

Administration for Children and Families

Immediate Office of the Assistant Secretary - Office on Trafficking in Persons

Victims of Human Trafficking Services and Outreach Program – Pacific Region Demonstration Program (VHT-SO Pacific Program)

HHS-2022-ACF-IOAS-OTIP-ZV-0038

Application Due Date: 07/01/2022

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Victims of Human Trafficking Services and Outreach Program – Pacific Region Demonstration Program (VHT-SO Pacific Program)

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Executive Summary

Notice:

- **Applicants are strongly encouraged to read the entire notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) carefully and observe the application formatting requirements listed in *Section IV.2. Content and Form of Application Submission*. For more information on applying for grants, please visit "How to Apply for a Grant" on the ACF Grants & Funding Page at** https://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/how-apply-grant.

The Office on Trafficking in Persons (OTIP) within the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) is announcing funds for the newly developed Victims of Human Trafficking Services and Outreach Program - Pacific Region Demonstration Program (VHT-SO Pacific Program). The VHT-SO Pacific Program's goal is to fund local organizations located in the United States (U.S.) Pacific territories (Hawaii, American Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Marshall Islands, Republic of Palau, and the Northern Mariana Islands) that will build, expand, and sustain organizational and community capacity to deliver services to adult foreign nationals who have experienced a severe form of human trafficking in the U.S. as defined by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000, as amended. Foreign national includes individuals who are not U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents (LPRs). The following activities are required under the VHT-SO Pacific Program:

- Provision of comprehensive, culturally and linguistically responsive case management to foreign national adults who have experienced sex and labor trafficking;
- Outreach efforts to increase identification of foreign national adults who have experienced sex and labor trafficking; and
- Training to service providers and community partners.

The VHT-SO Pacific Program is informed by a whole-family approach, focusing equally and intentionally on services and opportunities for clients and their immediate family members living within their households. OTIP encourages establishing community partnerships, meaningfully engaging with foreign national individuals who have experienced human trafficking, and hiring qualified professionals who reflect the communities being served in all project implementation strategies. Under the VHT-SO Pacific Program, there is a 12-month project implementation period for prime recipients to facilitate optional partnerships, on-board new staff,

develop a service protocol specific to foreign nationals who have experienced human trafficking, and develop a sustainability plan. However, clients must be served during the 12-month project implementation period.

I. Program Description

Statutory Authority

The legislative authority for this program is section 107(b)(1)(B) of the TVPA of 2000, as amended, codified at 22 U.S.C. 7105(b)(1)(B).

Description

VHT-SO PACIFIC PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Background

Human trafficking is a crime involving the exploitation of someone to perform labor or commercial sex acts through force, fraud, or coercion. Per section 22 U.S.C. 7102(11) of the TVPA of 2000, as amended, severe forms of trafficking in persons has the following meanings:

- 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
- 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.

When a minor, someone under the age of 18, is asked or made to perform a sex act in exchange for something of value (e.g., shelter, food, money) it is always considered a crime. There does not need to be a third party (e.g., trafficker) or evidence of force, fraud, or coercion for that minor to be identified as a victim of sex trafficking. Human trafficking victims are often difficult to identify or assist without targeted outreach and referral efforts. Victims can be of any age, race/ethnicity, nationality/citizenship, sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation, with or without disabilities.

In 2014, ACF within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) established the Domestic Victims of Human Trafficking (DVHT) Program as required by TVPA of 2000, as amended. DVHT was developed to improve services for domestic U.S. citizens and lawful permanent resident (LPR) victims of severe forms of human trafficking. The VHT-SO Pacific Program builds on the DVHT Program to improve victim identification through service delivery, outreach, and community training while expanding access to foreign nationals. In 2021, the Biden Administration published Executive Order 13985 on Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government to advance equity and support to historically underserved communities, including people of color and others who have been historically marginalized and adversely affected by persistent poverty and inequality. This NOFO supports these commitments by dedicating funding to identify and serve foreign national adults who experience human trafficking. Additionally, in 2021 the Biden Administration released the new National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking (NAP). This NOFO highlights specific areas that are responsive to NAP, where appropriate.

Project Objectives

The goal of the VHT-SO Pacific Program is to fund projects that will build, expand, and sustain organizational and local capacity to provide direct services, assistance, and referrals for foreign national adults who have experienced labor and/or sex trafficking as defined by TVPA of 2000, as amended, and who are seeking or have received HHS certification.

Under the VHT-SO Pacific Program, the following activities are required throughout the project period:

1. Provide comprehensive, culturally responsive, and linguistically appropriate case management and victim assistance to foreign national adults who have experienced sex labor and/or sex trafficking.
2. Conduct outreach to increase identification of foreign national adults who have experienced labor and/or sex trafficking.
3. Deliver training for service providers and community partners on effective and trauma-informed identification, referral, assessment, and service delivery strategies.

Project Scope

VHT-SO Pacific Program projects can include cities, counties, or specific areas where the project will be implemented. The geographic area does not need to be contiguous and can include federally recognized tribal communities and rural areas. Prime recipients must be in the geographic area to be served by the proposed project.

The VHT-SO Pacific Program prime recipient is authorized to form a partnership(s) with other local organizations to achieve the project objectives through subawards. If the prime recipient forms a partnership(s), its principal office, or the office of the affiliate responsible for implementing and overseeing the VHT-SO Pacific Program project, must be located within the proposed project's geographic area. The prime recipient must adhere to 45 CFR § 75.351 when formalizing partnerships with subrecipient(s). Prime recipients are encouraged to develop partnerships with organizations serving foreign nationals, including migrant health centers, to develop and deliver culturally responsive and linguistically appropriate services. Please see *Section I. VHT-SO Pacific Program Administrative Requirements, Subawards* for more information.

