

New Mexico Human Trafficking Task Force

The mission of the New Mexico Human Trafficking Task Force is to combat human trafficking through seamless collaboration between law enforcement and service providers with the use of victim-centered approaches in proactively investigating and prosecuting human trafficking cases; and providing comprehensive, high-quality services to all victims of human trafficking.

New Mexico Attorney General:

- The Office of the New Mexico Attorney General is the Regional Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force for the State of New Mexico. The ICAC Task Force consist of 89 state, federal, local, military, and tribal law enforcement in addition to service providers.
- In 2015 the Office of the New Mexico Attorney General collaborated with the Life Link to create the New Mexico Human Trafficking Task Force. The Human Trafficking Task Force consist of law enforcement and service providers.
- During the months August 2019 – August 2020 the Office of the New Mexico Attorney General received over 2199 cyber tips from the National Center for Missing Exploited Children (NCMEC); these tips included 111 children that were enticed by adults, 14 adults planned to travel to meet a child, and 7 tips were child prostitution. The remainder of the tips were child pornography being manufactured, distributed, or possession in our state.
- Also, during this period, the Office of the New Mexico Attorney General received 296 cyber tips and referrals from the National Human Trafficking Center, CYFD, and the public of adults and children being trafficked.
- The Office of the New Mexico Attorney General has a victim advocate who is funded through the CVRC. She assists victims in both Human Trafficking and ICAC investigations.
- Since the creation of the Human Trafficking Task Force, the Office of the New Mexico Attorney General and the Life Link have trained thousands of professionals throughout the state that may come in contact with a victim of human trafficking.
- One of the greatest needs we have identified in our state is services for children that have been trafficked.

The Life Link:

- First through partnership with the NM Attorney General's Office, and continuing with Department of Justice funding, The Life Link has engaged in statewide awareness campaigns, as well as trainings for both the community and professionals, since 2009. The NMHTTF has worked diligently to expand services and partnerships throughout the State since 2015. Given the exponential growth in victims served over the past decade, it is clear that the outreach efforts have been successful.

- The New Mexico Human Trafficking Hotline (505 GET FREE) has been in operation since 2013 as a statewide resource for information, referrals, and direct assistance to victims contacting it. During FY20, the hotline received 639 incoming calls and 270 incoming texts from 662 unique individuals. The next step for expanding the hotline throughout the State will be a partnership with Seattle Against Slavery's Freedom Signal web-based platform.
- In 2018 The Life Link received \$1.75 million in Federal grants to provide services and direct assistance to victims for a three-year period. Those Department of Justice grants end in September 2021, creating a serious challenge to continuing to provide help to an ever-increasing population of identified victims. All federal funding sources are being pursued on an ongoing basis, but the end of this funding will be a major obstacle to overcome.
- Over the past two years, The Life Link has provided comprehensive services to 207 human trafficking survivors. Our primary partners – New Mexico Dream Center, First Nations, and Street Safe – report having worked with 526 victims in that same period.
- Referrals for services have actually ramped up significantly during the COVID pandemic, requiring service delivery innovations to meet the need. Changes in practices in the areas of emergency shelter, transitional and long-term housing, transportation, and telehealth have been extremely successful and have transformed, for the better, the way that we work with victims.
- We have seen a significant increase in the number of youth survivors (ages 16-21) who have aged out of the CYFD system of care or have, in one way or another, fallen through the cracks. There are extremely limited resources to work with this population in the State.

New Mexico Crime Victims Reparation Commission

- Human Trafficking-Enumerated Crime 2013
- Human Trafficking-Special Appropriation FY2016-\$125K, FY2017-\$125K, FY2019-\$145K, FY2020-\$150K
 - La Pinon Sexual Assault Recovery Services
 - NM Immigrant Law Center
 - FY20 State HT Funds
 - 86 Clients used \$99,811.69 for crisis stabilization, rent, relocation, travel, pecuniary, loss of wages
 - Remaining \$50,188.31 was used for Civil Legal Assistance-Trafficking Visa's and other related civil legal services.
- Human Trafficking Federal VOCA FY2017-FY2018-FY2019-\$439K
 - The Life Link
 - La Pinon
 - New Mexico Attorney General's Office
 - NM Immigrant Law Center