





JB Pritzker, Governor

Dulce M. Quintero, Secretary

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To: Joint Human Trafficking Working Group

From: Dulce M. Quintero, Secretary, Illinois Department of Human Services 
Brendan F. Kelly, Director, Illinois State Police 

Date: February 26, 2026

Re: Illinois Human Trafficking State Strategic Plan

It is with great pride that we share the attached final Illinois Human Trafficking State Strategic Plan. Through your dedicated efforts and engagement over the last 8 months and more, Illinois now has a unified plan to address Human Trafficking. This includes a clear commitment from State agency partners, stakeholder buy-in, and, most importantly, guidance from survivors with varied lived experiences. This is a significant step forward for Illinois and will result in increased detection, increased training, standardization around screening tools, and clarity in service standards, all of which will be developed with shared responsibility, which include lived experts.

Through this collaborative partnership, we will be pursuing the following:

Build the Foundation (2026) via activities such as developing protocols, procedures, training standards, creating outreach materials, and identifying screening tools.

Expanding Capacity (2027) via activities such as providing training, sharing outreach materials, continuing to assess the need for growth in the service network, and developing a robust data collection and information sharing system.

This plan was submitted to the Illinois General Assembly in December 2025, and achieves one of the critical deliverables for the Illinois Statewide Trauma-Informed Response to Human Trafficking Act ([104-0159](#)) that went into effect on January 1, 2026.

Thank you all – survivors, service providers, State agencies, and other partners – for your tremendous contributions to create this plan. This would not have been possible without each of your expertise and time. We look forward to our continued work together to bring this plan to life.

Illinois Human Trafficking State Strategic Plan 2025-2028



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OVERVIEW

Human trafficking is a global atrocity that violates basic human rights and undermines the safety and dignity of individuals, including children, youth, and adults in our communities in Illinois. Despite concerted efforts to combat this crime, it continues to pose a significant threat, particularly to children, youth, and vulnerable populations.

The purpose of the Illinois Human Trafficking State Strategic Plan is to create a coordinated multidisciplinary trauma-informed response to child, youth, and adult victims of sex and labor trafficking to be sustained throughout Illinois' systems of government and private agencies. Primary activities include developing this initial statewide strategic plan; developing protocols and procedures for stakeholders to identify and serve victims; improving existing gaps in the anti- trafficking response; developing and implementing systemwide screening tools, training curriculum, and data collection and information sharing systems to track the response to child, youth, and adult victims of sex and labor trafficking. A compensated survivor consultant advisory board has been created to offer a lived-experience perspective throughout all activities. Further, specific partners are included to offer labor trafficking-specific and male trafficking-specific lenses throughout activities.

Expected outcomes from this effort are improvements in victim identification and response through screening tools, systemic training of multidisciplinary actors, protocols in state agencies that ensure victims get connected to services, and systematic training of multidisciplinary actors. Data collection efforts will be utilized to measure effectiveness of project strategies and advocate for state funding for victim services. The service area includes the entire state of Illinois. Intended beneficiaries are children, youth, and adults who are most vulnerable to sex and labor trafficking as well as those currently being exploited.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Mission Statement

Human trafficking is a global atrocity that violates basic human rights and undermines the safety and dignity of individuals, including children, youth, and adults in our communities in Illinois. Despite concerted efforts to combat this crime, it continues to pose a significant threat, particularly to children, youth and vulnerable populations. This effort will establish a comprehensive statewide response to child, youth, and adult sex and labor trafficking in Illinois.

Vision Statement

To have every victim of human trafficking identified and provided access to the services they need to recover and to rebuild their lives through the creation of a responsive, sustainable, comprehensive, and trauma-informed victim services network that leverages public and private partnerships and resources effectively.

Value Statement

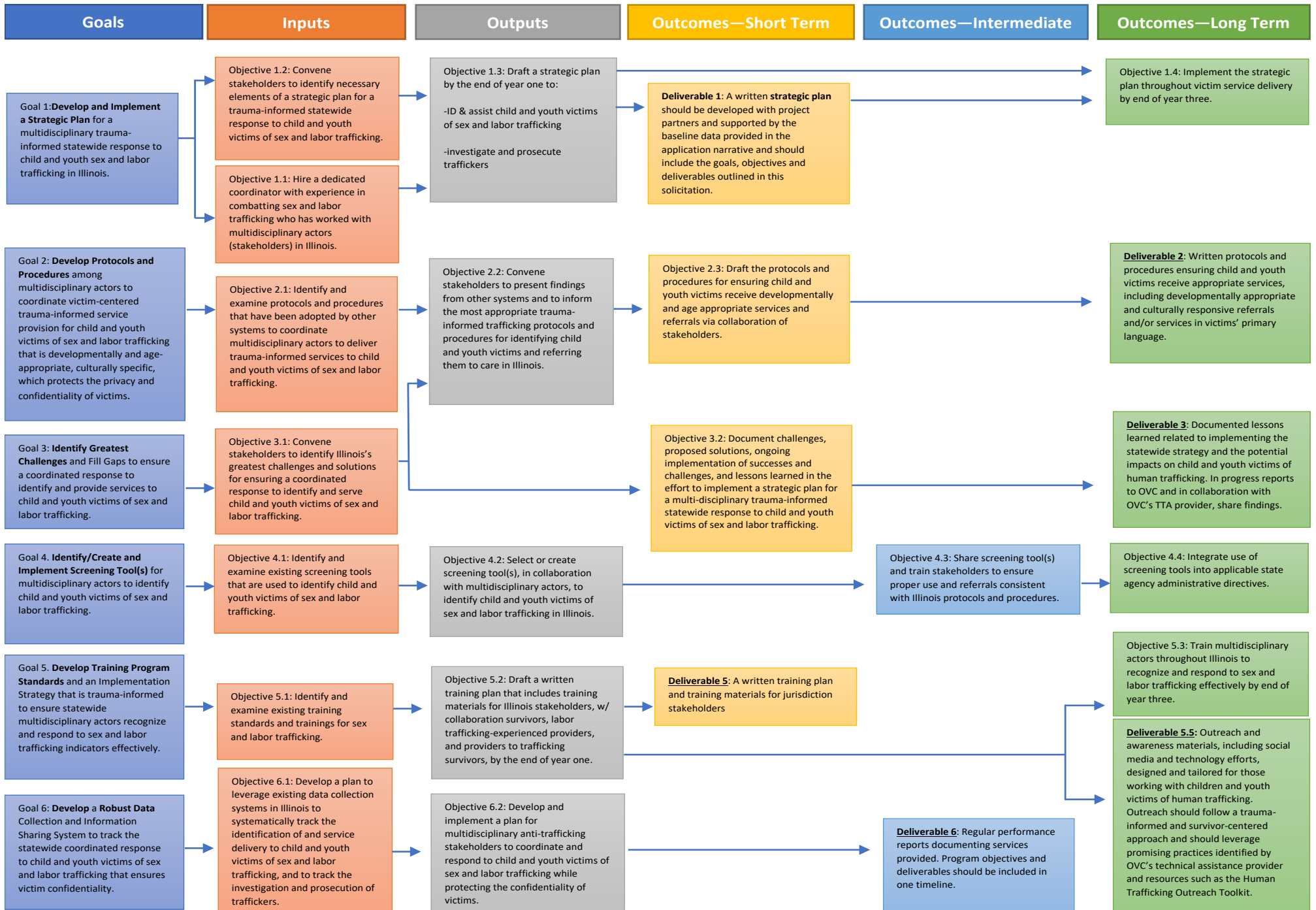
This initiative will address the multifaceted challenges posed by anti-human trafficking efforts in Illinois, which is currently limited to often exclude labor trafficking-specific and male-specific identification, service referral and monitoring of indicators. The purpose of this effort is to create a coordinated multidisciplinary trauma-informed response to child, youth, and adult victims of sex and labor trafficking throughout Illinois' systems of government and private agencies. Important values and standards for the project include:

- Survivor-centered
- Trauma-informed
- Cultural affirmative approach
- Utilizing a survivor consultant advisory board to emphasize survivor perspectives.
- Multidisciplinary approach

STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVES

Goal 1	Goal 2	Goal 3	Goal 4	Goal 5	Goal 6
<p>Develop and Implement a Strategic Plan for a multidisciplinary trauma-informed statewide response to child and youth sex and labor trafficking in Illinois.</p> <p>Objective 1.1: Hire a dedicated coordinator to combat sex and labor trafficking who has worked with multidisciplinary actors (stakeholders) in Illinois.</p> <p>Objective 1.2: Convene stakeholders to identify necessary elements of a strategic plan for a trauma-informed statewide response to child and youth victims of sex and labor trafficking.</p> <p>Objective 1.3: Draft a strategic plan by the end of year one that details how to best identify and assist child and youth victims of sex and labor trafficking, and to investigate and prosecute traffickers in Illinois, with particular attention to victims of labor trafficking and gender and racially/ethnically diverse victims.</p> <p>Objective 1.4: Implement the strategic plan throughout victim service delivery by end of year three.</p> <p>Deliverable 1: A written strategic plan should be developed with project partners and supported by the baseline data provided in the application narrative and should include the goals, objectives and deliverables outlined in this solicitation.</p>	<p>Develop Protocols and Procedures among multidisciplinary actors to coordinate victim-centered trauma-informed service provision for child and youth victims of sex and labor trafficking that is developmentally and age-appropriate, culturally specific, and which protects the privacy and confidentiality of victims.</p> <p>Objective 2.1: Identify and examine protocols and procedures that have been adopted by other systems to coordinate multidisciplinary actors to deliver trauma-informed services to child and youth victims of sex and labor trafficking.</p> <p>Objective 2.2: Convene stakeholders to present findings from other systems and to inform the most appropriate trauma-informed trafficking protocols and procedures for identifying child and youth victims and referring them to care in Illinois.</p> <p>Objective 2.3: Draft the protocols and procedures for ensuring child and youth victims receive developmentally and age-appropriate services and referrals via collaboration of stakeholders.</p> <p>Deliverable 2: Written protocols and procedures ensuring child and youth victims receive appropriate services, including developmentally appropriate and culturally responsive referrals and/or services in victims' primary language.</p>	<p>Identify Greatest Challenges and Fill Gaps to ensure a coordinated response to identify and provide services to child and youth victims of sex and labor trafficking.</p> <p>Objective 3.1: Convene stakeholders to identify Illinois's greatest challenges and solutions for ensuring a coordinated response to identify and serve child and youth victims of sex and labor trafficking.</p> <p>Objective 3.2: Document challenges, proposed solutions, ongoing implementation of successes and challenges, and lessons learned in the effort to implement a strategic plan for a multi-disciplinary trauma-informed statewide response to child and youth victims of sex and labor trafficking.</p> <p>Deliverable 3: Documented lessons learned related to implementing the statewide strategy and the potential impacts on child and youth victims of human trafficking. In progress reports to OVC and in collaboration with OVC's TTA provider, share findings.</p>	<p>Identify/Create and Implement Screening Tool(s) for multidisciplinary actors to identify child and youth victims of sex and labor trafficking.</p> <p>Objective 4.1: Identify and examine the existing screening tools that are used to identify child and youth victims of sex and labor trafficking.</p> <p>Objective 4.2: Select or create screening tool(s), in collaboration with multidisciplinary actors, to identify child and youth victims of sex and labor trafficking in Illinois.</p> <p>Objective 4.3: Share screening tool(s) and train stakeholders to ensure proper use and referrals consistent with Illinois protocols and procedures.</p> <p>Objective 4.4: Integrate use of screening tools into applicable state agency administrative directives.</p>	<p>Develop Training Program Standards and an Implementation Strategy that is trauma-informed to ensure statewide multidisciplinary actors recognize and respond to sex and labor trafficking indicators effectively.</p> <p>Objective 5.1: Identify and examine existing training standards and trainings for sex and labor trafficking.</p> <p>Objective 5.2: Draft a written training plan that includes training materials for Illinois stakeholders, w/ collaboration survivors, labor trafficking-experienced providers, and providers to trafficking survivors, by the end of year one.</p> <p>Objective 5.3: Train multidisciplinary actors throughout Illinois to recognize and respond to sex and labor trafficking effectively by end of year three.</p> <p>Deliverable 5: A written training plan and training materials for jurisdiction stakeholders</p> <p>Deliverable 5.5: Outreach and awareness materials, including social media and technology efforts, for those working with children and youth victims of human trafficking. Outreach should follow a trauma-informed and survivor-centered approach and should leverage promising practices identified by OVC's technical assistance provider and resources such as the Human Trafficking Outreach Toolkit.</p>	<p>Develop a Robust Data Collection and Information Sharing System to track the statewide coordinated response to child and youth victims of sex and labor trafficking that ensures victim confidentiality.</p> <p>Objective 6.1: Develop a plan to leverage existing data collection systems in Illinois to systematically track the identification of and service delivery to child and youth victims of sex and labor trafficking, and to track the investigation and prosecution of traffickers.</p> <p>Objective 6.2: Develop and implement a plan for multidisciplinary anti-trafficking stakeholders to coordinate and respond to child and youth victims of sex and labor trafficking while protecting the confidentiality of victims.</p> <p>Deliverable 6: Regular performance reports documenting services provided. Program objectives and deliverables should be included in one timeline.</p>

THEORY OF CHANGE



GAP ASSESSMENT

Gaps

With the initiation of the JHTWG and subsequent stakeholder meetings, several gaps in the statewide human trafficking response have been identified and prioritized. Gaps are detailed below and include gaps in: specialized direct victim services across the state, training and protocols, lack of specified screening tools, lack of a coordinated plan with response protocols.

Victim Services

The following list of gaps in human trafficking specific services across the state of Illinois was identified as a result of the Workshops conducted by the JHTWG, and from consultation with Survivor Consultants:

- Emergency and Crisis Services
 - Shelter and housing, particularly for male children and youth victims of labor trafficking
 - 24/7 crisis providers that can respond to law enforcement when a youth is recovered
 - Emergency cash for a variety of emergent needs
 - Interpreters for individuals that speak a variety of languages, including indigenous languages
 - Urgent medical care
- Transitional and Long-Term Services
 - Housing for sex and labor trafficking victims (particularly for male children and youth victims, labor trafficking victims, and teens, that includes wraparound services and life skills)
 - Long-term human trafficking specific services, including counseling and mental health services that are trauma-informed
 - Longer-term medical care specific to trauma
 - Case management throughout the state; the western part of IDHS' Region 2¹, in particular, has no direct services at all

¹ IDHS categorizes the state in five regions: [IDHS: Regional Map](#)

- Rental assistance
- Dental services
- Comprehensive legal services
- Transportation assistance
- Peer services including survivor peer mentoring
- Employment services
- Interpreters to ensure that all services are accessible to individuals in various languages, including indigenous languages and set up for individuals who may not be literate in any language

Need for Specialized Human Trafficking Direct Services

In the fall of 2024, Legal Aid Society of Metropolitan Family Services, a member of the JHTWG, sent a survey to 42 organizations involved with the IL Statewide Human Trafficking Task Force. Respondents were asked about the population they serve, and the types of services provided. Seven organizations responded that they provide services for survivors of all types of trafficking, regardless of the demographic. Remaining organizations provide services that are either limited based on trafficking type, gender, age, and/or nationality of the survivor. Responses were received from the following organizations.

1. Apna Ghar
2. Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation
3. Center for Prevention of Abuse
4. Chicago Children’s Advocacy Center
5. Eden’s Glory
6. EMMAUS
7. Erase Clinic
8. Ernestine’s Daughter Calumet City
9. Heartland Human Care Freedom from Trafficking
10. La Rabida Children’s Advocacy Center
11. Legal Aid Chicago
12. Legal Aid Society of Metropolitan Family Service
13. Life-Span
14. Naomi's House
15. National Immigrant Justice Center (NIJC)
16. Pathway Program Endeavor Health
17. Prevail Illinois

- 18. Reclaim 13
- 19. Refuge for Women
- 20. Safe Passage
- 21. Salvation Army Stop-IT Program
- 22. Stepping Stones Network (Oasis Productions)
- 23. The Harbor
- 24. YWCA of Metropolitan Chicago

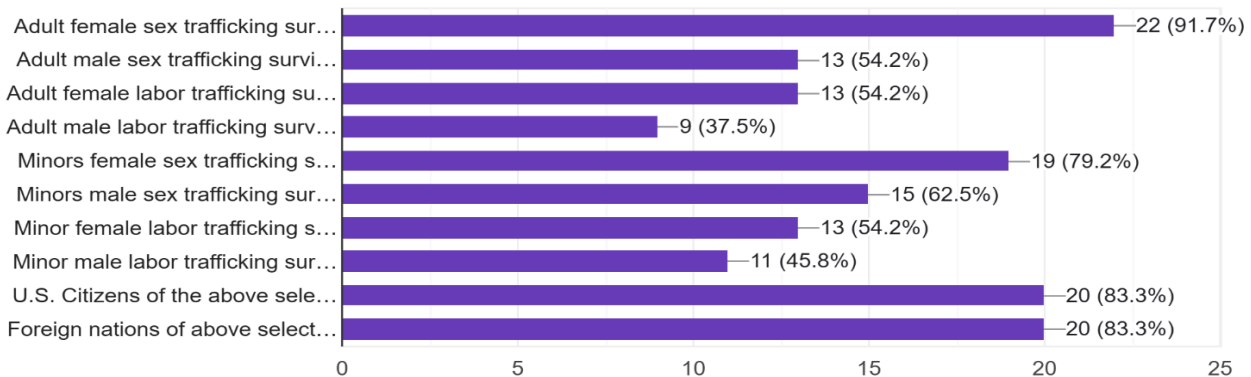
The following organizations that were identified as providing services to victims of human trafficking were invited, but did not participate in the survey.

