



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Human Trafficking Prevention Month Toolkit

2024

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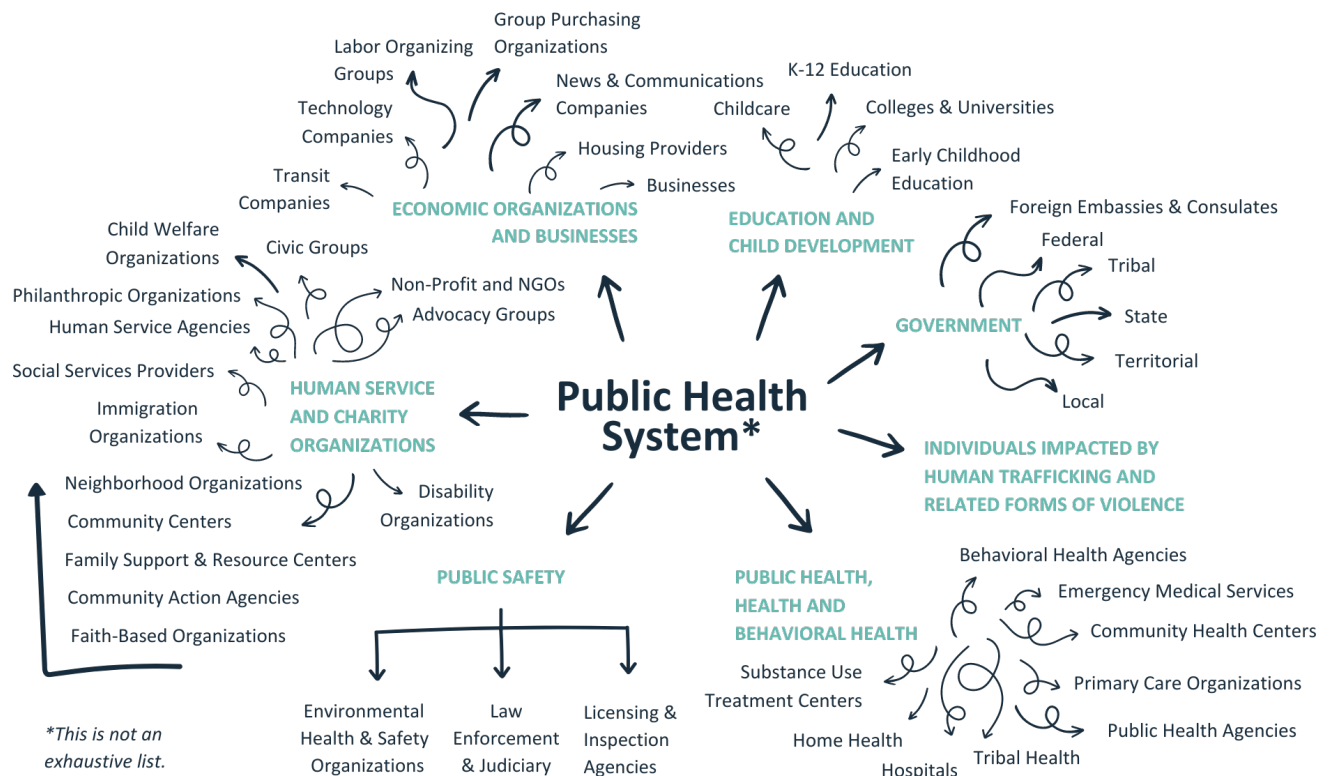
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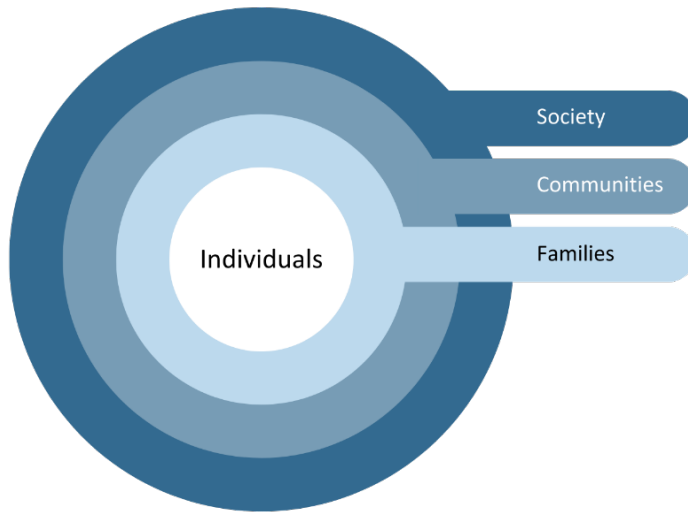
Introduction

NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION MONTH

January is Human Trafficking Prevention Month, a presidentially designated observance designed to educate the public about human trafficking and the role they can play in preventing and responding to human trafficking.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) theme for Human Trafficking Prevention Month 2024 is Activate Connections to Prevent Human Trafficking. This is an opportunity to highlight the importance of collaborating across multiple sectors to build human trafficking prevention initiatives that work. Human trafficking cannot be prevented by any one individual, community, organization, or government. To improve the lives of those we serve, we must activate connections throughout the systems that impact individual, family, community, and societal health and well-being. When we partner to prevent, we can enhance our efforts to keep everyone safe from human trafficking.





