

Help, Incorporated: Center Against Violence Grant for Shelter Services

Summary: Our agency wrote for shelter services to expand upon the services currently offered in our shelter. Our agency wrote to dedicate one bed in our current shelter to human trafficking victims. The agency is in the process of building a Family Justice Center building, so grant money was allocated to assist with construction and one room within the shelter portion of the Family Justice Center will be dedicated to human trafficking survivors. Our agency also wrote for one full time staff member to be in place at the shelter for hands on case management, to work alongside the human trafficking coordinator (who is based in the main office).

Progress Made: January 2019 comprehensive human trafficking training was given to all staff members at agency. A second training was done with shelter staff to focus on working with human trafficking survivors in shelter. Shelter case manager began March 2019. Progress was made on construction, as our agency has been able to pay many of the fees associated.

Successes: Our shelter has housed at least one human trafficking victim per month for the 2019 calendar year. All staff are now better able to identify human trafficking victims. Community partners are able to better identify when a referral for human trafficking services needs to be made, even if shelter is not needed at the time. During the course of the grant, our county formed a Regional Response Team with Help, Incorporated: Center Against Violence providing direct services for victims. Effective community partnerships have allowed for wrap around services to survivors in shelter.

Stats:

- Quarter One: 3 domestic trafficking survivors served. 1 Caucasian female, 2 African American females. 1 minor survivor, two survivors between age 26-40. 2 sex trafficking, 1 labor. Industries where trafficking occurred: sexual servitude, escort service/internet, hotel, street solicitation, and drug trafficking. Trafficking control types: gang, pimp, and peer controlled. One survivor was recruited in North Carolina.
- Quarter Two: 2 domestic trafficking survivors served. 2 Caucasian females. 1 survivor aged 26-40, 1 survivor aged 41-60. Both labor trafficking survivors. Industries where trafficking occurred: domestic servitude, magazine crew. Trafficking control types: peer, employer. One survivor was recruited in North Carolina.
- Quarter Three: 2 domestic trafficking survivors served. 1 Caucasian female, 1 African American female. Both aged 41-60. 1 sex trafficking survivor, 1 labor trafficking survivor. Industries where trafficking occurred: domestic servitude, sexual servitude, hotel, and street solicitation. Both were peer controlled trafficking. One survivor was recruited in North Carolina.

- As of this date, the fourth quarter is as follows: 4 domestic trafficking survivors, 2 foreign based trafficking survivors served. 3 Caucasian female survivors, 2 African American female survivors, and 1 Asian male survivor were served. 1 minor, 1 survivor aged 18-25, 2 survivors aged 26-40, and 2 survivors aged 41-60 were served. 5 sex trafficking survivors and 1 labor trafficking survivor were served. Industries where trafficking occurred: hotel, brothel, street solicitation, internet, and domestic servitude. Trafficking control types: peer, pimp, and family controlled.

Lessons Learned/Challenges: Finding the right staff member willing to accept the salary proved to be challenging, and pushed this task further out on completion than our agency was expecting. Resources to help with arrears are rare, which made assisting with survivor housing difficult at times. Having trafficking survivors in a community living setting with other victimization types could be re-traumatizing if staff were not careful, so we learned we had to change some policies along the way. Transportation became one of our biggest challenges due to only having one vehicle designated to our shelter, and this vehicle is not in the best shape.