

# 2024 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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New York State

## **Interagency Task Force on Human Trafficking 2024 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 manipulated 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 compel labor. It is important to understand that identifying trafficking requires analyzing the means (force, fraud, or coercion) used to compel someone to work or perform commercial sex, and in the case of minors, any involvement in transactional 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 identify, 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](#) 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 New York State Police, the Department of Labor, the Division of Human Rights, and the social service 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 and the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, 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 polices. 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.

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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.

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

The ITF functions as a state agency 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

New York State utilizes the Confirmation program data to establish the scope of identified trafficking in the 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 the Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) and the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (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 otherwise meet the eligibility criteria for public benefits are directed to their districts. Those who do not otherwise meet the eligibility criteria are directed to a local [Response to Human Trafficking Program \(RHTP\)](#) service provider. RHTP providers are non-profit organizations located throughout New York State that contract with OTDA to provide emergency services and case management. 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.

Referrals for Confirmation in 2024 reflected a steady increase in submissions. In 2024, 515 submissions for Confirmation were received. Of these submissions, 409 were confirmed: 177 for labor trafficking, 184 for sex trafficking, and 48 for both labor and sex trafficking. This continues the increase in labor trafficking confirmations (including joint labor and sex trafficking) from 149 in 2023 to 225 in 2024. One hundred twenty-one individuals identified as male, 288 as female, and none of the confirmed survivors reported as gender non-conforming. Thirty-eight of the confirmed individuals were minors. One hundred fifty-six referrals originated in New York City, 114 in the Long Island and lower Hudson Valley regions, 120 in the rest of the state, and 19 from out of state. Of the confirmed individuals, 228 were referred to districts, and 181 were referred to RHTP providers. Additional data can be found in Attachment B.

Confirmation data represents only known instances of trafficking, in which identified persons were

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

connected to law enforcement or service providers and therefore is likely to be only a percentage of actual trafficking occurrences.<sup>3</sup> Established social and legal services providers must obtain their clients' consent before submitting referrals 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.

## Interagency Task Force Activities

### Legislative Enactments

The ITF published a half-hour online introductory training, "[Understanding Human Trafficking](#)" to fulfil New York State General Business Law § 206-f. It includes plain-language definitions, addresses vulnerabilities and the means of identifying human trafficking, and highlights available resources and services. This video may be used to meet the approved human trafficking training program requirement for a lodging facility.

In addition to the training video, ITF anti-trafficking posters and palm cards are available via download in [English](#), [Spanish](#), [Chinese](#), [Korean](#), [Russian](#), [Arabic](#), [Bengali](#), [French](#), [Haitian Creole](#), [Italian](#), [Polish](#), [Urdu](#) and [Yiddish](#) on [OTDA's Human Trafficking website](#).

### Events and Meetings

The ITF began the year by holding Part II of the strategic planning session in January. The ITF second quarterly meeting was a report-back session on best practices implementation. In the third quarterly meeting, ITF members were trained on disinformation and effective, survivor-centered communications strategies. The ITF fourth quarterly meeting featured a speaker from Protect All Children from Trafficking (PACT), who spoke about their comprehensive youth curriculum demonstration program on sex and labor trafficking. This program was developed in English and Spanish with survivor input to ensure cultural responsiveness.

The New York State Bar Association (NYSBA) has hosted an annual attorney continuing legal education (CLE) program in conjunction with the ITF. In 2024, NYSBA presented a program entitled: "Legal Advocacy Against Human Trafficking: Empowering Survivors & Engaging Lawyers." The program featured a representative from OTDA and two RHTP service providers who presented on applicable laws, U and T Visas, and available services for survivors. The state Bar Association also informed its members of volunteer opportunities and posted information on its website regarding pro bono legal services for survivors.

The Bar Association also hosted a program in December entitled, "Sex Trafficking in New York: How to Prosecute the Offenders and Aid the Survivors." The program featured a representative from DCJS, a former assistant U. S. Attorney, and the chief of the Special Victims Division at the Manhattan District Attorney's Office. The speakers discussed current and past federal and state prosecutions of sex trafficking cases, the statutory prosecutorial landscape, and available programming to support survivors.

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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 Member Agency Activities

Some ITF member agencies, such as the Department of Health (DOH), provide direct services through the state's hospitals and clinics. The Office of Mental Health (OMH) does so through the operation of psychiatric centers, the Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS) through addiction treatment centers, and the Office of Victim Services (OVS) through compensation of individual victims of crime. Agencies such as the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS), the Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (OPDV), and OTDA also function as funders to non-profit direct service providers. Several member agencies also work in an enforcement capacity, such as New York State Police (NYSP) and the Department of Labor (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 existing 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 2024 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

January was federally designated National Human Trafficking Prevention Month in 2010. The ITF coordinates state agencies' participation on social media and outreach campaigns each January. In 2024, a press release was issued along with [Governor Hochul's proclamation](#) marking the campaign and 13 landmarks were illuminated in blue to mark the occasion. ITF member agencies, including DCJS and OTDA, participated in a month-long statewide multi-agency social media awareness campaign against human trafficking. Additionally:

- In partnership with the ITF, the Department of Health posted informational materials in January for Human Trafficking Awareness Month, highlighting help lines on their social media accounts.
- The Office of Children and Family Services supported the outreach events and campaigns of the Safe Harbour: NY programs in January and highlighted these events in a monthly newsletter to partners within New York State and across the country.

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

- The Office of Victim Services shared anti-trafficking awareness month information with all OVS staff. In addition, OVS issued a call for articles in the quarterly newsletter and, if chosen, anti-trafficking articles were published in the winter edition of the newsletter.
- The Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence increased anti-trafficking messaging and shared a post of OPDV staff wearing blue to honor the month.

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

**Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA):**

- OTDA conducted presentations and trainings on trafficking and services for survivors to over 1,365 individuals in 2024, including presentations to the public, agency staff, and funded providers.
- OTDA held trainings and presentations to the public, including a public event at the Queens Community Justice Center and with Planned Parenthood hotline volunteers. OTDA additionally conducted presentations to Chinese immigrant associations.
- NYSBA sponsored a continuing legal education panel with OTDA presenting to 76 attendees on labor trafficking, identifying trafficking and the use of U and T non-immigrant applications for survivors.
- OTDA, DCJS, and OASAS jointly trained the Empower, Assist and Care Network on trafficking, while DCJS and OCFS presented on the ITF, New York State anti-youth trafficking programming, and the Youth Power initiative to Families Together in New York State.
- OTDA and DCJS jointly granted interviews with The Capitol Pressroom, which covered the ITF and New York State trafficking services, along with university research studies on policing and trafficking.

**Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS):**

- DCJS trained 374 individuals in 2024. This includes training 19 members of the Rockland Human Trafficking Task Force, 20 New York State Park Police, 37 members of the Suffolk County Anti-Trafficking Initiative, ten members of the Albany Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, 27 representatives from St. Peter’s Health Partners, 71 individuals with the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants Legal Network, several hospital associations, 18 DOH employees, 15 members of the Nassau County District Attorney’s Office), 42 individuals with the Adult Abuse Training Institute, and 15 members of the Glove Cities Rotary Club. Trainings included information on identifying and responding to human trafficking, the Confirmation process, RHTP providers, and missing Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) women and girls.
- DCJS and the Bar Association co-hosted continuing legal education on “Sex Trafficking in New York: How to Prosecute the Offenders and Aid the Survivors,” which drew 100 attendees.