Informed by the NAP (Priority Action 4.3.2: Leverage federal survivor-consultant networks and federal training and technical assistance centers to ensure survivor input is consistently incorporated into policies and programs), OTIP encourages prime recipients to engage foreign nationals who have experienced human trafficking and strategically integrate their expertise when developing VHT-SO Pacific Program project implementation strategies, which can include hiring qualified professionals who reflect the communities they serve. Prime recipients should also incorporate the expertise of those with lived experience in all aspects of the anti-trafficking response development and provide foreign nationals who have experienced human trafficking with opportunities to contribute to program development and activity implementation. These opportunities should provide professional growth and development and not be limited to, or heavily rely on, presentations about their trafficking experience. Survivor engagement must

include compensation based upon the level of engagement and comparable rates paid to practitioners and service providers.

Foreign nationals with lived experience should be involved in efforts including, but not limited to, the following:

- Developing agency-wide policies, and comprehensive case management protocols
- Developing strategies for project implementation, victim identification, program evaluation, etc.
- Developing and delivering outreach and training activities
- Building organizational capacity
- Leading or contributing to support groups and/or mentorship initiatives
- Identifying community partners

Prime recipients should inform individuals with lived experience of professional development, leadership training, consultant, and/or employment opportunities available to them in their community and beyond, including opportunities with the National Human Trafficking Training and Technical Assistance Center (NHTTAC). NHTTAC provides individuals who have experienced human trafficking opportunities to participate in professional development and educational activities, develop anti-trafficking resources, and provide training and technical assistance.

Under the VHT-SO Pacific Program, there are three separate opportunities to receive bonus points listed under *Section V.I. Criteria*. Bonus points will be awarded to applicants that are located in the U.S. Pacific territories (Hawaii, American Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Marshall Islands, Republic of Palau, and the Northern Mariana Islands). Bonus points will also be awarded to applicants that present an achievable plan to conduct outreach within or in partnership with federally funded migrant health centers to improve the capacity of health professionals to identify and serve individuals who have experienced human trafficking; and to applicants that present an innovative plan to conduct outreach to individuals who may have experienced human trafficking working in the commercial fishing and seafood industry to encourage projects focusing on labor trafficking.

VHT-SO PACIFIC PROGRAM SERVICE REQUIREMENTS

Guiding Principles

The VHT-SO Pacific Program incorporates trauma-informed and person-centered approaches to assist foreign national adults of different racial, ethnic, cultural, gender identity, sexual orientation, ability, and religious backgrounds who have experienced human trafficking. A trauma-informed care model assumes that clients and staff have experienced trauma. This model includes organizational change that promotes resilience in clients and staff; engages individuals in care; prevents re-traumatization; and incorporates knowledge about trauma in policies, procedures, practices, and settings. For more information on the development of trauma-informed services and a framework for becoming a trauma-informed organization, system, or service sector, please visit the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Concept of Trauma and Guidance for a Trauma-informed Approach.

All VHT-SO Pacific Program activities must adhere to the National Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) Standards, which are a comprehensive series of guidelines that inform and facilitate practices related to culturally and linguistically appropriate health services. Clients served under the VHT-SO Pacific Program must receive comprehensive case management assistance in their preferred language. Prime recipients and, if applicable, the subrecipient(s), must strive to hire staff that can speak to clients in their preferred language and not over-rely on language lines and interpretation services. The VHT-SO Pacific Program is voluntary; clients must have the option to decline services provided by the agency supported under the program. The clients' concerns and priorities should guide the actions of the service delivery strategy.

The VHT-SO Pacific Program is informed by a whole-family approach that focuses on services and opportunities for clients and their family members living within their households. While TVPA of 2000, as amended, does not authorize direct benefits for family members, this funding allows family members to derive benefits from the services provided when in the client's best interest. A focus on whole families is responsive to the NAP (Priority Action 2.6.3: Increase access to employment), as well as the 2019 U.S. Advisory Council on Human Trafficking report, which states the following:

"Whole families must be considered in helping survivors overcome and heal. Many survivors have children who have been negatively affected by their parent's trafficking experience and what they have seen and heard. We must lift up parents and children together with services and supports that will help them be safe, find financial stability, and be empowered to find new opportunities. With recent studies suggesting one in seven children have mental health needs and half do not receive treatment, it is imperative, when supporting families, to also address the needs of survivors' children. We must offer services that help children heal to break intergenerational cycles of victimization."

Eligible Beneficiaries of Program Services

Eligibility for services under the VHT-SO Pacific Program is limited to foreign national adults (individuals over the age of 18) seeking or who have received HHS certification who have experienced human trafficking, as defined by TVPA of 2000, as amended, and were identified and are being served within the U.S. Pacific territories. This includes adults, regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation (including individuals who identify as Two-Spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex, and/or asexual (2SLGBTQIA+)), who are not currently receiving trafficking-specific services from another federally funded program. Under the VHT-SO Pacific Program, prime recipients and, if applicable, the subrecipient(s), may receive funding from more than one federal agency, but clients may not be served through more than one federally funded human trafficking-related grant, contract, or subaward at a time.