Where people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age can affect a wide range of health and quality-of-life outcomes and risks — including risk of human trafficking.

This toolkit aims to educate and equip individuals and organizations to share information and resources to increase awareness, foster connections, and ultimately strengthen individuals, families, and communities across the United States.

Goals

- To raise awareness of human trafficking.
- To educate about the role individuals and organizations can play in preventing and responding to human trafficking.
- To share examples of crucial connections that will increase the health and well-being of people at risk or experiencing human trafficking.
- To increase reporting of human trafficking and referrals to services.

Stay Connected

Newsletter

Stay up to date. Subscribe to the Office on Trafficking in Persons newsletter, [OTIP Connect](#).

Social Media

Follow us on social media for new resources and events throughout January.

- LinkedIn: [Office on Trafficking in Persons](#)
- Facebook: [Administration for Children and Families](#)
- Instagram: [@ACF_gov](#)
- X: [@ACFHHS](#)

Focus Weeks

This toolkit breaks the month down into focus weeks. The first week will introduce readers to Human Trafficking Prevention Month and provide introductory information about human trafficking. Weeks two through five will explore activating connections to promote health and well-being at the individual, family, community, and societal levels. There are many opportunities to advance well-being in each of these areas. To support clear messaging and resource sharing, this toolkit will focus on two to three topics each week. Sample social media posts, sample email and newsletter content, and resources that we encourage you to share throughout the month of January are included.

Week 1 – January 1-6, 2024

Introduction to Human Trafficking Prevention Month

Week 2 – January 7-13, 2024

Activating Connections to Promote Individual Health and Well-Being

- Education and Outreach
- Online Harassment and Abuse

Week 3 – January 14-20, 2024

Activating Connections to Promote Family Health and Well-Being

- Two Generation/Whole Family Approaches
- Mental and Behavioral Health
- Housing and Economic Mobility

Week 4 – January 21-27, 2024

Activating Connections to Promote Community Health and Well-Being

- Social Connections
- Supply Chains

Week 5 – January 28-31, 2024

Activating Connections to Promote Societal Health and Well-Being

- Environmental Justice
- Gender-Based Violence

Are you working on a factor that isn't discussed here?

Please add to the conversation online and tag #Partner2Prevent so others can learn about the work you are doing.



Best Practices: Awareness Building Ethical Storytelling¹

- Consider whether you're the best person to tell the story.
- Obtain authentic, informed consent.
- Be authentic with your intent and purpose.
- Be transparent. Share what is possible and what is not possible.
- Consider future impact.
- Let the person telling the story lead.
- Don't put people in situations where they are compelled to tell a story they are not comfortable sharing.
- Protect identities.

Guidelines for Messaging and Imagesⁱⁱ

Messaging

Person-centeredⁱⁱⁱ and trauma-informed^{iv} messaging:

- Is empowering and hopeful.
- Avoids re-traumatization.
- Supports individual rights, dignity, autonomy, and self-determination.
- Uses positive framing, which can elicit a positive response from the audience and encourage action.
- Highlights a human trafficking hotline, service program, or law enforcement reporting mechanism to demonstrate there is assistance available.
- Uses brighter colors and positive images to signal that help is available.

Messaging should:

- Avoid misconceptions about human trafficking.^v
- Be concise. In general, campaigns are encouraged to list the [National Human Trafficking Hotline's](#) phone number, text line, and/or website that has a live chat option.
- Avoid dehumanizing language. Use person-first language instead.
 - Instead of “victim” use “person who has experienced human trafficking.”
 - Instead of “homeless people” use “people who are experiencing homelessness.”
 - Instead of “runaway” use “youth who has run away” or “youth who is missing from care.”
- Avoid use of adjectives such as vulnerable, marginalized, and high-risk.
 - Instead of “vulnerable group” use “groups that have been economically and socially underserved.”
 - Instead of “at-risk groups” use “groups with higher risk of human trafficking.”
- Be cognizant of language used in the anti-trafficking movement.^{vi}
- Avoid language like “rescue” or “save,” as it is not strengths-based or empowering.
- Avoid jargon and use straightforward, easy to understand language.
- Be culturally and linguistically responsive, accessible, and available. Information should represent people in the communities for whom the information is intended. Similarly, ensure that information is available in appropriate formats (for example, audio, video, braille or large print formats, visual/graphic imagery) and languages.
- Provide examples of what someone in various professional roles may experience and encourage an appropriate reporting mechanism, such as the National Human Trafficking Hotline.