### **Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS):**

- 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 these materials before they can be disseminated to ensure language and imagery is appropriate and in line with current best practices.

In 2024, OCFS delivered one “Train the Trainer” virtual session of the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) curriculum to over 35 professionals who are now able to deliver the curriculum in their local areas to continue raising public awareness.

### **Office of Victim Services (OVS):**

- In the summer of 2024, OVS launched a second statewide campaign to inform New Yorkers about critical services available for victims, survivors, and their families in the aftermath of crime. The multi-week awareness effort highlighted the wide range of support and services available at no cost from victim assistance programs and how to access financial help for expenses resulting from a crime.

### **Department of Labor (DOL):**

- The DOL’s Division of Compliance and Education (DOCE, previously Division of Immigrant Policies and Affairs) provides "Know Your Rights" trainings to vulnerable populations that are at higher risk of trafficking. The trainings include information on labor rights and DOL areas of service.
- DOL provided a human trafficking presentation to New York State Fair vendors in August 2024.

### **Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (OPDV):**

- OPDV is committed to prevention campaigns that promote culturally and linguistically appropriate, trauma-informed practices. Since 2019, OPDV has expanded its work beyond domestic violence to include other forms of gender-based violence, as domestic violence cannot be addressed without also confronting other forms of gender-based violence, such as sexual violence, sex trafficking, and more. OPDV uses a three pillars approach: survivor-centered, trauma-informed, and culturally responsive. OPDV defines survivor-centered as an approach that works with survivors to meet their needs as they prioritize and define them; trauma-Informed as an approach that realizes that trauma is common, recognizes the signs, activators, and symptoms of trauma, and uses this knowledge to inform practices, policies, and procedures; and culturally responsive as an approach that actively incorporates a holistic approach to a person’s complex identities and cultural values, going beyond simply acknowledging their cultural identities exist. Culturally responsive services respond to differences in identities to actively meet the needs of all survivors and communities.

OPDV regularly incorporates messaging about sex trafficking on all its social media pages to raise awareness and direct survivors and victims to support services, as well as efforts to raise awareness about sex trafficking through tabling and public outreach events. OPDV has a strong focus on addressing technology facilitated gender-based violence. The office’s

communications team's messaging includes technology-facilitated abuse publications and covers the ways that technology can be used by traffickers.

- Additionally, OPDV staff conduct regular trainings that define gender-based violence, in a manner that includes sex trafficking, to increase understanding among other professionals, such as law enforcement, probation employees, court personnel, and members of the public.

#### **Department of State (DOS):**

- The Address Confidentiality Program (ACP) is a free mail forwarding service that provides survivors with security, safety, and privacy. Participants in the free ACP program are assigned a substitute address that they may use instead of their actual address. All state and local agencies are required to accept this substitute address. Any mail sent to a participant is processed daily by ACP staff and forwarded to the confidential address of the participant.
- The Office for New Americans (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 survivors as needed. ONA also works with Office of Language Access to ensure that information on agency services is available in constituents' preferred languages. Language accessible information prevents the spread of misinformation about service delivery and supports constituents' resilience against fraud.

#### **New York State Police (NYSP):**

- The NYSP Troops' school and community outreach coordinators, work with school resource officers and members of Computer Crimes Unit to conduct presentations for their local schools, businesses, and organizations regarding online safety and awareness of indicators of grooming by anonymous online predators. They also attend local events, such as fairs and sporting competitions. The Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force also conducts outreach throughout the year at popular events, such as the New York State Fair.

#### **Training of NYS Agency Staff:**

##### **Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA):**

- OTDA conducted trainings and presentations on identifying trafficked persons, available state programs and services, educational programming and the New York State Confirmation Program. Attendees included representatives from DOS, the Ulster County Youth Bureau, the Onondaga and Monroe Departments of Social Services, and district human trafficking liaisons. Internally, OTDA trained staff in its Housing and Refugee Services Division.
- OTDA co-presented with DCJS, OCFS, and OVS to Adult Protective Services and other professionals on New York State trafficking services. In collaboration with DCJS and OVS, OTDA presented to OMH, DOH's Office of Primary Care, and hospital administrators on trafficking identification and available New York State resources. Additionally, OTDA and DCJS met with the New York State Department of Education to address concerns of trafficked minors and supported OCFS Safe Harbour: NY by training coordinators.

## **Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS):**

- DCJS conducted anti-trafficking training for 20 New York State Park Police in February 2024.
- Another 3,500 police officers throughout the state completed human trafficking training as a minimum requirement of the Basic Course for Police Officers.
- DCJS continues to provide anti-trafficking training to increase identification of and responses to human trafficking. DCJS' Missing Persons Clearinghouse coordinated the Runaway Intervention Program: Services, Training, Opportunity, Prevention (RIPSTOP). The program brings together state and local agencies, law enforcement and nonprofit stakeholders who are dedicated to developing a systems approach to help prevent, and address the needs of, missing youth, who are not involved in child welfare and have had five or more missing episodes in a calendar year. In 2024, DCJS was an active participant in RIPSTOP and its subcommittees. RIPSTOP published guidance and best practices to support missing youth and their families, as well as professionals who may have contact with missing or high-risk youth. RIPSTOP materials can be found at <https://ocfs.ny.gov/programs/youth/missing/ripstop.php>.
- DCJS collaborated with health care and mental health professionals to increase awareness of anti-trafficking initiatives using a public health approach. In 2024, DCJS and DOH held trainings for agency staff and met internally with various departments to incorporate anti-trafficking materials in their fields.

## **Department of Health (DOH):**

- DOH worked with DCJS and OTDA to hold trainings for agency staff. In addition, DOH has established an internal working group on human trafficking to educate and coordinate activities across the Department more seamlessly.

## **Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS):**

- All OCFS employees are mandated under the Governor's Office of Employee Relations to complete an introductory training on human trafficking within their first year of employment.
- In October 2024, OCFS held its annual summit for Safe Harbour: NY program partners and anti-trafficking service providers. The week-long event has been held virtually since 2020 and the 2024 summit featured a presentation from Nathan LaChine, of Evergreen Caregiving, on trafficking of males and presentations from OCFS' Safe Harbour: NY partners on local trafficking policy development, anti-trafficking education in schools, and human trafficking in LGBTQ+ youth. Other OCFS partners presented on the EMPOWER Program and OPDV presented on the intersection of domestic violence and sex trafficking. The target audience for this summit was district staff and youth-serving agencies, while it was also available to the public. Session recordings are posted on OCFS' YouTube channel.

## **Office of Mental Health (OMH):**

- OMH worked with OTDA and DCJS, along with the OMH State Operations Division, to plan and deliver a human trafficking training. The participant group focused on homeless outreach

teams, Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) providers, and inpatient staff serving this population.

