

# Human Trafficking, Domestic Violence, and Sexual Assault: *Strategies to Strengthen Community Collaboration to Respond to Survivors' Needs*

As part of the ongoing implementation of the *Federal Strategic Action Plan: Services for Victims of Human Trafficking in the United States 2013–2017*, this webinar series is co-sponsored by:

U.S. Department of Justice's Office for Victims of Crime, Office on Violence Against Women, and Office for Victims of Crime Training and Technical Assistance Center

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Family Violence Prevention and Services Program

State Justice Institute's Human Trafficking and the State Courts Collaborative

# Learning Objectives for the Collaboration Series:

- **Understand the overlap between human trafficking, domestic violence, and sexual assault;**
- **Explore ways to effectively engage the justice system and community stakeholders and sustain involvement;**
- **Consider examples of partnerships to build agency capacity and enhance victim identification;**
- Explore strategies for promoting collaboration while protecting confidentiality;
- Identify effective collaboration strategies that leverage culturally specific resources on behalf of survivors;
- Learn about examples of successful law enforcement collaborations; and
- Identify court-based strategies to address the needs of trafficking victims and understand the role and significance of the court and judicial leadership in developing a response to human trafficking.

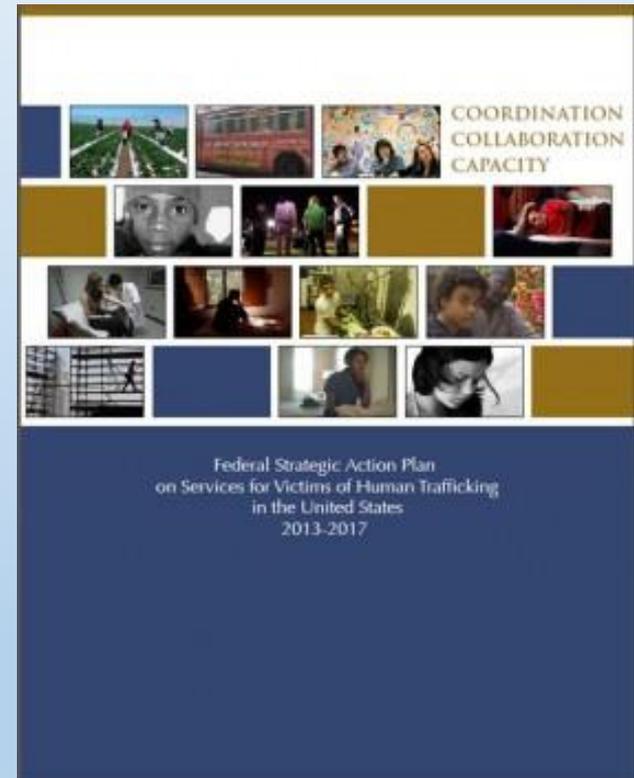
# Federal Strategic Action Plan on Services for Victims of Human Trafficking in the United States 2013–2017

“Victim services should promote safety, healing, justice, and rights for victims, and should empower them to participate in efforts to bring traffickers to justice.

Survivors play a key role in elevating understanding and awareness of human trafficking, improving service delivery, and informing policy.

Anti-trafficking efforts should be victim-centered and culturally relevant, holistic, comprehensive, evidence-based, gender-responsive, and trauma-informed.”

<http://www.ovc.gov/pubs/FederalHumanTraffickingStrategicPlan.pdf>



# Webinar Schedule

<i>Getting Out of the Box: The Key Ingredients to Cultivate Collaboration</i>	May 28, 2015 @ 2:30 p.m. ET
<i>Balancing Collaboration, Confidentiality, and Privilege in Human Trafficking Cases</i>	June 18, 2015 @ 2:30 p.m. ET
<i>Collaborating With Culturally Specific Organizations to End Human Trafficking, Domestic Violence, and Sexual Assault</i>	July 9, 2015 @ 2:30 p.m. ET
<i>Working Together Part I: Law Enforcement</i>	August 13, 2015 @ 2:30 p.m. ET
<i>Working Together Part II: The Courts</i>	September 24, 2015 @ 2:30 p.m. ET

