



Report on Labor Trafficking Services Grant Program

VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAMS UNIT

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Labor Trafficking Services Grant Program

In compliance with Chapter 70 of the Minnesota Session Laws, Regular Session, established a new statutory section, 144.3885, MDH must submit this report to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees over healthy policy.

For detailed background information on labor trafficking and exploitation please see the [2024 Report on Labor Trafficking Services Grant Program](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/humantrafficking/documents/2024laborleg rpt.pdf) (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/humantrafficking/documents/2024laborleg rpt.pdf>).

Grantees

For more detailed descriptions of services provided by each grantee agreement, please see the [2024 Report on Labor Trafficking Services Grant Program](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/humantrafficking/documents/2024laborleg rpt.pdf) (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/humantrafficking/documents/2024laborleg rpt.pdf>).

Organization Name	Grant Period	Grant Amount
The Advocates for Human Rights Service area: Statewide	December 26, 2023, through June 30, 2026 (FY24-FY26)	\$270,000
The Enitan Story Service area: Statewide	October 23, 2023, through June 30, 2026 (FY24-FY26)	\$50,000*
Refugee Services, Lutheran Social Services Service area: Central Minnesota	October 23, 2023, through June 30, 2026 (FY24-FY26)	\$350,000
Dodge & Olmsted Victim Services, Olmsted County Service area: Southeastern Minnesota	October 23, 2023, through June 30, 2026 (FY24-FY26)	\$350,000
Someplace Safe Service area: West Central Minnesota	October 23, 2023, through June 30, 2026 (FY24-FY26)	\$325,000
Standpoint Service area: Statewide	October 23, 2023, through June 30, 2026 (FY24-FY26)	\$155,000**

* The Enitan Story received an additional \$50,000 from federal funds managed by the Human Trafficking Prevention program for a total grant of \$100,000.

** Standpoint received an additional \$15,000 from penalty funds managed by the Human Trafficking Prevention program for a total grant of \$170,000.

Summary of Services Provided

Since October 2023, 91¹ victims of labor trafficking or exploitation were served by our grantees. The largest numbers of participants identified as Hispanic or Latino at 69% and African American, African, or Black at 20% (Chart 1). Participants ranged in age from 12 years old and under and up to 64 years old, with 54% of individuals aged 25-44 years (Chart 2). Categories with client numbers between 1 and 15 are labeled as <15 to protect privacy. Victimization by gender was almost evenly divided, 54% girls/women and 45% boys/men (Chart 3).