- In September 2024, OMH and the Community Technical Assistance Center of New York hosted a conversation with David Crenshaw, Ph.D., on “Surviving Trafficking: A Conversation with a Therapist and a Survivor.” The conversation was available to all OMH staff and programs, with the recording available on the Center’s website. OMH and DCJS worked on a training available for all law enforcement officers on suicide assessment of missing youth, who are at high risk of trafficking.
- In December 2024, the Forensic Division provided a training entitled, “Human Trafficking: Supporting Victims and Improving Interagency Collaboration.”
- OMH is also a participant in the Missing BIPOC Women and Girls Task Force which met in December 2024.

#### **Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS):**

OASAS continues to offer Learning Thursday trainings on trafficking awareness and prevention to staff and providers. The training, “Counselor Sensitivity to Sex Work and Substance Use Disorders,” has been viewed by 2,547 participants; provides a differentiation between sex work and human trafficking; and will help substance use disorder treatment providers identify signs of human trafficking among clients. A second available training has been viewed by 857 participants and is titled “How We Can Identify, Support & Prevent Trafficked Youth Awareness and Knowledge.” Topics discussed include the signs of trafficking and how to support trafficked youth.

- Over 30 staff participated in the “SOAR (Stop-Observe-Ask-Respond) training, “Ethical Considerations: Working with Individuals Who Have Experienced Trafficking,” which examines a provider’s ethical considerations and obligations when working with individuals who may have experienced trafficking.

#### **Department of Labor (DOL):**

- DOL conducted live training on human trafficking awareness and prevention for all labor standards investigators in April 2024, with approximately 100 participants. The training was also recorded and made available for DOL investigative staff who could not attend.
- Additionally, a training on trafficking was conducted for DOCE staff in March 2024 with 16 participants. DOCE staff were taught how to identify labor trafficking when conducting field visits.

#### **Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (OPDV):**

- In 2024, OPDV’s training bureau regularly conducted gender-based violence awareness training for over 900 individuals, including the New York City Human Resources Administration (HRA), district staff, and OTDA staff. The training included basic information about sex trafficking.

- OPDV’s assistant director of Community Outreach facilitated two sessions of a training about the intersections of sex trafficking and domestic violence at the OCFS 2024 Anti-Trafficking Summit, which was attended by 263 people. OPDV’s assistant director of Equity and Inclusion hosted two trainings titled, “Gender-Based Violence in LGBTQI+ Communities: Sexual Violence and Trafficking,” with a total of 135 attendees.
- Sex trafficking, as it relates to gender-based violence, is also included in OPDV’s Gender-Based Violence training and the mandatory workplace trainings available on New York Statewide Learning Management System for all state supervisors, human resources personnel, agency domestic violence liaisons and other state employees. This training has been completed by more than 80,000 individuals thus far.

### **Department of State (DOS):**

- In January 2024, DOS provided a training on “How to Identify, Respond, and Refer Trafficked Persons in New York State” to Division of Licensing Services inspectors. There were 33 DOS staff in attendance, and the training included presentations from OTDA, DOL, and the Ramirez June Developmental disabilities navigator for ONA.
- The DOS Division of Licensing Services’ investigators continue to use their training and the protocols to identify and refer potential survivors of trafficking. The DOS Division of Licensing Services’ inspectors have received regular training to identify suspected cases of human trafficking as they conduct inspections of DOS-licensed establishments. such as nail salons. This training incorporates DOS’ internal referral process and uses a “Victims First” approach. Accordingly, DOS shares with relevant agencies any instances of suspected trafficking. The impact of this training has led to the identification of other illegal acts.

### **New York State Police (NYSP):**

- The New York State Police Academy hosted an annual Crimes Against Children Seminar in March on topics which included child exploitation and Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force legislation.
- NYSP professionals are provided an annual training on sexual assault and child exploitation investigations. Some of NYSP Computer Crimes Unit investigators have been trained on undercover chat. NYSP members attend and participate in trainings throughout the year, which include the annual Northern Border Symposium, organized by the North Country Crime Analysis Center, U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Federal Law Enforcement Trainings Centers (FLETC), Human Trafficking Investigations Symposium, and conferences and trainings provided by local task forces, Crime Analysis Center staff, county executives, and/or non-for-profit organizations.

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

#### **Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA)**

- OTDA conducted quarterly meetings with RHTP providers on temporary assistance benefits for survivors, state housing initiatives, and how to access housing development grants and led an information-sharing session on best practices.

### **Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS):**

- In 2024, OCFS delivered a virtual session of train-the-trainer in its CSEC curriculum to over 35 professionals across New York State. After completing this training, these individuals are now able to deliver the CSEC curriculum in their local areas to continue raising public awareness.

### **Office of Victim Services (OVS):**

- The OVS Training & Technical Assistance Request Program (TTARP) offers customized, no-cost training and technical assistance pairing service for OVS-funded programs. In 2024, multiple requests included the category of “Engaging Survivors Who’ve Experienced Polyvictimization,” and “Trauma-Informed Management,” which cover topics related to many victim populations, including trafficking survivors.
- OVS hosted more than 100 victim service professionals from across New York State for the 2024 OVS Seeking Solutions Summit, “Challenges for Providing Victim Services in Rural Communities: Ensuring Sustainable and Effective Services,” held June 2024 in Skaneateles, N.Y. Attendees, including trafficking survivors, heard from many experts in the field about barriers in rural communities and how rural communities work to overcome these challenges. OVS also hosted a full week train-the-trainer program, “Improving the Well Being of Corrections Professionals,” which covered basic principles of trauma-informed care and featured content on many victim populations, including trafficking survivors.

### **Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (OPDV):**

- OPDV funds 53 rape crisis programs across the state to provide training and technical assistance, as well as services to students. OPDV supports colleges’ implementation of New York State’s Enough is Enough (EIE) law. Through the EIE Training and Technical Assistance Center, training was provided to the grantees on “Identifying and Responding to Human Trafficking.” This training was presented by Executive Director Anne Patterson, of Day One, a youth-focused victim services organization in New York City.

### **Department of Health (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 and Families’ Services Stop, Observe, Ask and Respond (SOAR) training, 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.
- In 2024, the DOH Office of Health Care Delivery worked collaboratively with the ITF to conduct a “Human Trafficking 101” training at a quarterly meeting with key stakeholders.

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

## Office of Mental Health (OMH)

- OMH has implemented regulations to raise awareness of the trafficking risks for the vulnerable populations that utilize OMH’s residential and congregate care programs. Under 14 NYCRR Part 524, providers of mental health services must develop and implement effective incident management programs to ensure incidents are reported, analyzed, and the appropriate response occurs to protect the health and safety of patients and enhance their quality of life. OMH guidance on incident management programs specifically addresses trafficked populations in incident responses, including “Missing Patients,” by defining human trafficking survivors as both individuals who have been compelled to perform commercial sex or labor, as well as those who are at risk. The regulations have pending changes to expand oversight of incidents occurring to young people in off-campus community residences and implement additional safety measures. New York State also passed legislative changes in this session allowing youth who are runaway and homeless and at high risk for trafficking to consent to mental health services.
- OMH continues to distribute resources and training internally to agency field offices and, through them, to regional providers. The Trauma-Informed Network programs and resources also provide supports.