# Polling Question – Who's Participating Today?

- Please check the box that best represents your role:
  - Domestic Violence Victim Service Provider/Statewide Coalition
  - Sexual Assault Victim Service Provider/Statewide Coalition
  - Human Trafficking Victim Service Provider
  - Runaway and Homeless Youth Service Provider
  - Criminal Justice (Law Enforcement, Prosecutor, Judiciary/Court Staff)
  - Medical/Mental Health Practitioner
  - Survivor
  - Training/Technical Assistance Provider
  - Other

Today's Webinar  
*Getting Out of the Box:  
The Key Ingredients to  
Cultivate Collaboration*

May 28, 2015  
2:30 p.m. ET

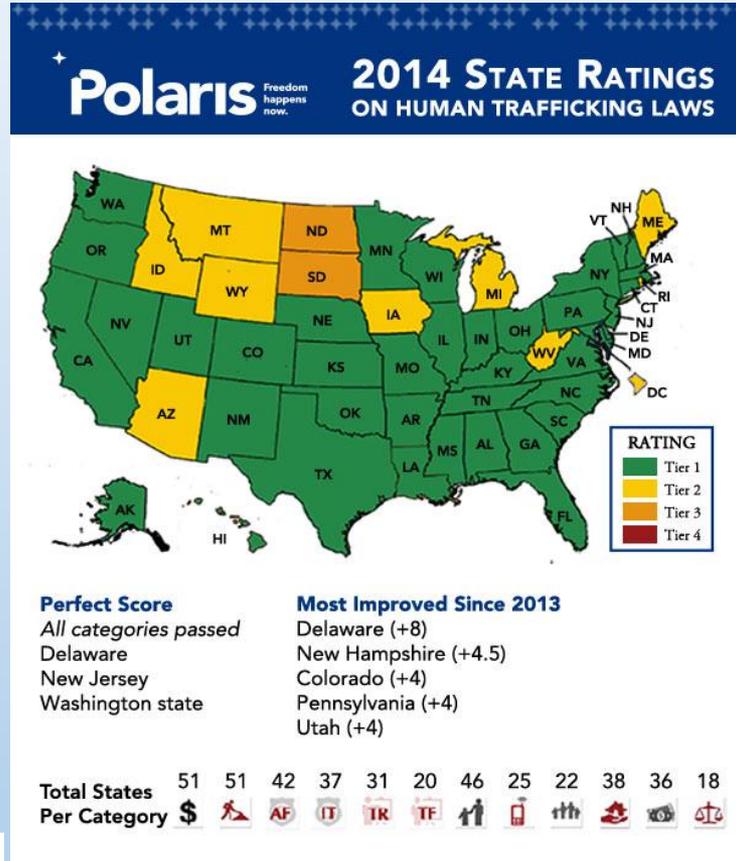
Speaker: Ashley Garrett  
Human Trafficking Team Lead  
Office for Victims of Crime Training and Technical Assistance Center  
[agarrett@ovcttac.org](mailto:agarrett@ovcttac.org)

What is Human  
Trafficking?

# Legal Definitions and Sources

## Trafficking Victims Protection Act (federal statute)

- a) Sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by **force, fraud, or coercion**, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age; or
- b) The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of **force, fraud, or coercion**, for the purpose of subjection to **involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.** (22 USC 7102(9))



**VictimLaw**

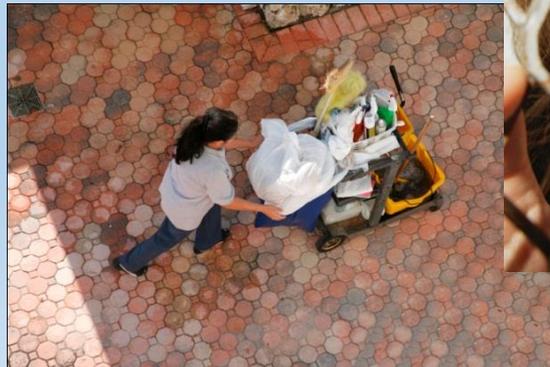
# Force, Fraud, and Coercion in Human Trafficking

## Labor Trafficking:

- Agriculture
- Begging/Street Peddling
- Beauty Salons
- Construction
- Custodial Work
- Elder Care
- Exotic Dancing
- Food Industry/Restaurant Work
- Traveling Sales Crews