- 1. A Safe Place
- 2. Brave Space Alliance
- 3. Child 1st Center Decatur
- 4. Child Advocacy Center Illinois
- 5. Clove Alliance Kankakee
- 6. Forty Thirty One
- 7. Guardian Angel Home
- 8. Hope of Ogle County Rochelle
- 9. Hoyleton HALO
- 10. Magdalene House
- 11. Physicians Against the Trafficking of Humans
- 12. Project Oz Bloomington
- 13. Rahab’s Daughter
- 14. Rockford Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation
- 15. Remedies Renewing Life’s
- 16. Shelter Inc.
- 17. Survivor Empowerment Center
- 18. Task Force Prevention and Community Services

Responses by those organizations that participated are summarized below:

Who is the population you currently serve for human trafficking? Select all that apply

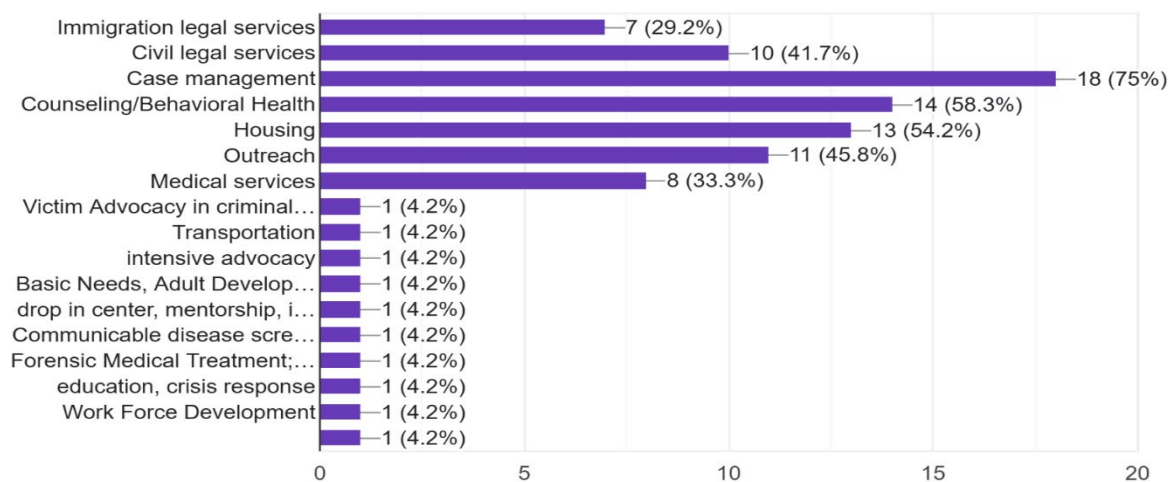
24 responses



Organizations were asked about the types of specialized services they provide to trafficking survivors. Respondent agencies largely provided case management, counseling, housing, outreach, civil legal services, medical services, and immigration legal services. Only one agency reported providing each of the following services to human trafficking victims: transportation, criminal victim advocacy, drop-in center/mentorship, workforce development, forensic medical treatment, crisis response. With a small number of agencies reporting having the service type, it suggests that additional investment can increase availability across Illinois.

What type of services do you provide to human trafficking survivors (please only select options that are specific to trafficking survivors even if your agency provides these other services generally).

24 responses



Training and Protocol

Several notable gaps in training and protocol were identified, including:

- Outreach and education materials for children, youth and adults, including worker rights' education, to identify and refer victims to services.
- Training for youth and people who work with youth, particularly mandated reporters, on both sex and labor trafficking, including familial trafficking, to increase disclosures, increase criminalization of traffickers, and increase needed services to victims.
- Systemic training on identification and response for multidisciplinary actors
 - Child welfare, juvenile justice, and service providers: There is no systemic training in the state for child welfare workers, juvenile justice personnel, or service providers. This means children, youth, and adult victims are not

being identified and referred to appropriate services or receiving services that do not effectively address their needs. Notably, the identification of labor trafficking victims, particularly child victims of labor trafficking, in Illinois has been particularly deficient. While youth victims of sex trafficking are identified via sexual assault and domestic violence programs, victims of labor trafficking have only been recorded as identified via domestic violence, and not via sexual assault, programs. Most victims have identified as female. Multidisciplinary actors also need training to understand and screen for male and transgender victims of sex and labor trafficking.

- Law enforcement and prosecutors: There is no systemic training for local law enforcement and prosecutors across the state via the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board or the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts. Local law enforcement often lack the confidence to know how to investigate the crime of human trafficking. Similarly, prosecutors in Illinois have not been systematically trained on how to convert human trafficking legislation to prosecution for this specific crime. Instead, prosecutors typically prosecute traffickers on charges that they are more confident will result in conviction or with which they have more experience getting successful convictions. Both need education to not only understand the multiple barriers that prevent victims from engaging in the criminal justice process, but how to effectively overcome those barriers, understand human trafficking victims' rights and protections, and the importance of restitution.

Lack of Screening Tools

There are currently no human trafficking screening tool(s) being used agency wide by systems serving vulnerable children (e.g. DCFS, juvenile detention centers, child advocacy centers) or youth and adults (e.g. Department of Corrections).

Lack of Coordinated Plan and Detailed Response Protocols

One of the greatest barriers to identifying and assisting child, youth, and other adult

victims of sex and labor trafficking in Illinois, is the lack of a coordinated statewide plan with detailed protocols and procedures for a range of multidisciplinary actors. When a victim is identified, there are knowledge issues around mandated reporting, connecting with the right investigators, looping in specialized personnel, and ensuring connection to appropriate resources.

Need for Comprehensive Data

Youth and Adults

In March of 2024, Jennifer Hiselman and Caleb Schaffner from IL Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA), compiled a report on the new cases of human trafficking reported by domestic violence (DV) and sexual assault (SA) providers who enter data into the InfoNet System². The number of new, unique adult DV and SA clients who experienced Sex and/or Labor Trafficking as the primary or secondary presenting issue during the calendar years of 2021 through 2023 was 569. There was a 28.9% increase in total from 2021, with a total of 235 to 2023 with a total overall count of 303 cases served. This report also includes the breakdown of these clients based on region, age group, race, ethnicity, and gender identity. The percentage change from 2021 to 2023 increased in every category. (See Appendix G). It should be noted that these numbers likely represent a fraction of the cases that exist in the state. Only service providers who receive state funding are required to enter data in the InfoNet system and it is unknown how many of them have had foundational training on human trafficking. Additionally, these numbers are solely from cases involving adults (18 years old+).

Children

Between 2021 and 2023, 727³ cases of human trafficking were reported to DCFS, with 107 of them being substantiated. Again, this is likely the tip of the iceberg since the Department is not currently using a screening tool agency-wide and staff have not had foundational training on labor trafficking.

² All state-funded service providers in Illinois are required to input data in the Info Net database, a web-based data collection and reporting system: [ICJIA | InfoNet](#)

³ IL Dept of Children and Family Services Child Abuse and Neglect Data: [ESS Protective Services](#)

In addition to difficulties in tracking comprehensive data, the reality is that many victims, due to manipulation by their traffickers, do not see themselves as victims or reach out for help. Also, many agencies find it difficult to identify human trafficking, particularly labor trafficking, among youth and adult survivors.

Funding Needs

Victim Services

The LAS survey, previously discussed, was also utilized to help estimate the amount of annual state funding necessary to both support existing waitlists for identified survivors of human trafficking and address the ongoing capacity issues within organizations.

Of the twenty-four organizations that responded to the survey; 23 provided budget estimates to serve victims. Many responses included caveats around their estimate. Estimated annual budgets ranged from \$25,000 to \$358,000. Three organizations had requests below \$100,000 and three organizations had requests of \$350,000 or more. The average ask was \$200,000 per year. The total estimated need from responding organizations was just under \$5 million dollars. Based on the average amount requested from organizations completing the survey, an additional \$3,600,000 would be needed to cover the expected service expansion for the 18 agencies that did not respond to the survey.

In summary, the LAS survey estimated \$8,600,000 is needed annual to fill the gaps in service.

Survivor Input and Leadership

There is currently no line item in the state budget to fund a survivor advisory board to provide input and guidance on human trafficking to ensure ongoing trainings, initiatives, and protocols are survivor-centered, which has an estimated \$90-100K Budget.

STRATEGIES

Note: The strategies in this plan were largely created by using a modified version of the Nominal Group Technique ([Guide-to-Prioritization-Techniques.pdf](#)), soliciting feedback and input from multiple partners via monthly meetings of the Joint Human Trafficking Workgroup subcommittees, with the Statewide Human Trafficking Coordinator acting as a common facilitator among subcommittees to record ideas, summarize information, and help members narrow down priority actions. All subcommittee members were also given access to the working draft to add comments in between meetings and members of the Human Trafficking Consultant Advisory Board were given editing access to add content / suggested changes to ensure content and strategies are survivor-centered.