Statistics

Be careful when sharing statistics. There are a limited number of reliable statistics related to human trafficking. All public awareness and outreach efforts should remain consistent with research and cite accurate sources.

- Avoid generalizing statistics or the scope of any research studies.
- Provide context on the source of the data collected (i.e., sample size, denominator).
- Cite original sources and consider the data sources used.
- Avoid extrapolating national data from non-national studies.
- Be as concise and rigorous as possible when vetting data sources.
- Use precise language when describing what the data shows (e.g., incident reporting versus prevalence).
- Clearly state data limitations.

Images

Images should:

- Be person-centered and promote an accurate understanding of human trafficking.
- Represent the diverse spectrum people who experience human trafficking – people of all races, ethnicities, abilities, ages, and genders.
- Respect the safety, dignity, and autonomy of survivors.

Avoid images that:

- Display physical abuse, whether in action or its aftereffects, or that include sexual or graphic images of victims. These types of images can be dehumanizing or objectifying and depict individuals merely as objects of violence. They can also re-traumatize audience members who may have experienced exploitation or abuse.
- Display minors who have experienced human trafficking without redaction.
- Reinforce misconceptions about human trafficking.
- Sensationalize the issue for shock value to draw the audience’s attention. Examples of these types of images include individuals with barcodes tattooed on their bodies, kidnapping scenes, or children in distress.
- Tokenize certain communities, histories, or trends by overrepresenting individuals from communities of color as at-risk or experiencing human trafficking and not depicting them in helping roles.
- Depict individuals “rescuing victims,” which could put both bystanders and people who may be experiencing trafficking at an increased risk of harm.
- Depict individuals with lived experience of human trafficking without their informed consent (e.g., consent regarding who will be permitted to use the image, how the image will be used, potential audiences that may see the image).
- Fail to comply with stock photo terms of use, if relevant.



Engaging Experts with Lived Experience

Survivor-Centered Approach

Prioritize the needs and well-being of survivors above your organization's own campaign goals.

Safety

Collaborate with experts with lived experience to develop a plan that prioritizes and ensures their physical and emotional safety and that of their family.

Empowerment & Strengths-Based Model

Acknowledge and focus on the strengths and resilience of the person/people who experienced trafficking.

Inclusivity

Engage people who have experienced trafficking from a variety of backgrounds and experiences (e.g., type of trafficking, race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, marital status, family structure, class).

Confidentiality

Hold all information gathered during interactions with individuals with lived experience in strictest confidence. Base disclosure on their informed consent and relevant laws.

Compensation

Compensate individuals with lived experience at the level consistent with other subject matter experts.

Additional Resources

- Policy Guidance: [Guiding Principles for Working with Survivors of Human Trafficking](#)
- Toolkit: [Building Survivor Informed Organizations](#)
- Toolkit: [Survivor-Informed Practice Self-Guided Assessment](#)

Events and Activities

Event Calendar

A number of federal agencies, technical assistance centers, and funding recipients host events during Human Trafficking Prevention Month. We encourage you to participate in this year's events and to spread the word to your networks about these opportunities.

Visit [OTIP's website](#) throughout January for updates to the [federal interagency event calendar](#) of events.

Host Your Own Event



About the National Human Trafficking Hotline

Call: 1-888-373-7888 | Text: 233733 (BEFREE) | Live Chat: TTY: 711

The [National Human Trafficking Hotline](#) connects people at risk for or who have experienced human trafficking to critical support services that help them stay safe. People can connect with a trained advocate for support, safety planning, crisis intervention, and urgent and nonurgent referrals.

The confidential toll-free phone, text line, and online chat are available from anywhere in the United States, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Help is available in English, Spanish, and in more than 200 additional languages through an on-call interpreter.

Have more questions? Visit the [Hotline's website](#) to learn more about human trafficking, view [hotline statistics](#), and [get tips on how to build a safety plan](#).

The Hotline is funded by the HHS Administration for Children and Families' Office on Trafficking in Persons. The Hotline is not a law enforcement or immigration authority, and communication with the Hotline is confidential. Read the Hotline's [confidentiality policy](#).