## Sex Trafficking:

- Child Sex Tourism
- Escort Services
- Massage Parlors
- Street Prostitution





Source: [www.polarisproject.org](http://www.polarisproject.org)

# Case Examples

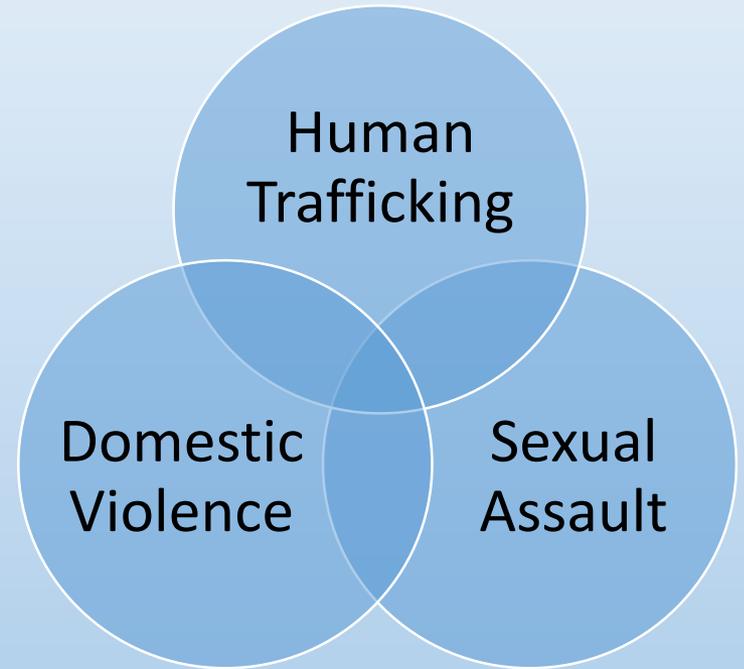
- A young woman enters the country on a K1 visa (fiancée) after meeting her fiancée online. Upon arrival, she is forced to work in her fiancée's club as an exotic dancer and have sex with customers.
- A young man enters the country illegally and is forced to work on a farm to pay off his smuggling debt. The manager at the farm withholds all of his wages, threatens to turn him over to immigration, and sexually assaults him.
- A 15-year-old girl develops a romantic relationship with an older man, he coerces her into commercial sex work to help "support" them. They maintain a romantic relationship over the course of several years, which includes having children. Now an adult, she's arrested because of her role in recruiting other girls to "work" for her boyfriend.

# Polling Question

- Please check the box that best represents your experience in working with human trafficking survivors:
  - Never
  - Less than 1 year
  - 1–5 years
  - 6–9 years
  - More than 10 years

# Intersection Between HT, DV, and SA

- Risk Factors:
  - HT victim's history as a survivor of SA and/or DV
- Recruitment Strategies:
  - Marriage, romance, or family relationship
- Exploitation:
  - Psychological coercion, including trauma bonding, threats of violence against family, abuse of legal process
  - Physical force through assault, including sexual assault



# Understanding Polyvictimization and Complex Trauma

The experience of multiple victimizations of different types, such as sexual abuse, physical abuse, bullying, exposure to family violence, and more. This definition emphasizes different kinds of victimization, rather than just multiple episodes of the same kind of victimization, because it signals a generalized vulnerability. Research shows that the impact of polyvictimization is much more powerful than even multiple events of a single type of victimization.

*National Children's Advocacy Center*

# Applying a Trauma-Informed Lens to Collaboration

- A basic knowledge of trauma and its impact
- Understanding trauma triggers (victims' and one's own) to minimize re-traumatization
- Providing information about trauma to victims
- Helping survivors manage feelings, feel in control of situations, give input on program/services
- Supporting emotional safety for victims and staff
- Philosophically, asking “What has happened to you?” not “What’s wrong with you?”

