



UNITING TO END DOMESTIC TRAFFICKING

**2021 GRANT ANALYSIS &
2022 SAFE HOUSE PROJECT GRANT DETAILS**

March 2022

2021 Safe House Project Grant Analysis

In 2021, Safe House Project received applications from organizations from across the United States to increase capacity of residential restorative care programs serving trafficking survivors. The following report outlines how these programs seek to serve trafficking survivors in their community.

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

56

Applications Received

28

States Represented

18

Brand New Programs

56 programs applied for Safe House Project funding, 32% 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.

Continuum of Care Breakdown for Applicants

Program Types (Emergency, Long-term, Transitional)	All Genders	Female	Male	TOTALS
2 Types	8%	16%	0%	24%
All Types	0%	2%	0%	2%
Emergency	2%	15%	1.5%	18.5%
Long-Term	2%	27%	1.5%	30.5%
Transitional	0%	25%	0%	25%
TOTALS	12%	85%	3%	100%

A study published in the [National Library of Medicine](#) defines 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 need 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 next steps towards a coherent restoration plan and successful recovery. Emergency programs are staffed by trauma-informed professionals and can ideally help with the following:

- Acute trauma care
- Psychiatric assessments
- Medical detox
- SANE examinations
- Law enforcement engagement for prosecution of traffickers
- Emergency housing
- Individualized placement recommendations and referrals into long-term programming

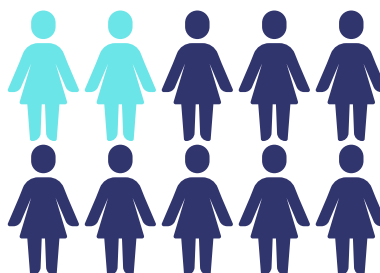
Well-trained and well-resourced emergency placement helps stabilize and provide resources for trafficking survivors, which is an imperative first step in restorative care for sex trafficking survivors according to the Department of Health and Human Services. Survivors are given a place to receive emergency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

Addiction

9%

to offer detox.

Age



22% to serve minors.

Gender

19%

to serve transgender survivors.

Long-Term Residential Care

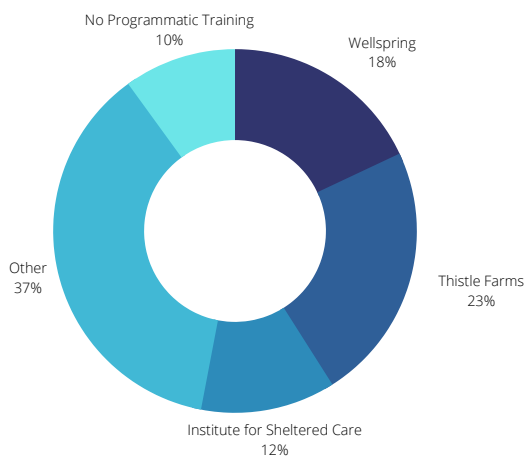
Following escape from their trafficking situation, survivors of human trafficking often require therapeutic care to address trauma and build the skills necessary to find independence after their trafficking situation. Long-term, residential care provides opportunities for extensive healing and effective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

These programs, which can provide long-term, residential care for six months to two years, can assist survivors in overcoming the trauma that has resulted 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 the necessary tools for 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:

- 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 received 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

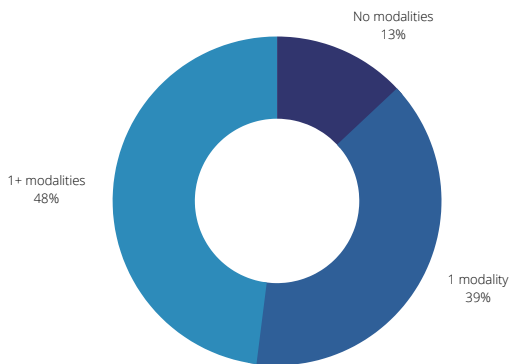
[Institute for Sheltered Care](#) | [My Life My Choice](#) | [National Trafficking Sheltered Alliance](#) | [Out of Darkness](#) | [Refuge DMST](#)

