

# NORTH CAROLINA HUMAN TRAFFICKING COMMISSION

MARCH 2024 REPORT ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING GRANTS

Section 16.20A Grants for Nonprofit Organizations Providing Services to Victims of Human Trafficking Section 16.20B Grants to Develop, Strengthen, or Expand Human Trafficking Victim Service Programs

Citation of Law or Resolution: S.L.2021-180

Section Number: Section 16.20
Due Date: March 1, 2024
Submission Date: February 29, 2024

Receiving Entities: Senate Appropriations Committee on Justice and Public Safety
House of Representatives Appropriations Committee on Justice and Public Safety Joint Legislative
Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety Fiscal Research Division

Submitting Entity: The North Carolina Human Trafficking Commission



## 16.20 – GRANTS FOR NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS PROVIDING SERVICES TO VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The North Carolina Human Trafficking Commission (HTC) is housed within the North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts (NCAOC). Both entities have been in regular communication with the Office of State Budget and Management and the N.C. Pandemic Relief Office regarding transfer of monies within the State Fiscal Recovery Fund. The following are updates on progress since our last report:



#### SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES (16.20A):

Among the 23 designated agencies, 15 agencies received funding. You may view a thorough explanation in the conclusion section of this report.

Over the past six months risk assessments have been completed as well as updated and site visits occurred with the following agencies:

- A Fresh Start CLT, Inc.
- Haven House, Inc.
- Hyde County Hotline, Inc.
- JusticeMatters, Inc.
- On Eagles Wings

#### SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES (16.20B):

Second-year budget revisions were made to 16.20B contracts with Compassion to Act fully executed and NC Institute against Human Trafficking in the process of updating their budget.

Site visits occurred with the following agencies:

- Compassion To Act, Inc.
- North Carolina Institute Against Human Trafficking

Currently grant staff are reviewing financial and progress reports. There are 23 reports in various stages of the approval process.



### Grants to Nonprofit Organizations Providing Services to Victims of Human Trafficking

(1) The number of applications received.	23
(2) The number of grants awarded.	17
(3) The names and locations of the grant recipients.	*Reference table
(4) The Amount of each grant awarded.	*Reference table
(5) A description of the human trafficking program initiatives that were funded by the grant awarded, including the geographic area in which services were provided.	*Reference table
(6) The total number of victims of human trafficking that were served, to date, by each grant recipient.	*Reference table





Haven House is in Wake County, Raleigh NC, the geographic center of the state, at the crossroads of 1-85, 1-95 and 1-40. Haven House services serves youth in Wake County, North Carolina. Our target population in the Wrenn House and Street Outreach programs may travel to Wake County from other North Carolina counties, or out of state/country.  Award Amount:    S159,348.00	AGENCY:	Haven House, Inc.
Description or program initiatives:  This award is supporting our agency's capacity to strengthen our service provision for youth who are victims of human trafficking and those that are at higher risk for victimization due to experiencing homelessness and those who are on runaway status, we have been able to designate staff time to plan for and implement best practices around our response to victims of human trafficking.  Total victims served year to date  A Fresh Start CLT, Inc.  A Fresh Start Clt serves the state of North Carolina. In the following counties we are serving are Mecklenburg, Wayne, Guilford, Robeson, Brunswick, Union, Cabarrus, Haywood, Duplin.  Award Amount:  \$208,664.80  Description or program initiatives:  Trauma Case Management/Counseling and resources i.e., Clothing, food, baby needs etc. for them to get back on their feet.  Total victims served year to date  AGENCY:  Beloved Haven, Inc  Beloved Haven operates in Northeastern North Carolina.  Award Amount:  \$208,558.72  Grant funds were used to set up a residential program where women who have been trafficked can have a safe place to stay as they heal and learn new skills. This program is in Hyde County.	Location:	of the state, at the crossroads of I-85, I-95 and I-40. Haven House services serves youth in Wake County, North Carolina. Our target population in the Wrenn House and Street Outreach programs may travel to Wake County from other North Carolina counties, or out of
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Description or program initiatives:  who have been trafficked can have a safe place to stay as they heal and learn new skills. This program is in Hyde County.	Award Amount:	\$208,558.72
Total victims served year to date	Description or program initiatives:	who have been trafficked can have a safe place to stay as they heal
	Total victims served year to date	30



