

Spotlight on Direct Service Gaps:

The Landscape of Comprehensive Care
for Adult Survivors of Trafficking

Highlights From The Report

As a direct service provider that exists to make freedom real for survivors of human trafficking in the United States, Restore developed this report to shed light on the many gaps in services for survivors and provide organizations serving adult survivors a central source of data for strategic planning as it relates to direct services. By comparing needs and gaps from the perspective of survivors and other service providers, reviewing availability of services at the national and state levels, and considering the ideas for improvement offered, Restore hopes organizations can refine their approach to growth for the next three to five years so survivors can have access to the resources they need to thrive.

With a clearer path to improve services for survivors, organizations can also accelerate partnerships within local anti-trafficking task forces and further mobilize support from financial partners, businesses, government and other stakeholders. In this way, the field can counter the sophisticated business model behind the growing crime of human trafficking, which **currently impacts an estimated 1,091,000 people in the United States**. This figure represents a 170% increase versus the **estimated number of people in trafficking situations in 2018**.

Key Findings

- **While progress has been made, there is still an urgent need to bridge persistent gaps:** service providers, funders, and government must continue to refine their efforts on multi-sector collaboration, survivor leadership, technology, and funding, to effectively help survivors achieve their life goals.
- **Low availability of services relative to survivors expressed needs:** survivors lack employment assistance, education/training, and housing options, and currently have a neutral level of satisfaction with their ability to get these needs met.
- **States and cities lacking organizations relative to the population at risk:** the National Human Trafficking Hotline lacks publicly-listed service providers in Georgia, California (Riverside-San Bernardino, Los Angeles), New York (New York City), Texas, Florida, Illinois, Louisiana (Baton Rouge), Alabama, Arizona (Tucson), Mississippi (Jackson), New Jersey, Memphis-TN, Richmond-VA, Oklahoma City-OK, and Charlotte-NC.

Leaders Interviewed



Jakki Bedsole
Product Manager
AnnieCannons



Shaina Fuller
Task Force Director
Brooklyn Human Trafficking
Task Force, Kings County District
Attorney's Office



Laura Hackney
Chief Executive Officer and
Cofounder | AnnieCannons



John Nehme
President and Chief Executive
Officer | Allies Against Slavery



Carolyn Ouya
Program Manager, Economic
Security & Mobility
Futures Without Violence



Katie Steinberg
Partnerships Manager, National
Human Trafficking Hotline | Polaris



National Survivor Advocate



Fen Wang
Mixed Media Artist and Restore
Survivor Advisory Board Member



Kristi Wells
Chief Executive Officer
Safe House Project

Recommendations

Below are the top opportunities to close gaps in services, identified by Restore from the data collection, and interviews with two survivors and six service provider organizations:

For Service Providers

- 📍 **Engage survivors in strategy.** Identify priorities with input from survivor advisory councils, focus groups, or surveys.
- 📍 **Launch economic empowerment.** Address survivors' top need with comprehensive, trafficking-specific services that promote their economic security, such as job placement, entrepreneurship incubation, education grants, credit repair, and trauma-informed financial literacy.
- 📍 **Match survivor diversity.** Consider the needs of labor trafficking, male, transgender, single, and pregnant survivors, families with teens, substance users, and those with acute mental health needs.
- 📍 **Focus on enrichment as well as basic needs.** Invite survivors to free cultural, outdoor, and hobby activities that bring joy and foster exploration.
- 📍 **Start a part-time drop-in center.** Give survivors a place to spend time, use computers, share a meal, learn, and meet basic needs.

For Financial Partners

- 📍 **Close emergency housing gaps.** Sponsor 10 new specialized facilities, which can serve 10-12 survivors with an annual budget of \$500,000 to \$750,000 each.
- 📍 **Fund cash assistance programs.** Contribute to addressing the national housing and education affordability issue which creates barriers to lasting freedom.
- 📍 **Provide capacity-building resources.** Award grants for organizations to hire and train staff on trauma-informed care, fundraising, and impact assessment.

For Businesses

- 📍 **Create trauma-informed workplaces.** Worker protections and trauma-informed supervision will lead to higher employee retention and improved productivity.
- 📍 **Consider survivors in inclusive hiring and retention practices.** Extend hiring to non-traditional candidates, and train on the job in lieu of requiring formal education.
- 📍 **Contribute to affordable independent living.** Partner with service providers to offer below-market rentals, securing income from government and private funding.

For Government Agencies

- 📍 **Promote data collaboration.** Establish grant incentives for service providers to share outcomes, providing a broader view to inform decisions.
- 📍 **Facilitate trafficking-specific housing.** Assess for trafficking in domestic violence shelters to dedicate a portion of them exclusively to survivors of trafficking.
- 📍 **Convene federally-funded task forces.** Invite them to share best practices and challenges, evaluate the state of their collaboration, and create annual plans.