Phase 1: Building the Foundation (FY 2026)

Strategy 1.1: Develop protocols and procedures among multidisciplinary actors (including editing and refine existing ones) to coordinate victim-centered trauma-informed service provision for child and youth victims of sex and labor trafficking that is developmentally and age-appropriate, culturally specific which protects the privacy and confidentiality of victims (OVC Grant Goal #2).

How was this strategy selected? Mandates in Illinois Statewide Trauma-Informed Response to Human Trafficking Act, strategic planning by JHTWG members, design-process workshop with state agencies, including a SWOT analysis, and follow up meetings with state agencies.

What need does it address? Lack of coordination among state multidisciplinary actors, as well as lack of developed protocols in individual agencies to connect child, youth, and adult victims with services.

Timeline: Q1-Q2, FY26

1.1.1 IDHS to convene state agencies, along with participation of Survivor Consultants, to identify and trouble-shoot gaps in current agency protocols that prevent coordinated service provision and engagement of victims.

1.1.2 Utilize meetings of the JHTWG Investigations, Prosecutions and Courts, Victim Response, and Labor Trafficking sub-committees to provide feedback on what is and is not working and identify areas in the state where service resources need to be better developed (ongoing).

1.1.3 Survivor Consultants to provide insights and technical assistance as needed to system personnel on bridging gaps in engagement of child and youth victims when encountered by system personnel.

1.1.4 Seek feedback on system gaps and areas for improvement related to trafficked youth through DCFS' Statewide Youth Advisory Board.

Strategy 1.2: Identify and Create Screening Tools for multidisciplinary actors to identify child, youth, and adult victims of sex and labor trafficking (OVC Grant Goal #4)

How was this strategy selected? Mandates in Illinois Statewide Trauma-Informed Response to Human Trafficking Act, Strategic planning by JHTWG members.

What need does it address? Need to better identify trafficking victims.

Timeline: Q2-Q3, FY26

1.2.1 Utilize meetings of the JHTWG Victim Response and Labor Trafficking subcommittees, with participation from Survivor Consultants, to identify and select comprehensive, validated screening tool(s) for sex and labor trafficking that can be used by child welfare personnel, juvenile justice personnel, Comprehensive Community-Based Youth Service (CCBYS) providers, child advocacy center staff, and other systems serving populations vulnerable to human trafficking (e.g. Department of Corrections).

1.2.2 Statewide Human Trafficking Coordinator, working with Survivor Consultants, will identify any training that may be required by screening tool(s) creator(s). Statewide Human Trafficking Coordinator and IDHS will connect relevant agencies (CACI, DJJ, IDHS, IDOL, DOC) for coordinating staff that work closely with youth in care, encountering populations most vulnerable to trafficking on a regular basis. Individual agencies to determine frequency of recurring trainings for new staff.

Strategy 1.3: Develop training standards for human trafficking trainings and an implementation strategy for the standards that is trauma-informed to ensure statewide multidisciplinary actors recognize and respond to sex and labor trafficking indicators effectively (OVC Grant Goal #5)

How was this strategy selected? Mandates in Illinois Statewide Trauma-Informed Response to Human Trafficking Act, strategic planning of JHTWG members and input from stakeholders.

What need does it address? Lack of systemic training for law enforcement and prosecutors.

Timeline: Q1-Q4, FY26

1.3.1 Grant partners to collaborate with Survivor Consultants, along with state agencies, task forces, coalitions, service providers, and worker organizations, who have already been identified as currently providing human trafficking training, in order to create unified training standards and content on recognizing and responding to sex and labor trafficking within different sectors.

1.3.2 Once existing resources are assessed, JHTWG members, along with Survivor Consultants will develop training objectives, create a training outline, and develop a 101 presentation for state agencies (including pre- and post-training surveys) that includes state protocols, information about male victims and labor trafficking victims, and utilizes national resources, like OVC Faces of Human Trafficking Series.

1.3.2 Collaborate and host a live virtual presentation of Human Trafficking 101 for state agencies that can be recorded for additional viewing by agencies' staff that are not able to attend. This can be used for onboarding new staff. Presenters will include Survivor Consultant(s). Staff from all state agencies will be invited but staff from the following agencies will be prioritized:

- DCFS
- Department of Juvenile Justice
- Child advocacy centers' staff and MDT members
- ISP
- IL State Board of Education
- IDHS
- IDOL

1.3.3 Work with DCFS to add current state law and sex and labor trafficking indicators, for purposes of reporting suspected human trafficking of minors, to the mandatory reporter training that is utilized by agencies around the state.

Strategy 1.4 Create and pilot outreach and awareness materials designed and tailored for those working with children and youth victims of human trafficking (OVC Goal #5)

How was this strategy selected? Strategic planning by JHTWG.

What need does it address? Need for outreach and awareness education for youth and parents.

Timeline: Q1-Q4, FY26

1.4.1 The Outreach and Education Subcommittee, in collaboration with Survivor Consultants will create and utilize a needs assessment to learn about the experiences of high-risk and trafficking youth in three specific areas of IL: urban, suburban and rural. Sources of information that may be used to populate the needs assessment include:

- Existing data / literature specific to IL children and youth, including: Center for Disease Control (CDC) Youth Risk Behavior Survey, Coalition on Urban Girls' white paper to address critical challenges urban girls face in Chicago, and, and Annie Casey Foundation Kids Count Data Book
- Service providers working with high risk and trafficked youth, including Comprehensive Community Based Youth Services providers, and others.

1.4.2 The Outreach and Education Subcommittee, in collaboration with Survivor Consultants, will create outreach materials tailored for Illinois (with OVC's Outreach and Education toolkit and information learned through research under 1.4.1 as a guide) for use by those working with high-risk and trafficked children, youth, and adults. This material will include:

- Language access one-pager
- Worker rights for minors (especially for rural areas where migrants reside)
- IDHS QR code for landing page with resources that can be shared with high-risk and trafficked children, youth, and adults
- Create presentation to educate community (to include parents, school, first responders, others ahead of presenting curriculum to students).

1.4.3 Outreach and Education Subcommittee, in collaboration with Survivor Consultants, to create best practices for effective outreach to those working with high-risk and trafficked children, youth, and adults that can be utilized in different types of local communities to connect these populations with needed resources and refer trafficking victims to services.

1.4.4 Materials created by the JHTWG under 1.4.2 and 1.4.3 to be piloted by those already doing outreach work with high risk and trafficked children, youth and adults over the course of six months in three areas: one urban, one suburban and one rural.

Strategy 1.5: Identify service providers and community partners not currently designated to serve child, youth, and adult victims of human trafficking and those not currently at the table which are needed to build a comprehensive service network.

How was this strategy selected? Stakeholder input, strategic planning by the Victim Response Subcommittee, and Survivor Consultant feedback.

What need does it address? Gaps in service provision around the state, including housing, case management, and 24/7 emergency services.

Timeline: Q1-Q3, FY26

1.5.1 Survivor consultants, in collaboration with Victim Response Subcommittee and the assistance of ICADV, ICASA, IDHS, IDOL, legal aid organizations, the state continuum of care, and other groups and coalitions that may come across human trafficking victims to conduct resource mapping to identify and catalog relevant existing resources around the state (2-3 mos.)

1.5.2 IDHS to identify local potential service provider partners across the state.

Strategy 1.6: Create service standards for vetting providers and uniform best practices

How was this strategy selected? Input from survivor consultants as well as members of the Investigations, Prosecutions and Courts subcommittee and Victim Response subcommittee.

What need does it address? The need for trauma-informed, survivor-centered services.

Timeline: Q1-Q2, FY26

1.6.1 Utilize monthly Victim Response subcommittee meetings, with participation from Survivor Consultants, to review current model standards across the country.

1.6.2 Compile and tailor standards, with help of Survivor Consultants, for use by IL service providers based on type of service.

1.6.3 Work with ICJIA to utilize service standards in making decisions to fund service providers for human trafficking services. IDHS, DCFS, and ICJIA to compile rolling list of service providers that receive state funding and publicize.

Strategy 1.7: Assess the state data collection efforts including the platforms to explore viable comprehensive data collection process for IL (OVC Goal #5)

How was this strategy selected? Strategic planning by grant partners.

What need does it address? Need for data to track investigations and prosecutions as well as inform efforts to advocate for state funding for victim services.

Timeline: Q1-Q4, FY26

1.7.1 Create chart of in-state data systems (InfoNet utilized by state funded service providers, Collaborate platform-utilized by most of IL's CACs, Crime Pad-utilized by ISP, and the Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System-utilized by DCFS), what they collect, and what is not being captured.

Phase 2: Expanding Capacity (FY 2027)

Strategy 2.1: Grow service network.

How was this strategy selected? Strategic planning by Victim Response subcommittee and input from Survivor Consultants.