Voices of Freedom:

An Oral History of Efforts to Address Human Trafficking

Voices of Freedom, a collaborative initiative between the Office on Trafficking in Persons (OTIP), the Administration for Native Americans (ANA), and StoryCorps, records, preserves, and shares the stories of survivors of trafficking and allied professionals.

With over 100 conversations recorded by more than 170 participants, Voices of Freedom is an ongoing collection of stories from people who have informed, shaped, and contributed to the successes of the anti-trafficking field over the past two decades.

Want to Add Your Voice to the Archive?

In honor of Human Trafficking Prevention Month, we'd like to invite stories of the power of prevention, partnership, and community building. [Visit our website](#) to learn more about sharing your story.

Sample Social Media

This Human Trafficking Prevention Month, share your perspective on the power of activating connections to strengthen prevention efforts! Voices of Freedom records, preserves, and shares the stories of survivors of trafficking and allied professionals. [#Partner2Prevent](#) [#EndTrafficking](#) acf.hhs.gov/otip/partnerships/voices

Notable Quotables

Partnership

“If we don’t proactively address violence in all of its forms, we’re not doing our job and meeting our mission to enhance the safety and well-being of kids and families in this country.” – Jeff Hild, Acting Assistant Secretary for Children and Families

“Creating social change on entrenched issues like human trafficking takes decades and often requires sustained vigilance across generations. Our collaboration with StoryCorps provides a platform for survivors and allied professionals to pause, reflect, and share their personal journeys towards progress over the last 20 years. Just as legacies of historical injustices contribute to human trafficking today, these stories reveal the influences and lessons learned from intergenerational struggles for justice.” – Katherine Chon, Director of the Office on Trafficking in Persons

Collaboration

“I’m a huge advocate for ensuring that we start engaging in public awareness campaigns to destigmatize and lift up, at least visually, survivors that look like us. To say it’s okay, you’re not alone. Because for so long I felt alone, and I felt broken. And not only that, engage us. Engage us survivors of color, boys, girls, members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community to let us know that we’re not alone. For too long, so many of us suffer in silence.” – Jesse Leon, Consultant, Public Speaker

“We have far too often put human trafficking in this silo. Most survivors would even tell you it wasn’t the trafficking that was the most traumatic event, that was a result of a lot of other issues. Let’s bring the threads of these different issues together and address them at a systemic level rather than just doing band aids, technical fixes constantly. We then create systems where people would truly have more access to becoming the people they were created to be.” – Irene Countryman-Roswurm, Voices of Freedom Participant

Prevention

“We must do whatever we can, for as long as necessary, to end the scourge of human trafficking,” Xavier Becerra, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

“If you have a pandemic of violence, or any kind of epidemic, you first need to find out how people are at risk. Once you identify the risk across the community, then you can identify preventive and interventive strategies that counter each of those risk factors.” Nathan Earl, Voices of Freedom Participant

“If you really want to stop this, then prevent it from happening in the beginning. We know the social constructs that have been put in place to make people more vulnerable— the social disparities, the health disparities, poverty, homelessness, the lack of quality education, violence, racism. These things play a major role in vulnerability.” – Lisa Williams, Voices of Freedom Participant

Sample Proclamation:

A proclamation is an official announcement signed by a government official, such as a mayor or governor, to recognize an initiative or observance for the purpose of raising awareness or celebrating a significant milestone.

Securing a proclamation designating January as National Human Trafficking Prevention Month in your city or state can help inspire the community and raise awareness.

[This sample proclamation](#) can be customized by filling in the form fields with your state or organization's information.



Resources for Digital Engagement

Sample Newsletter Content

On December [XX], 2023, President Biden issued a proclamation declaring January 2024 as Human Trafficking Prevention Month.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' theme for Human Trafficking Prevention Month 2024 is *Activate Connections to Prevent Human Trafficking*. Human trafficking cannot be prevented by any one individual, community, organization, or government. To improve the lives of those we serve, we must activate connections throughout the systems that impact individual, family, community, and societal health and well-being. When we partner to prevent, we can enhance our efforts to keep everyone safe from human trafficking.

Visit [OTIP's website](#) throughout January for news and resources and the [federal interagency calendar of events](#).

Sample Website Content

January is Human Trafficking Prevention Month! This year's theme is *Activate Connections to Prevent Human Trafficking*. Human trafficking cannot be prevented by any one individual, community, organization, or government. To improve the lives of those we serve, we must activate connections throughout the systems that impact individual, family, community, and societal health and well-being.

Visit [OTIP's website](#) throughout January for news, resources, and events.

Virtual Meeting Backgrounds

Download our [virtual meeting backgrounds](#) for Zoom or Microsoft Teams to feature Human Trafficking Prevention Month throughout January.

