

Strategic Plan

Oklahoma Coalition Against Human Trafficking (OCAT)

October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2026



Thank you to the OCAT 2023 Advisory Council for assistance in development of this plan



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Part 1 - Executive Summary

For the past ten years, agencies throughout Oklahoma have worked tirelessly to build programs and partnerships to better support the prevention of human trafficking (HT), protection for those who have experienced HT, and prosecution of the offenders. No one agency can do everything, and our strengths have been in the collaborative efforts growing across this great state.

Mission

The mission of the Oklahoma Coalition Against Human Trafficking (OCAAT) is to advance a multi-disciplinary response to all forms of human trafficking prevention, protection and prosecution.

History

The effort to reduce human trafficking, provide quality victim services, and prosecute traffickers in the Tulsa Metro area began in December of 2013 when Oklahoma State Statutes regarding juvenile human trafficking victims began changing. During this time, the presiding Tulsa County Juvenile Judge convened a group of professionals tasking them with the job of developing community-wide protocols and victim services for sexually exploited youth. As a result, the Child Trafficking Task Force formed with clear, actionable goals to educate young people on the dangers of sex trafficking, and provide HT training and awareness to the community. Throughout the next five years, a small group of victim service providers and law enforcement professionals met monthly to build trust, collaborate, and educate the community about HT.

In 2017, the Family Safety Center (FSC), Tulsa County's multi-agency Family Justice Center, began housing the administrative support of this effort enabling the expansion and inclusion of adult victims of sexual exploitation and labor trafficking. At this time the coalition's name changed to the Oklahoma Coalition Against Human Trafficking (OCAAT) and agencies throughout Oklahoma began working tirelessly to build programs and partnerships to better support the prevention of human trafficking, protection of its victims, and prosecution of the offenders.

In 2021, OCAAT received its first private grant and in 2022 an application for federal funding was awarded. Currently funded under the 2022 OVC/DOJ Collaborative Task Force Model Cooperative Agreement, the Family Safety Center serves as the convening agency of OCAAT with the Tulsa Police Department serving as the primary law enforcement agency.

To date, OCAAT includes representation from 30+ agencies across Oklahoma. As advocates, law enforcement, prosecutors, child protection workers, victim service providers, medical professionals, educators, community and faith leaders, our agencies have united; our strengths are in the collaborative efforts growing across this great state.



Part 2 - Defining Human Trafficking

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, guided by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA)¹, gives the Federal definition of Human Trafficking as:

Labor Trafficking

"The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining a person for the purposes of 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 U.S.C. § 7102)

Sex Trafficking

"The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining a person for the purposes of a commercial sex act which is induced by force, fraud, or coercion. Any child under the age of 18 who has been subjected to a commercial sex act is a victim of trafficking regardless of force, fraud, or coercion." (22 U.S.C. § 7102)

Human Trafficking Vs. Smuggling

Although a smuggling situation can turn into human trafficking, they are not the same. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services² shows the following unique differences between the two:

1. **Human trafficking** is defined by the element of "exploitation" that it involves while **smuggling** is defined by its element of "transportation."
2. **Human trafficking** is considered a crime against a person and may not always involve movement. **Smuggling** is a business transaction in which a person "pays" another to help them illegally cross borders. It is considered a crime against the border and is always transnational.

However, smuggling can turn into trafficking if, when the business transaction is completed, the smuggler refuses to allow the other person to leave. This can happen many times with a business deal.

For example: Someone may pay half of the amount in advance to be smuggled across the border with the agreement that they will pay the rest once they have obtained work. However, when they get across the border the smuggler tells them that they are not free to leave and that they will now be "working" off the debt for them on their farm or in a brothel, etc. When this happens the "human trafficking victim" is kept and paid so little that they will never be able to repay the debt (debt bondage) and the "smuggler" has now become the "trafficker."

¹ <http://www.state.gov/j/tip/laws/61124.htm>

² <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/endtrafficking>



Misconceptions

The important concept to understand is that it is considered human trafficking when something of value (cash, drugs, food/shelter, etc.) is traded in exchange for the sex act or forced labor.

