



Federal Resources to Aid in Labor Trafficking Investigations

This resource was developed as part of the Partnerships to Address Labor Trafficking project, designed to improve the awareness, responsiveness, and accountability among law enforcement on labor trafficking. This project is a collaborative effort between the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) and the Institute for Intergovernmental Research.

What Is Labor Trafficking?

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 defines labor trafficking as “the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services using force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.”¹

The following sections outline resources available through various departments and components of the Federal Government to aid in investigations of labor trafficking. Depending on where the case is located, the Federal resources available will vary. This document is important as it will provide law enforcement with a variety of resources depending on the needs of their case.

1. Public Law 106-386—October 28, 2000, Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/BILLS-106hr3244enr/pdf/BILLS-106hr3244enr.pdf>.

Connecting with federal agencies

- Establish a multidisciplinary team including locally based federal partners. Do not wait until a major labor trafficking case is discovered.
- Work with federal partners, including U.S. Attorneys, to explore federal prosecution opportunities to enhance case outcomes.
- Maintain a contact list of federal partners and make it available to all law enforcement investigators and prosecutors.

Investigation and prosecution support

U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Homeland Security Investigations (HSI)

- Dedicated human trafficking investigative groups in U.S.–based field offices that work collaboratively with local, state, and tribal law enforcement on labor trafficking investigations, including by participating in approximately 100 human trafficking task forces nationwide.
 - Find links to programs on the “What is Human Trafficking” page at <https://www.ice.gov/features/human-trafficking>.
- Victim assistance specialists to assist victims with access to rights and services to which they are entitled; forensic interview specialists to conduct victim-centered and trauma-informed forensic interviews.
- Assistance for local law enforcement in connecting with law enforcement agencies across state lines to investigate labor trafficking cases.
- HSI’s Parole and Law Enforcement Programs Unit, which manages law enforcement requests for Continued Presence for foreign victims of labor trafficking. Continued Presence is a temporary immigration designation provided to individuals that law enforcement has identified as trafficking victims; it allows them to remain in the United States. The DHS Center for Countering Human Trafficking provides training on Continued Presence.
 - Find more information in the Continued Presence fact sheet at <https://www.ice.gov/doclib/human-trafficking/pdf/continued-presence.pdf>.

U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Federal Bureau of Investigation, Victim Services Division

- Collaboration with local, state, and tribal law enforcement agencies on U.S. citizen–related human trafficking investigations
- Victim Notification System (VNS) providing victims with information regarding their cases, such as charges filed, the offender’s custody status, etc.
 - Find the VNS and other links on the Victim Services page at <https://www.fbi.gov/how-we-can-help-you/victim-services>.

U.S. Marshals Service (USMS)

- Providing assistance and expertise to other law enforcement agencies in support of fugitive investigations, including fugitive task forces
 - Find more information on the Fugitive Task Force page at <https://www.usmarshals.gov/what-we-do/fugitive-investigations/fugitive-task-forces>.

U.S. Department of State, Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (TIP Office)

- The U.S. Advisory Council on Human Trafficking, a platform for survivors of human trafficking to provide recommendations and advise on best practices for federal antitrafficking policies and programming efforts
 - Find more information on the council home page at <https://www.state.gov/u-s-advisory-council-on-human-trafficking/>.
- Diplomatic security, which can provide support through visa and passport investigation
- U.S. consulate investigators

Support related to visas, immigration, and labor

U.S. Department of Labor, Wage and Hour Division (DOL-WHD)

- Civil enforcement of federal labor laws.
 - See the Combatting Labor Exploitation and Human Trafficking page at <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/oasp/resources/trafficking>.
- Identification and referral of potential instances of trafficking in persons.
- Restitution and “wage-owed” calculations—DOL-WHD will compute restitution when requested by prosecutors and testify to the computations at trial. DOL-WHD can also provide technical support to any law enforcement agency that wishes to include mandatory restitution computations in their case.
- Victims do not have to self-report. DOL-WHD will compute restitution or back wages for any employee regardless of their cooperation with law enforcement. DOL-WHD investigates the entire company or enterprise to ensure all workers are protected.
- DOL-WHD can object to the interstate shipment of goods made in violation of federal labor laws.
- Certification of T and U visa applications on behalf of immigrant victims (see explanation of visa types in the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service section).

TIP Office

- Rights and protections for temporary workers.
 - See the TIP home page at <https://www.state.gov/about-us-office-to-monitor-and-combat-trafficking-in-persons/>.
- The Trafficking in Persons Report, which allows survivors of trafficking to tell their stories and offer insight on the path from victim to survivor. It provides law enforcement, advocates, and any other trafficking stakeholders a first-hand account of how survivor engagement leads to more effective criminal justice responses: <https://www.state.gov/trafficking-in-persons-report/>.
- The International Programs Section, which has leveraged more than \$300 million in U.S. foreign aid funding to support more than 960 anti-trafficking projects. The section monitors programs and projects and collaborates on anti-trafficking programs with other government and nongovernment partners.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS)

- Immigration relief: T and U visas
 - The T visa was designed to encourage victims to report their victimization and to work with law enforcement on the investigation or prosecution of crimes committed against them. It allows holders to work in the United States for up to four years, access certain federal benefits, sponsor qualifying family to apply for the T visa, and apply for lawful permanent residency.
 - The U visa was designed to protect noncitizen victims of serious crimes and promote cooperation with law enforcement. It provides lawful status for up to four years, a work permit, and lawful status to qualifying family members.
 - See “Information for Certifying Officials: Law Enforcement, Judges and Other Agencies” at <https://www.uscis.gov/tools/information-for-certifying-officials-law-enforcement-judges-and-other-agencies> for more information.
- Law enforcement declaration or certification

Training and technical assistance (TTA) support

DHS

- Blue Campaign, a national public awareness campaign designed to educate the public, law enforcement agencies, and other partners on indicators of human trafficking and how to appropriately respond to possible cases: <https://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign>.