PowerPoint Presentation Template

Hosting a virtual meeting or presentation related to Human Trafficking Prevention Month? A [PowerPoint template](#) is available. Use your own images or access our [free library of images](#).

Social Media

Sample Graphics

Social media graphics and an [editable template](#) are available for use. Use the graphics we provide or customize them for your community by including your own logo, using your own images, or selecting an alternate photo from our [free library of images](#).



Hashtags

Help spread awareness of human trafficking by using the #Partner2Prevent hashtag. Additional hashtags are provided. We recommend including no more than two per post.

Primary Hashtag

#Partner2Prevent

Secondary Hashtags

#EndTrafficking

#HumanTrafficking

#ForcedLabor

#LaborTrafficking

#SexTrafficking

Human Trafficking Prevention Month Focus Weeks

Week 1: Introduction to Human Trafficking Prevention Month

January 1-6, 2024

To kick off Human Trafficking Prevention Month, below are some sample social media posts and resources that all people, regardless of their personal or professional background, can use to learn more about human trafficking and how to help prevent it.

- January is Human Trafficking Prevention Month! To prevent human trafficking, we must work together to strengthen individuals, families, and communities. Explore resources, events and learn how to get involved. #Partner2Prevent acf.hhs.gov/otip/human-trafficking-prevention-month
- January is Human Trafficking Prevention Month. Learn how to identify and respond to people who are at risk or who have experienced human trafficking. SOAR Online trainings are available at no cost. nhttac.acf.hhs.gov/soar/soar-for-individuals/soar-online #Partner2Prevent
 - **Are you working with a specific professional audience?** You can link directly to SOAR trainings designed for specific audiences: [Child Welfare Professionals](#), [Disaster Management Professionals](#), [Health, Behavioral Health, and Public Health Professionals](#), [Procurement Professionals](#), [Social Workers](#), [School-Based Professionals](#), and [Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners](#).
- Human trafficking impacts individuals, families, and communities across the United States. Learn more: humantraffickinghotline.org/what-human-trafficking. #Partner2Prevent #EndTrafficking
- If you or someone you know has experienced human trafficking, help is available. The National Human Trafficking Hotline provides free, confidential help, 24/7. Visit humantraffickinghotline.org to learn more. #Partner2Prevent #EndTrafficking

Week 2: Activating Connections to Promote Individual Health and Well-Being

January 7-13, 2024

The health and well-being of individuals begins with an understanding of the risk factors that can increase a person's risk of human trafficking and the protective factors that can minimize risk. Education and outreach are essential to ensuring people have access to information and resources that can help keep them safe. Technology is an important tool that can be used to facilitate healthy connections and access to information; however, it is also increasingly used by traffickers to access and maintain control over the people they exploit.

Human Trafficking Awareness Day (1/11)

- Today is #WearBlueDay! Join us in raising awareness about human trafficking. Share your photo by using the hashtag #WearBlueDay.

Education and Outreach

- DYK? Trafficking situations are often identified by people who know the person being exploited. You can #Partner2Prevent by understanding what situations to look for among your family, students, tenants, patients, co-workers, etc.: humantraffickinghotline.org/human-trafficking/recognizing-signs. #EndTrafficking
- People who are at-risk or experiencing #HumanTrafficking often don't have access to information & resources than can help them stay safe. Look Beneath the Surface Campaign resources exist to help activate connections between individuals and services. acf.hhs.gov/look

Online Harassment and Abuse

- To prevent #HumanTrafficking, we need to understand the tactics traffickers use. Learn how traffickers abuse technology to exploit people: acf.hhs.gov/otip/infographic/technology-facilitated-human-trafficking-infographic
- Traffickers often use technology to harass and abuse the people they exploit. But technology can also help prevent & respond to these harms. Learn more: www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/otip/Addressing%20Online%20Harassment%20and%20Abuse%20in%20Technology-Facilitated%20Human%20Trafficking%20Information%20Memorandum.pdf
- Human Trafficking Leadership Academy fellows addressed outreach and engagement strategies to protect youth against online harassment and abuse. Check out this Fireside Chat to learn more about their findings and perspectives. acf.hhs.gov/otip/news/fireside-chat-addressing-trafficking-protecting-youth-online-harassment-abuse

Partnership Profile

HHS funds collaborative programs to prevent and respond to child trafficking, including the following projects:

- The Office on Trafficking in Persons, through the Human Trafficking Prevention Education Demonstration Program, funds **local education agencies** working in partnership with **non-profit organizations** to deliver skills-based human trafficking prevention education to students and educators.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention funds **researchers** to evaluate approaches (programs, policies, or practices) that have not yet been rigorously evaluated for their impact on primary prevention of child sexual abuse (CSA), including child sex trafficking, perpetrated by youth or adults.