AGENCY:	Christian Recovery Centers, Inc.
Location:	Christian Recovery Services Inc. (CRCI), in a joint venture with our Stand Against Trafficking USA, will meet the needs of women, men, and children who have been trafficked in Brunswick Columbus, Pender, New Hanover, and New Brunswick counties. We will also work with survivors of trafficking who have been referred to us from other counties.
Award Amount:	\$208,686.98
Description or program initiatives:	Open a Resource Center under the established "hub and spoke model" to meet the needs of trafficked individuals. In geographic terms, the "hub" will be created through the addition of 6000 square feet of space onto the recently opened CRCI Thrift Store to support survivors with a range of services, including medical care, individual and group counseling, job training and case management. It will meet the need for "safe spaces" for those escaping trafficking.
Total victims served year to date	65
AGENCY:	Crossroads: Sexual Assault Response & Resource Center
Location:	Crossroads: SA Response & Resource Center serves the rural counties of Alamance, Caswell, and Person.
Award Amount:	\$208,686.98
Description or program initiatives:	At this point, we are in the early stages, but we plan on multiple outreach events with the Alamance County Health Department and working with law enforcement and the school system to do educational programming.
Total victims served year to date	148
AGENCY:	Five 14 Revolution, Inc.
Location:	Five 14 Revolution is in the heart of the hotel district at Kerr & Market where regular exploitation occurs.
Award Amount:	\$208,686.98
Description or program initiatives:	Grant funds were used for Program initiatives in New Hanover and Brunswick counties. Initiative will be used for Direct Service Personnel salary & wages, travel as related to Five 14 vehicle, and supplies for operating the program.
Total victims served year to date	137



AGENCY:	Help, Incorporated: Center Against Violence
Location:	Help Incorporated: Center Against Violence provides services to Rockingham County but will accept clients fleeing from any other county
Award Amount:	\$207,652.98
Description or program initiatives:	Agency provided crisis services, emergency shelter, forensic interviews, and case management to human trafficking clients during this time frame.
Total victims served year to date	14
AGENCY:	Hyde County Hotline, Inc
Location:	Engelhard, NC
Award Amount:	\$208,686.98
Description or program initiatives:	The funding will be used largely for HT victims, providing long term safe shelter, counseling, job training, educational needs, clothing, financial assistance with transitional housing, transportation, court and medical advocacy in Hyde County (Including Ocracoke Island) NC
Total victims served year to date	227
AGENCY:	JusticeMatters, Inc.
Location:	JusticeMatters serves victim-survivors of sex and/or labor trafficking across North Carolina.
Award Amount:	\$208,686.98
Description or program initiatives:	This grant has funded the provision of direct legal services and related victim support services by JusticeMatters to victim-survivors of human trafficking in North Carolina.
Total victims served year to date	



AGENCY:	On Eagles Wings
Location:	On Eagles Wings residential and community-based services initiatives are available to serve girls from all 100 counties. The services take place in numerous counties. This quarter has included survivors referred to us from Cabarrus, Union, Mecklenburg, Gaston, Anson, Buncombe, and New Hanover in NC, and York County SC.
Award Amount:	\$208,686.98
Description or program initiatives:	New 2023 Kia Forte vehicle was purchased in June 2023 (to replace older Honda with high mileage) to transport young female survivors to medical-dental and therapeutic appointments, therapeutic recreation activities, schooling activities, and life skills program activities such as grocery shopping, banking, community service, and fun community activities to build a sense of community.
Total victims served year to date	75
AGENCY:	Randolph County Family Crisis Center, Inc
Location:	Randolph County Family Crisis Center Inc, services the Randolph County area, which includes 3 major highways, and is the intersection between several large cities.
Award Amount:	\$208,686.98
Description or program initiatives:	We have case management, shelter, therapy, and other services available and tailored for human trafficking victims base on their needs. The services were provided in Randolph County.
Total victims served year to date	1377
AGENCY:	Resources, Education, Assistance, Counseling, and Housing of Macon County, Inc.
Location:	
Award Amount:	\$208,686.98
Description or program initiatives:	This grant has allowed REACH the ability to provide critical services to HT victims without gaps. This has ensured continuity of services and the ability for REACH to accept referrals from sister agencies within our region and state.
Total victims served year to date	369



