



UNITING TO END DOMESTIC TRAFFICKING

**2022 GRANT ANALYSIS &
2023 SAFE HOUSE PROJECT GRANT DETAILS**

April 2023

2022 Safe House Project Grant Analysis

In 2022, Safe House Project received applications from organizations across the United States to increase the capacity of and remove barriers to residential restorative care programs serving trafficking survivors. The following report outlines how these programs seek to serve trafficking survivors in their communities.

Thank you to each of these programs for helping to bring hope, freedom, and a future to trafficking survivors. Your work changes lives.

97

Program Applications Received

32

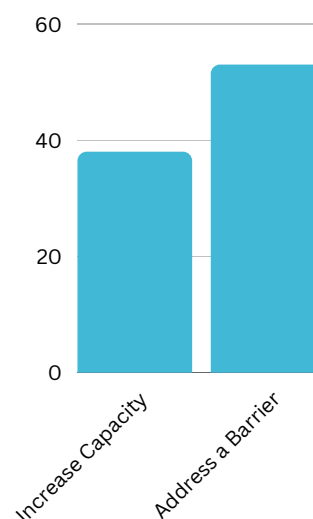
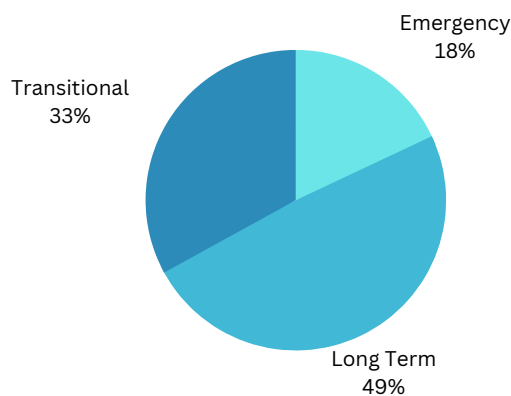
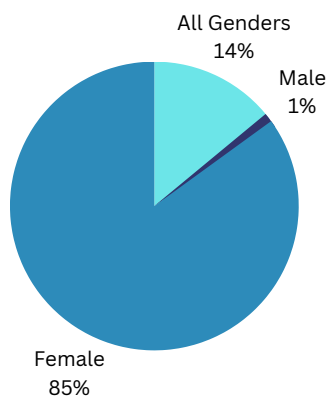
States Represented

18%

Brand New Programs

97 programs applied for Safe House Project funding, 18% of which were brand new organizations. Long-term restorative care programs serving adult women accounted for the largest number of applications among all program types.

High Level Breakdown of Applicants



A study published in the [National Library of Medicine](#) defines the continuum of care as "an integrated system that guides and tracks trafficking survivors over time through comprehensive services spanning all levels of intensity of care." For survivors of trafficking, this includes programs categorized as emergency and stabilization services, long-term residential programming, transitional programming, and continued community-based services.

Emergency Housing & Stabilization

Emergency safe housing helps stabilize survivors in crisis and is critical to establishing the continuum of care for trafficking survivors. Escaping a trafficking situation is overwhelming. Often, survivors require immediate services to meet their basic needs of safety, food, shelter, and emergency medical care.

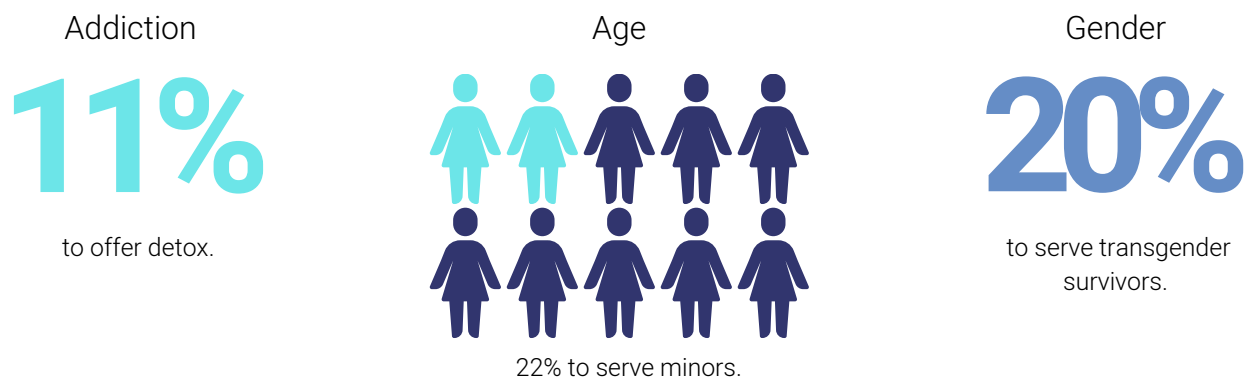
Emergency programs can assist a survivor in escaping their trafficker, as well as provide mental health evaluations, substance detoxification, and future resource planning.