Activate Your Connections

- Host a human [trafficking training](#) for staff
- Encourage your students or employees to participate in [#WearBlueDay](#) on January 11
- Share [Look Beneath the Surface](#) outreach materials with your community
- Develop a plan to implement human trafficking prevention education with students^{vii}
- Learn more about what social media and technology companies are doing to prevent human trafficking and/or online harassment and abuse
- Have a [conversation](#) with the children and youth in your home or who you work with about their experiences online and talk about opportunities to increase safety

Week 3: Activating Connections to Promote Family Health and Well-Being

January 14-20, 2024

The experiences, health, and well-being of an individual often directly influences others within their family system. Families with access to concrete supports like safe housing, stable income, health and behavioral healthcare, and childcare, are better positioned to provide a safe and healthy environment where all members of the family can thrive.

Supporting the Whole Family

- Children and caregivers succeed when everyone's needs are met. Learn more about how you can help whole families thrive and prevent human trafficking across generations. acf.hhs.gov/otip/blog/2023/05/preventing-human-trafficking-supporting-children-and-adults-together

- A structured learning process can strengthen two-generation service delivery. This resource highlights combining high quality adult-focused services with intensive, high-quality child-focused programs to improve outcomes for children, primary caregivers, and families. acf.hhs.gov/opre/report/using-structured-learning-process-strengthen-two-generation-service-delivery

Improving Access to Mental and Behavioral Health Services

- Unmet mental health needs may increase the risk of human trafficking. This blog post highlights trauma-informed and culturally responsive mental health resources. #Partner2Prevent acf.hhs.gov/blog/2021/10/mental-health-resources-human-trafficking-survivors-and-allies
- Mental health services are crucial for children and families impacted by human trafficking. Training and resources are available through the National Child Traumatic Stress Network. samhsa.gov/child-trauma

Increasing Access to Housing and Economic Mobility

- Economic empowerment is a critical need for many individuals who have experienced human trafficking. This guide for service providers shares recommendation for building and expanding programming to increase access to economic mobility. acf.hhs.gov/opre/report/economic-empowerment-people-who-have-experienced-human-trafficking-guide-anti
- Access to financial support and to safe and sustainable employment are often cited as top needs among those seeking supportive services who have experienced human trafficking. Learn more about federally funded programs, training, and other resources to increase access for people who have experienced human trafficking. acf.hhs.gov/otip/policy-guidance/federal-housing-and-economic-mobility-resources-information-memorandum

Partnership Profile

Administration for Children and Families Region 5, comprised of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin used funds from the Office on Trafficking in Persons to develop a study on the impacts of the Chicago Housing Pilot Program for Survivors of Human Trafficking. This program established an innovative and successful supportive housing model for survivors of human trafficking by coordinating with the **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's** existing housing voucher program and included supportive services tailored to address the needs and bolster the self-identified goals of survivors.

Activate Your Connections

- Take training on psychological first aid
- Share information and resources on how families can access services or benefits they may be eligible for
- Volunteer at a shelter or food bank
- Sign up to mentor new parents or support families that have recently arrived in the United States
- Encourage local business to provide career opportunities for individuals who have experienced human trafficking

Week 4: Activating Connections to Promote Community Health and Well-Being

January 21-27, 2024

Communities contribute to the overall health and wellbeing of those who live, work, and grow within them. Community centers, schools, businesses, and other entities all contribute to the environment that community members experience. Social connections play a critical role in individual, community, and societal health. Ensuring that supply chains are free from forced labor is another factor that can contribute to community wellbeing. When we are aware of the manufacturing origins of goods and the treatment of the workers who make and sell them, we can make ethical purchasing decisions.

Building Social Connections

- January is Human Trafficking Prevention Month! Consider how you can #Partner2Prevent human trafficking by activating connections in your community. acf.hhs.gov/otip/human-trafficking-prevention-month
- Social connection can create healthier communities and prevent risk factors to human trafficking. Learn how to improve social connection in your community with this interactive advisory from the U.S. Surgeon General. hhs.gov/surgeongeneral/priorities/connection/index.html#explore

Addressing Human Trafficking in Supply Chains

- Professionals involved in the procurement of goods and services can #Partner2Prevent by learning to recognize the signs of forced labor and labor trafficking in healthcare. Check out this no-cost SOAR Online training: train.org/main/course/1112251/details
- Individuals in the health and public health workforce may encounter forced labor at any stage of the supply chain. Learn more: acf.hhs.gov/otip/policy-guidance/federal-statutory-and-regulatory-framework-forced-labor-healthcare-and-public

Partnership Profile

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) co-chairs the Joint Forced Labor Working Group which includes representatives from federal government agencies, supply chain industries, anti-trafficking professionals, and individuals with lived forced labor experience. The group develops tools and resources to assist the healthcare and public health sector with preventing, identifying, and addressing forced labor in their supply chains. This partnership aims to strengthen equitable labor conditions and mitigate risks caused by human trafficking.

