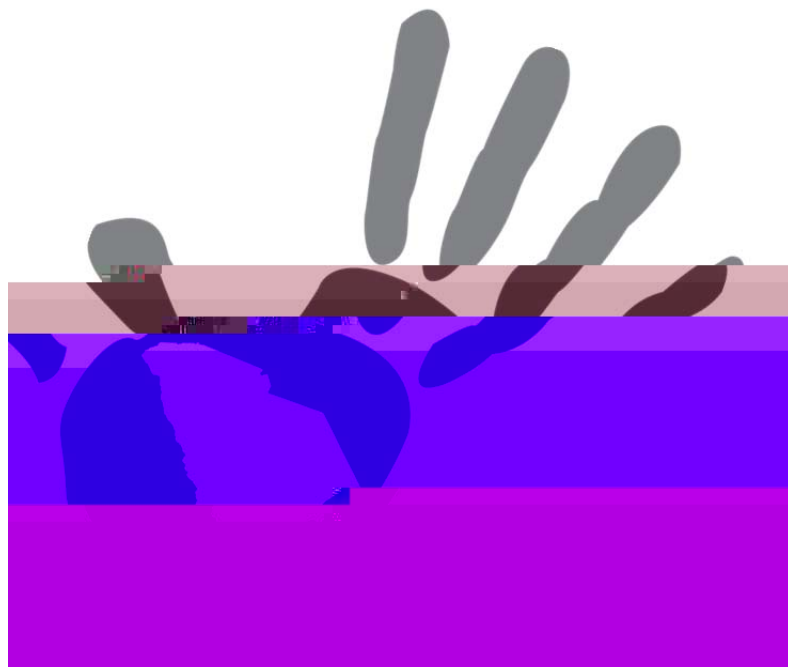




Attorney General's  
Executive Summary  
of the  
South Carolina State Plan  
to Address  
Human Trafficking







## The Victims

- Victims can be of any race, age, gender, national origin, immigration status, educational background, culture, or religion.
- Traffickers tend to prey on victims who exhibit vulnerabilities.
- Because victims may not be in a position to seek help, it is imperative to look for red flags and indicators that an individual could be a victim of human trafficking. These red flags may manifest psychologically or physically.

## South Carolina State Plan: an Overview

### Determining the Magnitude of Human Trafficking



- should be developed to address a potential human trafficking situation for emergency rooms, public health clinics, community based centers, and forensic nurse examiners.
3. Provide training for law enforcement, firefighters, emergency medical service providers, and other first responders on identifying human trafficking when responding to an emergency. Include training on situations where human trafficking might unexpectedly arise while on a call for a seemingly unrelated incident.
  4. Provide training for victim advocacy groups and social service providers (including DSS and Guardians ad Litem) on how to recognize human trafficking, how to assist with an investigation, and how best to support and help with reluctant victims.
  5. Provide information and training to labor agencies about how to recognize potential labor trafficking situations and how to oversee businesses so that labor exploitation does not happen. Create a protocol for labor agencies in the event there is a potential human trafficking situation.
  6. Educate child protective services case workers and investigators on how to recognize human trafficking, and create a protocol on whom to call when dealing with children who might be potential human trafficking victims (including foster children and runaways).
  7. Raise awareness of human trafficking with economic services case managers at the Department of Social Services (DSS), who conduct interviews and determine eligibility for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, family independence, and other forms of assistance. Human trafficking victims may apply for economic and monetary benefits from DSS, so caseworkers should be educated about human trafficking.

**Finding 2: There is a lack of sufficient funding for, access to, and availability of resources for groups that provide services to victims of human trafficking.**

◆ Recommendations:

1. Create a South Carolina human trafficking website or resource guide that provides quick reference to available resources for victims that may be used by law enforcement, prosecutors, service providers, or other agencies that encounter victims in the state.
2. Attempt to obtain new funding to address specific needs for both national and foreign national victims.
3. Utilize federal agencies to obtain additional funds for use by state divisions and nongovernmental organizations.
4. Consider tapping into federal refugee medical assistance, which allows foreign national human trafficking victims to qualify for free medical coverage if they are categorized as low income. Recruit more nongovernmental organizations to enroll in the Health and Human Services National Human Trafficking Victim Assistance Program so that they may obtain funding needed to provide case management for foreign national victims.
5. Utilize extra-governmental sources of funding to assist victims of human trafficking.
  - a. Partner with the private sector.
  - b. Develop strategies to increase financial support for nongovernmental organizations and community advocacy groups already involved or willing to partner with and provide services in anti-trafficking efforts.
6. Address issues that may arise with foster agencies, group homes, and similar organizations that may house youth vulnerable to trafficking.
7. Address the need for human trafficking victims to have easy, ready access to comprehensive legal services to ensure their safety, obtain access to social services, protect their rights as victims of crimes, and pursue any remedies or other legal assistance that may be available to them.

