island	\$621,250
People Against Trafficking Humans Inc.	\$247,905
Restore NYC Inc.	\$1,597,500
Empowerment Collaborative of Long Island	\$1,000,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 11,985,000</b>

## Attachment D

### **NYS Social Services Law § 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.

### **Chapter 74 of the Laws of 2007**

As required by Section 483-ee(a) of the Social Services Law, the ITF is composed of 10 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; and the Division of State Police. 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 his or her 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;
- 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**

New York State Interagency Task Force on Human Trafficking  
80 South Swan Street, Albany, New York 12210  
[www.criminaljustice.ny.gov](http://www.criminaljustice.ny.gov)