The [Surgeon General](#) provides recommendations to **advance social connection** for government, healthcare systems, researchers, philanthropy, schools, workplaces, community-based organizations, technology companies, media and entertainment, and parents and caregivers.

Activate Your Connections

- Connect with your local community center
- Host a community night to encourage social connection
- Support businesses with ethical hiring practices
- Learn about supply chain practices for food, clothing, and medical supplies you frequently purchase

Week 5: Activating Societal Connections

January 28-31, 2024

Public health issues impact societal connections. Human trafficking as a form of Gender-Based Violence affects health and well-being across a person's lifespan and impacts people of all backgrounds. Rooted in and sustained by inequity, structural inequality, discrimination, and harmful societal norms, human trafficking often compounds with other interpersonal and intersecting forms of violence.

The impact of environmental changes and natural disasters can cause people to lose their homes, jobs, and transportation, and disrupt support systems that are in place to keep them safe. Traffickers can exploit these conditions by promising food, shelter, and other resources, sometimes posing as disaster responders or social service professionals to gain trust.

Environmental Justice

- Natural disasters and emergencies can make individuals, families, and communities vulnerable by disrupting support systems. Traffickers can take advantage of this vulnerability. Learn more about your rights during disaster recovery.
acf.hhs.gov/otip/disasters-emergencies
- Is your community prepared to act against human trafficking? Learn how to assess efforts in your community and develop sustainable strategies based on level of readiness:
nhttac.acf.hhs.gov/resource/toolkit-human-trafficking-community-readiness-guide.
#Partner2Prevent

Gender-Based Violence

- The U.S. National Plan to End Gender-Based Violence (GBV) highlights human trafficking as a form of GBV that affects health and well-being across a person's lifespan. Explore strategies for action and plans to increase supports for individuals experiencing trafficking. [whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/National-Plan-to-End-GBV.pdf](https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/National-Plan-to-End-GBV.pdf)
- Community health centers are working with survivors and local organizations to prevent intimate partner violence and human trafficking. Learn more about resources and data from these initiatives. hrsa.gov/office-womens-health/addressing-intimate-partner-violence/community-level

Partnership Profile

The City of Houston collaborated with the Office on Trafficking in Persons to proactively approach human trafficking in their communities by hosting [Ten/Ten Municipal Fellowship convenings](#). Participating municipalities learned how to develop their own municipal response, including implementing systems-level services, engaging industries impacted by trafficking, raising awareness at scale, and conducting data-informed disaster outreach. Diverse urban, suburban, and rural community experiences were represented.

Activate Your Connections

- Encourage your city to [proclaim](#) January as Human Trafficking Prevention Month
- [Create a safety plan for your family](#) in the event of a natural disaster or emergency
- Donate goods to your local food pantry or shelters
- Educate youth about [healthy relationships](#)

Resources

General Resources

SOAR Online

[SOAR Online](#) is a series of professionally accredited training modules that you can complete whenever, wherever you like. The modules discuss how to identify individuals who are at risk, currently experiencing, or have experienced trafficking and connect them with the resources they need.

Foundational and advanced trainings are available at no cost.

Look Beneath the Surface Outreach Materials

Through the HHS Look Beneath the Surface campaign, HHS collaborates with grant recipients and partners to raise awareness of human trafficking and the factors that put certain populations more at risk. By strategically educating and resourcing people at risk for or who are experiencing human trafficking, individuals who have experienced human trafficking can understand options for services and benefits offered by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act.

[Outreach materials and resources](#) are available for public use.

Disaster Management – Environmental Justice

Natural disasters often compound vulnerabilities that individuals, families, and communities may already be experiencing. Traffickers can exploit challenging conditions by promising food, shelter, and other resources, sometimes posing as disaster responders or social service professionals to gain trust.

- [Fact Sheet: Human Trafficking Programming During Disasters and Emergencies](#)
- [Fact Sheet: What Disaster Responders Need to Know and Do](#)
- [Pocket Cards: Human Trafficking Resources for Individuals Affected by an Emergency or Disaster](#)
- [SOAR Online: Disaster Management - Preventing and Responding to Human Trafficking](#)
- [Webpage: Disaster and Emergencies](#)

Mental Health

Unmet mental health needs may increase the risk of human trafficking, and trauma from trafficking victimization contributes to a wide range of adverse mental or behavioral health conditions. The consequences of trafficking can be long-lasting, impacting the individual and interpersonal relationships and potentially resulting in intergenerational cycles of victimization.

