Comprehensive Services for All Victims of Human Trafficking Program

The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), within the Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, administers grant funding for direct victim services and oversees special initiatives to improve community responses to victims of human trafficking. The Trafficking Information Management System (TIMS) serves as a centralized repository for grant-required performance metrics and case-specific information related to all OVC human trafficking grant programs. This brief highlights data reported in TIMS by 34 grantees funded through the OVC Comprehensive Services for Victims of All Forms of Human Trafficking Program, for the period of July 2015 through June 2016.

OVC strives to uphold the intent of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act to ensure that all trafficking victims, regardless of gender, age, immigration status, or form of trafficking, receive support in accessing the services they need to heal in the aftermath of crime victimization. Sex trafficking and labor trafficking occur within many different settings within communities, and victims of these crimes are very diverse. The goal of the Comprehensive Services for Victims of All Forms of Human Trafficking Program is to enhance the quality and quantity of services available to assist all victims of human trafficking in achieving their goals. Through this program, OVC provides funding to organizations to support the delivery of high-quality, comprehensive services that address the individualized needs of trafficking victims. The program allows for flexibility while ensuring that grantees are able to help trafficking victims receive the individualized services they require.

Program grantees provided a wide range of direct services to clients, demonstrating the multitude and variety of services necessary to provide stabilizing relief for trafficking victims. Top services provided were housing assistance and ongoing case management. Personal items (e.g., food, clothing, hygiene products), legal services, transportation, and emotional and moral support were also frequently provided. Top forms of housing placement included hotels and motels as well as shelters, such as women’s shelters and youth shelters. Grantees provided more education support services to minors than to adults.

During the reporting period, the 34 program grantees reported serving —

- **2,441 Total Clients** including confirmed trafficking victims and individuals showing strong indicators of trafficking victimization.
- **1,328 New Clients** served under the grant for the first time.

Two largest populations served —

- **59% U.S. Victims of Sex Trafficking** (1,442 clients)
- **28% Foreign National Victims of Labor Trafficking** (678 clients)

Offering comprehensive case management has allowed us to support survivors in their goals for achieving higher education and job training. One survivor dreamt of becoming a nurse. Our case manager worked with her to apply for financial aid, schedule placement testing for university, and visit the college campus in which she plans to enroll.

— Comprehensive Services for Victims of All Forms of Human Trafficking Program grantee
A victim of labor trafficking was brought to us by a law enforcement partner and was visibly terrified. Law enforcement interviewed the client while we readied our shelter and prepared basic necessities. We helped address the client’s immediate medical and dental needs, and provided other services. A few days later, law enforcement came back to conduct another interview and noticed how much the client had changed: she was more at ease and already looked like her health was improving. She reconnected with her family back home and is waiting on her T Visa application.

—— Comprehensive Services for Victims of All Forms of Human Trafficking Program grantee

Housing assistance, personal items, emotional and moral support, and ongoing case management were the top services received, regardless of gender. Looking at top services by gender:

- Top services for female clients included transportation and mental health services. Female clients also received proportionately greater amounts of criminal justice system-based advocacy than male or transgender clients.
- Top services for male clients included interpretation/translation and legal services. Male clients also received proportionately greater amounts of social service advocacy and client intake services than female or transgender clients.
- Top services for transgender clients included transportation and housing and shelter advocacy. Transgender clients also received proportionately greater amounts of medical services and protection and safety planning than female or male clients.

A key element of the program is providing training in order to raise public awareness and enhance the ability of partners and other first responders to identify and serve victims effectively. During the July 2015 through June 2016 reporting period, grantees conducted 576 trainings for nearly 18,650 participants. The most common training recipients were schools and educational institutions, state and local government, and victim service providers.

TIMS captures only direct services provided through OVC grants; it does not necessarily capture services provided by and funded through other sources. Therefore, data should only be used to better understand the OVC grant initiative and should not be used to make generalizations about the grantees or the scale and scope of human trafficking in the United States as a whole. TIMS is a live data system in which reported numbers are subject to change: this data is current as of April 2017. There may be duplicate client data in cases where a grantee transitioned from one grant type to another and clients were assigned to both grants, or where clients were served by more than one grantee.

For more information on OVC’s anti-trafficking efforts and available resources, visit http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/humantrafficking.