Many believe the following, common misconceptions about human trafficking:

- It can't be considered trafficking if the victim is related to the trafficker (UNTRUE);
- United States Citizens are not trafficked (UNTRUE);
- Victims of trafficking knew what they were getting into when they started (UNTRUE);
- The victim is considered the "prostitute" so they (Not the relative, boyfriend, pimp, etc.) are the criminal (UNTRUE);
- The victim is ALWAYS free to leave when they want to (UNTRUE);
- If the victim doesn't ask for help, it is their fault because they obviously want to stay (UNTRUE)

There are many reasons that human trafficking victims stay in the situations that they are in. For example:

- Fear of what would happen to their family members if anyone found out;
- Fear of what could happen to the other victims (their friends);
- Nowhere to go if they were to leave (become homeless);
- They don't know that what is being done to them is illegal;
- They, or their family, are being threatened by the trafficker;
- The trafficker has the victim addicted to drugs as a way of controlling them;
- If they are an unlawful resident, they could fear what law enforcement will do to them;
- They truly believe that this is all they can have, and/or their "boyfriend" loves them;
- and Many, Many more....



Part 3 - OCAT Goals and Objectives

During the first 3 year strategic plan OCAT adopted the following five main objectives:

1. Development of Comprehensive Victim Services
2. Demand Reduction
3. Data Collection
4. Coalition and Community Sustainability

As advances have been made, OCAT's 5 main objectives have been narrowed to four for the upcoming plan and include:

Main Objectives	Core Statement
Comprehensive services	Develop and deliver comprehensive services to individuals who have experienced human trafficking by focusing on victim identification, expanded community resources, and inclusive populations.
Demand reduction	Reduce demand by supporting creative accountability measures to investigate, refer, and prosecute all forms of human trafficking at the local, state, and federal levels.
Data collection	Implement a collaborative process to collect and share data among OCAT members and the Oklahoma Attorney General's Office in response to the passing of HB4210
Coalition and Community Sustainability	Utilizing best practices, create a sustainable and replicable model through comprehensive coalition development, community collaboration and increased funding.



Guiding Principles

Inclusive of All Types of Human Trafficking: Human trafficking in all its forms is an inherent violation of a person's human rights. We believe that human trafficking impacts all genders, ages, and nationalities. Human trafficking is a crime that uses force, threat of force, fraud, and/or coercion to provide labor or services or to engage in commercial sex acts. Any child under the age of 18 who has been subjected to a commercial sex act is a victim of trafficking regardless of whether any form of force, fraud, or coercion was used.

Survivor-Informed: OCAT acknowledges and incorporates the strengths of individuals with lived experience to inform and improve OCAT goals, action steps, programming and services.

Non-Discrimination: OCAT accepts members regardless of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, age, marital status, family structure, or class regardless of immigration status.

Lawful Duty: OCAT members adhere to all state and federal statutes and mandates such as HIPPA, child abuse/vulnerable adult reporting, and other reporting requirements based on your profession.

Multidisciplinary Collaboration: Recognizing that no one agency can address all the complexities of human trafficking, OCAT members maintain professional, collaborative, and multidisciplinary working relationships.

Evidence-Based/Data-Informed: Evidence-based and evidence-informed strategies and interventions with a proven track record should be used, when possible, in the prevention and intervention of human trafficking.

Confidentiality: All information gathered about individuals during OCAT activities is strictly confidential. Any disclosure must be based on informed consent and relevant state laws. This includes but is not limited to membership applications, victim service fund requests, law enforcement operations, and case management.

Trauma-Informed and Person-Centered: A trauma-informed and person-centered approach is crucial in supporting clients' rights, dignity, autonomy, and self-determination. Meetings, services, and programming must consider multifaceted traumas of individuals who have experienced trafficking and reduce re-traumatization.

Professionalism: Maintain professional and ethical standards of conduct as well as high standards of competence by recognizing capabilities, specializations, and limitations in expertise. Members are aware of their professional, legal, and social responsibilities to the communities in which they work and live. When speaking on behalf of OCAT, members will only use materials, talking points, photos, etc. approved by OCAT Leadership/Advisory.



Culturally and Linguistically Accessible: Awareness of and respect for people's unique needs based on their cultural or community background and identity while also providing language-specific and/or resources for individuals who have experienced trafficking.