Prime recipients must have a viable plan in place to identify individuals who have experienced human trafficking, determine eligibility to enroll clients into the VHT-SO Pacific Program, and refer ineligible individuals for services, in compliance with statutory and administrative

requirements before the initiation of VHT-SO Pacific Program funded services. The VHT-SO Pacific Program was authorized by 22 U.S.C. 7105(b)(1)(B) to assist foreign nationals who have previously experienced human trafficking; therefore, U.S. citizens, LPRs, and/or individuals who have not experienced human trafficking are ineligible for assistance. Prime recipients must include a plan within their service delivery protocol to ensure all clients enrolled in the VHT-SO Pacific Program meet the eligibility criteria in 22 U.S.C. 7105(b) and that they are not enrolled concurrently in other federally funded programs providing similar services. Prime recipients must develop trauma-informed protocols to assess a prospective client's eligibility before enrollment. Potential clients may not be comfortable disclosing their trafficking experience, may not know their current immigration status, or know if they are a beneficiary of other federal funding. For more information see *Section I. VHT-SO Pacific Program Administrative Requirements, Service Delivery Protocol.*

OTIP recognizes that immigration status can be a sensitive subject for many potential clients. Individuals who have experienced human trafficking may not have access to identification or immigration documents, or they may have fraudulent documents provided by the trafficker. Others may have arrived in the U.S. with proper documentation but fell out of status when employers or traffickers did not complete paperwork or did not give them access to documents to establish LPR status. Additionally, foreign nationals who have experienced human trafficking are often identified and apprehended in groups that may include a variety of U.S. citizens, LPRs, and foreign national individuals. OTIP encourages creative approaches that work for your community. Plans can include partnering with legal services agencies or other entities specializing in eligibility or serving clients with alternate funding until they have built enough rapport to verify a potential client's status.

If the prime recipient or, if applicable, subrecipient(s), determines that the potential client is a U.S. citizen or LPR who has experienced human trafficking, the prime recipient and, if applicable, subrecipient(s), must have protocols in place to provide referrals to programs that can address the individual's needs.

Referring Minors to Services

If the prime recipient or, if applicable, subrecipient(s), determines that an individual encountered during project activities is a minor (an individual under the age of 18) who has or may have experienced human trafficking, the prime recipient and, if applicable, subrecipient(s), must follow all mandated reporting protocols and have protocols in place to provide referrals to child and youth-serving programs that can address the minor's needs within 24 hours of identification regardless of immigration status as highlighted in the NAP (Priority Area 2.1.1: Develop or update, validate, and implement screening forms and protocols).

TVPA of 2000, as amended, requires federal, state, or local officials to notify HHS within 24 hours after discovering a foreign national minor who may be a victim of sex or labor trafficking to facilitate the provision of assistance. Therefore, prime recipients are required to submit a Request for Assistance (RFA) on behalf of any foreign national minor with potential trafficking concerns to OTIP and subsequently refer the minor to a child and youth-serving program to

ensure the minor accesses benefits and services. Requirements to receive an HHS Eligibility Letter are the following:

- The minor is a foreign national;
- There are sex or labor trafficking concerns at any point in minor's life and in any location (inside or outside the U.S.); and
- The minor is under the age of 18 at the time the RFA is submitted to HHS.

Information about the HHS Request for Assistance process for foreign national minors is available on OTIP's website.

Appropriate youth-serving providers include OTIP's Aspire: Child and Youth Trafficking Assistance Demonstration Program. Information about benefits available to foreign national minor victims of trafficking can be found on OTIP's Eligibility for Child Victims of Human Trafficking digital fact sheet.

HHS Certification Letters

In accordance with the TVPA of 2000, as amended, OTIP issues certification letters to foreign national adult victims of a severe form of trafficking in persons after receiving notice that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) granted the individual Continued Presence (CP), T Nonimmigrant Status (T visa), or a bona fide T visa that was not denied. Certification letters allow clients to access benefits and services to the same extent as a refugee, including federal and state benefits and services (e.g., refugee cash assistance; Medicaid; Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program; Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Program; Women, Infants, and Children Program; Matching Grant Program, Unaccompanied Refugee Minors foster care program, etc.). When appropriate, prime recipients and, if applicable, the subrecipient(s), must coordinate the issuance of certification letters with clients and HHS OTIP. As some benefits and services are time-limited, prime recipients and, if applicable, the subrecipient(s), must ensure clients who have received HHS certification letters are expeditiously connected to benefits.

Information about benefits available to foreign national adult victims of human trafficking can be found on OTIP's Certification for Adult Victims of Human Trafficking Information and Data page. For more information about accessing T visas, visit the DHS Victims of Human Trafficking: T Nonimmigrant Status website. For more information about accessing CP, visit the DHS Continued Presence Resource Guide.

Comprehensive Case Management Services

Under the VHT-SO Pacific Program, prime recipients must conduct a comprehensive case management approach throughout the project period. Comprehensive case management services must include helping clients navigate systems of care, direct services, and/or community referrals for the following, all of which reflect service priorities identified by the U.S. Advisory Council, and in the NAP (Priority Action 2.6.1: Increase access to mental health and other healthcare services; Priority Action 2.6.3: Increase access to employment; and Priority Action 2.6.4: Increase access to education):

- Culturally responsive and linguistically appropriate services tailored to foreign national adults
- Identification, screening, assessment, safety planning, and service planning
- Advocacy and information about crime victims' rights and services
- Direct assistance to support unmet basic needs and the well-being of foreign nationals who have experienced human trafficking
- Allowable and reasonable expenses such as food, clothing, transportation assistance, child care, and interpreter services, including certified deaf interpreters
- Health care, including mental health, behavioral health, substance use treatment, medical, residential treatment, vision, and dental services
- Emergency, transitional, and long-term housing assistance
- Employment assistance, vocational training, and job training and placement (e.g., employment-related services through the Department of Labor's American Job Centers)
- Assisting clients to obtain HHS certification
- Enrolling clients to receive public benefits, including identifying the benefits available, assisting with the application preparation and submission, tracking the status of an application, assisting with collecting supporting documentation that a benefit granting agency may require, and helping clients appeal a denial of benefits, etc.
- Coordination with migrant health programs
- Legal advocacy and services related to their human trafficking experience, including an explanation of legal rights and protections, cooperating with law enforcement, assistance with immigration (e.g., explanation of immigration relief available, referral to immigration legal services to apply for T visa or CP, etc.), family and civil matters (e.g., protection orders, victims' rights enforcement and compliance efforts, representation in family court, expungement or vacatur of criminal records, and name changes)
- Educational assistance
- Life skills training, including managing personal finances
- Peer-to-peer support and mentoring
- Family reunification and supportive services intended to support broader well-being

Comprehensive case management services should empower clients to identify and achieve personal milestones toward well-being and independence and may include leadership development opportunities. Case management services and activities should be low-barrier and include service plan development, counseling, monitoring, evaluating client progress, and securing and coordinating direct services.

