Enhanced Collaborative Model to Combat Human Trafficking

About the Enhanced Collaborative Model Task Force Program

The Enhanced Collaborative Model (ECM) to Combat Human Trafficking supports law enforcement agencies and victim service organizations to build capacity and operational effectiveness as a core member of a collaborative, multidisciplinary human trafficking task force that includes a broad range of partnerships such as federal, state, and local law enforcement and prosecutors; victim and social services providers; and relevant community stakeholders. The ECM encourages human trafficking task forces to implement collaborative, sustainable approaches to investigation and prosecution that are trauma-informed, are victim-centered, and seek to proactively identify and serve all victims of all types of human trafficking.

Task Force Spotlight

ECM task forces around the United States leverage their partners’ resources and expertise to implement a range of cross-sector strategies to identify victims, provide needed services, and hold offenders accountable. The Spotlight below highlights four task forces that have taken an innovative approach to multidisciplinary collaboration.

1. The Western District of New York Human Trafficking Task Force conducted a threat assessment to detect local industries that were vulnerable to labor exploitation and trafficking. Using the assessment, the task force identified the dairy farm industry as a focus area for building relationships and cultivating information to proactively identify potential victims of human trafficking.

2. To mitigate communication challenges in a large, statewide task force, the North Dakota Human Trafficking Task Force created a system of “navigators” to liaise between their respective local regions and core leadership of the statewide task force to share information on task force activities and coordinate partnerships and referrals. Multidisciplinary teams in each region coordinate with the regional navigator to streamline efforts and facilitate collaboration across the state.

3. The Cook County (Illinois) Human Trafficking Task Force annually seeks to empower human trafficking survivors to share their lived experiences using a variety of creative mediums. Past examples include a magazine, art show, and spoken word event, all with the goal of facilitating increased awareness of, and public education on, human trafficking.

4. The unique structure of the Palm Beach County (Florida) Human Trafficking Task Force houses partners from local and federal law enforcement, prosecutors, and victim service professionals in the same office to aid in a coordinated, collaborative approach to identifying, investigating, and prosecuting human trafficking cases and providing trauma-informed services to victims.

The U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance and Office for Victims of Crime provide funding to assist jurisdictions to operate multidisciplinary human trafficking task forces. Available funding has ranged between $800,000 and $900,000 per grantee over a three-year period and has served jurisdictions ranging in population size from less than 500,000 to more than 5 million. For a map of funded task forces and to learn about funding opportunities, please visit www.BJA.gov. In addition to funding service providers as part of the ECM, the Office for Victims of Crime provides funding to enhance the quality and quantity of services available to assist victims of human trafficking. For information on this funding, please visit www.OVC.gov.

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Technical Assistance Provider: 
The International Association of Chiefs of Police

With support from the Bureau of Justice Assistance, and in partnership with AEquitas and the John Jay College of Criminal Justice at the City University of New York, the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) provides a broad range of training and technical assistance (TTA) to enhance the capability of law enforcement and their multidisciplinary partners to combat all forms of human trafficking. Since 2015, the IACP has provided technical assistance services to more than 40 ECM task forces and provided training, tools, and resources to law enforcement, prosecutors, and allied partners throughout the United States.

IACP Resources

ONLINE LIBRARY of human trafficking training, tools, and resources for law enforcement, prosecutors, and judges

CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING TOOLKIT for law enforcement

Ongoing WEBINAR TRAINING SERIES on human trafficking

ONLINE TRAINING on such topics as labor trafficking identification, child sex trafficking, innovative prosecution strategies, and emerging human trafficking issues

CLASSROOM TRAINING: Labor Trafficking Investigation and Prosecution, and Advanced Human Trafficking Investigation and Prosecution

Multidisciplinary Collaborative Model for Human Trafficking Task Forces: DEVELOPMENT & OPERATIONS ROADMAP

PEER-TO-PEER MENTORING opportunities between task forces

TASK FORCE CONNECT, an online community for ECM task forces to network, share resources, and engage in peer-to-peer problem-solving

CUSTOMIZED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE on topics such as identification, investigation, and prosecution; data collection and evaluation; and effective task force operations

For additional information on IACP’s training and technical assistance for human trafficking task forces, please visit www.theIACP.org/humantrafficking or contact the IACP at humantrafficking@theIACP.org