



SAFE HOUSE CERTIFICATION

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YOUR WORK IS LIFE CHANGING

Without proper aftercare, 80% of trafficking victims will be re-victimized. This is a shocking statistic on its own, but when you consider the fact that victim identification is only at 1%, it draws everything into perspective: Aftercare is imperative to a survivor's ability to recover and heal from their trafficking experience.

Programs offering residential aftercare services have the opportunity to create real change, to offer survivors a life worth living, free of re-traumatization and overwhelming trauma responses, and the ability to facilitate the restoration and abundant life survivors deserve.

Certification elevates the incredible work that safe house programs are doing on behalf of survivors. It articulates to donors, foundations, government agencies, and other non-profits the life changing impact of these programs. Certification provides clarity on the standards and best practices needed to serve survivors.



Safe House Certification drives industry standards to improve safe house programming for trafficking survivors. Safe house programs provide ethical, safe, therapeutic, well resourced, and sustainable residential programs to survivors to help them break the cycle of victimization.

www.safehouseproject.org/certification

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BENEFITS

Safe House Certification is a voluntary process that recognizes the quality of a safe house program and assists in highlighting improvements by evaluating it against industry standards. Safe House Certification of aftercare programs for survivors of trafficking stems from a belief that therapeutic care and residential housing is necessary to help break the cycle of victimization for trafficking survivors, and that driving programs to excel in aftercare support will decrease the re-victimization rate.



National Standards

Safe House Programs are evaluated on their ability to meet national standards developed by industry professionals, including survivor consultants, peers, mental health professionals, physicians, and financial managers.



Survivor Review

Another benefit of certification is that it is reviewed by survivors of trafficking who understand the needs, value and challenges of restorative care and seek to see the national landscape elevated to meet the needs of future survivors.



Continual Improvement

Aftercare certification demonstrates an organization's commitment to self-assessment, to improving quality of care, and to adopting new methodologies to improve the effectiveness of their program.



Attract Donors

Certification establishes confidence with potential donors, foundations, and government granting agencies.



Community Engagement

Participation in the certification process affirms a commitment to quality and accountability to community members and increases local sustainability, community involvement and volunteerism.

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ELIGIBILITY

Non-profit organizations who operate full-time emergency, long-term, and/or transitional aftercare programs serving international, undocumented, and domestic trafficking survivors in the United States.

Frequently Asked Questions

Our organization serves undocumented or international survivors, are we eligible for certification?

Yes, as long as the survivor was trafficked in the United States.

Our organization serves individuals who experienced sexual exploitation while being labor trafficked?

Yes, you are eligible for certification.

Our organization has a bed in our domestic violence or homeless youth shelter available for a trafficking survivor, are we eligible for certification?

Yes. Organizations who serve multiple demographics can apply if they have trafficking specific programming or services.

Our organization provides residential treatment during the week, but sends participants home over the weekend, are we eligible for certification?

No. Due to the number of immeasurable or uncontrollable aspects of a care model that does partial residential treatment, programs that are not full time residential do not qualify as residential care programs under our certification model and are not eligible for certification.

Our residential program has been open for less than a year, are we eligible?

Yes. Programs open less than a year may only qualify for the bronze badge. Programs open for a year or longer will receive, if chosen to receive certification, can receive gold or silver.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Safe House Project's Survivor Leaders have compiled the best practices in evaluating aftercare programs for trafficking survivors from partners, survivor leaders, and industry experts from all over the country.

The industry-endorsed standards and guidelines aim to validate and improve your management, governance, and operations. Safe House Certification is a pathway to improved operations and enhanced effectiveness of your residential aftercare program. Over time these best practices will turn into normal practice for your organization.

01

Organizational Structure & Compliance

02

Residential Program & Services

03

Governance & Executive Leadership

04

Financial Management

05

Specialized Services (if applicable)

CERTIFICATION PROCESS

Safe House Project makes applying for certification easy through our online application, but we are always here to help. Certification provides you with a report and experience that gives your nonprofit greater insight into how your program compares to industry standards. Eligible nonprofits can apply for certification at any time.

STAGES	ORGANIZATION ACTIVITIES	SAFE HOUSE ACTIVITIES
Prepare for Certification Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review eligibility & guidelines• Assign a certification coordinator• Start to compile necessary documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Available for phone or email consultation to answer any questions.
Apply for Safe House Certification	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prepare application responses, narratives and all documentation• Answer questions and upload documentation to the online portal.• Submit your application and Application Review Fee	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Schedule Review Team• Answer any questions that may arise while completing the application
Review, Site Visit, & Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pay Site Visit Review Fee• Schedule site visit• Site visit occurs• Submit certification experience evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Application and Narrative reviewed and scored• Review Documentation Uploaded and note additional documents needed.• Compile Interview Questions• Compile pre-site visit questions• Review Team conducts site visit and compiles feedback• Certification Lead completes final report
Safe House Certification Decision		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Certification Board meets and determines certification decision• Organization is notified of the decision• Safe House provides certified organizations with marketing materials

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BADGES

Once certified, we will provide you with an official badge you can proudly display on your website, in documentation, in email signatures, and any other promotional materials to reflect your commitment to providing the best aftercare support to trafficking survivors in the nation.



Gold Safe House Badge

Gold badges are reserved for programs offering the highest level of survivor care. Programs with a gold badge are meeting industry best-practices overall, and continually pushing themselves through self-assessment and survivor feedback to continue elevating their program. Certification is held for 3 years.



Silver Safe House Badge

Awarded to programs providing the second highest level of care. Programs with a silver badge are offering program and services that meet many industry best-practices, with notable room for improvement. Silver badge recipients are committed to serving survivors and working toward continuous improvement in their standard of care. Certification is held for 2 years.



Bronze Safe House Badge

Bronze badges are awarded to organizations achieving the industry's basic level of survivor care, but reflects minimal best-practices and has marked room for improvement. Certification is held for 1 year.



Specialized Care Badge

Specialized Care Badges are awarded to programs seeking to serve all survivors, including those requiring specialized care. This badge is reserved for programs equipped to assist survivors with disabilities and other complex physical and mental health needs. Specialized Care Badge recipients are committed to providing special needs survivors care that meets industry best-practices.



Emerging Leader Badge

Emerging Leader Badges are awarded to programs who have been operating a residential program for less than one-year and who have undergone a baseline review of their organization. Certification is held for 1 year.

NEXT STEPS

- 01 Fill out the Inquiry Form at safehouseproject.org/certification
- 02 A member of the Safe House Project Certification Team will schedule your consultation call to confirm your eligibility and discuss your investment to achieve certification. Please make sure your executive director or program director are present for this call.
- 03 Following the consult call, your organization will be provided the weblink to apply for Safe House Certification.



"Establishing standards of care is of critical importance to ensuring that survivors of trafficking receive only the best services that are designed and delivered to meet their individualized needs. I am so thankful for Safe House Project's leadership, filling a much needed gap in the field and helping to secure the rights of victims of crime as they go through the healing process."

- Bill Woolf, former Acting Director, Office for Victims of Crime, US Department of Justice

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