



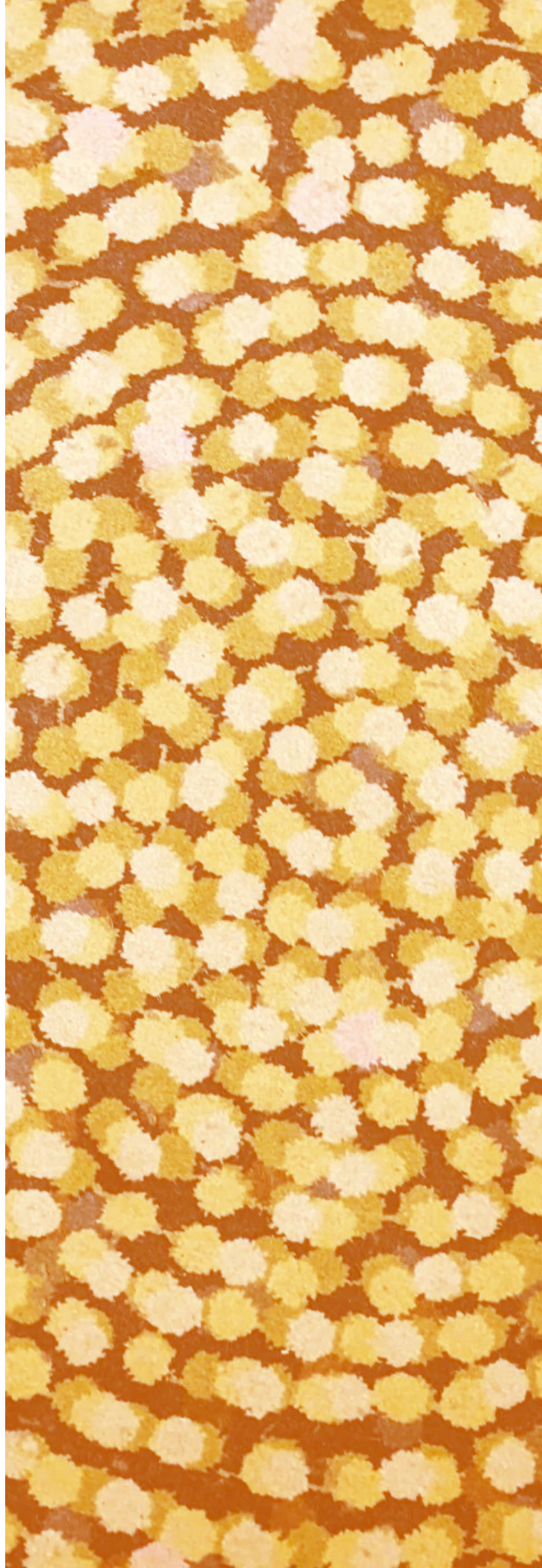
Freedom
Network USA

2021 Impact Report

About Freedom Network USA

Freedom Network USA (FNUSA) is a national alliance of experienced advocates working with survivors of all forms of human trafficking to ensure that trafficked persons have access to justice, safety, and opportunity.

We are the nation's largest coalition working to address human trafficking in the US. Together with our members, including survivors, social workers, attorneys, researchers, and advocates, we advocate for comprehensive federal policy and provide training to the field. Our expertise is derived from our experience working directly with survivors. We work to incorporate those insights and strengths into a collective voice for a positive and permanent impact in the lives of all survivors of human trafficking.



Impact through Policy

Our advocacy work has contributed to the reintroduction of some critical protections for trafficking survivors. After years of advocacy by FNUSA and allies, the administration overturned two key rules that threatened immigrant survivors with deportation if they sought services or protection they were eligible for as human trafficking survivors. The Department of Homeland Security has also responded to our repeated calls for improved protections for immigrant survivors with new policies and training materials.

FNUSA held our biennial Advocacy Days in the spring of 2021. Over 30 FNUSA members met with 25 congressional offices. As a result of our work, many FNUSA objectives were included in the initial Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) reauthorization bill introduced in September 2021. FNUSA staff are still working with these offices to ensure this key federal legislation is responsive to the needs of human trafficking survivors and invests in effective prevention to address this crime.

Striving for Equity

FNUSA's staff and members are eager to engage more deeply in anti-racist work. While we are still learning and experimenting, we made some progress in 2021. The training team is developing guidelines to ensure that all of our training and technical assistance work includes an equity lens and the administrative team has made key organizational changes to operations to ensure that our hiring and compensation practices are consistent. FNUSA is committed to centering equity in its future work.

Educating for Impact

The Freedom Network Training Institute (FNTI) supported almost 4,000 professionals in 2021.

Despite the limitations on in-person training, FNTI continued to meet the training and technical assistance needs of the field. Anti-trafficking advocates seized opportunities to learn from a diverse group of experts with real-world experience. Participants were offered a wide range of content in one-off webinar trainings on topics such as non-discrimination in housing to youth choice and voice in anti-trafficking services.