[Selah Freedom](#) | [Thistle Farms](#) | [Wellspring Living Institute](#)

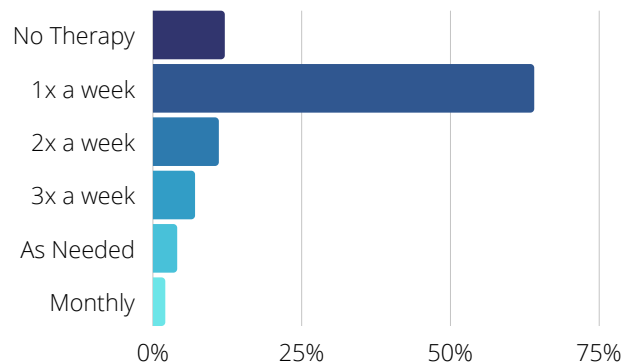
Accessibility of Healthcare Services for Trafficking Survivors

Organizations should have multiple research-based, trauma-informed therapeutic approaches, such as EMDR, TF-CBT, ART (Accelerated Resolution Therapy), equine therapy, art therapy, music therapy, etc. The type(s) of therapy offered will depend on where the program falls in the continuum of care. For instance, residents in a long-term program often require more appointments per week than a resident in a transitional program, and therapy offered in an emergency program will most likely be focused on crisis intervention while processing therapies are utilized in long-term programs.

Trauma-Informed Therapeutic Modalities

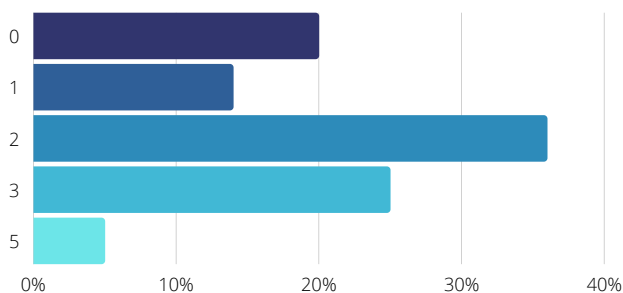


Therapy Schedule



Accessibility of services is an integral part of restorative care for trafficking survivors. In many instances, these healthcare interventions will be the first accurate, appropriate treatment that survivors receive both during and following their trafficking experience. According to this [Loyola University study](#), proper treatment of both the physical and psychiatric impacts of trauma are a necessary element in the rehabilitation of survivors, allowing them to reintegrate into society and live healthy, functional lives.

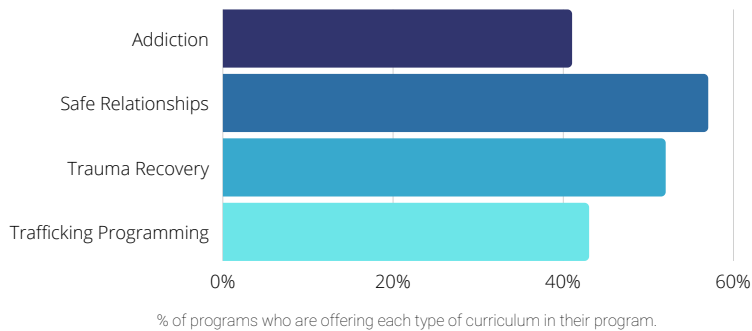
Number of Creative Arts Therapy Options



According to the [American Psychological Association](#), creative arts therapy includes "therapeutic interventions that use artistic endeavors or mediums, such as music, poetry, dance, and drama, to facilitate communication and emotional expression, enhance self-awareness, and foster health and change." These therapies can include art, dance, and music therapies.

Resident Life Overview

Program Curriculum Types



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. 43% 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.