Emergency providers facilitate emergency medical or psychiatric care for victims, while giving them agency to determine their next steps toward a coherent restoration plan and successful recovery.

Emergency programs are staffed by trauma-informed professionals and are ideally able to help with the following:

- Acute trauma care
- Psychiatric assessments
- Medical detoxification
- Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) examinations
- Law enforcement engagement for the prosecution of traffickers
- Emergency housing
- Individualized placement recommendations and referrals into long-term programming

Well-trained and well-resourced emergency placement helps stabilize and provide resources for survivors, which is an imperative first step in restorative care for sex trafficking survivors according to the [Department of Health and Human Services](#). Survivors are given a place to receive emergency services while supporting them in making informed decisions about long-term healing opportunities that help them remain out of exploitation and decrease the chance of re-victimization.



Long-Term Residential Care

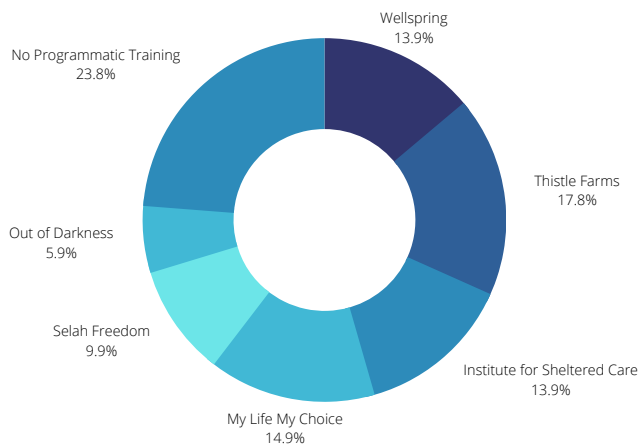
Following escape from a trafficking situation, survivors of human trafficking often require therapeutic care to address trauma and build the skills necessary to find independence. Long-term, residential care provides opportunities for extensive healing and effective societal reintegration for survivors of trafficking.

These programs, which provide long-term, residential care for six months to two years, assist survivors in overcoming the trauma resulting from their victimization and provide safe housing, addiction treatment, life skills training, career and education pathways, and case management that facilitates independent living.

Long-term restorative care programs provide psychiatric, therapeutic, and medical care that is necessary for a survivor's well-being following the crisis stabilization phase. These programs also offer practical tools to help a survivor to reintegrate into society, find financial independence, and avoid re-victimization through healing the effects of complex trauma. In order to facilitate these goals that set survivors up for success, programs utilize:

- Survivor-informed and trauma-informed care practices
- Approved therapeutic treatment modalities for complex PTSD administered by licensed clinicians
- Curriculum around exploitation, safe interpersonal relationships, and addiction recovery
- Access to medical, dental, and psychiatric care
- Access to education and career planning
- Safe housing
- Social and emotional support provided via strengths-based care plans
- Case management regarding independent living and the survivor's future

