

September 28, 2026

Brecht Donoghue
Director, OVC Human Trafficking Division
Brecht.Donoghue@usdoj.gov

Via Email

RE: Delayed FY25 Human Trafficking Victim Services Funding

Dear Director Donoghue,

We write to you with deep concern over the long delayed Office for Victims of Crime Fiscal Year 25 Human Trafficking Grants. We are 29 organizations directly serving human trafficking survivors in the US and have seen the drastic impacts of this delay on the US victim service network. With funding delayed almost a full year and posted grant award dates missed, service providers have been put in the impossible position to stretch funds as long as possible, with no clear decision deadline in sight. Some have closed their doors, shut down their human trafficking victim service programs, or drastically reduced available services.

Over 17,000 survivors were served by OVC human trafficking grantees in FY24. When FY22 award terms ended on September 30, 2025, 113 grant awards serving them lapsed without opportunities to apply for new awards for many months. Still, almost a full year later, new grant awards have not been made. The already delayed FY26 grants will further exacerbate the services shortages as 102 FY23 grantees face another funding lapse. OVC's 3-year term awards usually fund at least 300 victim service providers at one time. If overlapped, the delays in FY25 and FY26 awards will leave only 95 OVC-funded human trafficking victim service providers with active awards, who are physically incapable of maintaining the FY24 service levels alone.

Survivors bear the brunt of this delay. As the service providers they rely on to escape trafficking and rebuild their lives disappear, they will have limited options for help. Many will have no choice but to return to a trafficker or take on dangerous work to survive. Because survivors who lose services are disconnected from resources, we will likely never fully understand the vast harm caused by the award delays. We know thousands of survivors are at risk of re-exploitation and will never be able to come forward if victim services disappear. Every community is made less safe when social and legal services are no longer available.

The DOJ must act quickly to award the FY25 Human Trafficking Grants to qualified victim service providers. Further delays would decimate our victim service network and put survivors across the country in danger. We urge you to immediately issue the grant awards for FY25 and prevent further

delays to the FY26 cycle. Please reach out to Emma Ecker, emma@freedomnetworkusa.org, with any questions or if you would like to speak further.

Sincerely,

Freedom Network USA

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Beyond Survival

Center for Violence Prevention and Recovery at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking

End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin

Family Support Center

HEAL Trafficking

Inspiritus, Inc.

International Institute of Minnesota

International Rescue Committee

Justice At Last

JusticeMatters

Life-Span

Mosaic Consulting Co LLC

Preble Street

Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network

SANE SART

SafetyNet: Human Trafficking Intervention and Prevention Program

Sunita Jain Anti-Trafficking Initiative, Loyola Law School

Survivor Justice Center

Tahirih Justice Center

The Human Trafficking Legal Center

The Human Trafficking Prevention Project

The Young Women's Christian Association of Kalamazoo

University of Maryland SAFE Center for Human Trafficking Survivors

Volunteer Lawyers for Justice

Womankind

Worker Justice Center of New York