What need does it meet? Gaps in service resources across the state, including housing, emergency services, and human trafficking-specific mental health and medical services.

Timeline: Q1-Q4, FY27

2.1.1 Victim Response Subcommittee members, in collaboration with Survivor Consultants, to create uniform HT 102 presentation for service providers that includes basic elements identified in Phase 1 (state protocols, male victims, labor trafficking victims, etc.) but that also covers service standards for direct services and utilizes pre-post surveys. This training can be utilized by organizations already providing training to service providers, so a uniform message is being covered statewide.

2.1.2 Provide cross-training opportunities between specialized human trafficking providers and non-traditional providers.

2.1.3 Designate a technical assistance team from Victim Response and Labor Trafficking subcommittees to assist non-traditional service providers as needed.

2.1.4 Utilize Victim Response subcommittee, in collaboration with Survivor Consultants, to create uniform referral process among service providers that ensures client confidentiality.

Strategy 2.2: Provide training to relevant stakeholders on a larger scale and support advanced trainings for state agencies.

How was this strategy selected? Strategic planning with JHTWG members and advice of Survivor Consultants.

What need does it address? Need for systemic training for law enforcement and prosecutors.

Timeline: Q1-Q4, FY27

2.2.1 State agency grant partners, IDHS, ISP, DCFS, and IDOL to pursue advanced training opportunities with survivor leaders and national resources (such as Aequitas, Framework, IACP, etc.) for staff / programs that work directly with child, youth, and adult populations most at risk for trafficking.

2.2.2 Target IL Prosecutors Bar Association (Nov 2026), the Illinois State’s Attorney’s Association, the IL judicial education conference to educate prosecutors and judges.

2.2.3 ISP to target Illinois Chiefs of Police semi-annual conferences (April 2027) to educate law enforcement leadership.

2.2.4 Utilize CACI’s annual Champions of Children Conference (March 2027), annual Downstate CAC Conference (Sept 2026) and yearly statewide human trafficking conference hosted by ISP, in partnership with IDHS, DCFS, IDOL, DJJ, and CACI (May 2026) to present more advanced content to multidisciplinary roles.

2.2.5 Partner with national organizations to bring training to the state, such as Truckers Against Trafficking.

Strategy 2.3 Provide outreach and awareness education to students statewide.

How was this strategy selected? Strategic planning by Outreach and Education Subcommittee and advice of Survivor Consultants.

What need does this address? Need for outreach and awareness education for youth.

Timeline: Ongoing

2.3.1 Outreach and Education Subcommittee, to make any needed updates and edits to materials created and assessed in Phase 1, particularly around tailoring content for rural, urban, and suburban areas.

2.3.2 Materials to be facilitated statewide by organizations engaged in this effort, with survey results being assessed ongoing.

Strategy 2.4: Build Strategic Multidisciplinary Responses

How was this strategy selected? Strategic planning by JHTWG members and grant partners.

What need does this address? Need for coordinated response among multidisciplinary actors to connect child and youth victims with services.

Timeline: Q1-Q4, FY27

2.4.1 CACI, in collaboration with grant and community partners, to work with local child advocacy centers on developing human trafficking protocols for their multidisciplinary teams and provide professional development opportunities.

2.4.2 ISP to support current local human trafficking task forces and developing ones with law enforcement training and investigative assistance as well as connect them with federal partners and JHTWG efforts.

2.4.3 Present annual statewide human trafficking conference with multidisciplinary focus, including participation of Survivor Consultants

2.4.4 IDHS to organize bi-annual meetings for the entire JHTWG membership, including leadership from local human trafficking taskforces; Statewide Human Trafficking Coordinator to ensure cross-communication between JHTWG subcommittees as needed throughout the year.

Strategy 2.5: Develop a robust data collection and information sharing system to track the statewide coordinated response to child, youth, and adult victims of sex and labor trafficking that ensures victim confidentiality (OVC Grant Goal #6)

How was this strategy selected? Strategic planning of JHTWG members.

What need does it address? Need for data to track investigations and prosecutions as well as inform efforts to advocate for state funding for victim services.

Timeline: Q1-Q2, FY27

2.5.1 Applicable agencies to add human trafficking filters, as needed, in data collection data bases as identified in 1.7.

2.5.2 IDHS' DVSAHT Bureau, in partnership with ICJIA and ICADV, will inform contract service providers utilizing the InfoNet database of any new human trafficking-related filters and provide a virtual information session on the use.

2.5.3 CACI to inform CACs utilizing the Collaborate platform of any new human trafficking-related filters and provide a virtual information session on the use of the same.

Strategy 2.6: Identify greatest challenges and fill gaps to ensure a coordinated response to identify and provide services to child and youth victims of sex and labor trafficking (OVC Grant Goal #3)

How was this strategy selected? Strategic planning by JHTWG members and grant partners.

What need does it address? All.

Timeline: Ongoing throughout FY26 and FY27

2.6.1 Gather and assess collected data to determine ongoing funding needs.

2.6.2 Educate state lawmakers on need for dedicated human trafficking-specific funding that supports comprehensive, trauma-informed direct victim services and budget line item for a sustainable state-level survivor advisory board.

2.6.3 Continue JHTWG subcommittee meetings, bi-annual full meetings of workgroup membership, and annual statewide professional development conference for ongoing communication between stakeholders.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

In order to ensure that the strategies in this plan are effective and accomplish their stated purposes, the following performance measures will be used:

- Yearly data collection on identification of child victims will be collected through DCFS' Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS) which captures data on the regional level around the state on how many cases of suspected human trafficking (sex and labor) are called into the DCFS hotline as well as how many cases are unsubstantiated and how many are indicated.
 - From Illinois fiscal year⁴ 2021-2025, calls to the hotline for child sex abuse cases were unfounded, on average, 78.6%⁵ of the time. In contrast, calls to the hotline for human trafficking cases⁶ were unfounded, on average, 86.6%⁷ of the time. Numbers will be analyzed to see if the percentage of unfounded human trafficking calls to the hotline decrease to a percentage closer to that of other child abuse calls, particularly after foundational human trafficking training, that includes state human trafficking protocols, is rolled out to state agencies and child advocacy center staff and their MDT partners.
 - From Illinois fiscal year 2021-2025, the DCFS hotline received 1,100⁸ human trafficking-related calls. Numbers will be analyzed to see if there is an increase, particularly after foundational human trafficking, that includes state human trafficking protocols, is rolled out to the state agencies and child advocacy center staff and their MDT partners, as well as roll-out of screening tools by DCFS and the Department of Juvenile Justice.

⁴ Illinois' fiscal year runs from July 1st through June 30th of the subsequent year.

⁵ Six Year Statistics on Child Protective Services, DCFS: Six - Year Statistics on Child Protective Service

⁶ This is for all human trafficking-related allegations, abuse, and neglect.

⁷ Id

⁸ Id

- Yearly data collection on human trafficking-related investigations referred to children’s advocacy centers as captured by the Collaborate platform, which is used by 38 of the state’s 41 children’s advocacy centers. This will measure increases in investigations handled by MDT’s, service referrals for trafficked children, and prosecutions⁹, including any increase of male identified victims and labor trafficking cases, after foundational human trafficking training, that includes state human trafficking protocols and information on male victims and labor trafficking, is rolled out to state agencies and child advocacy center staff and their MDT partners.
- Yearly data collection on service provision in human trafficking, sex and labor, cases through the InfoNet System, capturing youth cases handled by state-funded service providers. Increase in identification and service provision will be measured, particularly after roll out of foundational human trafficking training, that includes information on male victims and labor trafficking, to service providers across the state.
- Yearly number of calls to ISP’s Trafficking Enforcement Group, particularly after foundational human trafficking training, that includes state human trafficking protocols, is rolled out to state agencies and child advocacy center staff and their MDT partners.
- Pre and post surveys for human trafficking trainings for professionals as well as prevention curriculum in schools to measure increase in knowledge for participants.

⁹ There are no other bodies in Illinois collecting comprehensive data on county prosecutions.

APPENDIX A

History and Background

In July 2017, Public Act 099-0864, known as the Human Trafficking Task Force Act, went into effect in Illinois.¹⁰ It mandated the creation of a human trafficking task force comprised of lawmakers from the Illinois House and Senate to study the issue of human trafficking in the state and report its findings and recommendations to the general assembly. The task force presented its report in July 2018, after input and collaboration from several government agencies, non-profits, and state universities. The report contains several recommendations, including recommendations around funding a state human trafficking task force, training, legislative changes, and data collection.¹¹ However, there was no dedicated coordinator or earmarked funding in the state budget to implement the recommendations and the Act was automatically repealed on July 1, 2025. Individual agencies either took on initiatives voluntarily without funding or received federal funding to move anti-trafficking efforts in the state forward.