Training & Technical Assistance

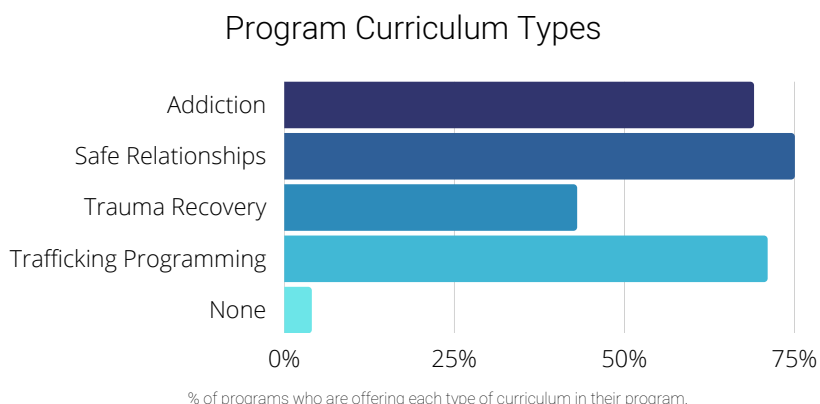


Programs receive training from a variety of sources. Training is a critical step in the launch process for organizations to establish a programmatically sound, sustainable, well-resourced, and safe environment for survivors to start their healing journey. Through mentorship from leading programmatic trainers, organizations receive the necessary guidance in building survivor-focused, trauma-informed programs that break the cycle of victimization.

Programmatic Trainers

[Institute for Sheltered Care](#) | [My Life My Choice](#) | [Out of Darkness](#) |
[Selah Freedom](#) | [Thistle Farms](#) | [Wellspring Living Institute](#)

Resident Life Overview



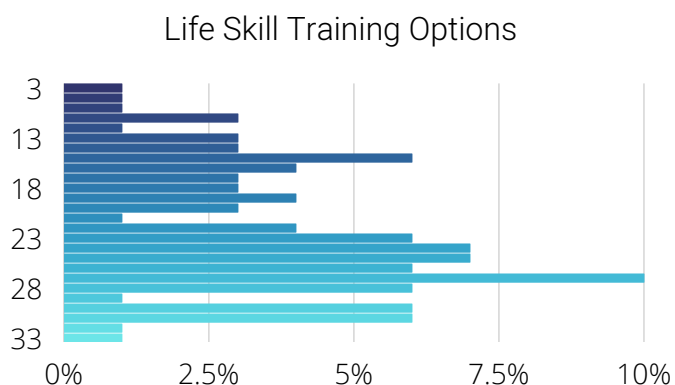
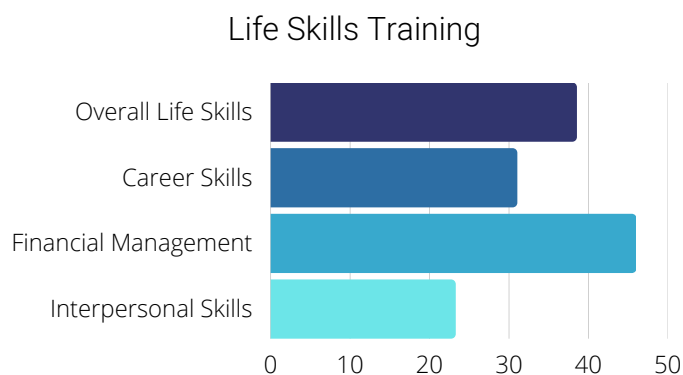
At every phase, programs utilize a variety of curriculums that help survivors overcome addiction and trauma, as well as help them understand how to establish safe relationships with healthy boundaries. 71% of programs provide trafficking-specific programs that highlight tactics traffickers use to recruit and re-recruit victims. This type of educational program helps break the trauma bond between the participant and their trafficker.

Life Skill Training

Life skills training is an essential component of programming. Survivors should have the opportunity to learn basic to advanced life skills to which they previously did not have access. In a study funded by the Department of Justice, researchers found that life skills training was one of the resources survivors wanted in order to more easily reintegrate into society.

Life skills training in long-term programs usually includes a combination of the following but differs based on the population served:

- Education - Educational opportunities that assist survivors in pursuing their academic goals.
- Financial Responsibility - Budgeting, taxes, and bill pay.
- House Management - Cooking, house cleaning, and grocery shopping.
- Interpersonal Relationships - Healthy boundaries, communication styles, and healthy relationships.
- Parenting Classes - Parenting classes and access to legal services for child custody situations.
- Personal Care - Hygiene and grooming, self-care, and sleep hygiene.
- Professionalism - Interviewing, resume writing, phone etiquette, college and job applications, and other relevant job-related curriculum.