DOJ

Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office)

- The Partnerships to Address Labor Trafficking toolkit provides resources for law enforcement, businesses, communities, and other stakeholders to identify, respond to, and address labor trafficking and to support its victims and survivors.
 - Find the toolkit and more information on the COPS Office Labor Trafficking page at https://cops.usdoj.gov/labor_trafficking.
- The Collaborative Reform Initiative Technical Assistance Center (CRI-TAC) provides free and customized training and technical assistance to state, local, tribal, campus, and territorial law enforcement agencies in over 60 different topics, including addressing human trafficking: <https://www.collaborativereform.org>.

Office of Justice Programs (OJP), Office for Victims of Crime (OVC)

- OVC is the largest federal funder of anti-trafficking efforts, with more than 470 active awards currently totaling nearly \$350 million. The OVC website offers a variety of training and technical assistance resources for stakeholders serving victims of human trafficking:
 - Access the Human Trafficking overview at <https://ovc.ojp.gov/program/human-trafficking/about-human-trafficking#vxmfb1> for information specific to OVC’s anti-labor trafficking efforts.
 - The Human Trafficking Task Force e-Guide: Development and Operations Roadmap at <https://www.theiacp.org/resources/document/development-operations-roadmap-for-multidisciplinary-anti-human-trafficking-task> is a tool for anti-human trafficking task forces.
 - The Matrix of OVC–Funded Human Trafficking Services Grantees and Task Forces is a searchable list of state task forces specializing in victim services, legal services, law enforcement collaboration, and other service areas: <https://ovc.ojp.gov/matrix-ovc-funded-human-trafficking-services-grantees-and-task-forces>.
 - A full listing of OVC’s training and technical assistance portfolio on addressing human trafficking can be found at <https://ovc.ojp.gov/program/human-trafficking/training-and-technical-assistance>.
- AEquitas delivers training that focuses on prosecuting labor trafficking cases: <https://aequitasresource.org/initiatives/field-generated-human-trafficking/>.
- The International Association of Chief of Police (IACP) offers Anti–Human Trafficking Training and Technical Assistance: <https://www.theiacp.org/projects/anti-human-trafficking-training-and-technical-assistance>.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Office on Trafficking in Persons (OTIP)

- OTIP offers training and technical assistance: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/otip>.
 - The National Human Trafficking Training and Technical Assistance Center (NHTTAC) delivers training and technical assistance to inform and enhance the public health response to human trafficking: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/otip/training/nhttac>.

USCIS

- Provides training for law enforcement and community-based organizations on victim services for human trafficking victims: <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/victims-of-human-trafficking-and-other-crimes/resources-for-victims-of-human-trafficking-and-other-crimes>.

Victim and witness assistance

DOJ

OJP, OVC

- Victim Assistance training online provides web-based training for victim service providers and allied professionals in foundational skills and knowledge: https://www.ovcttac.gov/views/TrainingMaterials/dspOnline_VATOnline.cfm.

FBI, Office for Victim Assistance

- The Office for Victim Assistance can provide help with the following victim services:
 - Short-term needs such as food, clothing, shelter, and medical assistance
 - Access to interpreters and legal and immigration assistance
 - Referrals to nonprofit organizations for long-term needs such as transportation, childcare, education, employment, and mental health counseling
 - FBI victim advocates
- Download the printable Help for Victims of Human Trafficking brochure from https://www.ovcttac.gov/views/TrainingMaterials/dspOnline_VATOnline.cfm.

HHS, ACF, OTIP

- OTIP can provide help with the following victim services:
 - Certification of labor trafficking victims (non-U.S. citizens) to receive federally funded benefits and services (U.S. citizens do not require certification to receive services)
 - Victim services such as food, health care, and employment assistance; skills training; and English language instruction
 - Referrals to nonprofit organizations for counseling, long-term needs, case management, and additional services as needed
- Find out more from the OTIP Labor Trafficking fact sheet at <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/archive/otip/fact-sheet/fact-sheet-labor-trafficking-english>.

USMS

- The USMS provides relocation and protection for victims who testify against their traffickers through the Witness Security Program: <https://www.usmarshals.gov/what-we-do/witness-security>.



This publication, *Federal Resources to Aid in Labor Trafficking Investigations*, was developed as part of the Partnerships to Address Labor Trafficking project, designed to improve awareness, responsiveness, and accountability on labor trafficking among law enforcement, businesses, communities, the courts, and other stakeholders. It provides links to and descriptions of resources provided by various components of the Federal Government to help investigate and prosecute labor trafficking and support victims.



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To obtain details about COPS Office programs,
call the COPS Office Response Center at 800-421-6770.

Visit the COPS Office online at cops.usdoj.gov.