**National Center on Domestic Violence, Trauma & Mental Health, and the Asian & Pacific Islander Institute on Domestic Violence**

# Bottom Line...

- Survivors of HT often experience complex trauma and polyvictimization, including SA and DV. This directly influences how they are identified and where they seek assistance.
- By understanding how these intersect, we can:
  - Meet survivors where they are, rather than forcing them into a service category based on only a part of their trauma
  - Deliver client-centered and driven services
  - Enhance service delivery by connecting our clients to specialized services and helping them to navigate the complex systems with which they will need to interface (housing, medical/mental health, criminal justice, family law, immigration, etc.)

# Questions?

Please type in your chat box. If you do not have access to the chat box, please e-mail questions to [humantrafficking@ovcttac.org](mailto:humantrafficking@ovcttac.org).

Why is Collaboration  
Essential?

# Enhanced Outcomes for Survivors and Communities

- No Wrong Door – Survivors enter victim services and the legal system through many entry points, we need to meet them where they are and connect them to the most appropriate resources.
- Victim-Centered Services – Complex needs require a trauma-informed, comprehensive service response from a diverse group of responders.
- Diverse Access to Justice – Criminal, civil, and family court systems intersect and influence the ways in which survivors can receive justice in the aftermath of human trafficking.

# Options for Building Collaboration

1. Build partnerships with a human trafficking victim service provider
  - Service providers differ based on the victim – foreign national, U.S. citizen, male, female, adult, minor
    - Family and runaway and homeless youth
    - Systems-based (criminal justice, child welfare, etc.)
    - Domestic violence and sexual assault programs
    - Culturally specific programs
2. Integrate human trafficking response into existing multidisciplinary structures
  - Sexual Assault Response Teams
  - Family Justice Centers
  - Court working groups or subcommittees developing response protocols for CSEC, DV, SA
3. Connect with an existing human trafficking task force or begin the process to establish one

# Collaboration in Human Trafficking Responses

# Why is collaboration in human trafficking hard?

Please respond with some examples using the chat box.

# Why is collaboration hard?

- Limited funding – preference from funding sources for one “type” of victim over another
- Misunderstandings around who can do what
- Former adversarial relationships that you have to overcome to work together (victim advocates-defense attorneys, immigration lawyers-law enforcement, etc.)
- Overburdened staff
- Opinions about who does it “right”
- Balancing the need for information sharing and confidentiality
- Past negative history
- Victim service providers fearful that law enforcement will not handle victims sensitively
- Differences of opinion about who is a potential victim
- Access to victims over the course of the investigation
- Time consuming
- Law enforcement reluctant to share sensitive information with outside parties
- Competing priorities between the investigation and the victim’s needs
- Conflict over timing of certain victim assistance resources, i.e., immigration relief
- Turf issues

# How May Collaboration in HT Cases be Different From SA or DV Cases?

- Different stakeholders involved
  - Law enforcement and prosecution actors – state and federal role
  - Service providers differ based on the victim – foreign national, U.S. citizen, male, female, adult, minor
    - Family and runaway and homeless youth
    - Domestic violence and sexual assault programs
    - Culturally specific grantees
- Polyvictimization and complex trauma
- Often lengthier investigations
- More involvement and collaboration during the investigation and prosecution between service providers, victims' attorneys, law enforcement, prosecutors
- Victim as a defendant/respondent

# Example of a Successful Collaboration

- 30-year-old female U.S. citizen victim is arrested for prostitution. She's been with her boyfriend/pimp since she was 12, experienced chronic physical violence from him, and has a 5-year-old child with him.
  - After he posts her bond, she leaves him, moving into a domestic violence shelter. He petitions her in family court for custody of their son.
  - Working with a team that includes her court social worker, her defense attorney, and a prosecutor, she receives appropriate support, with everyone recognizing that this is a combination of HT, DV, and SA.
  - She and her son continue to receive services through a DV service provider. Her defense attorney works to get her record expunged, and she qualifies for housing that she was not eligible for previously because of her criminal record.
  - She agrees to testify against him. He is indicted on human trafficking. She petitions for full legal and custodial custody of her son.
- **Key partners:** court social worker, defense attorney/public defender, prosecutor, DV service provider