The mean number of life skill training options available to participants is 5 variations.

Transitional Residential Care

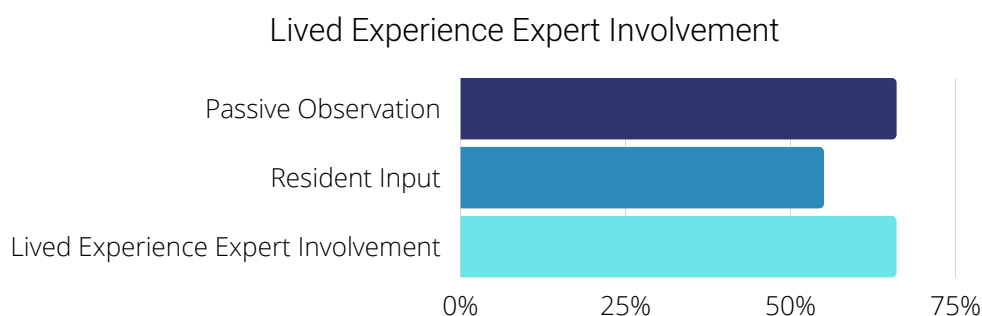
Transitional housing options provide survivors of trafficking with ongoing opportunities for healing free of re-victimization and are a necessary component of the continuum of care. Once a survivor reaches stabilization and begins moving toward independence, they often need extended support services to continue their forward momentum and successfully reintegrate into traditional workforces and independent living.

Transitional living opportunities provide survivors the ability to continue their healing through ongoing social, emotional, and therapeutic support with more freedom and autonomy than in previous stages of the continuum of care while pursuing their educational and/or vocational goals.

Transitional programs facilitate ongoing therapeutic care, mentorship, and social support while providing survivors with a safe and encouraging environment to live in as they reenter the world. Transitional programs employ staff members who are well-equipped to provide ongoing support to survivors through:

- Continued therapeutic, trauma-informed care
- Educational and career opportunities
- Addiction support to decrease the risk of relapse
- Assistance with transportation
- Supportive communal living
- Individualized case management and personalized resources as needed

Transitional programs increase a survivor's likelihood of finding sustainable housing and employment while decreasing the chances of re-victimization. Transitional living models act as a launching pad for a survivor into the world and give them a safe place to land as they encounter new experiences with a lens marked by trauma.

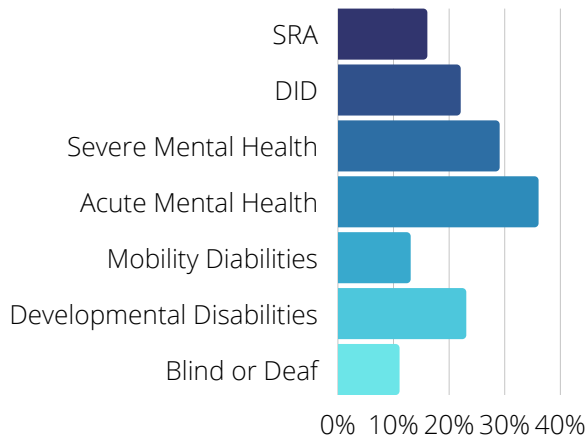


Lived Experience Expert (LEE) involvement is vital to every stage of program development and implementation. Consultation and employment requests should be based on the individual skills and interests of a LEE and not solely on lived experience alone. LEE involvement should represent the demographics served as much as possible and ideally come from multiple LEEs.

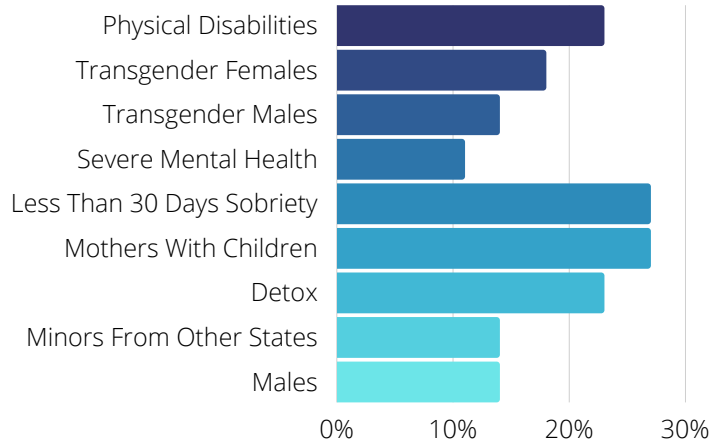
Decreasing Barriers to Care

People who have experienced trafficking continue to encounter barriers when they attempt to exit crises and enter restorative care. Less than 30% of programs are equipped with specialized care for the demographics of survivors who are critically underserved.