Some of these initiatives included:

- The Legal Aid Society of Metropolitan Family Services (LAS) initiating and providing coordination for the IL Statewide Human Trafficking Task Force (see Appendix B).
- The Center for Prevention of Abuse and the Illinois State Police (ISP) receiving an Enhanced Collaborative Model (ECM) Human Trafficking Task Force grant from OVC in 2020.
- The Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office and the Salvation Army’s STOP-IT Program received the ECM grant in 2021 and 2024.
- The Lake County State’s Attorney’s Office and service provider A Safe Place, receiving the ECM grant in 2022.

In 2023, ISP Director, Brendan Kelly, and Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS)

¹⁰ [Public Acts - 099-0864](#)

¹¹ Illinois Human Trafficking Task Force Report, July 2018: [151RSGAEmail326RSGAAttach2018 Illinois Human Trafficking Task Force Report.pdf](#)

Secretary Grace Hou formed the Joint Human Trafficking Work Group (JHTWG) to develop a statewide plan to address human trafficking in Illinois (see Appendix C). Organizations, agencies, and individuals known to be doing anti-trafficking work in the state, and/or that were crucial to a comprehensive multidisciplinary response, were invited to participate in the work group. Additional participants were invited over time as they became known or connected through original members.

The first three meetings of the JHTWG were virtual and held between 2023 and 2024; attendees discussed needs and gaps in the state as well as potential policy options for legislation which laid the groundwork for the creation of SB2323.¹² Two in-person workshops were held in 2024, where attendees began drafting this strategic plan (see Appendix D for attendance). SB2323 contained several mandates for state agencies, particularly around human trafficking training and protocol development. There was overwhelming bi-partisan support for the bill, which passed the IL House and Senate and was signed into law by Governor Pritzker on August 14, 2025. The law, titled Illinois Statewide Trauma-Informed Response to Human Trafficking Act, will go into effect on January 1, 2026.

While stakeholders were working to advance SB2323, IDHS, in partnership with ISP, the IL Department of Children and Families (DCFS), Children’s Advocacy Centers of Illinois (CACI), and Reclaim 13, applied for the Office of Victims of Crime (OVC)’s Improving Outcomes for Child and Youth Trafficking Victims grant in the spring of 2024. IDHS was awarded the grant in October 2024; CACI and Reclaim 13 are sub-awardees and ISP and DCFS are key partners for meeting grant deliverables. IDHS Secretary Quintero’s message announcing the award to partners can be seen in Appendix H.

There are several goals, objectives, and deliverables of the OVC award, per table below. One of the grant deliverables is to develop and implement this strategic plan for a multidisciplinary trauma-informed statewide response to child and youth sex and labor trafficking in Illinois. Alongside the requirements of the grant, one of the mandates in the new law is for IDHS to

¹² [Bill Text: IL SB2323 | 2025-2026 | 104th General Assembly | Introduced | LegiScan](#)

“submit a strategic plan to the Governor and General Assembly to establish a statewide system of identification and response to survivors of human trafficking and recommend levels of funding for phase-in of comprehensive trauma-informed, victim-centered, statewide services for victims of human trafficking, including adults, youth, and children, and to sex and labor trafficking victims, regardless of immigration status.”¹³ This plan was initially developed for response to cases of children and youth (up to 24 years old as defined by OVC), with IDHS then expanding the plan to ensure an inclusive statewide approach for survivors of all ages.

APPENDIX B

Illinois Statewide Human Trafficking Task Force Mission, Vision, Purpose

Who Are We?

The Illinois Statewide Human Trafficking Task Force is a dedicated coalition of practitioners who work directly with survivors to provide social, legal, healthcare, and law enforcement services, as well as government agencies with statutory authority to advocate on behalf of trafficked persons. The Task Force leads from the guiding principles of evidence-based, survivor-led, survivor-centered, and trauma-informed care; stays updated on best practices according to research; and engages in collaboration across organizations to provide coordinated, holistic services.

Mission

Our mission is to bring together frontline service providers, including social services, housing programs, healthcare providers, attorneys, labor rights organizations, law enforcement, and statutory agencies across Illinois to identify and address gaps in service provision for survivors of human trafficking. This collaborative body aims to fill gaps through evidence-based, survivor-centered, and trauma-informed care and partnership, streamlining services for survivors in collaboration with regional task forces across the state.

Vision

Our vision is to disrupt the cycle of exploitation by increasing the identification of human trafficking in Illinois and coordinating a holistic, evidence-based, survivor-centered, survivor-led, and trauma-informed response.

Purpose and Goals

In order to realize our purpose of coordinating statewide anti-trafficking efforts, task force members are committed to the following goals:

1. Compose a centralized, updated, robust directory of statewide resources available to survivors in order to a) develop a coordinated referral network, and b) identify gaps in service provision.
2. Develop statewide training standards in order to streamline and create consistent human trafficking training.
3. Use technology as a tool to track bills and advocacy work on a state and national level, in order to a) monitor cases to ensure that they are enforced properly, b) increase survivor-centered legislation and enforcement, and c) provide appropriate responses at various levels of government.
4. Deepen task force members' understanding and training in advanced topics on human trafficking.



APPENDIX C



Joint Human Trafficking Working Group



Co-Chairs

Brendan Kelly, Director, ISP Grace Hou, Secretary, IDHS

Illinois State Police Director Brendan and Department of Human Services Secretary Grace Hou have created the Joint Human Trafficking Working Group to develop a statewide plan to address human trafficking in Illinois. The Working Group will explore the current systems for identifying and delivering trauma-informed services to survivors of human trafficking, including both sex and labor trafficking, investigating and prosecuting human traffickers and ensuring that Illinois criminal law does not inadvertently penalize human trafficking survivors.

Goals of the Working Group

- Prevent at-risk individuals from becoming victims of human trafficking (sex/labor)
- Increase identification of victims of human trafficking
- Apprehend and stop individuals who are engaged in human trafficking
- Ensure trauma-informed, victim-centered support for human trafficking victims is available and easily accessible across the state. (Dedicated central intake point for survivors)
- Ensure that service delivery and the criminal justice processes are conducted in a culturally competent manner
- Educate the public and leaders in at-risk communities to recognize the signs of human trafficking

Structure and Frequency of Meetings

The Joint Working Group will have three sub-groups: Victim Response and Services, Investigation and Prosecution and Public Education, Victim Identification and Prevention. The full Joint Working Group will meet at least three times over the course of the next year. The sub-groups will meet at least monthly over the course of the next 8-10 months to assess current response to human trafficking in Illinois and make recommendations on how to improve the response across disciplines.

Invited Participants

The Joint Human Trafficking Working Group will be led by Director Kelly and Secretary Hou and comprised of representatives of state agencies, other statewide offices, statewide associations and some regional and local service providers with experience in responding to survivors of human trafficking. (Initial invitees are listed below)

State Agencies

Illinois State Police

Illinois Department of Human Services

Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority

Illinois Department of Children and Family Services

Illinois Department of Public Health

Illinois Department of Labor

Illinois State Board of Education

Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice
Illinois Law Enforcement Training Standards Board

Other Government Officials

Illinois Attorney General
Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts
Illinois State Appellate Defender
Illinois State Appellate Prosecutor
State's Attorneys

- Lake County State's Attorney (Lake County Human Trafficking Task Force)
- Cook County State's Attorney's Office (Cook County Human Trafficking Task Force)

Statewide Associations

Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault
Children's Advocacy Center of Illinois
Illinois Collaboration on Youth
Illinois Chiefs of Police
Illinois Sheriffs Association
Illinois State's Attorneys Association
Illinois Behavioral Health Association
Illinois Association of Addiction Professionals
NASW-Illinois Chapter/Illinois Society for Clinical Social Workers
Illinois Hospital Association
Illinois State Medical Society
Illinois Academy of Family Physicians
Illinois College of Emergency Physicians
Illinois Restaurant Association
Truckers Against Trafficking
Illinois Trucking Association

Service Providers

LifeSpan
The Network
STOP IT/Salvation Army
Heartland Alliance – Freedom from Trafficking
CAASE
Center for Prevention of Abuse
Haymarket Center
A Safe Place (Lake County Human Trafficking Emergency Protection)
TASC
National Immigrant Justice Center
Legal Aid Chicago

APPENDIX D

Strategic Plan Workshops Schedule and Attendees

Date	Virtual/ In-Person	Stakeholders in Attendance
9/25/2024	In-Person workshop	CACI, ReClaim13, ISP, DCFS, IDHS, Legal Aid Chicago, Millikin University Human Trafficking Research Lab,, City of Chicago DFSS Division, Salvation Army Cook County, Ernestine's Daughter, Legal Aid Society of Metropolitan Family Services, Felician Services, Attorney General's Office, LifeSpan, Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation (CAASE), Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice (IDJJ), IL Coalition Against Sexual Assault (ICASA), IL Coalition Against Domestic Violence (ICADV)
12/5/2024	In-Person workshop	CACI, ReClaim13, ISP, DCFS, IDHS, ICJA, IDJJ, IL Gaming Board, Cook County ISP, ICADV, Legal Aid Society of Metropolitan Family Services, Legal Aid Chicago, Restoration 61, IL State Board of Education (ISBE), ICASA, Felician Services, LifeSpan, IL Academy of Family Physicians, IL State Medical Society (ISMS), United Way South Central IL, U.S. Committee on Refugees and Immigrants, A Safe Place,