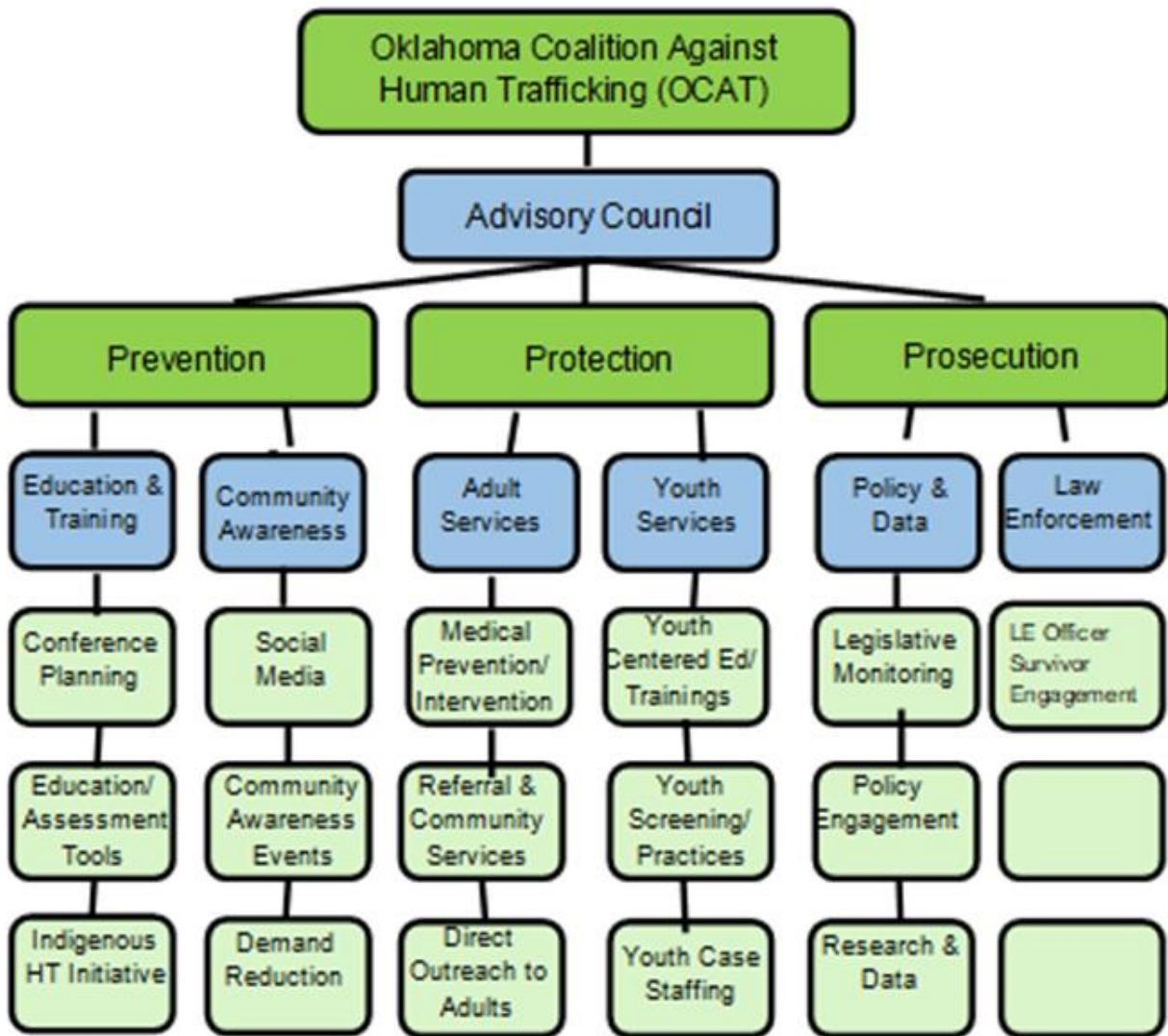
Voluntary Services: All OCAT program services are voluntary and those seeking assistance will not be forced or compelled to participate in services. Self-determination is the right of the survivor.