## 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 New York State agencies employ front-line staff who provide direct services, other agencies fund non-governmental 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)

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 elicit 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’s mission includes supporting and protecting immigrant workers through education and empowerment. DOL provides presentations to the public (both workers and employers) and service providers on labor laws and protections. DOCE ensures the services, programs, and protections of DOL are available to all workers – including the large and growing group of individuals who work in, or move to, New York from other countries.

DOL frontline staff have been trained on what steps to take upon seeing indicators of trafficking, which include contacting DOCE. DOCE will then screen workers and make referrals, including to

RHTP providers. DOL additionally receives referrals from non-governmental organizations and government agencies.

DOL will also evaluate cases for issuance of a U or T visa certification. DOL is 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, if an ongoing labor dispute exists and the individual is a survivor of human trafficking, DOL will evaluate their case for 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)**

OASAS oversees one of the nation's largest substance use disorder systems of care with approximately 1,700 prevention, treatment, and recovery programs serving over 730,000 individuals per year. This includes the direct operation of 12 Addiction Treatment Centers (ATC) where doctors, nurses, and clinical staff provide inpatient and residential services to over 5,000 individuals per year. OASAS is the designated state agency responsible for the coordination of state-federal relations in the area of addiction services.

Since 2024, the 12 ATCs screen for human trafficking survivors upon admission. ATCs reached out to the local human trafficking courts and have connected with four of the courts, resulting in 13 referrals. ATCs provided services to over 125 human trafficking survivors, including: trauma therapy (group and individual), case management, housing support, linkage to specialized services, and provision of basic needs, such as clothing and toiletries.

OASAS will continue to develop linkages with local human trafficking courts and to train staff in recognizing and serving survivors. OASAS also plans to continue to refine data collection and reporting through electronic health records.

### **Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA)**

OTDA is responsible for helping vulnerable people meet their essential needs and advance economically by providing opportunities for stable employment, housing, and nutrition. OTDA meets this responsibility through the delivery and oversight of programs that provide assistance and support to eligible families and individuals, including cash assistance, food and heating support, 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.

Of the 409 individuals confirmed in 2024, 228 were directed to their district offices or the HRA to apply for benefits, and 181 were referred to RHTP providers for case management.

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 10 providers located throughout New York State. 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.

Providers emphasize the importance of safety planning and crisis intervention and indicate there is a significant need for case managers, particularly those who speak Spanish and those who can work after hours. RHTP grantees report providing a significant amount of emergency assistance to survivors, including direct cash assistance, shelter and housing assistance, and funding for food, medical care and mental health services. Providers also state it is important to ensure district staff are trained on trafficking and to minimize barriers to accessing benefits. Providers report significant delays of up to one year in accessing immigration legal services for trafficking survivors due to a shortage of practitioners versed in these areas of law.

RHTP providers across the state report that shelter and safe housing services, in particular for males, is a significant area of need. Male clients often require specialized identification initiatives and programming designed to reduce stigma. Providers also report that minor trafficking survivors require specialized housing, legal, and education services, and mental health supports. OTDA provided training to RHTP and other non-profit organizations on the Homeless Housing and Assistance Program (HHAP) and the Empire State Supportive Housing Initiative (ESSHI).

RHTP providers also emphasize survivors often need free or low-cost medical and dental services and specialized providers, such as OBGYNs. Providers who are multilingual and culturally competent are in high demand. Trauma-informed training on trafficking is also recommended in the health care industry.

RHTP providers utilize a variety of job services and economic support programs, alongside life skills training. Federally certified survivors can access employment services through OTDA Bureau of Refugee Services' Refugee Support Services Program (RSSP) which addresses social and cultural adjustment, job search skills, work experience, and English proficiency. Providers express interest in employment programs that address survivor-specific vocational training, job readiness services, and access to higher education.

RHTP providers report clients as having been labor trafficked in the following industries: domestic servitude, car wash, entertainment, massage business, spa, hospitality, housekeeping, skilled trades, street vending, agriculture, religious organizations, construction, restaurants, bars, landscaping, retail, factory/manufacturing, residential work, and laundry/cleaning services. RHTP providers identify a need for increased education on labor trafficking in high incident industries and law enforcement.

The RHTP grant also includes an option for providers to use funds for survivor advisory boards (SAB). RHTP SABs conduct outreach, community collaboration, and help shape programming to better meet survivor needs. RHTP can be used for SAB participation and professional development. Five providers report having a survivor advisory board in place. Programming includes training on and providing peer support, along with training on public speaking, advocacy, and policy and protocol work. Some providers are working on integrating survivor voices into the highest levels of leadership, including on their boards.

RHTP providers report they were successfully able to assist all survivors with housing services. Providers continue to express that housing access can be challenging as they work to secure landlord acceptance of vouchers, trafficking-sensitive housing, and transitional housing for minors and young adults. 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.

OTDA has worked with RHTP providers to understand New York State housing development opportunities. The OTDA Housing and Support Services Bureau conducted four presentations to 42 participants from RHTP and other trafficking-serving providers on available grants for housing development and housing services.

RHTP providers additionally report utilizing the Notice of Confirmation in the following 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.
- To demonstrate mitigating factors in cases of forced criminality or other criminal court contexts.
- As supporting documentation in the legal process for custody.
- 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 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.
- As supporting documentation to break a lease to leave an unsafe living situation without fear of legal or financial consequences.
- As supporting documentation for obtaining identification from the Department of Motor Vehicles.

### **Office of Victim Services (OVS)**

OVS funds and supports more than 200 victim assistance programs that provide services, such as crisis counseling, advocacy, emergency shelter, civil legal assistance, and relocation assistance, to victims and survivors and their families. The agency also provides financial assistance and reimbursement to victims of crime for crime-related expenses, including, but not limited to, medical and mental health services, funeral and burial expenses, lost wages and support, and essential personal property losses.

OVS currently funds 23 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 period from Oct. 1, 2023, to Sept. 30, 2024, there were 59 claims for victim compensation on behalf of survivors of trafficking. All of these claims were for financial compensation related to physical injuries. Fifteen percent (9) of these claims were for victims under age 18.

OVS provided 4,293 individual services in the categories of "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.

To be eligible for OVS victim compensation, victims/survivors of human trafficking must fill out an application for compensation and provide enough information during the eligibility investigation to show that they are the victim/survivor of a crime in New York State (or with a criminal nexus to New York). Compensable crimes may include sex trafficking or labor trafficking, or another crime the victim/survivor experienced in the context of human trafficking, such as sex offenses or assault. At this time, victims/survivors of human trafficking must also have reported the crime to law enforcement to be eligible for compensation. OVS can also accept the Notice of Confirmation issued by OTDA, as well documentation showing a forensic rape exam was conducted, as proof that a crime occurred. When awarded eligibility, victims/survivors of human trafficking may be eligible for reimbursement for out-of-pocket crime-related expenses including, but not limited to, medical and mental health services, relocation, and essential personal property.

The Fair Access to Victim Compensation legislation was signed into law in December 2023. This law will allow victims and survivors to report their victimization to city or state-funded victim service providers instead of law enforcement. Among other provisions, the law expands the allowable timeframe for victims and survivors to file a compensation application. OVS continues to evaluate its statute and regulations to identify opportunities to expand eligibility, financial caps, and reimbursable expenses for victims and survivors.