Percent of Programs Fully Equipped to Serve Survivors with the following considerations.

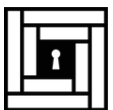
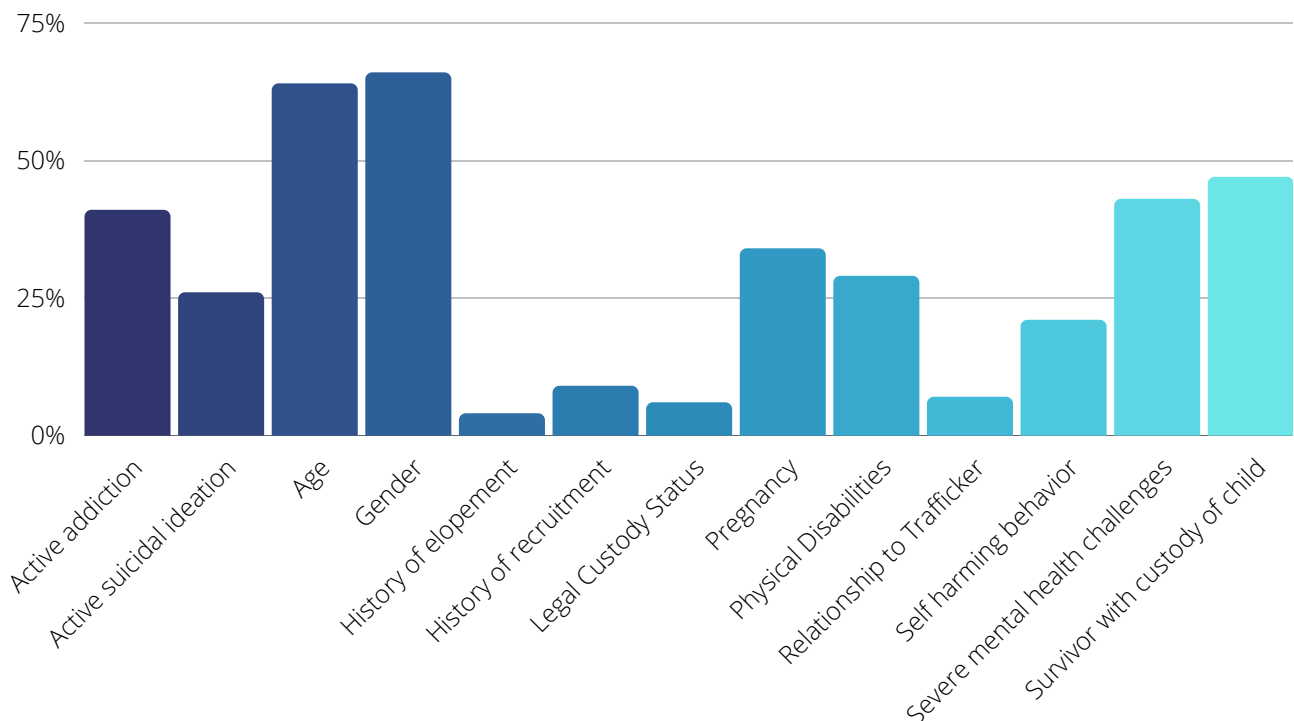


Percent of Programs Seeking to Address the Following Barriers to Care in 2022



Accessibility of services is an integral part of restorative care for trafficking survivors. Particularly vulnerable demographics such as transgender adults, parenting people, and those with severe mental health challenges, active addictions, or physical disabilities continue to find entrance into restorative care challenging.