Religious and Spiritual Self-Determination: OCAT members/clients are free to participate in religious, spiritual, or faith-based programs. The members/clients beliefs have no bearing on OCAT membership. We do not advocate, promote, or engage in any religious ideology.

OCAT does not lobby, support any candidates, or take positions on controversial political ideals.



Part 4 - OCAT Structure





Advisory Council

The goal of the advisory council is to keep OCAT on the path moving forward. The Advisory Council meets monthly. Membership consists of the chairs and co-chairs of each committee, along with several designated floating positions.

Six Committees

Prevention - Education and Training

The goal of this committee is to educate and bring increased understanding on the topic of human trafficking to professionals and organizations. This will be accomplished through activities such as - Conference planning, speakers bureau, education toolkit, etc.

Prevention - Community Awareness

The goal of this committee is to ensure all Oklahomans are informed to recognize and report the signs of human trafficking. This will be accomplished through activities such as - Community awareness outreach, movie screenings, social media, during public high-attendance events, etc.

Protection - Adult Services

The goal of this committee is to identify services and gaps in order to eliminate barriers that impede adult HT survivors from thriving.

Protection - Youth Services

The goal of this committee is to identify support services for youth at risk who are currently or who have previously experienced exploitation to move towards recovery.

Prosecution - Law Enforcement

The goal of this committee is to stay up to date on current trends through active investigations and then being able to educate other work group members on trends, victim needs, and law enforcement needs, to successfully prosecute offenders and traffickers.

Prosecution - Policy and Data

The goal of this committee is to be a cohesive voice to advocate and advance evidence based human trafficking policies at the local, state, and federal levels. The work of this group will follow the legal guidelines for 501c3 lobbying.



Project Groups

Project groups are time-limited and goal oriented. They are designed to carry out the work of the strategic plan. Project groups will be evaluated annually to determine if their goals have been completed or if new project groups should be developed. Current project groups include:

Conference Planning: Plan and implement the annual Oklahoma United Conference and/or partner with other regional conferences.

Education/ Assessment Tools: Develop consistent, trauma informed, and data driven assessment and education tools.

Social Media: Create and plan social media (Facebook & Instagram) posts that accurately inform and educate the public on the issue of human trafficking.

Community Awareness Events: Planning, coordinating, and promoting an awareness campaign and events for human trafficking awareness month and throughout the year..

Indigenous Anti-Trafficking Initiative: Dedicated to examining the complexities related to the human trafficking of Indigenous people, with the goal of discovering and implementing impactful solutions.

Medical Prevention and Intervention: Create a network of medical professionals that are equipped to identify and provide evidence-based, trauma-informed care to those experiencing human trafficking

Referral and Community Services: Develop and strengthen a network of community partners to ensure those experiencing trafficking have the resources to overcome barriers to success.

Direct Outreach to Adults: Engage in events geared toward making connections with individuals who are vulnerable or trafficked to build trust and offer resources.

Legislative Monitoring: Monitor, analyze, and propose legislation at the local, state, and federal levels as well as keeping OCAT members updated on legislation.

Demand Reduction: Recommend and design an evidence-based program addressing demand that is therapeutic in nature and has the endorsement of the justice system

Policy Engagement: Plan and implement activities to engage policy makers such as legislative breakfast/luncheons, meet and greet at the Capitol, present at policy gatherings, individual meetings with policy makers, etc.



Research & Data: The Research and Data team seeks to identify best practices to collectively collect, document, and share human trafficking data amongst service providers and state agencies. Through these efforts, the team seeks to bolster increased communication, cohesion, and trauma-informed practices across the state of Oklahoma.

Youth Centered Education and Training: Youth Centered Developmentally Appropriate prevention education for all young people.

Youth Screening and Practices: Develop and utilize a comprehensive, trauma informed tool that can be shared by youth serving agencies.

Youth Case Staffing (Invitation Only): Develop protocol and tools to confidentially share information and effectively collaborate with a multi-disciplinary team on cases for youth.

Law Enforcement Officer/Survivor Engagement: Providing a format for law enforcement personnel, prosecutors, and survivors to discuss, listen, and learn from each other.