Some took a deep dive with us during our annual conference, Learning to Unlearn: Transforming Anti-Trafficking Work. This two-day event welcomed 845 professionals across the US to engage on issues of racism, equity, and resilience in the anti-trafficking field.

"This was an excellent training. The presenters were knowledgeable and presented the material in an exciting and informative way that made it easy and interesting to learn."

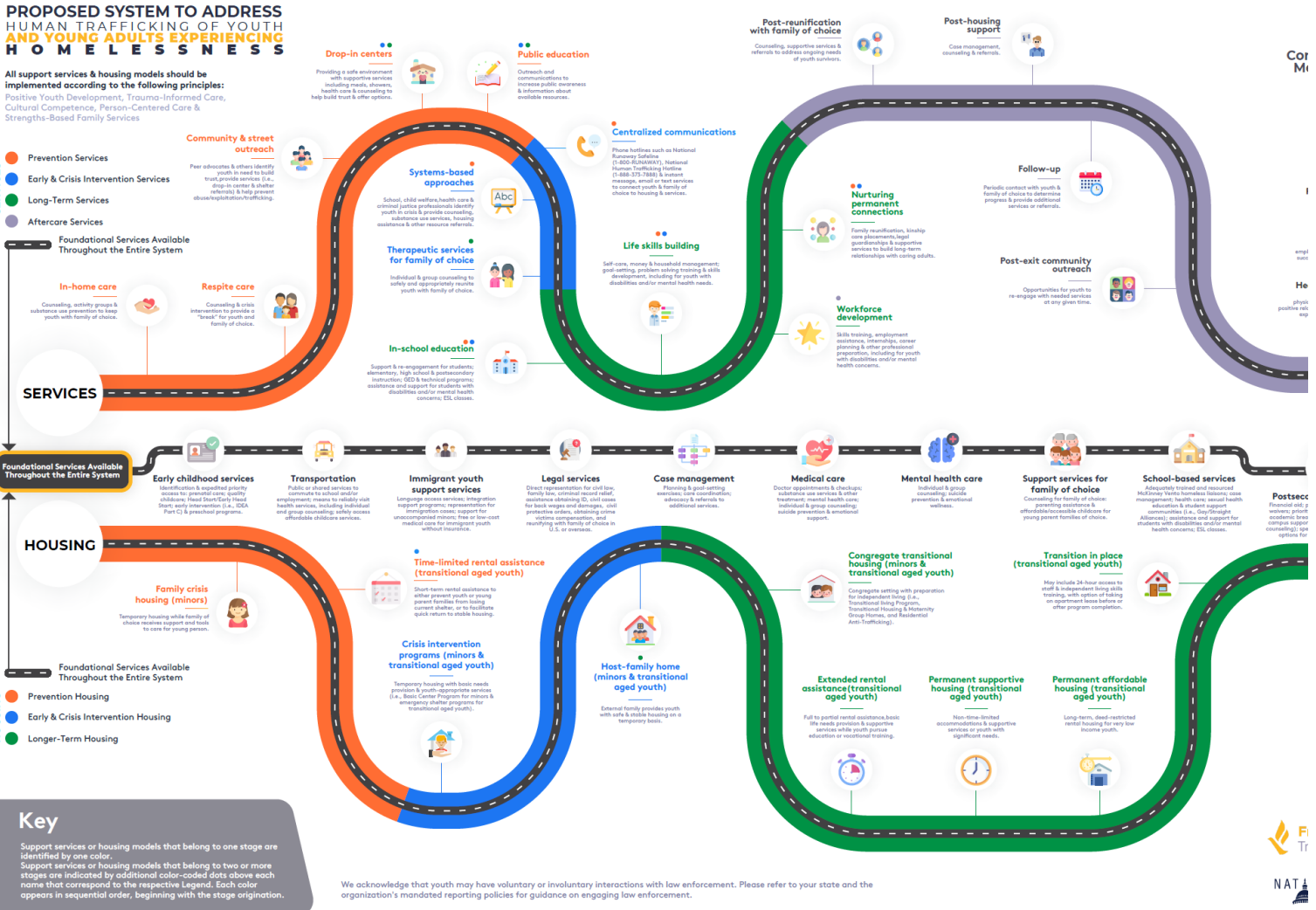
The Housing Training and Technical Assistance Project worked in overdrive in 2021. The Office for Victims of Crime at the Department of Justice asked the team to work alongside housing providers nationally to ensure programs are trauma-informed and person-centered. Our training specialists engaged with 73 housing grantees in 2021 to review their policies and procedure and make suggestions to reduce barriers for human trafficking survivors.

All of our educational materials can be found on our resource library at <https://freedomnetworkusa.org/training/resource-library/>.