APPENDIX E

Joint Human Trafficking Working Group Attendees

Government Agencies (20)	Non-Profits (22)	Coalitions (3)	Task Forces (4)	Others (10)
IL State Police	Children’s Advocacy Centers of IL (CACI)	IL Coalition Against Domestic Violence	IL Statewide Human Trafficking Task Force	Compensated Survivor Consultants (7)
IL Dept. of Human Services	Reclaim 13	IL Coalition Against Sexual Assault	Cook County Human Trafficking Task Force	Millikin University Human Trafficking Research Lab
IL Dept of Children and Family Services	Center for Prevention of Abuse		Lake County Human Trafficking Task Force	Ernestine’s Daughter
IL Dept of Labor	National Immigrant Justice Center		Rockford Alliance Against Sexual Assault	Lurie Children’s Hospital
IL Dept of Juvenile Justice	U.S. Committee on Refugees and Immigrants			IL Assoc of Family Physician’s
IL Dept of Employment Services	Chicago Children’s Advocacy Center			
IL Attorney General’s Office	LaRabida Children’s Advocacy Center			
Department of Homeland Security	St. Clair Co. Child Advocacy Center			
FBI	Champaign Co. Child Advocacy Center			
IL Criminal Justice Information Authority	Felician Services			

IL State Board of Education	Legal Aid Society of Metropolitan Family Services			
IL Dept of Public Health	Chicago Legal Aid			
IL Court Services	A Safe Place			
City of Chicago-Office of Gender Based Violence	Life Span			
IL Healthcare and Family Services	Rethink Resources			
IL Appellate Prosecutor's Office	Will Co. Child Advocacy Center			
IL Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board (ILETSB)	Children's Advocacy Center of North, Northwest IL			
Chicago Dept of Aviation	Child Advocacy Center of East Central IL			
IL Gaming Board	Kane Co. Child Advocacy Center			
Kane Co. Prosecutor's Human Trafficking Unit	Illinois CASA			
Cook Co. Prosecutor's Office	EMMAUS			
Lake Co Prosecutor's Office	Restoration 61			

APPENDIX F

JTHWG Sub-Committees Schedule and Attendance

Date	Virtual/ In-Person	Stakeholders in Attendance
5/14/25	Virtual (Update for Full Work Group)	IDHS, DJJ, CACI, DCFS, IDOL, ISP, Reclaim 13, Legal Aid Society, Metropolitan Family Services, Chicago Legal Aid, Cook County HT Task Force, Salvation Army-Stop It program, IL State Human Trafficking Taskforce, IL Dept. of Employment Services
6/16/25	Virtual (Labor Trafficking Subcommittee)	IDOL, CACI, DCFS, Legal Aid Society of Metropolitan Family Services, ICADV, Dept. of Employment Services
6/24/25	Virtual (Investigations / Prosecutions / Courts Subcommittee)	ISP, IDHS, CACI, Kane Co. State's Attorney's Office, Lake County State's Attorney's Office, Cook Co. State's Attorney's Office, IL Supr. Ct Human Trafficking Committee, ICADV
7/7/25	Virtual (Victim Response Subcommittee)	IDHS, CACI, DCFS, ICASA, Rethink Resources, HSI, Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, Reclaim 13, Lurie Children's Hospital, DJJ,
7/8/25	Virtual (Outreach and Education Subcommittee)	IDHS, CACI, DJJ, IDOL, Metropolitan Family Services, Felician Services, IL Dept. of Public Health, City of Chicago Office of Gender Based Violence
7/14/25	Virtual (Labor Trafficking Subcommittee)	IDOL, CACI, IDHS, Legal Aid Society of Metropolitan Family Services, Cook Co. State's Atty's Office, Millikin University Human Trafficking Research Lab, IL Criminal Justice Information Authority, Life Span, ICADV, IL Dept of Employment Services, Chicago Legal Aid
7/22/25	Virtual (Investigations / Prosecutions / Courts Subcommittee)	ISP, CACI, IDHS, DJJ Kane Co. State's Attorney's Office, Cook Co. State's Attorney's Office, Lake Co. State's Attorney's Office, National Immigrant Justice Center, ICADV
7/30/25	Virtual (Victim Services Subcommittee)	IDHS, CACI, ICASA, DCFS, Rethink Resources, HSI, Reclaim 13, Lurie Children's Hospital, Chicago, DJJ, Fenix McClay (Survivor Consultant), Alexis (Survivor Consultant), IL Dept of Public Health, U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority
7/31/25	Virtual (Outreach and Education Subcommittee)	IDHS, CACI, DJJ, DCFS, Metropolitan Family Services, Felician Services, IL Dept. of Public Health, City of Chicago Office of Gender Violence, IL State Board of Education, Fenix McClay (Survivor Consultant), IDOL
8/18/25	Virtual (Labor Trafficking Subcommittee)	IDOL, IDHS, CACI, Legal Aid Society of Metropolitan Family Services, Chicago Legal Aid

8/19/25	Virtual (Outreach and Education Subcommittee)	IDHS, CACI, DJJ, IL Dept of Public Health, IL State Board of Education, Brenda Myers Powell (Survivor Consultant), Brenda Stewart (Survivor Consultant), Fenix McClay (Survivor Consultant), DCFS, LaRabida Child Advocacy Center
8/26/25	Virtual (Investigations / Prosecutions / Courts Subcommittee)	IDHS, CACI, ISP, IL Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board, Kane Co. State's Attorney's Office, Cook Co. State's Attorney's Office, Lake Co. State's Attorney's Office, National Immigrant Justice Center, DCFS, St. Clair Co. CAC, CAC of East Central IL, Chicago CAC
8/29/25	Virtual (Victim Response Subcommittee)	IDHS, Fenix McClay (Survivor Consultant), Chicago Child Advocacy Center, LaRabida Child Advocacy Center, DCFS, Reclaim 13, Children's Advocacy Center of North, Northwest, Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority
9/12/25	Virtual (Outreach and Education Subcommittee)	IDHS, CACI, IL Dept of Public Health, Brenda Myers Powell (Consultant), Brenda Stewart (Consultant), LaRabida CAC, DCFS, Felician Services, Chicago CAC, Champaign Co. CAC, IL State Human Trafficking Task Force,
09/22/25	Virtual (Victim Response Subcommittee)	Lurie Children's Hospital, Reclaim 13, IDHS, CACI, DCFS, Ernestine's Daughter, Brenda Myers Powell (Consultant), Brenda Stewart (Consultant), Latina Appleberry (Consultant), Kim White (Consultant), ICASA, Chicago CAC, Kane Co. CAC, IL Dept of Public Health, ICJIA

APPENDIX G

InfoNet Data

NEW client cases served by InfoNet-using domestic and sexual assault service providers and experienced Human Sex and/or Labor Trafficking, 2021 - 2023

Source: InfoNet System, Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA) and Illinois domestic violence (DV) and sexual assault (SA) service providers

Compiled by: Jen Hiselman & Caleb Schaffner, ICJIA - 4/5/24 & 4/15/24

Data notes:

NEW means client received services for their presenting victimization issue for the first time this year, and is not a "carry over" client from the previous year. Therefore, CY sum totals represent unique client cases.

* = #s between 1-9 hidden

	CY21	CY22	CY23	Total	% Change (CY21 to CY23)
Total unique new Human Trafficking client cases served overall:	235	266	303	569	28.9%
Human Sex Trafficking as primary presenting issue (Note <u>only</u> SA providers - not DV - have HST available as a primary presenting issue in InfoNet):	29	23	29	52	0.0%
Experienced Human Sex Trafficking as secondary presenting issue - Came to SA provider	33	45	54	99	63.6%
Experienced Human Labor Trafficking as secondary presenting issue - Came to SA provider	*	*	*		
Experienced Human Sex Trafficking as secondary presenting issue - Came to DV provider	147	158	183	341	24.5%
Experienced Human Labor Trafficking as secondary presenting issue - Came to DV provider	46	72	78	150	69.6%
Total unique new Human Trafficking client cases served by region (based on provider location):	CY21	CY22	CY23	Total	% Change
Cook	46	53	83	136	80.4%
Collar	77	89	90	179	16.9%
Central	82	93	86	179	4.9%
Other Northern	16		29		81.3%
Southern	14	31	15	75	7.1%
Total:	#	266	303	569	
<i>* Other Northern and Southern regions combined for CY22 due to small numbers.</i>					
Total unique new Human Trafficking client cases served by age group:	CY21	CY22	CY23	Total	% Change
0-17 (#s too small to break down 0-13 and 14-17)	14	*	13		-7.1%
18-24	46	45	51	96	10.9%
25-29	42	40	54	94	28.6%
30-49	114	133	148	281	29.8%
50+	17	36	36	72	111.8%
Unknown (includes hidden data)	2	12	1	13	
Total:	235	266	303	569	
Total unique new Human Trafficking client cases served by race/ethnicity:	CY21	CY22	CY23	Total	% Change
American Indian/Native American	*	*	*		
Asian	*	13	*		
Black/African American	70	57	79	136	12.9%
Hispanic/Latino	24	55	71	126	195.8%
MENA	*	*	*		
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	*	0	*		
White	105	102	112	214	6.7%
Multiple Races	*	21	11	32	
Unknown (includes hidden data)	36	18	30	48	
Total:	235	266	303		
Total unique new Human Trafficking client cases served by gender identity:	CY21	CY22	CY23	Total	% Change
Female	209	246	261	507	24.9%
Male	13		22		69.2%
Trans/Non-Binary/Other (#s too small to break down)	10	20	18	60	80.0%
Unknown	3	0	2	2	
Total:	235	266	303		
<i>* Male and Trans/Non-Binary/Other groups combined for CY22 due to small numbers.</i>					

