



REGIONAL RESPONSE TEAMS

A Regional Response Team (RRT) coordinates agencies to meet critical needs when a potential victim of human trafficking is identified and is in a crisis situation that requires immediate response. RRTs are collaborative team(s) consisting of direct service providers and law enforcement that provide 24/7 response to victim-survivors of human trafficking. RRTs provide initial crisis stabilization to victim-survivors for up to 72 hours.

Regional Response Teams are led by a local direct service provider and are comprised of law enforcement and services providers in the region to respond to human trafficking cases.

The **RRT** must be listed with the National Human Trafficking Hotline to provide a 24/7 response to meet victim-survivors' urgent and short-term needs.

The **RRT** creates protocols that enable the 24/7 response and develops inter-agency relationships to ensure that victim-survivors needs are met.

RRTs meet at least quarterly to review protocols, track trends and hotspots, and provide ongoing training.

RRTs serve all victims of human trafficking, including sex and labor, all gender identities, US or foreign-born, and all ages.

RRTs meet critical needs in addressing the complexity of human trafficking cases. Having a coordinated response among agencies creates a victim-centered system to meet the needs of victim-survivors, leads to successful prosecutions, and strengthens the anti-trafficking movement.

OTHER TYPES OF INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAMS

A **Task Force** is a team of professionals typically led by government, law enforcement agencies, or a District Attorney's office with the goal of coordinating investigations and other criminal justice responses.

A **Coalition** is a team comprised of individuals working together to address human trafficking through community efforts such as awareness, outreach, education, policy/legislative advocacy, and primary prevention.

A **Multidisciplinary Team (MDT)** is a team of professionals from various agencies that meet to staff cases, coordinate services, and ensure the most effective system response for the victim-survivor.

CREATING AND SUSTAINING A REGIONAL RESPONSE TEAM

STEPS TO CREATING A RRT

The North Carolina Human Trafficking Commission is the legislatively mandated leader of anti-human trafficking efforts in North Carolina per S.L. 2013-368. The HTC is charged with assisting 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. For additional information and resources, visit htc.nccourts.gov.

- 1 Define Service Area and Vulnerabilities**
 - Define service area: city, county, or across multiple counties in a region
 - Identify vulnerable populations in your community
 - Ex. people who are homeless, LGBTQ+ youth, migrant workers, Indigenous communities, and people with substance use disorders
 - Engage survivor consultants throughout the process

- 2 Partner Building**
 - Invite key partners who are trained professionals that can assist in responding to urgent needs of victim-survivors
 - Ex. Direct service agencies, law enforcement, civil/immigration attorneys, victim advocates/case managers, medical staff, prosecutors/district attorneys, mental health professionals, emergency shelters, and child protective services

- 3 Team Development**
 - Identify trained professionals willing to offer 24/7 availability
 - Discuss procedures and limitations of human trafficking response among member agencies
 - Provide professional development among team to increase access to resources, inter-agency collaboration, and identification/response to victim-survivors

- 4 Formalize the RRT**
 - Establish MOUs
 - Create forms such as confidentiality, intakes, etc.
 - Adopt team policies and protocols
 - Consider flowcharts for response or communication
 - Register with the NC Human Trafficking Commission

STEPS TO SUSTAINING A RRT

In order to create a lasting, long-term response to human trafficking within a community, it is critical to also focus on sustaining a Regional Response Team. Changes in leadership, transition of staff in partner agencies, and shifts in funding can pose challenges for RRTs. A sustainable response to human trafficking ensures that survivors are able to receive services without interruption and have their needs met holistically.

- 1 Debrief and Evaluate**
 - Create mechanisms to receive feedback from survivors and all members of the team
 - Evaluate the effectiveness of response protocols, challenges and barriers that are present, and successes of the team
 - Assess community outreach, awareness, and overall response

- 2 Adapt and Refine**
 - Make necessary changes to address challenges, barriers, and trends
 - Re-negotiate response protocols for effectiveness or changes in services within the team

- 3 Materials and Continual Training**
 - Develop written policies, protocols, responsibilities, forms, and trainings to ensure sustainable materials when changes occur within the team
 - Provide continual cross-training to stay current on current trends, best practices, and ongoing resources among the team

- 4 Maintain and Strengthen Relationships**
 - Focus on building trust and strong working relationships
 - Create intentional approaches to address difficult situations and to resolve issues as they come up in a timely manner
 - Increase community collaboration to build capacity

