



TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS COUNCIL

Connecticut Project to Comprehensively Combat Human Trafficking

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

ABOUT

The Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Council, with technical assistance from the Laboratory to Combat Human Trafficking (LCHT), will embark on an initiative that aims to develop sustainable efforts to end human trafficking with the essential input of those working on the ground. By utilizing the structure established by the United States Department of State's, "4P" paradigm—prevention, protection, prosecution, and partnership—the TIP Council will embark on a state-wide needs assessment on sex and labor trafficking in Connecticut, the results of which will inform a coordinated response to trafficking in persons that is community-led and can serve as a bridge between geographic areas of our state, between sectors, and between anti-trafficking groups.

WHY NOW? WHY CONNECTICUT?

Connecticut is uniquely positioned to replicate the work done by LCHT because of our longstanding commitment to the issue of trafficking in persons. In 2004, the State Legislature statutorily created the TIP Council, which is chaired by the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW) and consists of members from a diversity of backgrounds, including representatives from state agencies, the judicial branch, law enforcement, motor transport and community based organizations that work with victims of sexual and domestic violence, immigrants and refugees, and address behavioral health needs, social justice and human rights.

Our state has been fortunate to have legislators boldly take on trafficking in persons, dedicated law enforcement, and ground-breaking outreach strategies that have resulted in the:

- Creation of a felony crime of trafficking in persons;
- Addition of Trafficking to the state's civil forfeiture procedure to seize tainted funds and property; and
- Granting of federal funding to the Department of Children and Families to address and prevent domestic minor sex trafficking through the work of the Human Anti-trafficking Response Team (HART).

This project will allow us to build on Connecticut's strengths in a data-informed manner as a community, more comprehensively and more collaboratively. Despite our best efforts, we still don't fully understand the impact and scope of human trafficking in Connecticut and many undetected victims continue to go unserved. By collecting data, through surveys and focus groups, we can determine what labor and sex trafficking looks like across Connecticut and begin to create a roadmap to effectively address and prevent human trafficking.

CREATING THE ROADMAP

Every community in Connecticut is unique—from cities, to casinos, and rural communities, each has particular resources, industries and community dynamics. These characteristics are essential and ought to be the principle guiding force behind organizing a community-based human trafficking response around the 4 P's. In June 2015, TIP Council members voted unanimously to undertake this research approach to more efficiently and effectively combat human trafficking throughout Connecticut.

ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF PROJECT

The Connecticut Project is a replication of the LCHT Colorado Project to Comprehensively Combat Human Trafficking, which bridged academic and practitioner components of the anti-trafficking movement. These are the essential elements to conduct research/the model:

Project Team

The PCSW will coordinate and assemble a diverse mix of perspectives for the Project Team, including survivors, practitioners, academicians from multiple disciplines, and individuals and organizations with a depth of experience in local anti-trafficking efforts, which represent the areas of prevention, protection, prosecution, and partnership.

Research Methods

The PCSW will contract with a local university/college to conduct community-based research including, research on community characteristics that lead to vulnerability via secondary data sources, implanting the research design (i.e. overseeing/developing list of agencies to survey and focus group participants), data collection, data analysis, and publication of research findings.

Communication

The PCSW will work with the Project Team to develop project messages, both internally and externally, help set up communications work plans, track progress, and secure media exposure for the project.

Action Plan

The Action Plan is developed in collaboration with the TIP Council and Project Team, based on the findings from the survey and focus groups. The plan is a coordinated response to trafficking in persons that will help the TIP Council to fulfill their mandate of creating a space to learn from each other and ensure that efforts are mutually reinforcing to lead Connecticut into a new phase of addressing human trafficking comprehensively and in partnership. Knowing Connecticut's strengths and gaps in addressing human trafficking moves beyond assuming what we *think* is needed - this Plan provides specific actionable steps to remedy gaps.

Project Fidelity

The fidelity of the Project is important for both Connecticut and LCHT. The data and analysis, which will be monitored and evaluated, can be used to inform anti-trafficking efforts nationwide and Connecticut's ongoing efforts. This project is not intended to be a 'one and done', but rather to create a template that can be replicated every few years to continuously inform the ever changing landscape of human trafficking.

PROJECT EXPENSES (February 2016-September 2016)

EXPENSES	TOTAL
Researchers	\$45,000
LCHT Consulting	\$5,000
LCHT TIP Council Training	\$1,500

Trafficking in Persons Council
Connecticut General Assembly
Jillian Gilchrest, Chair
Permanent Commission on the Status of Women
18 Trinity Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106
860-240-8442 ~ jillian.gilchrest@cga.ct.gov