APPENDIX H

Message from the Secretary

October 30, 2024

Dear Directors,

I have great news to share with you – the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) was recently awarded a \$1.5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime. The grant aims to “improve outcomes for child and youth victims of human trafficking” in Illinois. It is effective between October 1, 2024, and September 30, 2027.

IDHS is the lead agency, with the Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS) providing the required matching funds. This award is a product of the efforts of the Joint Human Trafficking Working Group, co-chaired by the Illinois State Police (ISP) and IDHS.

Thank you to all the partners named in the application and who provided letters of support along with us at IDHS, including: DCFS, ISP, Children’s Advocacy Centers of Illinois, Illinois Department of Labor, EMMAUS, Legal Aid Society of Metropolitan Family Services, and Reclaim13.

Our Bureau of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault & Human Trafficking, under the IDHS Division of Family and Community Services, will be coordinating with partners to share plans for activities that will help achieve the following collective objectives over these next three years:

1. Develop and Implement a Strategic Plan for a multidisciplinary trauma-informed statewide response to child and youth victims of sex and labor trafficking in Illinois.
2. Develop Protocols and Procedures among multidisciplinary actors to coordinate victim-centered trauma-informed service provision for child and youth victims of sex and labor trafficking that is developmentally and age-appropriate, culturally specific, which protects the privacy and confidentiality of victims.
3. Identify Greatest Challenges and Fill Gaps to ensure a coordinated response to identify and provide services to child and youth victims of sex and labor trafficking.
4. Identify/Create and Implement Screening Tool(s) for multidisciplinary actors to identify child and youth victims of sex and labor trafficking.
5. Develop Training Program Standards and an Implementation Strategy that is trauma-informed to ensure statewide multidisciplinary actors recognize and respond to sex and labor trafficking indicators effectively.
6. Develop a Robust Data Collection and Information Sharing System to track the statewide coordinated response to child and youth victims of sex and labor trafficking that ensures victim confidentiality.

Thank you, and we look forward to this important work together.

With Gratitude,
Secretary Quintero

APPENDIX I

Acronyms

AG: Illinois Attorney General’s Office

CAC: Child Advocacy Center

CACI: Children’s Advocacy Centers of Illinois (state network for CACs)

CCBYS: Comprehensive Community-Based Youth Services (a division of IDHS)

CIRU: Child Intake Recovery Unit

DCFS: Illinois Department of Children and Family Services

DCP: Division of Child Protection (a division of DCFS)

DJJ: Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice

DOC: Illinois Department of Corrections

FI: Forensic Interviewer

ICJ: Interstate Commission for Juveniles

ICJIA: Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority

IDHS: Illinois Department of Human Services

IDOC: Illinois Department of Corrections

IDOL: Illinois Department of Labor

IDPH: Illinois Department of Public Health

ISP: Illinois State Police

ITEG: Illinois Trafficking Enforcement Group, formerly Trafficking Enforcement Bureau (TEB)

LE: Law Enforcement

MDT: Multidisciplinary Team

NHTH: National Human Trafficking Hotline

TEB: Illinois Trafficking Enforcement Bureau, now ITEG, directed by ISP

APPENDIX J

Definitions

Illinois -Human Trafficking Offenses – State Law 720 ILCS 5/10-9

Involuntary Servitude

A person commits involuntary servitude when he or she knowingly subjects, attempts to subject, or engages in a conspiracy to **subject another person to labor or services obtained or maintained through** any of the following means, or any combination of these means: (1) causes or **threatens** to cause physical harm to any person; (2) **physically restrains or threatens to physically restrain** another person; (3) **abuses or threatens to abuse** the law or legal process; (4) knowingly destroys, conceals, removes, confiscates, or possesses any actual or purported passport or other immigration document, or any other actual or purported government identification document, of another person; (5) uses intimidation, or exerts financial control over any person; or (6) uses any scheme, plan, or pattern intended to cause the person to believe that, if the person did not perform the labor or services, that person or another person would suffer serious harm or physical restraint.

Involuntary Sexual Servitude of a Minor

A person commits involuntary sexual servitude of a minor when he or she knowingly recruits, entices, harbors, transports, provides, or obtains by any means or attempt to recruit, entice, harbor, provide, or obtain by any means, another person under 18 years of age, knowing that the minor will engage in commercial sexual activity, a sexually-explicit performance, or the production of pornography, or causes or attempts to cause a minor to engage in one or more of those activities and (1) there is no overt force or threat and the minor is between the ages of 17 and 18 years; (2) there is no overt force or threat and the minor is under the age of 17 years; or (3) there is overt force or threat.

Trafficking in Persons

A person commits trafficking in persons when he or she knowingly:

(1) recruits, entices, harbors, transports, provides, or obtains by any means, or attempts to recruit, entice, harbor, transport, provide, or obtain by any means, another person, intending or knowing that the person will be subjected to involuntary servitude; or

(2) benefits, financially or by receiving anything of value, from participation in a venture that has engaged in an act of involuntary servitude or involuntary sexual servitude of a minor. A company commits trafficking in persons when the company knowingly benefits, financially or by receiving anything of value, from participation in a venture that has engaged in an act of involuntary servitude or involuntary sexual servitude of a minor.

Federal - Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, 22 U.S.C. §7101 (2000)

Sex Trafficking

Sex trafficking is the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age. (22 U.S.C. § 7102(11)(A)).

Labor Trafficking

Labor trafficking is the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery. (22 U.S.C. § 7102(11)(B)).

Additional legal definitions are contained in 18 U.S.C. Chapter 77 (criminal definitions and 19 U.S.C. § 1307 (includes definition of “forced labor” for purposes of implementing the federal prohibition on importation of goods produced with forced labor)).¹⁴

¹⁴ <https://www.justice.gov/humantrafficking>

APPENDIX K

Stakeholder Engagement

Government Agencies and Community Partners

This plan was collaboratively created by members of the JHTWG. Members represent numerous state agencies, non-profits, coalitions, local taskforces, and survivor leaders (see Appendix D, E & F). At the initial workshops held in late 2023 and early 2024, the JHTWG members mapped the current victim response across systems in the state, identified goals and objectives, needs and gaps, and barriers, and created a vision and timeline that formed the basis for the Improving Outcomes for Child and Youth Victims of Human Trafficking grant project.

Members of the JHTWG have continued to engage in collaborating on the creation of strategies in this plan through sub-committee work. There are four sub-committee groups relating to the following subject matter areas: 1) Investigations/Prosecutions/Courts (facilitated by ISP), 2) Victim Response (facilitated by IDHS), 3) Outreach and Education (facilitated by IDHS), and 4) Labor Trafficking (facilitated by the IL Dept of Labor (IDOL)). Sub-committees meet monthly; during meetings, attendees worked with the Statewide Human Trafficking Coordinator in real-time to create, edit, and refine strategies (see Appendix F for meetings schedule and attendance). Additionally, all members were given commenting access to the draft document to provide additional thoughts and feedback between meetings.

Survivor Consultant Advisory Board

A Survivor Consultant Advisory Board was created to offer lived experience perspectives throughout all activities of the OVC project to ensure project work and outcomes are survivor centered. In July 2025, CACI hired seven individuals with a background of being trafficked as

youth, representing a range of lived experiences, to participate on the board; the majority reside in Illinois; two live in other states. Each consultant has specific professional expertise which will bolster the success of this plan, including clinical expertise, victim advocacy, training experience, experience working with multidisciplinary teams, experience creating human trafficking response protocols, and data and research expertise. CACI provides coordination and support for the advisory board and uses grant funds to compensate each individual consultant for their work as part of the board. Consultants have been invited to participate on the JHTWG subcommittees and were also given editing access to this plan to help create and comment on content.