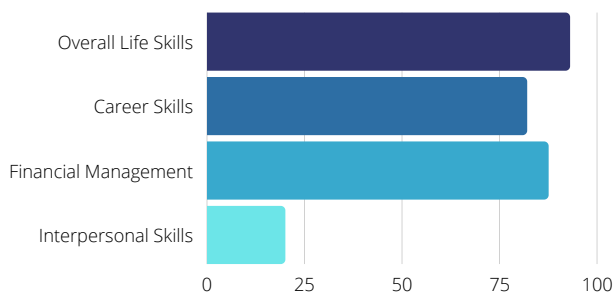
Life Skill Training

Life skills training is an essential component of programming. Survivors should have the opportunity to learn the 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 were one of the resources survivors wanted in order to more easily reintegrate into society.

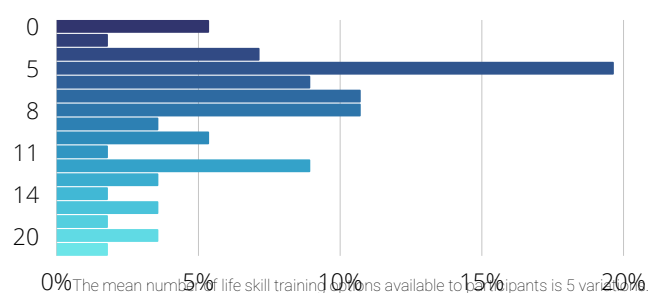
Life skills training in long-term programs usually includes a combination of the following, but will differ based on population served:

- 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.

Life Skills Training



Life Skill Training Options



Transitional Residential Care

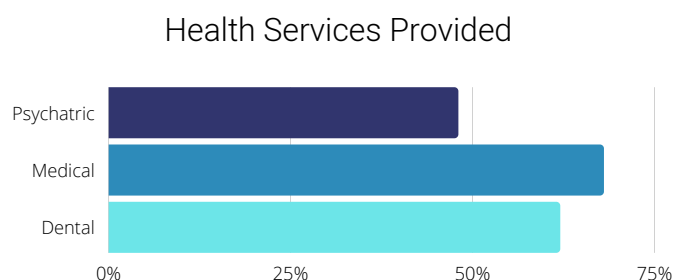
Transitional housing options provide survivors of trafficking ongoing opportunity for healing free of re-victimization and are a necessary component of the continuum of care. Once a survivor has found stabilization and has begun moving toward independence, they often need extended support services in order 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, all while pursuing their educational and/or vocational goals.

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

- Continued therapeutic, trauma-informed care
- Educational and career opportunities
- Addiction support to decrease 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 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.



In a transitional program, survivors should have continued access to physical and psychiatric health services. This may include assisting the survivor in applying for government-funded insurance or finding employment opportunities that offer insurance coverage.

2021 Barriers to Equitable Care for Trafficking Survivors

The following are opportunities for programs to expand services or 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.

Addiction Level - Few emergency programs offer medical detox or have an established relationship with a hospital/rehab facility to help a survivor with 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.

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 who 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. As a result, minor victims are often placed into group homes, foster care, juvenile detention centers, drug treatment programs, or mental health facilities. Rarely are these programs equipped with the training to effectively serve trafficking victims and break cycles of victimization.

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

Mental Health - Survivors with severe mental health disorders, including schizophrenia, Dissociative Identity Disorder, and Borderline Personality Disorder have limited access to programs due to the additional staff and resources required to serve those with severe mental health challenges.

Mother/Child - Without restorative care homes available that can accommodate children, mothers 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 mother and children.

Physical Disabilities - For survivors with physical disabilities, there are few programs across the country that are ADA compliant, and have 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 additional doctor appointments or ongoing medical support are often disqualified from a program due to needing additional staff to adequately serve all participants or lack of partnership with healthcare providers.

2022 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 which 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, 2022

Grant Cycle Opens: May 1, 2022

Grant Cycle Closes: July 15, 2022

Second round organization interviews will be conducted in August and September

Grant Decisions Announced: October 2022

Grant Funds Dispersed: November 2022

Questions? Please email us at info@safehouseproject.org