Part 5 - Strategic Plan

The four identified core statements form the basis of the three-year strategic plan outlined below. These core statements have been broken down into measurable steps. Progress for each step is identified in the following way:

Not Yet Begun <input type="checkbox"/>	In Progress <input type="checkbox"/>	Completed <input type="checkbox"/>	Ongoing <input type="checkbox"/>
Strategic plan progress last updated: October 1, 2023			

Objective 1 - Develop and deliver comprehensive victim services by focusing on victim identification, expanded community resources, and inclusive populations.

Strategy 1.1 – Support and promote programs and projects focused on increasing needed services for youth who have experienced human trafficking.

		Goal	Responsible
	Action Step 1.1.1	Support a specialized Human Trafficking unit at DHS Child Welfare to best support youth that are exploited and/or experiencing human trafficking.	Youth Services; Policy & Data
	Action Step 1.1.2	Develop and facilitate a youth case staffing plan.	Youth Services
	Action Step 1.1.3	Meet with the State Department of Education and offer support to the Safe School Committee and other initiatives related to human trafficking.	Youth Services
	Action Step 1.1.4	Provide education on HT topics to youth and youth service providers.	Youth Services; Education & Training

Strategy 1.2 – Support and promote programs and projects focused on increasing needed services for Adults who have experienced human trafficking.

		Goal	Responsible
	Action Step 1.2.1	Develop a medically focused project group designed to increase the identification and support of individuals identified in a hospital or clinical setting.	Adult Services



	Action Step 1.2.2	Identify service gaps experienced by HT advocates and seek to bridge these gaps through community coordination, expansion of services, and new member recruitment.	Adult Services
	Action Step 1.2.3	Develop an on-call list/workflow for law enforcement to use when victims are identified.	Advisory; Adult Services
	Action Step 1.2.4	Develop a list of local and national resources to place on the OCAT website.	Adult Services
	Action Step 1.2.5	Evaluate translation service gaps and develop a list of vetted translators.	Adult Services
	Action Step 1.2.6	Support collaborative efforts and assist with focus groups that identify day programming needs for victims of human trafficking.	Adult Services
	Action Step 1.2.7	Aid in the development of diversion programs for those ticketed and/or arrested for crimes directly related to their human trafficking experience.	Law Enforcement
	Action Step 1.2.8	Develop a pilot project similar to the CASA program with individuals who have lived experience with human trafficking to serve as paid individuals assisting DHS with their human trafficking cases.	Policy & Data

Strategy 1.3 – Increase community training and awareness activities.

		Goal	Responsible
	Action Step 1.3.1	Hold at least one community wide HT event annually to include events such as the annual HT conference, 10-year anniversary, etc.	Education and Training; Community Awareness
	Action Step 1.3.2	Develop an HT Speakers Bureau to include members from various disciplines.	Education and Training
	Action Step 1.3.3	Plan annual HT awareness event(s) for January's HT awareness month.	Community Awareness



	Action Step 1.3.4	Host annual legislative meeting to inform legislators about human trafficking, OCAT, and legislation.	Policy & Data
	Action Step 1.3.5	Provide bi-annual training at the legislature on human trafficking with updated research and best practice.	Policy & Data
	Action Step 1.3.6	Raise awareness of HT through social media, ads, etc.	All
	Action Step 1.3.7	Provide training to OCAT members prior to the legislative meeting on what to say to legislators, how to deal with legislators that you do not agree with, and how to have conversations when the legislator derails our agenda.	Policy & Data

Strategy 1.4 - Develop a uniform image for community outreach.

		Goal	Responsible
	Action Step 1.4.1	Develop an annual calendar of community events for OCAT representation.	Community Awareness
	Action Step 1.4.2	Create OVC approved education toolkit(s) to be utilized for educating professionals.	Education and Training
	Action Step 1.4.3	Develop and distribute informational, educational and promotional materials.	Community Awareness

Strategy 1.5 - Research and advocate for policies that will impact the lives of those who have experienced human trafficking.