Chart 1: Largest Number of Participants Identified as Latino/Hispanic

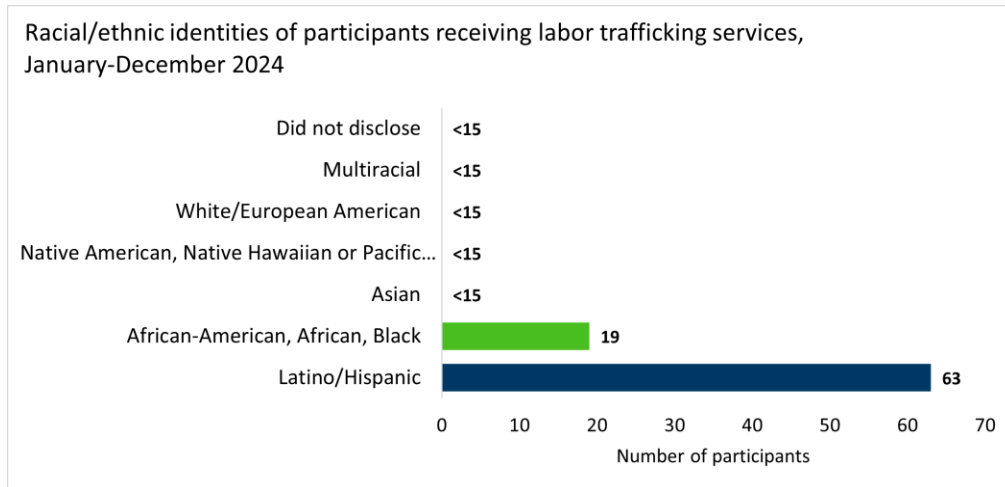
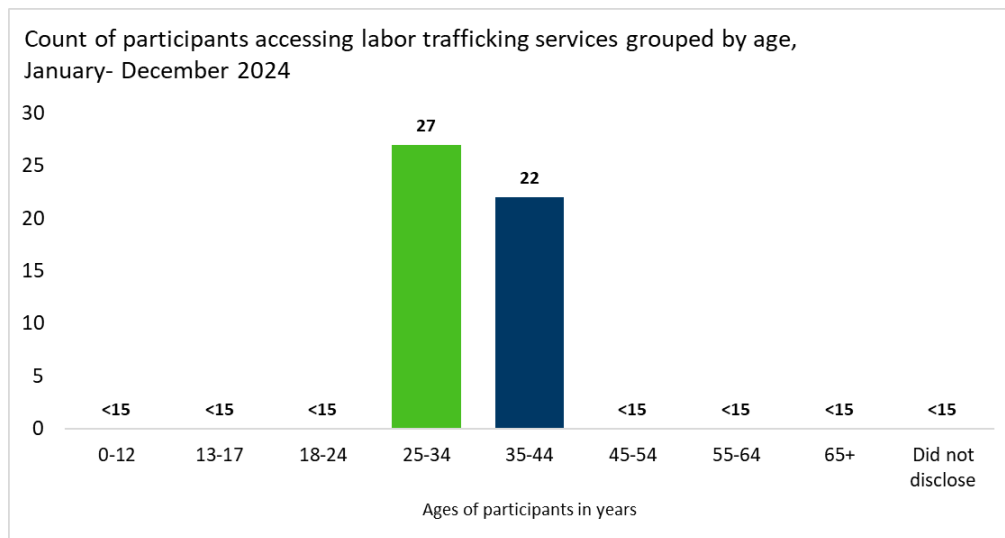
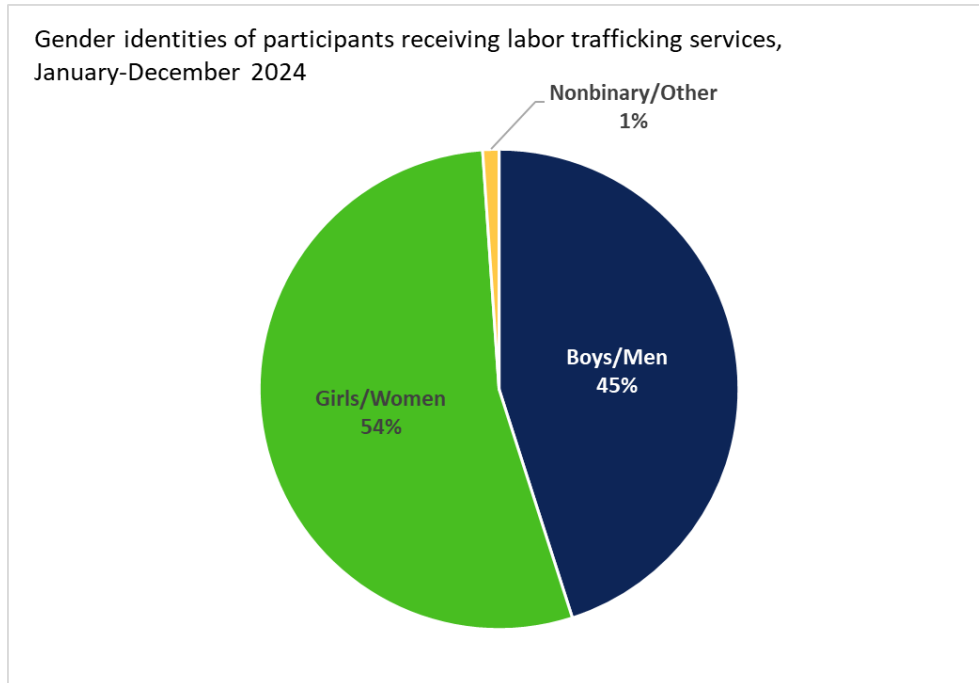


Chart 2: Largest Number of Participants Identified Between Ages 25 and 44



¹ Due to privacy and confidentiality requirements this number may include duplicates.

Chart 3: Participants of Both Genders Equally Identified



Grantees provided a wide range of services including, but not limited to, case management, criminal justice advocacy, culturally specific services, employment assistance, financial assistance, housing assistance, legal services, and transportation services. Additionally, referrals were made for childcare, dental care, education services, housing assistance, medical assistance, social services, and mental health services. More in depth analyses will be available as more data becomes available.

Success stories

Grantees indicated their clients appreciate the range of supportive services beyond legal advocacy being made available. It can mean the difference between staying in a dangerous situation and being free. Below are a few examples of how this funding helped victims of labor trafficking and exploitation:

- One client received assistance for basic needs and transportation. This allowed the client to enroll in a Nursing Assistant program. Now, this client is attending weekly support groups, attends monthly goal setting and tracking meetings, and sees a therapist for their mental health.
- When a client did not receive wages from a former employer, our grantee was able to go with them to report the issue to the police. The police department helped the client reach the former employer and assisted the client in obtaining their pay.
- After living in a tent for several weeks, a client referred to one of our grantees for labor trafficking was able to get into a shelter and receive mental health care.
- Another client was reunited with her children.

Challenges

Significant challenges persist. Finding shelter remains difficult for most clients. Grantees often struggle to secure safe housing for victims of labor trafficking, as many do not qualify for existing shelter programs due to factors

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such as age or the type of victimization (e.g., not classified as a domestic violence victim). Although Minnesota has made substantial strides in raising awareness about labor trafficking, many state, county, and city employees—who are responsible for assisting vulnerable individuals—lack knowledge or understanding of the issue. As a result, some victims face arrest on unrelated charges, are not referred to appropriate services, or experience delays in receiving the support they urgently need. Furthermore, when victims are referred to services outside our grantee network, they often receive inadequate or no support due to a lack of understanding or the absence of culturally relevant options.

Conclusion

The labor trafficking services grants offer an array of services across the state. Several systems will benefit from partnerships with these grantees, including child welfare, criminal justice, health care, and social services. MDH anticipates that as awareness of available services for labor trafficking victims grows, the number of people served will increase. The grantees' experiences, coupled with their service data, will inform future efforts to improve Minnesota's response to labor trafficking and exploitation.