AGENCY:	The Salvation Army
Location:	The Salvation Army geographic area proposed to be served is primarily Mecklenburg and Union Counties.
Award Amount:	\$208,680.00
Description or program initiatives:	HTC grant funds are now being used to fund a full- time Human Trafficking Case Manager who can cover Mecklenburg, Union, and Anson Counties.
Total victims served year to date	18
AGENCY:	Triad Ladder of Hope
Location:	Triad Latter of Hope serves the twelve counties of the Triad: Alamance, Caswell, Davidson, Davie, Forsyth, Guilford, Montgomery, Randolph, Rockingham, Stokes, Surry, and Yadkin
Award Amount:	\$168,887.84
Description or program initiatives:	Assist local law enforcement on a STING operation, advocating for clients through this process. Connect clients with mental health services. Help clients with relocation.
Total victims served year to date	63
AGENCY:	Wayne Pregnancy Care Center, Inc
Location:	Wayne Pregnancy Center resides in Goldsboro, NC serving the entire state of NC
Award Amount:	\$208,686.98
Description or program initiatives:	We provided services to the entire state through our hotline and our outreach teams have been available to all the counties to provide intakes and case management for victims.
Total victims served year to date	193



16.20B

AGENCY:	Compassion to Act, Inc.
Location:	Compassion to Act services all North and South Carolina. We currently serve the Greater-Charlotte area through our outreach initiatives and community driven events.
Award Amount:	\$500,000.00
Description or program initiatives:	We are implementing programs that allow us to serve the Greater-Charlotte and surrounding areas throughout North Carolina. It will include the counties of Mecklenburg, Union, Gaston, Cleveland, and more.
Total victims served year to date	100
AGENCY:	North Carolina Institute Against Human Trafficking
	<u>,                                      </u>
Location:	NC Institute Against Human Trafficking focuses on the Charlotte Designated Market Area
Location: Award Amount:	NC Institute Against Human Trafficking focuses on the Charlotte Desig-
	NC Institute Against Human Trafficking focuses on the Charlotte Designated Market Area
Award Amount:	NC Institute Against Human Trafficking focuses on the Charlotte Designated Market Area  \$320,000.00  Entered into lease agreement for physical location in Mt. Holly, North Carolina. Entered into agreements with various service providers. Hire full-time Executive Director and contract employee to administer programming. Hire accounting firm for reporting





#### CONCLUSION

Funding for 16.20A went to 15 of the 23 designated agencies. Among the 23 designated agencies, one entity identified itself as a distinct agency not specified among the named agencies and, subsequent to discussions with our legal counsel and Appropriations Committee it was determined ineligible to fund. The remaining seven agencies did not apply due to the following reasons: one agency identified itself as an education and training agency and declined funding along with four other agencies that declined funding for reasons of staffing changes, identified no human trafficking program, and another not operating their human trafficking program due to house renovations and one agency declined funds with no explanation. One agency stated they do not accept federal, state of local government funds, another agency stated they have already received federal funding for their human trafficking program and declined these funds.

As of the present, agencies have received a total of \$1,639,791.82 of funding from Section 16.20A and \$284,907.50 of funding from Section 16.20B. This distribution of funds in Section 16.20A indicates that the majority of agencies have received 50% of their allocated funds, with one agency having already received 100% of its funds. Section 16.20B have received 25% of their funds, in line with expectations given a two-year performance period. The grants manager will continue collecting and approving quarterly reports but will also shift focus towards preparing the closeout process and setting site visits. Grant staff received all reports from quarter 1 and quarter 2 and are presently conducting primary, secondary, and final reviews of these reports. This process will enable us to allocate additional funds to the agencies. The funds disbursed enabled agencies to assist 3,000 survivors of human trafficking to date.