		Goal	Responsible
	Action Step 1.5.1	Change Oklahoma state statues from <i>child prostitutes</i> to <i>human trafficking of a minor</i> .	Policy & Data



	Action Step 1.5.2	Require professionals working in a field that regularly encounters individuals who have or are currently experiencing human trafficking to take annual training on signs of human trafficking (both labor and sex).	Policy & Data
	Action Step 1.5.3	Support implementation of the legislation which provides funding to the Office of the Attorney General to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Provide resources for educating the general public about human trafficking (both labor and sex); b) Provide support and resources to survivors of human trafficking; and c) Assist coordination between law enforcement and service providers. 	Policy & Data
	Action Step 1.5.4	During the spring Oklahoma legislative session, provide weekly emails to OCAT members about the status of legislation related to human trafficking.	Policy & Data
	Action Step 1.5.5	Watch US Supreme court decisions related to human trafficking (both labor and sex).	Policy & Data
	Action Step 1.5.6	Watch Federal legislation related to human trafficking (both labor and sex).	Policy & Data
	Action Step 1.5.7	Identify challenges that LE face when investigating HT cases and advocate for Policy & Data changes that will increase their ability to arrest and prosecute offenders.	Policy & Data; Law Enforcement



Objective 2 - Reduce demand by supporting creative accountability measures.

Strategy 2.1 – Support efforts related to the increase of accountability for purchasers of sex.

		Goal	Responsible
	Action Step 2.1.1	Work with the Tulsa City Council to develop a pilot project based on an OKC ordinance to require businesses who are likely to attract traffickers to become licensed and/or receive yearly professional development on human trafficking. (ex. Massage parlors, hotels, bars, restaurants, marijuana industry etc.)	Policy & Data Law Enforcement
	Action Step 2.1.2	Using best practices and identified gaps/needs, educate legislators about city ordinances, departmental policies, and state laws that will aid in demand reduction.	Policy & Data; Education and Training
	Action Step 2.1.3	Utilize a victim-centered approach for human trafficking interactions with law enforcement with the primary goal being providing services to victims to get them out of the cycle of victimhood.	Law Enforcement
	Action Step 2.1.4	Conduct undercover stings, computer and digital investigations, demand reduction stings to identify, arrest, and prosecute traffickers.	Law Enforcement

Strategy 2.2 – Aid in the development of a diversion program designed to bring awareness and accountability for buyers of sex.

		Goal	Responsible
	Action Step 2.2.1	Evaluate national diversion program models related to demand.	Community Awareness
	Action Step 2.2.2	Identify agencies that have the capacity to manage diversion programming.	Community Awareness
	Action Step 2.2.3	Utilizing data from national programs that are identified, develop a sustainable model that will fit our community.	Community Awareness



Strategy 2.3 - Increase community knowledge on the realities of demand.

		Goal	Responsible
	Action Step 2.3.1	Educate professionals and community members about new Oklahoma State Laws related to purchasing sex.	Education and Training; Community Awareness
	Action Step 2.3.2	Educate professionals and community members about what drives the demand for labor trafficking in Oklahoma.	Education and Training; Community Awareness
	Action Step 2.3.3	Contact community groups and local corporations to discuss how human trafficking identification and demand reduction fits (or could fit) into their policies and practices.	Education and Training; Community Awareness
	Action Step 2.3.4	Develop stickers that show support for HT Awareness and/or have a zero tolerance for buyers and ask businesses to utilize them.	Community Awareness
	Action Step 2.3.5	Work to create a list of ethically sourced food/brands to bring awareness to labor trafficking.	Leadership



Objective 3 - Implement a collaborative process to collect and share data among OCAT members and the OK AG's office in response to the passing of HB4210.

Strategy 3.1 – Increase data collection and sharing capabilities.

		Goal	Responsible
	Action Step 3.1.1	Provide ongoing technical assistance to the Office of the Attorney General regarding their human trafficking database development.	Leadership
	Action Step 3.1.2	Identify a collaborative standard of questions specific to both youth and adults that are best practice, trauma informed that OCAT and OAG's will utilize; using input from national experts and OVC technical assistance providers.	Advisory
	Action Step 3.1.3	Provide training to OCAT members about the statewide database.	Education and Training
	Action Step 3.1.4	Support and utilize the human trafficking database.	All

Strategy 3.2 – Create and enhance collaborative opportunities statewide.