- [Blog: Mental Health Resources for Human Trafficking Survivors and Allies](#)
- [Fact Sheet: Mandatory Reporting and HIPAA Compliance](#)
- [Report: Core Competencies for Human Trafficking Response in Health Care and Behavioral Health Systems](#)
- [Multiple Resources: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration](#)
- [Report: Social Connection — Current Priorities of the U.S. Surgeon General](#)

Housing and Economic Mobility

Stable housing is a foundational resource that protects people from human trafficking, exploitation, and other forms of interrelated violence. Safe and affordable housing can give people opportunities to enhance their lives through economic mobility, which includes access to health care, education, and employment opportunities.

- [Information Memorandum: Federal Housing and Economic Mobility Resources](#)
- [Fact Sheet: Programs for Increasing Access to Employment Environmental Scan](#)
- [Report: Economic Empowerment for People Who Have Experienced Human Trafficking: A Guide for Anti-Trafficking Service Providers](#)
- [Report: Understanding Key Concepts of Economic Empowerment for People Who Have Experienced Human Trafficking](#)
- [Toolkit: Housing and Economic Mobility](#)

Technology Facilitated Human Trafficking

Traffickers increasingly use online technology, including the internet and social media platforms, to recruit, control, and exploit people and grow their operations. This trend has increased with the onset of COVID-19; in 2020, the National Human Trafficking Hotline identified a [22% increase in online recruitment](#) into trafficking schemes and reported the internet as the top recruitment location for all forms of trafficking.

- [Blog: Technology's Complicated Relationship with Human Trafficking](#)
- [Infographic: Technology-Facilitated Human Trafficking](#)
- [Information Memorandum: Addressing Online Harassment and Abuse in Technology-Facilitated Human Trafficking](#)

References

- ⁱ These best practices are informed by the work of a number of individuals and groups, including those published here: <https://ethicalstorytelling.com>, <https://pages.devex.com/better-conversations.html>, <https://www.forbes.com/sites/goldiechan/2022/05/04/how-to-design-ethical-storytelling/?sh=16a9d4c6626a>.
- ⁱⁱ For additional best practices and examples, see the CDC's Health Equity Guiding Principles for Inclusive Communication (https://www.cdc.gov/healthcommunication/Health_Equity.html) and the Senior Policy Operating Group Public Awareness and Outreach Committee Guide for Public Awareness Materials (state.gov/senior-policy-operating-group-public-awareness-and-outreach-committee-guide-for-public-awareness-materials-non-binding).
- ⁱⁱⁱ The person-centered approach is defined as placing an individual's priorities, needs, and interests at the center of the work; providing nonjudgmental assistance, with an emphasis on self-determination, and assisting individuals in making informed choices; ensuring that restoring feelings of safety and security are a priority; and safeguarding against policies, procedures, settings, and practices that may inadvertently re-traumatize the individual. A person-centered approach should also incorporate a trauma-informed, survivor-informed, and culturally competent approach. This definition can be found in the Senior Policy Operating Group Public Awareness and Outreach Committee Guide for Introductory Human Trafficking Awareness Training: <https://www.state.gov/guide-for-introductory-human-trafficking-awareness-training-non-binding/#post-417094-footnote-26>
- ^{iv} A trauma-informed approach recognizes signs of trauma in individuals and the professionals who help them and responds by integrating knowledge about trauma into policies, procedures, practices, and settings; and seeking to actively resist re-traumatization. This approach includes an understanding of the vulnerabilities and experiences of trauma survivors, including the prevalence and physical, social, and emotional impact of trauma. A trauma-informed approach places priority on restoring the survivor's feelings of safety, choice, and control. Programs, services, agencies, and communities can be trauma informed. This definition can be found on page 60 of the [National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking](#). This definition can be found on page 60 of the [National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking](https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/National-Action-Plan-to-Combat-Human-Trafficking.pdf): <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/National-Action-Plan-to-Combat-Human-Trafficking.pdf>
- ^v For examples of common misconceptions, see: humantraffickinghotline.org/what-human-trafficking/myths-misconceptions.
- ^{vi} For more information, see the U.S. Advisory Council on Human Trafficking Annual Report 2022 <https://www.state.gov/united-states-advisory-council-on-human-trafficking-annual-report-2022/#themes>
- ^{vii} Consider lessons learned from the Human Trafficking Youth Prevention Education Demonstration Program. <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/opre/report/human-trafficking-youth-prevention-education-h-type-demonstration-program-year-1> and <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/opre/report/human-trafficking-youth-prevention-education-h-type-demonstration-program-year-2>.