



Human Trafficking Commission Status and Opportunities

HTC Statutory Charge

S.L. 2013-368

- (1) To apply for and receive, on behalf of the State, funding from federal, public or private initiatives, grant programs, or donors that will assist in examining and countering the problem of human trafficking in North Carolina.
- (2) To commission, fund, and facilitate quantitative and qualitative research to explore the specific ways human trafficking is occurring in North Carolina and the links to international and domestic human trafficking, and to assist in creating measurement, assessment, and accountability mechanisms.
- (3) To contribute to efforts to inform and educate law enforcement personnel, social services providers, and the general public about human trafficking so that human traffickers can be prosecuted and victim-survivors can receive appropriate services.
- (4) To suggest new policies, procedures, or legislation to further the work of eradicating human trafficking and to provide assistance and review with new policies, procedures, and legislation.
- (5) To assist in developing regional response teams or other coordinated efforts to counter human trafficking at the level of law enforcement, legal services, social services, and nonprofits.
- (6) To identify gaps in law enforcement or service provision and recommend solutions to those gaps.

In Review

Since 2014, the HTC has participated in several state, regional, and national advisory committees, studies, collaboratives, and compendiums.

Throughout the past three years, the HTC has invited regional response programs and other providers from the mountains to the coast to share the trends they are seeing, as well as their program strengths and needs.

These experts, and many others, have given us tremendous insight into gaps across the state and ways to address the gaps.

Informed by these stakeholders, the HTC has launched efforts, partnerships, and projects to fulfill our statutory charge. In addition to **requests** from stakeholders and **initiatives started** by the HTC, there are also **commitments made** to stakeholders and General Assembly **mandates** for decision or action.

(Some) Requests Made to HTC

1. Six trainings between now and 2019.
2. One speaking engagement in September at an event.
3. Partnering on a full day training for ICAC law enforcement in April.
4. Hotline Poster / Awareness Sign questions or requests for signs.

Initiatives Started: GCC TTA Grant

Regional Symposiums across the state to bring multi-disciplinary stakeholders together to **Strengthen NC's Response to Human Trafficking**.

- Selected by GCC to provide statewide training on human trafficking, alongside NCCASA, NCCADV, NCVAN, and CACNC.
- Crafted to provide practical and strategic continuing education for professionals engaging in - or seeking to engage in - North Carolina's local, regional, and statewide response to human trafficking.
- Successful completion of two of the three promised Symposiums, resulting in development of fruitful new initiatives and partnerships.