### **Department of Health (DOH)**

DOH has been overseeing the health, safety, and well-being of New Yorkers since 1901 – from vaccinations to utilizing new developments in science as critical tools in the prevention and treatment of infectious diseases. In the face of today's new public health challenges and evolving health care system, health equity is foundational to everything DOH does to help all people achieve optimal physical, mental, and social well-being. DOH has established an internal working group on human trafficking to coordinate activities across the Department more seamlessly.

### **Office of Mental Health (OMH)**

OMH is a state agency responsible for developing, implementing, and overseeing mental health programs and services for New Yorkers. OMH's mission is to promote mental health and well-being, with a focus on facilitating recovery for individuals with serious mental illness and supporting children and families. OMH operates psychiatric centers, regulate and oversee other mental health programs, and provide various services and supports.

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 the 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 the OMH central office on protocols for referrals for Confirmation. Programs operating under OMH continue to refer individuals identified as victims/survivors of human trafficking to OTDA & DCJS in accordance with the Public Health Law.

### **Department of State (DOS)**

DOS' core mission is to provide a better quality of life and expand opportunities for all New Yorkers by fostering community revitalization, catalyzing economic growth through business formation, protecting consumers, helping new Americans, supporting local governments, assisting individuals

and families to achieve upward economic mobility, and ensuring safety and integrity through the regulation of licensed occupations and the development of building standards and codes.

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.

ONA at the DOS works with OTDA to ensure services to identified undocumented trafficking survivors. ONA grantees, partners, and the Ramirez June Initiative make referrals to OTDA and/or DOL upon identification of a suspected trafficking survivor for investigations and service referrals.

The ACP is available to victims and survivors of human trafficking. In 2024, 64 self-identified survivors of trafficking enrolled in the ACP to help shield their residence information. This entails participant mail being delivered to the ACP office and ACP discretely forwarding it to the participant. The ACP does not require proof of trafficking to enroll as a survivor to avoid re-traumatization and psychological harm to participants. Rather, participants sign a Program Participant Affidavit as part of the ACP application form.

### **Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS)**

OCFS serves New York's public by promoting the safety, permanency, and well-being of our children, families, and communities. OCFS is dedicated to improving the integration of services for New York's children, youth, families, and vulnerable populations; to promoting their development; and to protecting them from violence, neglect, abuse and abandonment. The agency provides a system of family support, juvenile justice, youth development, childcare, and child welfare services that promote the safety and well-being of children and adults. Among the operating principles across all program areas are that services should be developmentally appropriate, family-centered and family-driven, community-based, locally responsive, and evidence and outcome based.

OCFS policy [15-OCFS-ADM-16](#) requires that all youth in the care, custody, or supervision of districts, voluntary agencies, and OCFS be 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: NY](#) funding can be used by counties to fund supportive services for youth who are trafficked or at-risk. Each county submits to OCFS a plan and budget that outline the services to be provided locally. All young people (under age 21) who are identified as trafficked or at-risk are eligible for services funded through Safe Harbour: NY. In 2022, OCFS promulgated regulations for EMPOWER, a specialized model of congregate care for youth who are trafficked or at-risk and in foster care. There are currently two agencies certified to operate this program type. In 2024, OCFS published an EMPOWER program manual to better inform its partners of the expectations of those settings. In 2025, OCFS plans to convene current and prospective EMPOWER programs to support a community of practice in this specialized work.

### **Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS)**

DCJS 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 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.

DCJS actively reviewed human trafficking referrals under the New York State Confirmation program. In 2024, DCJS and OTDA received and processed a record number of human trafficking referrals (515 referrals) and confirmed 409 individuals. As human trafficking awareness continues to increase, it is likely that the New York State Confirmation program will receive a greater number of referrals in the coming years. DCJS is committed to making determinations in a timely manner so that trafficked individuals may gain access to much needed resources and services.

In 2024, DCJS partnered with multiple agencies and stakeholders to support minor trafficking survivors and those who may be at risk for trafficking. In October 2024, DCJS collaborated with the National Child Protection Task Force, the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, law enforcement professionals, and private sector partners to assist the Amherst and Buffalo police departments in locating missing youth. In total, the Missing Child Rescue Operation pilot initiative located 47 youth who had been reported missing in Erie County. Additionally, in 2024, DCJS was an active participant in RIPSTOP and its subcommittees and contributed to the development of best practices guidance. Lastly, DCJS, in conjunction with OCFS and other state agencies, met with the New York State Education Department in 2024 to discuss anti-trafficking education and outreach in schools.

### **Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (OPDV)**

OPDV, created in 1992, is the country's only Cabinet-level executive state agency dedicated to the issue of domestic and gender-based violence. It replaced the Commission on Domestic Violence established in 1983. OPDV's mission is to improve New York State's response to and prevention of domestic violence with the goal of enhancing the safety of all New Yorkers in their intimate and family relationships. OPDV's mission is to create a State in which communities and systems are committed to supporting and promoting equality, dignity and respect so that individuals can feel safer in their intimate and family relationships. OPDV's role is to advise the governor and legislature on policies and best practices; train professionals across the state; facilitate coordination between state agencies and stakeholders on issues related to domestic violence; and serve as a resource on the issues of domestic and gender-based violence.

### **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.

## **New York 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.

The NYSP Troop Computer Crimes Unit (CCU) handles the numerous Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) cases reported through the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) for their area of responsibility. These cases involve the possession, distribution, and production of child sexual abuse material. These ICAC cases lead to the execution of dozens of search warrants resulting in the arrest of suspects involved in child exploitation. Images and videos obtained during these investigations are reported back to NCMEC for the purpose of identifying the victims and to determine if the files contain unknown victims yet to be identified.

NYSP additionally work closely with federal partners and assist the FBI and Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) with various child predatory investigations, which can have a human trafficking component. State Police also work with the U.S. Secret Service, which along with HSI, combat cybercrimes involving the sexual exploitation of children, human trafficking, and child sex tourism. The State Police Community Stabilization Unit (CSU) investigates various types of criminal activity and combats human trafficking. NYSP has members assigned to the FBI Violent Crimes Against Children Task Force and the FBI Child Exploitation and Human Trafficking Task Force and the FBI Safe Streets Task Force. In addition, State Police participate in federal interdiction efforts which work to enhance border security to eliminate all varieties of illegal smuggling.

New York State Police are also part of multi-disciplinary teams consisting of individuals from districts' Child Protective Services, Child Advocacy Centers, county district attorneys' offices, local law enforcement, and community groups. This collaborative approach is designed to coordinate response and minimize trauma.

The Investigative Support Unit senior investigator participates in the ITF quarterly meetings and conferences. State Police are also involved in the regional anti-human trafficking task forces and are active in local events.