VHT-SO Pacific Program prime recipients must have the capacity to deliver all required services to clients directly through their agency and/or through formal partnership(s), which includes referring clients to the appropriate community agency if no such partnership exists. If a client requires services that are beyond the prime recipient's and, if applicable, its subrecipient's, capacity, the client must be provided with referrals to services within the community. Under the VHT-SO Pacific Program, prime recipients must maintain proper documentation of all referrals provided in the client case files.

Prime recipients must strive to refer clients to *pro bono* providers whenever possible. If a client

requires services within the scope of the VHT-SO Pacific Program that are beyond the prime recipient's capacity and cannot be covered through *pro bono* providers, prime recipients may use VHT-SO Pacific Program funds to cover service costs related to the client's need in accordance with the following restrictions:

- Funds may not be used to pay for direct benefits for family members;
- All client-related costs must be allowable, reasonable, allocable, and commensurate with allowable program activities as noted in the NOFO and CFR; and
- Any costs found to be unallowable will be disallowed.

Please see *Section IV.6. Funding Restrictions* for more information.

Under the VHT-SO Pacific Program, prime recipients and, if applicable, the subrecipient(s), must conduct client satisfaction surveys to assess the quality of services being provided and to identify areas of program improvement. Please see *Section I. VHT-SO Pacific Program Administrative Requirements, Service Delivery Protocol* for more information. Prime recipients are encouraged to partner with colleges and universities, including minority serving institutions recognized by the U.S. Department of Education, to develop client satisfaction surveys and other evaluation tools. No more than 3 percent of total award funds per budget period may be used to support client satisfaction evaluation efforts. Please see *Section IV.6. Funding Restrictions* for more information.

Transitional Cost Financial Assistance

Clients that are within 8 months of program discharge may receive one-time financial assistance for transitional costs of up to $2,000 to cover expenses, including the following:

- Housing (e.g., security deposit, first month's rent, relocation, etc.)
- Education (e.g., tuition, enrollment fees, textbooks, etc.)
- Employment (e.g., certification courses, purchasing business attire, etc.)
- Child care (e.g., daycare costs, before/after-care school costs, etc.)
- Other costs the client, in collaboration with the case manager, identify as necessary for their successful discharge from services

Prime recipients must develop a policy within their service delivery protocol to assess client readiness to receive financial assistance at least 8 months before discharge from services that include, at a minimum, objective criteria for assessing client readiness to receive financial assistance; timing and mechanism for disbursement; and dispute resolution procedures. The policy must apply to all clients served under the VHT-SO Pacific Program, including clients served through subrecipient(s), if applicable; must demonstrate consideration for client-agency; be voluntary; provide equal access and available funding level to all clients; and include a process that allows for clients to re-enroll to accept financial assistance within 8 months following their discharge if they have not already received a total of up to $2,000 in financial assistance.

The client must be enrolled in services while receiving financial assistance of up to $2,000. Payments must be made directly to the third-party (e.g., security deposit paid directly to a landlord, tuition paid directly to an educational institution, child care payment paid directly to

provider, etc.), and not directly to the client. Future expenses outside the enrollment period may not be dispersed. So, for example, if a client has tuition or housing costs that are longer than 8 months and extend beyond their discharge date, these costs may not be charged to the award. Recipients must track financial assistance spending for each client to ensure total financial assistance does not exceed $2,000. A client's decision to not request post-discharge services must not prevent them from re-enrolling in services under the VHT-SO Pacific Program or pursuing financial assistance at a later date. Please see *Section I. VHT-SO Pacific Program Administrative Requirements, Service Delivery Protocol,* and *Section IV.6. Funding Restrictions* for more information.

Recipients must use traceable mechanisms for disbursement to include direct payments to the vendor, reimbursed receipts, or invoices to ensure accurate record keeping. The issuance of alternative payment mechanisms (i.e., gift cards or cash) is not permitted.

Prime recipients must thoroughly document individual financial assistance plans and spending, including line-item amounts, cost category, nontraditional cost category, mechanisms for disbursements, connection to related goals, receipts, bank records, client identifiers, and relevant dates. Regardless of the number of times a client re-enrolls, clients may access up to $2,000 in financial assistance only once under any federal grant program funded by OTIP, so the prime recipient is responsible for keeping track of whatever balance is remaining from the $2,000. OTIP will review disbursement records for monitoring purposes throughout the project period. Prime recipients must consider available budget and projected financial assistance needs for each budget period. Prime recipients should not anticipate the availability of supplemental funding to meet this program requirement.

Outreach

Under the VHT-SO Pacific Program, targeted outreach to foreign nationals developed by prime recipients throughout the project period must be conducted in the identified geographic region and in venues, markets, and industries where human trafficking is known or suspected to occur. OTIP distinguishes between outreach and public awareness. Outreach is direct contact with foreign national individuals who may have experienced human trafficking or populations who are vulnerable to, or are considered to be, at a higher risk for human trafficking. Examples include street outreach, targeted online outreach, and human trafficking screening carried out in court diversion programs, detention centers, community organizations, commercial fisheries, agricultural settings, hospitality industry, construction industry, restaurants, factories, domestic work settings, migrant health centers, foster care, and elder and child care settings. Though screenings may be conducted during outreach events, it is not required, as it may not always be feasible or safe to do so.

Public awareness includes education efforts aimed at the general public. Examples include community awareness-raising, newspaper articles, radio or television interviews, and tabling at conferences. Prime recipients may not use VHT-SO Pacific Program funds to fund any public awareness activities throughout the project period.