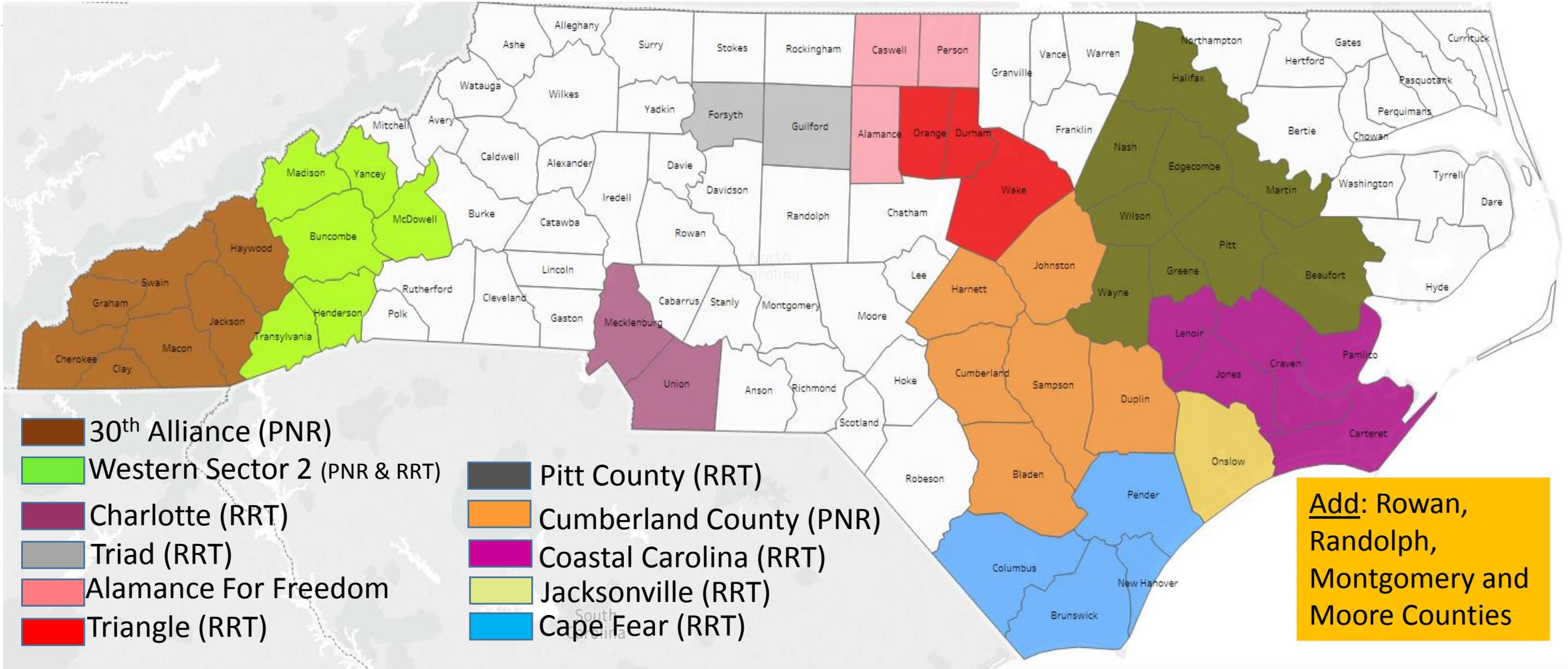
Initiatives Started: GCC VOCA Grant

Primary objectives to increase victim access to core crisis intervention services and to strengthen, improve, and facilitate the collaboration and impact of victim services providers.

- Coordination and formalization of the statewide hotline procedures through the National Human Trafficking Resource Center hotline (Polaris hotline).
- Coordination of the establishment and development of regional response teams across the state to respond 24/7 to victims identified.

These goals align with each other to ensure all counties across our state are growing in ability to respond to victim needs. They also align with creation of a statewide resource and referral guide, and with our work to apply statewide standards to services listed with Polaris or the hotline.

Current Regional Response (Systems)



Exploratory Initiatives

1. Training for specific disciplines in NC at state level conferences
2. Labor trafficking initiative
3. Demand Reduction initiative
4. Data for measurement and assessment
5. Think Tank discussions (first held Summer 2017)

Additional Commitments Made

1. A third Multi-Disciplinary Symposium in the Charlotte area.
2. Development of state standards or guidelines and vetting mechanism.
3. Website with resources and information on human trafficking.
4. Participation in state, regional, and national advisory committees, studies, collaboratives, and compendiums.
5. Provide legislative recommendations.
6. Present at Labor Trafficking Conference in Kentucky in October.
7. Creation of Bylaws.

General Assembly Mandates

1. NC DHHS “Feasibility Study for Provision of Anti-Human Trafficking Training”, SL 2017-151 – report to General Assembly, Governor, and HTC issued 2/1/18, recommendations involve the HTC.
2. Study assigned to HTC in consultation with the Conference of DAs and the Office of Indigent Defense Services, SL 2018-75.
3. National Human Trafficking Hotline awareness posters, SL 2017-57.
4. Appropriation for funding victim services in FY 2018-2019, SL 2018-97.

SL 2017-57: Hotline Posting Law

The remaining funds for this project, in the amount of \$54,929.31, are being transferred to the AOC for the HTC, to be spent by the end of this fiscal year.

These awareness signs have the potential to increase calls to the NHTRC Hotline, reaching victims that need help and support.

Appropriation of Nonrecurring Funding: SL 2018-97, Section 6.3

\$1.5 million: 10% allocated to administrative funding for the HTC and the remaining amount to be dedicated to victim services.

This is a wonderful opportunity for coalition partnership that makes a positive impact identifying and serving victims of human trafficking across the state.



**NORTH CAROLINA
HUMAN TRAFFICKING
COMMISSION**