



January 28, 2025

Rep. Mike Nathe, Chairman
House Appropriations Education and Environment Division
State Capitol
600 East Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58505

Greetings, Chairman Nathe & Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the 9 human trafficking victims served by our organization as well as 10 others who were able to flee a potential human trafficking situation since the last biennium, I'm writing in support of House Bill 1003.

In our work with partners and clients, this funding supports three key staff members including two advocates and our director of shelter services. Following is a summary of the training impacts as well as survivor benefits of this funding.

TRAINING

Greater Grand Forks Women's Leadership Cooperative

Our human trafficking (HT) funded staff member was part of a 4-person panel providing education on human trafficking for the panel, which was hosted during a 90-minute event on January 2024 in support of Human Trafficking Awareness Month. Joining CVIC representatives on the panel were staff from Project Dignity, YouthWorks, and Real Equitable Solutions. HT funded staff have been afforded the opportunity to attend several trainings because of the North Dakota Human Trafficking Task Force (NDHTTF).

Skills Based Human Trafficking Training

Two human trafficking funded advocates were able to attend a two-day, Skills Based Human Trafficking Training in Bismarck, ND. At this training, advocates, law enforcement and nurses were taught different ways to identify human trafficking victims, how to engage with human trafficking victims, how to intervene in human trafficking, and ways to proactively act in instances where there may be human trafficking.

Because the trainers indicated that schools are one of the biggest places that we can start to prevent human trafficking, one human trafficking-funded advocate has started researching human trafficking information to develop training for local schools, specifically targeting the subject of grooming.

National Labor Trafficking Conference

Two human trafficking funded advocates attended the two-day 2024 National Labor Trafficking Conference online. This training provided multiple avenues for learning about labor trafficking and how to identify and prevent it. This training was useful, as there are not as many training resources available on the topic of labor trafficking.



SURVIVOR BENEFITS

In addition to training through the Eastern Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT), this grant enabled advocates to provide case management services to clients who experienced human trafficking and/or who were suspected trafficking victims. A majority of the human trafficking clients served were provided with a safe and comfortable room at our confidential shelter.

While at shelter, these clients were assisted with numerous services and resources, including but not limited to emotional support, housing assistance, crisis intervention, safety planning, transportation, employment assistance, and education assistance. Additionally, shelter staff were able to assist a human trafficking survivor that needed safe shelter for her and her service animal.

Additional examples of advocacy services provided include: an advocate responding to a Sexual Assault Response Team call at the local hospital, and advocates communicating with and on behalf of clients with housing professionals. Our human trafficking clients were also provided with resources during their stay, including gas cards, utility payments, phone cards, and bus vouchers. Staff were also able to provide clients with personal care items and clothes that had been donated.

I urge you to pass House Bill 1003 and continue this critical funding to support vulnerable survivors of human trafficking across the state of North Dakota.

Coiya Tompkins Inman

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Coiya Tompkins Inman'.

President/CEO
Community Violence Intervention Center, Inc.