Percent of Programs Disqualify Participants Based on the Following Criteria



Opportunities to Continue to Decrease Barriers

The following are opportunities for programs to expand services or for new programs to respond to some of the deepest needs in survivor care. The following are variables that Safe House Project, its anti-trafficking partners, law enforcement, and survivors themselves have faced when seeking placement into a safe house program (ordered based on deepest barriers in 2022):

Mental Health - Survivors with severe mental health disorders, including schizophrenia, dissociative identity disorder, and paranoia have limited access to programs due to the additional staff and resources required to serve them.

Addiction Level - Few emergency programs offer medical detoxification or have an established relationship with a hospital or rehab facility to help a survivor with an active addiction. Therefore, survivors exiting their trafficking situation often find themselves unable to find emergency services to detox, which means they fail to meet the minimum of 30 days of sobriety required by many long-term programs. Free or Medicaid-accepting medical detox facilities are few and vary by state.

Gender - The majority of beds available in restorative care are available to cisgender females, leaving cisgender males and transgender adults without access to care.

Minors - Most states do not have residential programs for minor victims of trafficking. Programs serving minors require extensive licensing and are costly to operate. Many programs that serve minors from the child welfare system do not receive adequate compensation from the state's Child Protective Services agency to provide effective therapeutic care. Furthermore, finding placement for a youth who is not in child welfare custody or who needs to leave the state becomes even more difficult whilst involving slow-moving systems.

Mother/Child - Without restorative care homes available that can accommodate children, mothers often remain in their trafficking situation and/or without restorative care for fear of losing their children to the system or their trafficker. There are currently only a handful of restorative care programs licensed and able to accommodate parenting survivors. These homes may require additional licensing to provide support to both mothers and children.

Physical Disabilities - For survivors with physical disabilities, there are few programs across the country that are ADA-compliant and have the additional staff necessary to provide quality care to all participants. If those programs do not have availability, survivors receive inadequate services or no services at all.

Physical Health - Survivors who are experiencing complex health challenges and require more doctor's appointments or ongoing medical support are often disqualified from a program due to the need for additional staff to adequately serve all participants or the lack of partnership with healthcare providers.

State Resource Guide

In January 2023 Safe House Project released an evaluation of survivor identification & safe housing by state which included state & federal policy recommendations to improve the identification of and support for trafficking survivors through residential safe house programs. States were evaluated based on the inclusivity of their continuum of care across age and gender.

As you apply for funding, understand that Safe House Project operates under a "find the gaps, fund the gaps" mentality. Safe House Project seeks to employ grant funding to serve under-resourced survivors creating equitable access to continuums of care nationwide.

Priority funding will go to programs that can show they will be delivering quality care to survivors lacking resources in their state or filling a gap in the continuum of care in their area.

You are welcome to use this resource guide to see how your program may be addressing holes in your state's landscape.

<https://safehouseproject.org/state-resource-guides>



2023 Safe House Project Grant Information

Overview

Safe House Project partners with local organizations throughout the United States serving trafficking survivors through therapeutic residential care by providing funding and mentorship. To date, Safe House Project has helped fund 272 new beds in the national landscape and believes that through collaboration and partnership, the anti-trafficking industry can eradicate trafficking. Thank you for uniting with us. We look forward to hearing about your incredible work.

Eligibility

501c(3) organizations located in the United States providing or seeking to provide therapeutic residential care for sex trafficking survivors.

Funding Priorities

Capacity Building: New or expanding programs providing residential services to sex trafficking survivors may apply. Programs must show how they are increasing the national capacity of care for trafficking victims.

Decreasing Barriers to Care: Existing programs may show how they are increasing the opportunities for victim services by decreasing barriers to care. For example, a program that has historically been unable to serve those with extreme mental health challenges is seeking funds to provide psychiatric care to victims to provide more victims with opportunities for placement.

Grant Deadlines

LOI Opens: April 1, 2023

Grant Cycle Opens: May 1, 2023

Grant Cycle Closes: July 15, 2023

The second-round organization interviews will be conducted in August and September.

Grant Decisions Announced: November 2023

Grant Funds Dispersed: December 2023

Questions? Please email us at info@safehouseproject.org