Report Prepared By: Kathy Estrada, Grants Administrator NC Human Trafficking Commission Kathy.I.Estrada@nccourts.org



# NORTH CAROLINA HUMAN TRAFFICKING COMMISSION

#### MARCH 2024 REPORT ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING GRANTS

Section 16.21 Competitive Grants For Nonprofit Organizations Providing Services
To Victims Of Human Trafficking

Citation of Law or Resolution: S.L.2021-180

Section Number: Section 16.21

Due Date: March 1, 2024

Submission Date: February 29, 2024

Receiving Entities: Senate Appropriations Committee on Justice and Public Safety
House of Representatives Appropriations Committee on Justice and Public Safety Joint Legislative
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Submitting Entity: The North Carolina Human Trafficking Commission



## 16.21 – GRANTS FOR NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS PROVIDING SERVICES TO VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The North Carolina Human Trafficking Commission (HTC) is housed within the North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts (NCAOC). Both entities have been in regular communication with the Office of State Budget and Management and the N.C. Pandemic Relief Office regarding transfer of monies within the State Fiscal Recovery Fund. The following are updates on progress since our last report:



#### **SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES:**

16.21 Grant manager began employment August 28, 2023.

16.21 Round 1 Request for Proposal was released on August 11, 2023 and closed September 11, 2023.

A total of 24 applications were received. Of those applications, four applicants did not move on to competitive scoring due to not satisfying all of the listed requirements within the request for proposal.

The remaining 20 applications were scored by eight reviewers. The reviewers mainly consisted of committee members, but also included a couple of non-biased reviewers recruited to ensure multiple assessors gave feedback. A tool was created by the grant staff and was applied to each review in order to ensure consistent scoring. The committee voted to award 11 agencies contracts for funding. All agencies denied funding in this process were offered a one-on-one meeting to share feedback targeted at improving their next application, as well as methods they can consider to decrease their agency risk level.

\$1,981,587.37 was awarded in round 1 leaving \$1,818,412.63 available for round 2.

All Round 1 contracts have been fully executed. The period of performance began January 1, 2024 and 10 of 11 agencies have received their first disbursement.

16.21 Round 2 Request for Proposal was released on January 8, 2024 and is set to close out March 8, 2024.



### Grants to Nonprofit Organizations Providing Services to Victims of Human Trafficking

(1) The number of applications received.	24
(2) The number of grants awarded.	11
(3) The names and locations of the grant recipients.	*Reference table
(4) The Amount of each grant awarded.	*Reference table
(5) A description of the human trafficking program initiatives that were funded by the grant awarded, including the geographic area in which services were provided.	*Reference table
(6) The total number of victims of human trafficking that were served, to date, by each grant recipient.	*Reference table





AGENCY:	JusticeMatters, Inc.
Location:	1006 Lamond Ave, Suite B, Durham NC 27701. JusticeMatters (JM) serves victim-survivors of sex and/or labor trafficking across North Carolina. Since our founding in 2009, JM has served individuals residing in 77 counties across our state. The top counties wherein our clients reside are Durham, Wake, Orange, Person, and Granville/Guilford/Johnston.
Award Amount:	\$200,000
Description or program initiatives:	JusticeMatters will continue to provide trauma-informed direct legal services and related victim support services to victim-survivors of human trafficking across North Carolina.
Total victims served year to date	45
AGENCY:	Legal Aid of North Carolina
Location:	319 Chapanoke Road, Suite 104 Raleigh, NC 27603. Legal Aid of NC serves residents across the state of North Carolina in all 100 counties.
Award Amount:	\$200,000
Description or program initiatives:	Legal Aid of North Carolina's Immigration Pathways for Victims (IMMPAV) seeks to assist immigrant victims through direct legal advocacy, community education, and collaboration with other service providers. These initiatives will help victims remove legal barriers to achieve stability in their lives, reunite with their families, and prevent future victimization.
Total victims served year to date	140
AGENCY:	A Safe Place
Location:	821 Princess St. Suite 100 Wilmington, NC 28401. A Safe Place supports victims of trafficking in Southeastern North Carolina, the state of North Carolina, and throughout the United States. Direct Services and Outreach efforts are focused within the Southeastern North Carolina region also known as the Cape Fear Region.
Award Amount:	\$199,900
Description or program initiatives:	A Safe Place is seeking funding to support two initiatives, a residential program that provides comprehensive support services and its outreach efforts to increase victim identification and community awareness.
Total victims served year to date	93



