

Building a Coalition Response to Human Trafficking in Your Community



WHY SHOULD OHIO'S COMMUNITIES USE A COALITION RESPONSE TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

Communities that most effectively address human trafficking are those that take a local multidisciplinary approach to combating sex and labor trafficking. A local response is able to meet the needs of victims in a timely way, builds on trusted existing relationships, and engages state and federal partners along with local responders and community members who best understand local dynamics and needs. If you hope to combat human trafficking in your community, you cannot do it alone!

To promote a collaborative response, Ohio's anti-trafficking coalitions are encouraged to follow a simple coalition model, outlined here, which promotes a local response to protect victims and at-risk individuals, prosecute offenders, and seeks to prevent the crime from occurring in the first place.

Through coalition **PARTNERSHIPS**,¹

PREVENTION and public awareness efforts spread the word, leading to identification of victims as people learn the red flags and survivors come forward seeking help;

PROTECTION is provided to survivors through social services. Once stabilized, survivors are much more willing to cooperate with law enforcement; and,

PROSECUTION of traffickers is much easier with cooperative witnesses, and these prosecutions make big headlines. This raises public awareness and compels decision-makers to prioritize the issue, resulting in more cohesive prevention efforts.

The following two checklists provide simple guidelines for who should be part of a local response as well as recommended best practices for coalitions.

WHO SHOULD BE A PART OF YOUR ANTI-TRAFFICKING COALITION?

- ✓ **Local police department and state and federal law enforcement representatives** (such as the FBI, US Attorney's Office, Homeland Security Investigations, the Ohio State Highway Patrol, the Bureau of Criminal Investigations, etc.) willing to receive training on human trafficking and to investigate and prosecute cases in coordination with federal and county prosecutors.
- ✓ **Social service organizations** with on-staff licensed social workers willing to provide comprehensive case management to survivors and link them to needed services.
- ✓ **Nonprofits, universities, and faith-based groups** committed to raising awareness and funding.
- ✓ **Legal service providers** willing to take criminal, civil, and immigration cases for survivors.
- ✓ **Government representatives** from the federal, state and city levels.

¹ From the U.S. Department of State Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons; the US Department of State considers the 4P model as the most effective framework for combating human trafficking, <http://www.state.gov/j/tip/4p/>.

- ✓ **Interested community partners** representing volunteers, faith based groups and other advocates who want to serve.
- ✓ **Representatives from relevant courts and court specialty dockets** such as probation officers, judges, and other court staff serving trafficking survivors.
- ✓ Other service providers and key stakeholders including:

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Jobs and Family Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Medical providers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Child Advocacy Centers | <input type="checkbox"/> Mental health providers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Child welfare organizations | <input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol and Other Drug treatment providers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Immigration services | <input type="checkbox"/> Shelter providers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Domestic violence advocates | <input type="checkbox"/> Local government agencies with regulatory/inspection authority (i.e. county boards of health) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crime victim advocates | |

WHAT BEST PRACTICES CAN HELP ANTI-TRAFFICKING COALITIONS MEET THEIR GOALS?

(All resources and documents for each point below can be found at <http://humantrafficking.ohio.gov> in the *Toolkit for Serving Victims of Trafficking in Ohio*)

- ✓ Coalitions should use a transparent, participatory procedure to elect coalition leaders and to make decisions about coalition goals, priorities, and standards.
- ✓ Coalitions should conduct needs assessments to determine what gaps exist in services and awareness efforts in order to use limited resources effectively.
- ✓ Safe, timely and effective victim services must be top priority. Case management should be provided by licensed social workers in accordance with the Ohio Human Trafficking Commission’s Standards for Service to Trafficked Persons.
 - ▶ To the extent possible, victims and survivors should be referred to local service providers agreeing to adhere to these standards.
- ✓ Protocols must be in place to protect the safety of social workers, volunteers, and first responders.
- ✓ Public awareness efforts should use clear messaging and accurate data.
- ✓ All efforts should be made to protect victim identities and to empower, but not pressure, survivors to tell their own story when appropriate. *A Media Guide for Crime Victims and Survivors* is available at <http://www.publicsafety.ohio.gov/ht/links/Media%20Guide%20for%20Victims.pdf>.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES ON COALITION BUILDING AND SERVICE PROVISION

- The National Human Trafficking Resource Center’s Training on Building a Local Response: <http://www.traffickingresourcecenter.org/resources/building-local-crisis-response-human-trafficking>
- The Office of Refugee Resettlement’s resources for Rescue and Restore Coalitions: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/programs/anti-trafficking>



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