## **NYSP Law Enforcement Actions:**

**Troop A (Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans, and Wyoming Counties):** Troop A investigated approximately 236 ICAC cases, resulting in approximately 125 executed search warrants. Of note, the Troop A CSU assisted in a multi-jurisdictional HSI human trafficking investigation. During the investigation, Troop A CSU and the Special Investigations Unit Buffalo assisted the Town of Cheektowaga Police Department with simultaneously executing two search warrants at local residences in the Town of Cheektowaga that were operating illegal massage businesses and performing sexual acts for money. The execution of the search warrants resulted in the arrest of three female workers, the seizure of valuable documents and electronics pertaining to the ongoing HSI investigation, and an estimated \$9,000 in U.S. currency.

**Troop C (Broome, Chenango, Cortland, Delaware, Otsego, Tioga, and Tompkins Counties):** Troop C executed 44 search warrants, which led to 34 arrests with both state and federal indictments.

**Troop D (Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga, and Oswego Counties):** Members in Troop D worked with the Fort Drum Army Criminal Investigations Division in proactive undercover operations targeting suspects attempting to engage in underage prostitution, child exploitation, and human trafficking.

**Troop F (Greene, Orange, Rockland, Sullivan, and Ulster Counties):** Troop F investigated 99 ICAC cases, resulting in 23 executed search warrants, which led to 25 arrests. In addition, there were nine arrests stemming from proactive investigations, and three from “knock and talk” cases. Troop F BCI members and the FBI conducted a joint initiative in Orange County, leading to the arrest of seven individuals who were attempting to meet up with underaged children for the purpose of sexual acts. Troop F CCU additionally conducted two proactive investigations, one involving ICAC, resulting in three minors being removed from harm and an arrest for engaging in sexual acts with a minor and possessing numerous images and folders of child pornography.

**Troop G (Albany, Fulton, Hamilton, Montgomery, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie, Warren, and Washington Counties):** Troop G investigated 183 ICAC cases, resulting in executed search warrants and “knock and talks”, which led to 50 arrests. Troop G utilized undercover investigators who chatted on social media applications, and, over the course of weeks, were able to identify and arrest five individuals for attempting to engage in sexual activities with a person under 11. One suspect had previously been arrested for traveling to have sex with a minor out of state, was arrested, gave a full confession, and was arraigned on federal charge Title 18, United States Code Section 2423(b), for traveling across state lines with the intent to engage in sex with a 9-year-old female. The defendant is looking at a minimum of 20 years in federal prison.

**Troop K (Westchester, Putnam, Dutchess, Columbia):** Troop K CCU and BCI worked in conjunction with out of state police and the U.S. Secret Service to investigate a 60-year-old male who was facilitating the transport of a 15-year-old female across state lines for the purpose of engaging in illegal sexual activities. Probable cause was developed to execute a search warrant on the subject’s residence, person, and electronic devices. Evidence was discovered implicating him in similar crimes with a victim in another state. Upon being extradited, the subject was charged with solicitation and commercial exploitation of a minor and the use of communications systems to facilitate certain offenses involving children.

**Troop L (Nassau and Suffolk Counties):** Troop L CCU received an ICAC cyber tip that pictures and videos of child exploitation were being downloaded. Troop L CCU and BCI investigated the matter and were able to acquire a search warrant for the suspect’s residence. As a result, members seized over 25 items of evidence, including cell phones, tablets, laptops, hard drives, and other media storage devices. The suspect was arrested and interviewed by Troop L CCU investigators and gave verbal admissions to downloading videos and pictures for approximately 10 years. The suspect was charged with six counts of promoting a sexual performance by child (PL 263.15), a class D felony and six counts of possession of a sexual performance by a child (PL 263.16), a class E felony.

Troop L CCU Investigators additionally conducted a “knock and talk” as a result of a crime tip about child pornography being sent and downloaded. An interview of the suspect was conducted, and a search of his phone located child pornography. A deposition was secured from the suspect, and he

advised that he had received the child pornography video, then downloaded and disseminated it. The suspect was charged with possession of a sexual performance by a child (PL 263.16), a class E felony.

### **Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS)**

In 2024, DCJS published an article on human trafficking and the New York State Confirmation process in the New York Prosecutors Training Institute's Empire State Prosecutor newsletter. This newsletter is available and disseminated to prosecutors across New York State. Additionally, in 2024, approximately 3,500 police officers completed human trafficking training as a minimum requirement of the Basic Course for Police Officers. Lastly, in 2025, DCJS will partner with Institute and district attorneys' offices to deliver continuing legal education on human trafficking for prosecutors.

### **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.

### **Office of Victim Services (OVS)**

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. OVS Advisory Council is an active, working advisory body that frequently provides feedback and insight to members of the agency's management team. During 2024, the OVS Advisory Council included two survivor members. Although these members were not necessarily victims/survivors of human trafficking, their willingness to share their lived experiences and perspectives on agency business has been invaluable to the agency and continuing efforts by the council.

### **Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (OPDV)**

OPDV worked with DCJS during 2024 to implement the Missing BIPOC Women and Girls Task Force, commencing with the first meeting of the Task Force on December 9, 2024, with DCJS Commissioner Rosado and OPDV Executive Director Kelli Nicholas Owens sharing welcoming remarks. OPDV additionally convenes Domestic Violence Regional Councils in each of the 10 economic development regions throughout the state two times per year. These meetings include local system responders, such as law enforcement, gender-based violence advocates, and social services staff. At the councils, local issues are discussed and technical assistance on topics aimed at improving response to gender-based violence is provided.

### **Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS)**

OCFS also convenes quarterly regional meetings of Safe Harbour: NY providers to support a community of practice for community-based providers addressing child trafficking.

## **Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA)**

OTDA has strengthened partnerships over the last year with the federal Administration for Children and Families Office of Refugee Resettlement on federal certifications, the Human Resources Administration, and the Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender Based Violence and has presented to state legislative staff on New York State areas of services. Additionally, OTDA is a member of the DOL Child Labor Task Force.

## **Survivor Engagement**

The ITF is committed to engaging survivor leaders 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. OTDA has contracted with a RHTP provider to develop a survivor advisory group for the ITF.

OCFS works to collaborate survivor voice into its work when applicable. OCFS has created positions for youth and parents with lived experience in child welfare and juvenile justice and has expanded representation on its Youth Advisory Board to include youth who have experienced trafficking and exploitation.

During 2024, the OVS Advisory Council included two survivor members. Although these members were not necessarily victims/survivors of human trafficking, their willingness to share their lived experiences and perspectives on agency business has been invaluable to the agency and continuing efforts by the council.

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

State agencies participate in nine task forces serving specific geographic areas of the state: Suffolk, Brooklyn, Bronx, Westchester, Rockland, Capital Region, North Country, Southern Tier, and Western New York. 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 regional anti-trafficking task forces (Suffolk, Westchester, Western New York, and Brooklyn) held Enhanced Collaborative Model to Combat Human Trafficking grants 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, DCJS, DOL, OCFS, DOS, DOH, and NYSP participate in the regional anti-trafficking task forces, allowing agencies to maintain regular communication with the local service providers and law enforcement participants. OTDA presented to the newly established Bronx Task Force on New York State areas of services for trafficking survivors, including Confirmation and RHTP. OTDA additionally presented on a panel at the Bronx Task Force Conference on the federal Debt Bondage Repair Act. OTDA and DCJS also presented jointly to the Suffolk County Anti-Trafficking Initiative on the New York State confirmation process, RHTPs and New York State areas of services for survivors, and the role of district Human Trafficking Liaisons. A total of 37 individuals were trained at the meeting. OTDA additionally worked with the Western New York Anti-Trafficking task force on developing their outreach program with organized labor unions. DCJS presented on the New York State Confirmation

process to the Rockland County Human Trafficking Task Force to a total of 19 task force members.

