

ASSISTING VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

RECOGNIZING THE CHARACTERISTICS OF VICTIMS AND REFERRING INDIVIDUALS TO PROPER AUTHORITIES AND RESOURCES

Many victims of trafficking do not self-identify. The role for staff is to recognize the characteristics of potential victims of trafficking and to refer them to the proper authorities and resources. Refer to [TEGL 9-12](#) for identification and referral resources. If individuals are under immediate threat and/or state that they are in danger, staff should call 911.

PROVIDING EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING SERVICES

U.S. citizens or lawful residents who are victims of trafficking can receive the same services that are provided to the general public under WIOA. In addition, under the Traffic Victims Protection Act, certain foreign nationals are also eligible for WIOA services. This includes victims of a severe form of trafficking of persons and individuals granted a non-immigrant “T” visa.

To be eligible for WIOA Title I services as a victim of a severe form of trafficking:

1. Individuals 18 years of age or older must have been subjected to an act or practice described in the definition of “severe forms of trafficking in persons” and have received a letter of certification issued by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).
2. Children under 18 years old who have been subjected to a severe form of trafficking need not be certified by HHS to be eligible for services; instead, HHS issues Letters of Eligibility to minor victims of trafficking. As with any participant, they must meet all applicable program eligibility requirements to receive WIOA Title I services.

Individuals who are granted “T” visas by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) are also eligible for WIOA Title I services. The “T” nonimmigrant status (T visa) is available to individuals who are or have been victims of human trafficking and protects these individuals by allowing them to remain in the United States to assist in an investigation or prosecution of human trafficking.

Employment and training services should be provided to victims of trafficking to the same extent as and following the same procedures and case management processes for other one-stop customers. However, services to victims of trafficking may need to be tailored and adapted to meet the particular needs of this population. For instance, victims of trafficking may have Limited English Proficiency (LEP), criminal records (including from being forced into prostitution), or limited resumes.

OFFERING INFORMATION AND REFERRALS TO OTHER WRAP-AROUND SERVICES AND/OR LAW ENFORCEMENT

In most cases, victims of trafficking will approach one-stop centers toward the end of their rehabilitation process and will have already been working with other federal, state, local or non-profit organizations and agencies. In the event that the victim has not yet received services, it is important for staff to be aware of and utilize local resources and service providers, particularly non-profit organizations that provide services to trafficking victims. Service providers for trafficking victims can also refer or accompany their clients to the nearest one-stop center when they are ready for employment and training services.

PROTOCOL

If staff in the one-stop centers recognize warning signs of human trafficking, they should complete a screening tool with the customer. This screening tool should be completed in a private setting. If after an evaluation, there is need to call law enforcement, the local office manager should be involved in this process.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

The Blue Campaign provides a lot of information including warning signs.

<https://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign/what-human-trafficking>

HEAL Trafficking offers a website where you will find assessments, pocket guides, etc.

<http://www.humantraffickinged.com/>

Vera Institute Screening Tool

<https://www.vera.org/publications/out-of-the-shadows-identification-of-victims-of-human-trafficking>

Covenant House Screening Tool

https://d28whvbyjonrpc.cloudfront.net/s3fs-public/attachments/trafficking_assessment_tool.pdf

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DLR Policy §3.8
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