**Finding 3: South Carolina does not have adequate shelter space to meet the needs of human trafficking victims.**

◆ Recommendations:

1. Provide access to emergency shelters for both male and female victims of human trafficking. The emergency shelter options should include separate shelter space for minors and staff with specialized training on the needs of human trafficking victims.

2. Place shelters or available bed space at various locations around the state, so that access and transport is not an issue in getting a victim to a shelter.
3. Identify, support, and compile a list of nongovernmental organizations that are willing to provide shelter, and specify what types of victims these groups are able to assist.
4. Utilize and work alongside out-of-state shelters that may be able to house human trafficking victims from South Carolina or that would be able to otherwise assist South Carolina in developing available shelters for victims.
5. Support development of a variety of shelter and housing options in South Carolina. Increase access to transitional housing after emergency shelter stays for both male and female victims.
6. Increase training and capacity of agencies and service providers that work with vulnerable youth, including child protective service providers, DSS contractors, and foster parents.

**Finding 4: There is a lack of understanding and awareness of the various immigration benefits for non-citizen victims of human trafficking, which are essential to victim safety and prosecution.**

Recommendations:

1. Develop protocols for requesting assistance from federal law enforcement agencies in the submission of Continued Presence applications.
2. Develop protocols for law enforcement, prosecutors, judges, the Department of Social Services, the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, and other qualifying agencies when signing certifications for T and U visas for potential trafficking victims.
- 3.



3. Create a comprehensive contact list and information resource guide for human trafficking cases. Have contacts and information for all aspects of a human trafficking case. Consider including this in a multiagency protocol.
4. Develop a tracking system for traffickers, trafficking activities, and even locations of victims, especially to keep track of “hot spots” and places where trafficking is more likely to happen.
5. Create a website where information about human trafficking can be easily shared, accessed, and discussed among law enforcement, prosecutors, and victim services providers.

**Finding 3: The lack of trained law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and judges prevents opportunities to arrest, prosecute, and sentence human traffickers.**

◆ Recommendations:

1. Provide training on human trafficking through The South Carolina Commission on Prosecution Coordination for prosecutors, prosecution investigators, prosecution victim advocates, law enforcement officers, and law enforcement victim advocates in order to strengthen the possibility of successful prosecution of cases.
2. Include a two-hour segment on human trafficking at The South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy (CJA) during its basic training for all law enforcement officers. Include human trafficking segments in the CJA’s advanced/continuing education programming, and train law enforcement officers to develop good working relationships with other law enforcement agencies and prosecutors in order to strengthen the possibilities for successful human trafficking prosecutions.
3. Involve the South Carolina Court Administration in incorporating the topic of human trafficking in mandated judicial training (for all courts).
4. Develop protocols for law enforcement, prosecutors, and judges for all aspects of human trafficking, including when subpoenas (used in state courts) and material witness warrants (used in federal courts) are useful.
5. Consider appointing a dedicated human trafficking officer in each police department and sheriff’s office when economically feasible. When these officers are established, consider sharing a list of their names with prosecutors at all levels.
6. Provide training for law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies on working with vulnerable populations.

## Preventing Human Trafficking in South Carolina

**Finding 1: There is inadequate enforcement of existing rules and regulations in South Carolina.**

◆ Recommendations:

1. Reexamine and consider the effectiveness of current laws and procedures as they relate to individuals involved in and victims of both labor trafficking and sex trafficking.
2. Make training programs on human trafficking and the consequences of being involved in human trafficking available for employers.
  - a. Consider creating an incentive for businesses to participate in these types of training programs.
  - b. Provide a pamphlet educating business owners on human trafficking, and have it available at the city business license office or other agencies where business owners may visit.
3. Provide funding and make available training for regulatory agencies.