# Example of a Successful Collaboration

- 35-year-old female foreign national victim is brought to the United States by a friend of her family. Forced into domestic servitude, she is repeatedly sexually assaulted by her family friend. She eventually escapes on her own. After being referred to a service provider from a priest she meets at church, she eventually discloses her fear of being jailed and deported, something her trafficker insisted would be the result if she ever spoke out.
  - The service provider contacted a fellow task force member from Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) who agreed to meet with the victim to review his role as an agent and his commitment to the investigation, without asking the victim's name.
  - The victim builds rapport with the agent. The victim discloses her name, the agent applies for Continued Presence to stabilize the victim. Eventually, she agrees to cooperate fully in the investigation.
  - She applies for a T visa with the help of an immigration attorney, the HSI agent provides a I-918B that affirms she is a victim of human trafficking and is cooperating with law enforcement.
  - The survivor graduates from the victim service program and becomes a peer counselor for other foreign national survivors of HT, as well as DV and SA, who fear coming forward to law enforcement.
- **Key partners:** faith community leader, service provider, law enforcement, immigration attorney

# Questions?

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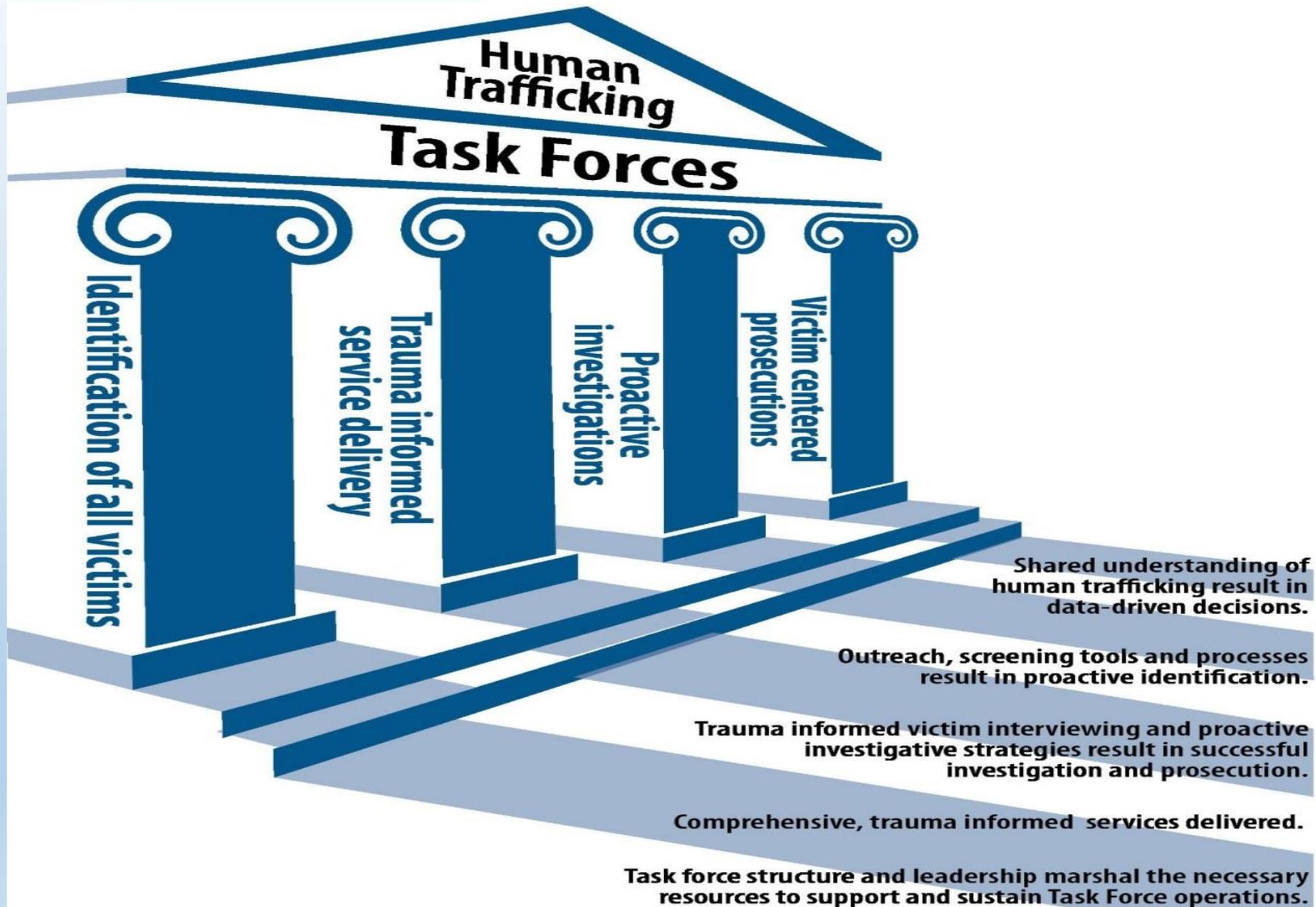
# Practical Steps