OTIP recognizes that partnerships serve to extend reach throughout the project region in most

successful outreach models; therefore, OTIP encourages prime recipients to partner with agencies that have demonstrated experience conducting outreach to identify individuals who have experienced human trafficking, including outreach conducted within foreign national communities. As part of the outreach strategy under the VHT-SO Pacific Program, prime recipients must use standardized screening tool(s) that are validated and evidence and trauma-informed to identify and evaluate client needs throughout the service relationship. Prime recipients may elect to use one or multiple tools, but all tools used must be designed to identify foreign national adults who have experienced sex and labor trafficking by assessing common indicators of human trafficking, including if the individual experiences the following:

- Feels pressured by their employer to stay in a job or situation they want to leave
- Owes money to an employer or recruiter and/or is not being paid what they were promised or are owed
- Does not control their identity documents (e.g., passport, driver's license, etc.)
- Is living and working in isolated conditions, largely cut off from interaction with others or support systems
- Appears to be monitored by another person when talking or interacting with others
- Is receiving threats of harm from their employer/supervisor
- Is working in dangerous conditions without proper safety gear, training, adequate breaks, and other precautions
- Is living in dangerous, overcrowded, or inhumane conditions provided by an employer
- Wants to stop participating in the coercive engagement of selling, or trading sex, but is intimidated, or feels afraid to leave
- Discloses they were reluctant to engage in selling sex, but that someone pressured them into it
- Lives where they work or are transported by guards, vans, or contractors between home and workplace
- Has a trafficker or manager in the sex trade
- Works in an industry where it may be common to be pressured into performing sex acts for money, such as a strip club, go-go bar, or illicit massage business or cantina
- Has a controlling romantic partner, or “sponsor”, who will not allow them to meet or speak with them alone or monitors their movements, spending, and/or communications
- Is not in control of their own money or has no financial records and/or bank account
- Is being pressured to work to pay off debts or remittances
- Is being forced, coerced, or pressured, to provide labor or service that contributes to an illegal or illicit activity or business operation (e.g., assault, arms smuggling/dealing, decoy services, extortion, gang activity, financial scams, human smuggling/foot guiding, drug cultivation/production, drug transporting/distribution, drug smuggling, commercial sexual exploitation, look-out/scouting, robbery, or wildlife smuggling)

Optional outreach and screening tools that prime recipients can use in project activities are available in the OTIP website’s Resource Library. The following ACF programs can promote, coordinate, and make referrals to service delivery systems and training and technical assistance resources:

- National Human Trafficking Hotline

- NHTTAC
- Family Violence Prevention & Services
- Office of Refugee Resettlement
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Exchange

All outreach materials must be submitted to the Federal Project Officer for approval at least 30 days before the intended event, regardless of prior approvals through other programs or from past HHS, DOJ, or state officials. For more information on prior approval requirements, please see *Section I., Post-Award Requirements, Tools, and Resources.*

Community Training

Under the VHT-SO Pacific Program, prime recipients must provide training for local partners and community organizations throughout the project period to increase knowledge and understanding of effective and trauma-informed trafficking victim identification, referral, assessment, and service delivery strategies. Training builds the capacity of local service providers and strengthens the local response to human trafficking. Training audiences can include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Court systems
- Social service organizations
- Adult emergency shelter and transitional housing programs
- Substance use treatment centers
- Domestic violence organizations, shelters, sexual assault responders, and organizations dealing with intimate partner violence
- Faith-based organizations
- Legal services organizations
- Public health entities, including migrant health service facilities, emergency room staff, clinic staff, community health clinics, and schools of public health and social work
- Business/labor organizations
- Transportation industry entities

Under the VHT-SO Pacific Program, training provided by prime recipients to local partners and community organizations that may encounter potential victims of human trafficking must include all the topics below, at a minimum. The training topics listed are responsive to the 2021 U.S. Advisory Council on Human Trafficking report that recommends HHS expand specialized training on human trafficking and its indicators to include subtopics related to underserved populations, (e.g., youth, Indigenous populations, Black and Brown communities, 2SLGBTQIA+ communities, boys and men, and people with special needs).

- Federal definition of severe forms of trafficking in persons
- Case studies of individuals, with a special emphasis on foreign nationals, who have experienced human trafficking that include opportunities for identification in foreign national communities
- Information about human trafficking, including types of human trafficking (both sex and labor trafficking) and recruitment and/or retention tactics used by traffickers

- Indicators that a person may be experiencing human trafficking
- Safety protocols for those in direct contact with foreign nationals potentially experiencing human trafficking
- Services and benefits available for foreign nationals who have experienced human trafficking
- Circumstances that increase the likelihood of a foreign national becoming a victim of human trafficking, including work related to remittances, debts, and other financial pressures impacting the need to work
- Intersectionality between human trafficking and forced criminality (e.g., understanding that when an individual is forced to provide a labor or service that contributes to illegal or illicit activities or business operations, they may also be considered a victim of human trafficking)
- Special considerations for foreign nationals who have experienced human trafficking, which may include relevant cultural and/or spiritual needs
- Intersectionality between race and human trafficking (e.g., the role racial identity and racism plays in the risk for human trafficking; the process of identification; and the experience of service delivery, interaction with enforcement systems, including the criminal justice system, access to resources, health disparities/inequities experienced by underserved communities, etc.)
- Intersectionality between sexual orientation, gender identity, and human trafficking (e.g., the role gender identity and expression and exclusion plays in the risk for human trafficking; the process of identification; and the experience of service delivery, interaction with the criminal justice system, access to resources, health disparities/inequities experienced by 2SLGBTQIA+ community members, etc.)
- Intersectionality between disability and human trafficking (e.g., the role disability status and exclusion play in the risk for human trafficking; the process of identification; and the experience of service delivery, interaction with the criminal justice system, access to resources, etc.)
- Anti-trafficking laws and legal considerations in the specified geographic area
- How to deliver person-centered, trauma-informed services and assistance to foreign nationals who have experienced human trafficking
- Post-identification reporting and referral protocols
- Housing and employment needs of foreign nationals who have experienced human trafficking

Training audiences and topics listed above reflect the priorities reflected in the NAP (Priority Action 2.1.3: Regularly train federal law enforcement and service provider agencies on identifying human trafficking). No more than 5 percent of total award funds per budget period may be used to support community training activities. Local community partners seeking human trafficking training may also be referred to NHTTAC. VHT-SO Pacific Program funds may not be used to cover any costs associated with continuing education units within community training activities. Please see *Section IV.6. Funding Restrictions* for more information.