Highlighted activities of Regional Anti-Trafficking Task forces:

- **Rockland County Anti-Trafficking Task Force:** The Rockland County Anti Trafficking Task Force continued its collaborative efforts with local law enforcement, federal law enforcement, and other organizations that offer supportive and counseling services to victims and survivors of human trafficking. Rockland worked closely with Homeland Security Investigations and the Salvation Army, which presented at two of its meetings in 2024 and highlighted the need for more referrals to the Confirmation program. It also focused on prevention work by having the founders of Wonder Girls speak at a meeting. Finally, there was a push for an emphasis on mental health counseling and medical services available to survivors by highlighting Nurses United Against Human Trafficking and Yo Digo No Mas. The task force plans to continue its partnerships with local organizations as the Center for Safety & Change, Inc. expands its human trafficking services and looks forward to participating in more local collaboratives and other task force meetings.
- **Suffolk County Anti-Trafficking Initiative:** In 2024, the Suffolk County Anti-Trafficking Initiative (SCATI) advanced its mission by strengthening a coordinated, trauma-informed, and survivor-centered response to human trafficking across Long Island. SCATI partnered with Suffolk County to launch Operation Safe and Lasting Return (OSLR), which focuses on creating safe, stable pathways for runaway and missing youth to return home with the right support in place. SCATI also broadened its reach into labor trafficking by partnering with Rural Migrant Ministries, allowing SCATI to extend services to vulnerable workers on the East End. SCATI deepened its focus on minor survivors by actively collaborating with Erin’s Court, Suffolk County’s new problem-solving court dedicated to youth survivors of commercial sexual exploitation, where SCATI partners serve as core service providers offering case management, advocacy, and long-term stabilization planning. SCATI’s subcommittees focused on advancing targeted strategies in the areas of labor trafficking, minor victim services, and housing—each designed to address the distinct needs and service gaps within those populations.
- **Bronx Human Trafficking Prevention and Response Task Force:** The Bronx Human Trafficking Task Force was active throughout 2024 with a particular focus on community education and professional training. The task force increased its membership to 26 organizations. The task force participated in the New York State Human Trafficking Coalition and the Bronx Sexual Assault Task Force. Additionally, the task force met with tenant groups in New York City Housing Authority housing projects to provide education to residents about how to recognize and prevent trafficking. The task force participated in meeting with the NYS Assembly regarding trafficking and was part of a meeting at the United Nations. The task force has identified a need to train medical professionals and has conducted grand rounds at BronxCare and presented to New York City School health physicians and nurse practitioners to the Adolescent Health Initiative, the World Health Foundation at the New York Social Work Education Association Conference, and in Memphis, Tenn., at the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Social Work Conference. The audiences have included physicians, nurses, medical students, and other direct practitioners. Additionally, the Bronx Task Force held their first annual conference, “Recognizing and Responding to Human Trafficking” in October 2024, when more than 120 individuals convened to discuss rapid responses to survivors in a medical setting. During 2024,

funding was provided by the World Childhood Foundation and has been continued by BronxCare Health System.

- **Westchester County Anti-Trafficking Task Force:** The task force screened and held case conferences for over 74 individuals for trafficking. The task force works with survivors as partners in its leadership team. The task force conducted numerous trainings to law enforcement, service agencies, civil legal, and educational institutions from middle schools to college campuses. The addition of a prosecutor who is dedicated to anti-trafficking in the District Attorney's office has allowed for a more streamlined pathway for law enforcement to engage with prosecutors and their internal team and continue working with DOL and the U.S. Departments of Labor in the recovery of compensation. The task force is also looking at the impact of sporting events on trafficking.
- **Southern Tier Human Trafficking Task Force:** In 2024, the Southern Tier Human Trafficking Task Force held four regional meetings, engaging stakeholders across its seven-county area. Attendees heard directly from trafficking survivors and policy advocates, discussed the unique challenges facing rural communities, and connected with representatives from other task forces statewide to stay informed and aligned.

## National Partnerships

The [National Compendium](#) currently includes 44 states and Washington, D.C. OTDA is a member of the steering committee of the Compendium, which held trainings on the collection of data for trafficking; current anti-trafficking state-level projects implementing effective culturally informed policies; and coalition building. DCJS presented at the Compendium on the Survivors of Trafficking Attaining Relief Together (START) Act, which Governor Hochul signed into law in November 2021. The START Act expands post-conviction relief and permits trafficked individuals to request vacatur of convictions for offenses resulting from human trafficking.

OCFS is a founding member of the National Child Welfare Anti-Trafficking Collaborative and its steering committee. The Collaborative is comprised of child welfare professionals from 31 member states and creates opportunities for peer-to-peer learning between child welfare leaders. 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. OCFS remains a leader in this space nationally.

## Conclusion

The ITF will continue 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. The ITF will continue to conduct outreach, training, and education on both sex and labor trafficking to ensure identification, connection to services, and prosecutions. The ITF is also committed to strong prevention programming.

The ITF has continued to examine New York State data sources on trafficking. The state confirmation data tracking was expanded in 2024 to include the additional criteria of location of sex trafficking, industry of labor trafficking, as well as information on the gender of and relationship to the trafficker. The ITF strives to provide a comprehensive overview of trafficking in New York State to ensure data-driven policy recommendations in prevention, protection, prosecution, and partnerships.

## Attachments

- A. DCJS Sex and Labor Trafficking Arrests/Arraignments Disposed
- B. NYS Confirmation 2024 Annual Statistics
- C. OTDA RHTP Providers Housing Services Report
- D. Applicable ITF Statutes

# ATTACHMENT A

## ARRESTS/ARRAIGNMENTS FOR SEX AND LABOR TRAFFICKING: 2015-2024

Region		Arrest Year										
		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
New York State	Total	59	71	91	111	67	51	53	62	45	63	673
	Labor Trafficking	8	4	3	2	0	1	3	1	2	1	25
	PL 135.35	8	4	3	2	0	1	3	1	2	1	25
	PL 135.37	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Sex Trafficking	51	67	88	109	67	50	50	61	43	62	648
	PL 230.34	51	67	88	109	57	35	27	44	28	57	563
	PL 230.34A	0	0	0	0	10	15	23	17	15	5	85
New York City	Total	37	59	72	83	63	42	46	59	37	45	543
	Labor Trafficking	5	4	2	1	0	0	2	1	2	0	17
	PL 135.35	5	4	2	1	0	0	2	1	2	0	17
	PL 135.37	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Sex Trafficking	32	55	70	82	63	42	44	58	35	45	526
	PL 230.34	32	55	70	82	55	27	24	42	25	44	456
	PL 230.34A	0	0	0	0	8	15	20	16	10	1	70
Non-New York City	Total	22	12	19	28	4	9	7	3	8	18	130
	Labor Trafficking	3	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	8
	PL 135.35	3	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	8
	PL 135.37	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Sex Trafficking	19	12	18	27	4	8	6	3	8	17	122
	PL 230.34	19	12	18	27	2	8	3	2	3	13	107
	PL 230.34A	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	1	5	4	15

Note: Includes all events where a trafficking charge appeared as a top or underlying arrest or arraignment charge.