Location:  62A Charlotte Street, Ashville, NC 28801. Pisgah Legal Services serves 18 counties in Western North Carolina.  Award Amount:  591,931.73  Pisgah Legal Services helps survivors of human trafficking address their civil legal needs, including immigration status, domestic violence protection orders, child custody, housing, public benefits, name changes, expungements, and tax assistance.  Total victims served year to date  64AGENCY:  Present Age Ministries, Inc  5701 Executive Center Drive; Suite 108 Charlotte, NC 28262. Present Age serves the Charlotte Metro Area.  Award Amount:  5701 Executive Center Drive; Suite 108 charlotte, NC 28262. Present Age serves the Charlotte Metro Area.  Award Amount:  5208,686.98  Present Age's inititatives are to include trauma-informed therapy to treat PTSD and other mental health disorders, educational support and advocacy, a safe place to live, medical intervention, pregnancy care and support, relational support and education, court advocacy and mentoring. Their most pressing need is to hire 2 additional Case Managers.  Total victims served year to date  74  AGENCY:  On Eagles Wings  300 McGill Avenue NW, Ste 100, Concord, NC 28027-6150. On Eagles Wings support sexually exploited and trafficked children/	AGENCY:	Pisgah Legal Services
Description or program initiatives:  Pisgah Legal Services helps survivors of human trafficking address their civil legal needs, including immigration status, domestic violence protection orders, child custody, housing, public benefits, name changes, expungements, and tax assistance.  Total victims served year to date  AGENCY:  Present Age Ministries, Inc  5701 Executive Center Drive; Suite 108 Charlotte, NC 28262. Present Age serves the Charlotte Metro Area.  Award Amount:  \$208,686.98  Present Age's initiatives are to include trauma-informed therapy to treat PTSD and other mental health disorders, educational support and advocacy, a safe place to live, medical intervention, pregnancy care and support, relational support and education, court advocacy and mentoring. Their most pressing need is to hire 2 additional Case Managers.  Total victims served year to date  74  AGENCY:  On Eagles Wings  300 McGill Avenue NW, Ste 100, Concord, NC 28027-6150. On Eagles Wings support sexually exploited and trafficked children/	Location:	
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Eagles Wings support sexually exploited and trafficked children/	AGENCY:	On Eagles Wings
youth/young adults trom all 100 counties through our residential restoration program and community-based services.	Location:	Eagles Wings support sexually exploited and trafficked children/youth/young adults from all 100 counties through our residential
Award Amount: \$200,000	Award Amount:	\$200,000
Description or program initiatives:  This grant will support two new homes for young, trafficked mothers by providing case management, peer support and professional survivor advocacy services. In addition, it will provide continuation funding to help ensure sustainability of the existing OEW Hope House® safe, stable housing, transportation, and trauma-informed therapeutic interventions for girls ages 18-25 and community-based services for sexually exploited and trafficked children and youth ages 6-25.	Description or program initiatives:	ers by providing case management, peer support and professional survivor advocacy services. In addition, it will provide continuation funding to help ensure sustainability of the existing OEW Hope House® safe, stable housing, transportation, and trauma-informed therapeutic interventions for girls ages 18-25 and community-based services for sexually exploited and trafficked children and youth