VHT-SO PACIFIC PROGRAM ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Subawards

Recipients under this grant program may opt to transfer a portion of substantive programmatic work to other organizations through subaward(s). The prime recipient must maintain a substantive role in the project. ACF defines a substantive role as conducting activities and/or providing services funded under the award that are necessary and integral to the completion of the project. Subrecipient monitoring activities alone, as specified in 45 CFR § 75.352, do not constitute a substantive role. Furthermore, ACF does not fund awards where the role of the applicant is primarily to serve as a conduit for passing funds to other organizations unless that arrangement is authorized by statute. No more than 40 percent of total award funds per budget period may be awarded as subawards. Please see *Section IV.6. Funding Restrictions* for more information.

Subrecipient(s) must meet the eligibility requirements identified in the NOFO, *Section III.1. Eligible Applicants*. Additionally, all subrecipient(s) must obtain a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number assigned by the System for Award Management (SAM), if they do not already have one. Prime recipients are required to check the SAM to verify that the subrecipient(s) is/are not debarred, suspended, or ineligible.

Please reference the Award Term and Condition on Subawards on the ACF Administrative and National Policy Requirements website for further requirements involving subawards.

Prime recipients must conduct a risk assessment of the subrecipient(s) in accordance with 45 CFR § 75.352(b). Prime recipients are required to adhere to the requirements noted in 45 CFR §75.352, and comply with 45 CFR §§ 75.351, and § 75.353. Prime recipients may be required to report under the Federal Financial Accountability and Transparency Act.

Should a subrecipient perform unsatisfactorily, prime recipients are responsible for remedying subrecipient issues. Prime recipients will be held accountable for cost disallowances regarding subawarded funds. Subrecipient performance will also be considered during the review of applications for non-competing continuations. If the requirements of the program cannot be met due to subrecipient issues, ACF may need to take one or more of the actions listed under 45 CFR § 75.371-.372, including withholding or disallowing funds, partially or fully suspending the award, or terminating the award.

Service Delivery Protocol

Under the VHT-SO Pacific Program, prime recipients must develop a service delivery protocol. The protocol must include the prime recipient's policies and procedures for eligibility, comprehensive case management;, referral, discharge, and post-discharge policies; and provisions specific to foreign national adults who have experienced human trafficking. Discharge and post-discharge policies must include, at a minimum, the level of client progress required to be discharged from the program, the frequency and duration of optional post-discharge check-ins, and policies for clients who do not want to remain engaged with the service provider post-discharge. Additionally, the protocol must include transitional cost financial assistance guidelines that comply with the eligibility and oversight requirements

outlined in *Section I. VHT-SO Pacific Program, Service Requirements, Transitional Cost Financial Assistance*.

The protocol must include the standardized, validated, evidence and trauma-informed screening tool(s) VHT-SO Pacific Program staff will use to identify foreign nationals who may have experienced human trafficking during outreach or intake. OTIP understands that providers need time to establish trust with individuals who may have experienced human trafficking to facilitate disclosure. Therefore, prime recipients are not required to use the screening tool immediately after establishing the service relationship. The screening tool(s) must be used within 30 days of a client entering the VHT-SO Pacific Program. Please note that though a screening tool does not have to be used until 30 days from the date of client entry, prime recipients and, if applicable, the subrecipient(s) must separately assess the eligibility of a prospective client before enrollment as described in *Section I. VHT-SO Pacific Program Service Requirements, Eligible Beneficiaries of Program Services.*

The protocol must also include a 24-hour response plan for handling client emergencies and emergency calls from law enforcement after hours and on weekends. While acceptable plans cannot be limited to hotline services and call-forwarding systems, the response plan must include coordination with the National Human Trafficking Hotline (NHTH), which maintains a National Referral Directory (Directory) of organizations and programs that serve individuals who have experienced human trafficking. The Directory includes a comprehensive internal resource for limited use by NHTH to respond to calls and an online, public version that includes anti-trafficking agencies that opt into the public version. Prime recipients must coordinate with NHTH to ensure all providers receiving funding are included in the Directory's internal or public version. Please note: providing a link to a non-federal website in this NOFO does not constitute an endorsement by ACF or any of its employees of the sponsors of the website or the information or products presented on the site. ACF cannot attest to the accuracy of information provided by this link or any other linked sites on the website.

In response to the NAP (Priority Action 2.6.2: Increase access to shelters and safe housing), the service delivery protocol must include the prime recipient's policies to facilitate safe and secure housing options (e.g., emergency, short-term, transitional, and long-term) for individuals who have experienced human trafficking. The plan must reflect considerations specific to individuals with a criminal record directly resulting from their trafficking experience, as they face additional barriers to accessing housing.

Additionally, the protocol must include policies and procedures to prevent disclosure of confidential, private, or personally identifiable information concerning clients or their family members without informed, written, and reasonably time-limited consent from the person whose information is sought. The protocols must also include the plan for how the VHT-SO Pacific Program prime recipients and, if applicable, the subrecipient(s) will inform clients of the limits to confidentiality before disclosures (e.g., mandated reporting requirements, etc.). Prime recipients must ensure compliance with 45 CFR § 75.303(e) to take reasonable measures to safeguard clients protected personally identifiable information.