# Build Your Own Capacity to Serve HT Victims

- Assess your staff's capacity to identify and assist victims of HT that are also victims of DV and/or SA.
  - Consult with survivors to audit your organization's programs and policies to be trauma-informed and culturally competent.
  - Train staff on specific resources that HT survivors are eligible for that differ for DV or SA survivors.
  - Modify your current staff training to integrate HT knowledge and skills.
  - Modify your intake tools to enhance identification of polyvictimization, including sex and labor trafficking.
- Assess your organization's service gaps.
  - Identify other organizations that may provide those services.

# Collaborate With Other Victim Service Providers

- Map out a comprehensive service matrix for the needs that survivors have, then identify who has the capacity to address those needs.
- Identify who is missing, what you can do to bring them in.
- Recognize what each person brings to the table.
- Clarify roles and responsibilities.
- Understand and respect each other's limitations.
- Identify common shared goals to work together **outside** of a case.
- Cross train staff at all levels.
- Establish information-sharing mechanisms – formal or informal.
- Expect conflict and establish a mechanism to address – formal or informal.



# Questions?

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Wrap Up and Conclusion

# Key Toolkits and Technical Assistance Resources

**NHTRC**

NATIONAL  
HUMAN TRAFFICKING  
RESOURCE CENTER

1-888-373-7888

<http://www.traffickingresourcecenter.org/>



<https://www.ovcttac.gov/taskforceguide/eguide/>



HUMAN TRAFFICKING  
AND THE STATE COURTS COLLABORATIVE

<http://www.htcourts.org/>

**Special Collection: Trauma-Informed  
Domestic Violence Services**

<http://www.vawnet.org/special-collections/DVTraumaInformed-Overview>

**Runaway and Homeless Youth Tool Kit**

<http://www.nrcdv.org/rhydvt toolkit/critical-issues/>

# Need More Help?

## Specialized Human Trafficking Training and Technical Assistance Providers

The logo for the Office for Victims of Crime, Training and Technical Center (OVCTTAC). It features the letters 'OVCTTAC' in a bold, sans-serif font. The 'OV' is dark blue, and the 'CTTAC' is a lighter blue. The logo is centered within a white horizontal bar that spans the width of the left blue box.

Office for Victims of Crime, Training and  
Technical Center  
[www.ovcttac.org](http://www.ovcttac.org)

The logo for the Center for Court Innovation. It consists of four horizontal bars stacked vertically. The top bar is white with the word 'CENTER' in black, all-caps, sans-serif font. The second bar is black with the word 'FOR' in white, all-caps, sans-serif font. The third bar is white with the word 'COURT' in black, all-caps, sans-serif font. The bottom bar is black with the word 'INNOVATION' in white, all-caps, sans-serif font. The entire logo is centered within the right blue box.

Center for Court Innovation  
[www.courtinnovation.org](http://www.courtinnovation.org)

# Don't Forget – Upcoming Webinar Schedule

<i>Balancing Collaboration, Confidentiality, and Privilege in Human Trafficking Cases</i>	June 18, 2015 @ 2:30 p.m. ET
<i>Collaborating With Culturally Specific Organizations to End Human Trafficking, Domestic Violence, and Sexual Assault</i>	July 9, 2015 @ 2:30 p.m. ET
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<i>Working Together Part II: The Courts</i>	September 24, 2015 @ 2:30 p.m. ET

All webinars are being recorded and will be available at:

<https://www.ovcttac.gov/views/HowWeCanHelp/dspHumanTrafficking.cfm>

Your feedback is important to us – please take a few minutes to fill out the online evaluation form.

Thank you so much!

<https://www.research.net/s/May2815HTwebinar>