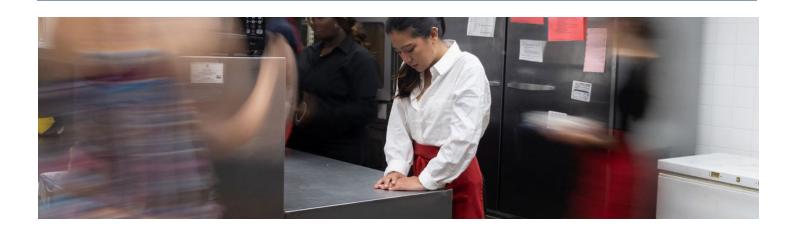


AGENCY:	True Justice, Inc.
Location:	409 Metcalf Street New Bern, NC 28560. True Justice serves survivors across eastern North Carolina. Their main focus is in Craven, Onslow, Carteret, Pamlico, Jones, Lenior, Pender, and Duplin. However, they take referrals from all over the state.
Award Amount:	\$175,090.84
Description or program initiatives:	True Justice goal is to increase the number of survivors receiving services through our restoration home and outreach programs by 25%. Through collaboration with Onslow County, the Rapid Response team, and strategic local and statewide partnerships, survivors will receive comprehensive, holistic support.
Total victims served year to date	104
AGENCY:	The Hundred Movement, Inc
Location:	9 Sheppard Branch Rd. Weaverville, NC 28787. The Hundred Movement serves survivors of sex trafficking across the state of North Carolina. While they are based out of the Ashville area, our telehealth platform allows mental health and case management services to be delivered to anyone in the state.
Award Amount:	\$189,932
Description or program initiatives:	Funding will help the Hundred Movement continue to provide free individual and group counseling services to primary and secondary survivors of trafficking.
Total victims served year to date	22
AGENCY:	Designed For Joy
Location:	517 West Cabarrus St Suite A, Raleigh, NC 27603. Designed For Joy serves women located in Raleigh, NC, and surrounding areas. Counties served include Wake, Johnston, and Durham counties.
Award Amount:	\$200,000
Description or program initiatives:	Designed For Joy' goal is to expand their audience reach by 20% through 2024 with outreach and awareness efforts to educate the community on the ongoing need for safe, living wage work for vulnerable women.
Total victims served year to date	23



Total victims served year to date

AGENCY:	Wayne Pregnancy Care Center, Inc
Location:	3501 E. Ash Street, Goldsboro, NC 27533. Wayne Pregnancy Center serves the entire state of North Carolina as well as address the needs throughout the entire United States.
Award Amount:	\$200,000
Description or program initiatives:	Wayne Pregnancy Center goal is to find safe housing/placement for survivors and implement a care plan that can restore their life. Also, to assist survivors in their healing allowing them to become self-sufficient once they have graduated from the program or leave to acquire life on their own.
Total victims served year to date	85
AGENCY:	Florence Crittenton Service, Inc.
Location:	3350 Holabird Ln. Charlotte, NC 28208. Crittenton serves young women from across North Carolina, however, most of the clients we serve are from Mecklenburg and surrounding counties.
Award Amount:	\$150,000
Description or program initiatives:	Florence Crittenton initiatives are to expand human trafficking education and prevention training for clients, staff, and community members. Another initiative is to improve case management services for clients who have experienced human trafficking and those at risk



of becoming trafficking victims to ensure they have the

documentation, education, employment, housing, and social services they need to be independent and safe once they leave the program.

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#### CONCLUSION

The Appropriations Committee has played a pivotal role in effectively facilitating the disbursement of section 16.21 funds within the parameters established. Both in-person and virtual scoring options were made available to the reviewers. The scoring process spanned from October 23, 2023 to November 7, 2023.

The Appropriations Committee convened meetings on August 28, 2023, October 9, 2023, and November 20, 2023 for planning, training, and reviewing the competitive grant process. All Committee meetings follow public meeting law and members of the public are encouraged to listen in or watch virtually.

As we transition into Round 2, the purpose of the funding is directed towards developing, strengthening, or expanding human trafficking victim service programs to mitigate the increased risk of human trafficking. As part of the Request for Proposal (RFP) process, an informational webinar was conducted on January 30, 2024 elucidated the application and risk assessment process, ensuring prospective applicants are well-prepared in Round 2. The webinar attracted 50 attendees from 35 agencies. The Round 2 application time period was extended by the Appropriations Committee from 30 days to 60 days in order to encourage more agencies to apply, and to allow ample time for the preparation of stronger applications.

The next Appropriations Committee meeting is scheduled for March 4, 2024 and will address preparations for Round 2 application scoring and other Human Trafficking Commission grant topics thereby advancing the ongoing efforts against human trafficking.

The total reported amount of victims served were reported in grantees original application, first quarter reports showing reported victims served with this grant is due April 10, 2024.

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