		Goal	Responsible
	Action Step 3.2.1	Create and enhance collaborative opportunities with DHS to increase their capabilities to identify and serve youth experiencing both labor and sex trafficking.	Youth Services
	Action Step 3.2.2	Create and enhance collaborative opportunities with statewide law enforcement entities to identify and provide appropriate referrals for adults experiencing both labor and sex trafficking.	Law Enforcement
	Action Step 3.2.3	Assist OCAT partner organizations in their educational research projects related to HT (i.e. framework for counselors on evidenced based treatments, language to use, etc.)	Education and Training
	Action Step 3.2.4	Work with the AG's office on changing administrative rules and piloting new HT assessment to enable those who are experiencing trafficking to receive resources.	Advisory



Objective 4 - Utilizing best practices, create a sustainable and replicable model through comprehensive coalition development, community collaboration and increased funding.

Strategy 4.1 – Strategically formalize OCAT.

		Goal	Responsible
	Action Step 4.1.1	Under direction from OVC and the Advisory Council, assist in the development of an HT community needs assessment.	Advisory
	Action Step 4.1.2	Utilizing the Development & Operations Roadmap Multidisciplinary collaborative model for anti-trafficking task forces, finalize OCAT structure, written Policy and procedures, and processes	Advisory
	Action Step 4.1.3	Create an orientation program for those who wish to join OCAT to attend.	Advisory
	Action Step 4.1.4	Develop project groups related to each committee's goals and objectives.	Advisory
	Action Step 4.1.4	Develop new purpose statements for each committee and ensure that they align with current strategic plan goals and strategies.	All
	Action Step 4.1.5	Develop an OCAT website with both community facing and member only access.	Leadership
	Action Step 4.1.6	Develop a consistent meeting schedule and publish yearly for all committees and project groups of OCAT.	All
	Action Step 4.1.7	Annually develop and publish a written report updating strategic plan progress, including performance indicator data	Advisory



Strategy 4.2 – Analyze Coalition members and strategically expand agency representation.

		Goal	Responsible
	Action Step 4.2.1	Develop a list of essential agencies that need to be represented on OCAT.	Advisory
	Action Step 4.2.2	Actively recruit new member organizations to join OCAT (i.e. law enforcement, tribal, non-profit, businesses, inclusive populations, etc.).	All

Strategy 4.3 - Seek sustainable funding sources.

		Goal	Responsible
	Action Step 4.3.1	Ensure that OCAT is following OVC grant guidelines, funding requirements, and administrative reporting.	Leadership
	Action Step 4.3.2	Research and apply for any available Federal and State funding opportunities related to human trafficking	Advisory
	Action Step 4.3.3	Research and apply for any available private funding opportunities related to human trafficking	Advisory
	Action Step 4.3.4	Seek fundraising opportunities and develop a process for the community to donate to OCAT.	Advisory; Community Awareness
	Action Step 4.3.5	Provide letters of support to agencies applying for human trafficking funding	Leadership
	Action Step 4.3.6	Develop a ten-year sustainability plan.	Advisory

Part 6 - Performance Indicators

To effectively identify OCAT’s progress related to the three objectives outlined above, the coalition has developed a list of performance indicators. These performance indicators are divided into categories based upon identified projects and/or goals and are each quantifiable. OCAT will track and create written reports on the progress of this strategic plan at the end of each fiscal year.



Objective 1	Objective 2	Objective 3	Objective 4
Comprehensive Victim Services	Demand Reduction	Data Collection	Coalition and Community Sustainability
Number of new services implemented	Number of buyers fined, prosecuted and/or sent to diversion programs	Number of agencies that utilize the database system	Number of agencies represented on OCAT
Number of programs expanded	Number of businesses that adopt a zero-tolerance Policy for buyers of sex	Number of research projects conducted with OCAT member agencies	Number of grants applied for
Number of people trained	Number of survivors attending court diversion programs	Number of collaborative opportunities held statewide	Number of OCAT Policy changes implemented
Number of state and local Policy changes	Number of traffickers prosecuted	Number of reports turned in for grant purposes	Number of letter of support provided to partner agencies

OCAT Advisory Council: 2023

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