Mapping the Way

PROPOSED SYSTEM TO ADDRESS HUMAN TRAFFICKING OF YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

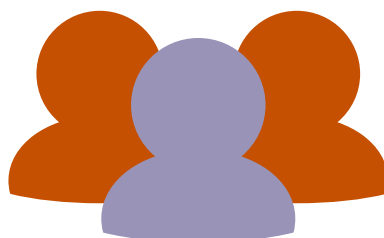
All support services & housing models should be implemented according to the following principles: Positive Youth Development, Trauma-Informed Care, Cultural Competence, Person-Centered Care & Strengths-Based Family Services



Collaboration is at the heart of what we do. With our partners at the National Network for Youth, our training team created this infographic that provides a visual representation of the pathways to services and housing options for youth survivors of human trafficking. This resource is intended to inform both service and housing providers about what is available and what strategic considerations should be evaluated when serving this population.

Undoing Harm

The Survivor Reentry Project has accessed the trafficking-related criminal records of 46 survivors with our pro bono partners.



46 Survivor Records
Reviewed



61 Cases Filed



in 19 States & DC

The Survivor Reentry Project (SRP) picked up momentum in 2021. After bringing on the first fully-dedicated staff person, FNUSA began to see results for those who carry criminal convictions for crimes they were forced to commit during their trafficking situation. These records limit survivors' ability to obtain employment, housing, education, public benefits and financial assistance, immigration status, and family stability. A criminal record also acts as a constant reminder of their trafficking experience. These cases are time-consuming and take time, particularly for those who have convictions in multiple states. In 2021, five survivors had a total of 17 convictions cleared. Throughout the year, SRP fielded almost 100 requests from survivors and service providers across the country.

Supporting People

FNUSA remains committed to supporting advocates with lived experience in their quest to make a change. In 2021, we partnered with the Survivor Alliance and our member, The International Institute of Buffalo to release a new toolkit, “The 6 C’s of Becoming an Advocate.” This workbook and video series are designed for survivors who are exploring how they want to engage in the anti-trafficking movement. The full toolkit can be found at <https://freedomnetworkusa.org/capacity-building/>.

“There are people who might want to dictate or prescribe what your social justice awakening should look like. But there’s no right way to be a survivor and there’s no right way to be an advocate or activist. We are so vastly different with distinct qualities and gifts.”

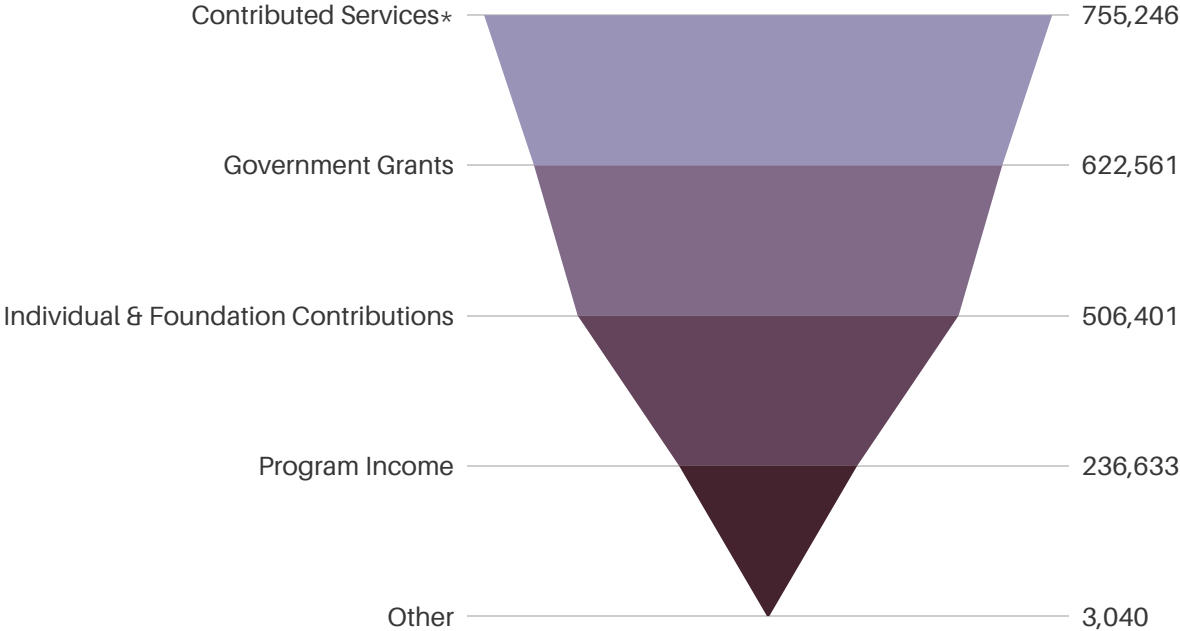
Membership

The network welcomed some exciting new experts last year bringing our total membership to 88. Our 2021 class brought fourteen new individual and organizational members into our community. From law professors specializing in labor exploitation to groundbreaking community-based organizations serving Asian women, these advocates bring their expertise into spaces that better inform our work and increase our ability to impact the lives of survivors.

Financials

*Pro bono law firms donated over \$750,000 worth of legal services to the Survivor Reentry Project

Income



Expense