The protocol must include the client satisfaction survey of the prime recipients, and, if

applicable, the subrecipient(s) intends to use to assess the quality of services being provided and to identify areas of program improvement as described in *Section I. VHT-SO Pacific Program Service Requirements, Comprehensive Case Management Services*.

The protocol must be reflective and inclusive of the VHT-SO Pacific Program's guiding principles as outlined in *Section I. VHT-SO Pacific Program Service Requirements, Guiding Principles*. The protocol must be submitted at the end of the first budget period. Please see *Section I. Post-Award Requirements, Schedule of Deliverables* for more information.

Faith-Based Organizations

ACF is mindful that potential recipients may have religious objections to providing certain kinds of services. ACF is committed to exploring ways for faith-based organizations to partner with ACF and other recipients, even if they object to providing specific services on religious grounds. At the same time ACF is committed to providing the full range of legally permissible services to people who need them, and to do so in a timely fashion and in a manner that respects the diverse religious and cultural backgrounds of those we serve. To accomplish these goals with respect to religious objection and required services, OTIP requires that organizations that have a religious objection to providing any VHT-SO Pacific Program required services must provide an alternative approach to meet their grant obligations. Please refer to *Section IV.2. The Project Description, Approach* for more information.

The alternative approach must be one that accomplishes the goal of ensuring that clients served under the VHT-SO Pacific Program understand the full range of services available in the program and how to receive referrals for such services, either directly through the VHT-SO Pacific Program project or partnering organization(s). If an alternative approach is proposed, the alternative approach will be reviewed based upon a determination of the following: 1) will ensure timely provision of all services for which the individual is eligible; 2) is not burdensome to the client; and 3) it is operationally feasible for ACF.

Capacity Building for Project Staff and Subrecipients

Under the VHT-SO Pacific Program, prime recipients must require training on human trafficking for any personnel, including, if applicable, subrecipient staff, who interact with individuals who have experienced human trafficking. With the approval of the Federal Project Officer, grant funds may be used to support training for staff, including, if applicable, subrecipient staff, when training is unavailable locally or when there is a cost for training participation (e.g., contracting trainers, registration, travel, continuing education units, etc.). Priority should be given to grant-funded staff who have mandated continuing education requirements related to licensure for their anti-trafficking efforts. VHT-SO Pacific Program funds may be used to cover costs associated with continuing education units for prime recipient staff and, if applicable, subrecipient(s) staff. No more than 10 percent of total award funds per budget period may be used to support training of grant-funded staff, including subrecipient staff. Please see *Section IV. 6. Funding Restrictions* for more information.

All personnel and, if applicable, subrecipient staff who interact with individuals who have

experienced human trafficking must complete at least 10 hours of training each budget period in connection with human trafficking. OTIP reserves the right to verify compliance throughout the project period. Prime recipients must track training hours and topics for its staff and, if applicable, subrecipient staff.

Training for any of the prime recipient's internal staff or subrecipient staff may not be counted toward the project's overall training performance indicators. Please see *Section I. VHT-SO Pacific Program Post-Award Requirements, Program Performance Indicators* for more information. Prime recipients are encouraged to check the NHTTAC website for in-person or virtual training opportunities. Required topics for training can be found under *Section I. VHT-SO Pacific Program Service Requirements, Community Training*.

DEFINITIONS AND TERMS

For the purposes of this NOFO, these terms will be defined as follows:

- An **adult** is a person over the age of 18.
- A **certification letter** is a letter issued by HHS to a foreign national adult victim of a severe form of human trafficking as defined by the TVPA of 2000, as amended. This letter enables a foreign national adult victim of a severe form of trafficking to be eligible to apply for benefits and services to the same extent as a refugee. HHS issues a Certification Letter to a foreign national adult after receiving notification that DHS issued the adult a T visa or CP, or a bona fide T-visa application has wasn't denied.
- **Comprehensive case management** is a collaborative process of assessment, planning, facilitation, care coordination, evaluation, and advocacy to ensure options and services meet an individual's needs, and available resources promote an individual's well-being.
- **Domestic** refers to a U.S. citizen or LPR.
- **Equity** refers to the consistent and systematic fair, just, and impartial treatment of all individuals, including individuals who belong to underserved communities that have been denied such treatment, such as Black, Latino, Indigenous and Native American persons, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, and other persons of color; members of religious minorities; 2SLGBTQIA+ persons; persons with disabilities; persons who live in rural areas; and persons otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality.
- **Foreign national** includes individuals who are not U.S citizens or LPRs.
- **Migrant health centers** are healthcare facilities funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration, through the Bureau of Primary Health Care, to provide care to migratory and seasonal agricultural workers and their families across the U.S.
- A **minor** is a person under the age of 18.
- **National CLAS Standards** provide effective, equitable, understandable, and respectful quality care and services that are responsive to diverse cultural health beliefs, and practices, preferred languages, health literacy, and other communication needs.
- **Outreach** is an organized activity targeting individuals and populations vulnerable to human trafficking (as opposed to professionals or the general public) that provides information about the dangers of human trafficking, risk factors, recruitment strategies, and the protections available with the explicit intent of identifying individuals who have experienced human trafficking.