Source: DCJS, Computerized Criminal History system (as of 3/15/2025).

## SEX TRAFFICKING (PL 230.34 & PL 230.34A) ARRESTS/ARRAIGNMENTS DISPOSED: 2015-2024

Region/County		Disposition Year											
		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total	
New York State	Total Dispositions	39	65	50	61	98	22	31	49	71	41	527	
	DA Declined to Prosecute	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	4	8	
	Dismissed-Not ACD	2	11	3	14	10	4	8	6	8	5	71	
	Dismissed-ACD	2	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	6	
	Diverted and Dismissed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Acquitted	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	
	Other Favorable	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	3	
	Covered by Another Case	1	5	2	4	8	0	0	1	1	0	22	
	Convicted-Sentenced	33	47	44	41	78	17	22	41	60	32	415	
	Convictions to:	Sex Trafficking	9	19	15	14	25	5	5	20	33	14	159
		Labor Trafficking	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
		Non-Trafficking Chg	24	28	29	26	53	12	17	21	27	18	255
	Sentences to:	Prison	20	39	29	31	54	10	12	31	46	28	300
		Jail	2	4	8	3	9	2	1	2	1	1	33
		Time Served	2	1	0	1	4	1	4	0	0	0	13
		Jail + Probation	4	0	0	2	4	0	2	3	3	1	19
		Probation	3	0	3	1	2	2	3	4	3	1	22
		Fine	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
		Cond Discharge	1	1	3	3	5	2	0	1	7	1	24
Uncond Discharge		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Other		0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	

**LABOR TRAFFICKING (PL 135.35 & PL 135.37) ARRESTS/ARRAIGNMENTS DISPOSED:  
2015-2024**

Region/County		Disposition Year										Total	
		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024		
New York State	Total Dispositions	6	5	5	5	3	0	1	2	2	0	29	
	DA Declined to Prosecute	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Dismissed-Not ACD	2	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	1	0	7	
	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	4	4	5	3	2	0	0	2	1	0	21	
	Convictions to:	Sex Trafficking	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Labor Trafficking	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3
		Non-Trafficking Chg	4	4	3	3	2	0	0	1	1	0	18
	Sentences to:	Prison	2	3	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
		Jail	0	1	0	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	1	0	0	1	0	0	2
		Probation	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3
		Fine	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Cond Discharge	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	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	

## ATTACHMENT B

# NYS Trafficking Confirmation Program Statistics 2024 Summary

**Total Referrals: 515\***

Confirmed: 409

Referrals	Count of Instances
Denied	46
Other	59
Duplicates	32
Inadmissible/self-referrals	26
Withdrawals	1

*\*Referrals do not always correspond to outcomes in the same year, as some cases were referred in the previous year or resolved in the following year.*

### Analysis of Confirmed Individuals (409)

Type of Trafficking	Count of Instances
Labor Trafficking	177
Sex Trafficking	184
Labor and Sex Trafficking	48

Outcome	Count of Instances
Referred to RHTP / not eligible for public benefits	181
Referred to social service district / otherwise eligible	228

Male / Female	Count of Instances
Female	288
Male	121
Gender Non-Conforming	0

Adult / Minor	Count of Instances
Adult	371
Minor	38

<b>Region</b>	<b>Count of Instances</b>
NYC	156
Metro (L.I. & Lower Hudson Valley)	114
Upstate	120
Out of State	19

Totals may be greater than total number of Individuals Confirmed. Some individuals may have experienced trafficking in more than one industry, and some may have had more than one instance of trafficking.

<b>Labor Trafficking Industry</b>	<b>Count of Instances</b>
Landscaping	1
Peddling/Begging	1
Arts and Entertainment	2
Healthcare/Home Health Aide	3
Bars, Strip Clubs, Cantinas	4
Health Beauty Services	4
Retail	4
Hotels/Hospitality	5
Unknown	5
Agriculture and Animal Husbandry	7
Factories/Manufacturing	7
Janitorial/Commercial Cleaning	8
Restaurants/Food Service	27
Other	28
Forced Criminality	32
Domestic Work	39
Construction	64

<b>Sex Trafficking Location</b>	<b>Count of Instances</b>
Escort Services	3
Bars, Strip Clubs, Cantinas	8
Online Solicitation	20
Unknown	20
Outdoor/Street Solicitation	25
Other	39
Motels/Hotels	69
Residential	117

Trafficker Relationship	Count of Instances
Religious Official	1
Unknown	9
Date Recruitment/non-Partner	11
Other Relative	11
Other	15
Parent/Step-Parent/Guardian	16
Organized Criminal(s)	17
Stranger	26
Friend	37
Pimp (non-Partner)	72
Intimate Partner	81
Employer	129

Trafficker Gender	Count of Instances
Couple	12
Unknown	16
Female	40
Male	341

Second Trafficker Relationship and Gender are indicated when the survivor experienced multiple instances of trafficking.

Second Trafficker Relationship	Count of Instances
Other Relative	1
Parent/Step-Parent/Guardian	1
Unknown	1
Date Recruitment/non-Partner	3
Organized Criminal(s)	3
Stranger	6
Pimp (non-Partner)	9
Employer	10
Intimate Partner	11
Friend	14

Second Trafficker Gender	Count of Instances
Couple	1
Unknown	1
Female	12
Male	44

<b>Substance Use</b>	<b>Count of Instances</b>
Yes	92
No	69
Unknown	248

<b>Housing Status</b>	<b>Count of Instances</b>
Unknown	5
Incarcerated	39
Unstable	167
Stable	198

## ATTACHMENT C

### RHTP Provider Housing Services (SSL Section 17(d-1))

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:** MSP 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 County Department of 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 New York City. 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 the 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 New York City'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.

### ***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 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, Departments of 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's 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 through September 30, 2026. One provider, International Institute of Buffalo (IIB), terminated its contract in 2023, and the designated IIB funds were proportionally distributed to the remaining providers in the “Rest of State” region in 2024.

<b>Contractor</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>Award</b>
Safe Horizon, Inc.	NYC	\$500,000.00
Sanctuary for Families	NYC	\$379,000.00
Restore NYC	NYC	\$319,500.00
My Sister's Place, Inc.	Metro	\$275,000.00
Empowerment Collaborative of Long Island Inc.	Metro	\$200,000.00
Catholic Charities of Long Island	Metro	\$124,250.00
Safe Inc of Schenectady	Rest of State	\$273,380.00
People Against Trafficking Humans Incorporated	Rest of State	\$68,770.00
Unity House of Troy Inc.	Rest of State	\$156,733.00
Safe Harbors of the Finger Lakes Inc.	Rest of State	\$100,367.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,397,000.00</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
- 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 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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