- **Partner** is an individual or an organization that enters a relationship with the prime recipient for referral, joint service programming, and information sharing. Partnership(s) established by prime recipients where there is an exchange of VHT-SO Pacific Program funds involved for project activities are considered subrecipient(s). Please refer to *Section I. VHT-SO Pacific Program Administrative Requirements, Subawards* for more information.
- **Performance indicators** are measurable values used to evaluate how successful a person or organization is at reaching a target.
- A **person-centered approach** promotes safety and well-being while minimizing potential re-traumatization associated with criminal justice and other interventions. This can include providing support through victim advocates and service providers, empowering clients as engaged participants and providing clients an opportunity to play a role in seeing their traffickers brought to justice. The person-centered approach is critical for supporting a victim's rights, dignity, autonomy, and self-determination while simultaneously advancing the government's and society's interest in prosecuting traffickers and protecting and assisting clients.
- **Public awareness** is information provided to the general public to increase knowledge or understanding of human trafficking.
- **Survivor engagement** incorporates lived experiences and expertise into the development and execution of anti-trafficking responses. Meaningful engagement with survivors allows organizations to better serve clients, create and improve programs, identify challenges and opportunities, and achieve agency missions and mandates. As primary participants in the anti-trafficking field, leaders with lived experience offer invaluable insight and expertise, which can validate other survivors' experiences and reactions to traumatic events resulting from a trafficking experience.
- **Training** is the planning, development, delivery, and evaluation of activities designed to achieve specific learning objectives for participants. The learning objectives may be achieved using a variety of instructional strategies, such as lecture, group discussion, demonstration role-play, and other methods of group and individual integration. Training may include on-site instruction, classroom training, webinars, online or virtual training, self-directed learning, and workshops.
- **Trauma-informed approach** includes an understanding of the physical, social, and emotional impact of trauma on individuals, as well as on the professionals who help them. A trauma-informed approach includes person-centered practices. A program, organization, or system that is trauma-informed acknowledges the widespread impacts that traumatic events have on survivors; recognizes the signs and symptoms of trauma in staff, survivors, and others involved in the anti-trafficking response system; identifies paths for support and healing; and responds by fully integrating knowledge about trauma into policies, procedures, practices, and settings. Like a person-centered approach, a trauma-informed approach prioritizes the client's safety and security, including safeguarding against policies and practices that may inadvertently re-traumatize clients.
- **Underserved communities** include groups that have been historically denied consistent and systematic fair, just, and impartial treatment and access to resources required to normalize their condition, such as Black, Latino, Indigenous and Native American persons, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, and other persons of color; members of

religious minorities; 2SLGBTQIA+ persons; persons with disabilities; persons who live in rural areas; and persons otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty, lack of access to resources, or inequality. Underserved communities often do not have fair access to safe housing, transportation, and neighborhoods; education, job opportunities, and income; and/or other positive social determinants of health that contribute to overall quality of life.

- The **Whole-Family Approach** is built on the premise that conditions that affect the family will impact child development, as will the client's direct experiences. Giving children a strong start in life and creating stability for the family requires a focus on the whole and, in particular, on the well-being of children and parents as agents of change.

POST-AWARD REQUIREMENTS

COVID-19 Response

As the COVID-19 pandemic evolves, prime recipients and, if applicable, the subrecipient(s) are required to propose activities and project targets that reflect the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Guidance for COVID-19 recommendations to prevent the spread of COVID-19. These include, but are not limited to, social distancing strategies (e.g., innovative solutions to in-person outreach strategies, remote case management and use of video and audio conferencing) and planning for staffing absenteeism and shortages. VHT-SO Pacific Program prime recipients and, if applicable, the subrecipient(s) must propose innovative solutions for providing services during the pandemic that are inclusive of technological accommodations for clients to access comprehensive case management services, and any additional assistance they require.

Applicants must realistically estimate their targets while considering all external factors that may impact grant activities. Whenever possible, OTIP will exercise maximum flexibility. However, recipients may not alter targets to decrease the projected number of victims of human trafficking to be served through the VHT-SO Pacific Program, or the projected number of outreach activities to be conducted during the project period. To maintain accountability of federal awards and spending, OTIP will evaluate the prime recipient's annual reports based on initial targets provided in the Project Plan. Other modifications will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Schedule of Deliverables

To accomplish program goals in a timely manner, OTIP has established the following post-award requirements. Tasks and timelines will be dependent upon the capacity of the prime recipient to carry out the deliverables post-award. OTIP is allotting a 12-month implementation period for VHT-SO Pacific Program prime recipients to facilitate partnerships and onboard new staff. VHT-SO Pacific Program prime recipients must adhere to the following schedule:

1. Within 5 calendar days of Notice of Award (NoA), prime recipients must return the signed cooperative agreement.

2. Within 30 calendar days of NoA, prime recipients must have the capacity to provide comprehensive case management services to identified foreign national individuals who have experienced human trafficking.
3. Within 6 months of date of the NoA, prime recipients must submit a service delivery protocol specific to foreign nationals.
4. Within 1 year of date of the NoA, prime recipients must submit a financial sustainability plan demonstrating the capacity to continue services, including external funding commitments, to continue the program after the conclusion of federal funding.

Tools and Resources

OTIP has developed tools and resources on human trafficking in the U.S, including NHTTAC-developed training resources and Look Beneath the Surface (LBS) campaign materials such as brochures, and posters, that may be used in outreach and training activities. All materials are available for download in the OTIP website's Resource Library.

Certain LBS materials, including posters and brochures, may be modified to include an agency's contact information by using commercial off-the-shelf software that includes digital image editing capability. VHT-SO Pacific Program funds can be used to cover printing and shipping costs of LBS materials if intended to be used as part of VHT-SO Pacific Program activities.

Prime recipients and, if applicable, their subrecipients, must comply with the Stevens Amendment. Prime recipients must review all public-facing materials created and used by the subrecipient to ensure compliance with the Stevens Amendment. The Stevens Amendment requires all HHS grant and cooperative agreement recipients to acknowledge federal funding when publicly communicating projects or programs (including training materials) funded through the HHS annual appropriation. For more information on requirements, please reference the Administrative and National Policy Requirements on the ACF website.

Prime recipients and, if applicable, its subrecipients, must submit all public-facing materials used during project activities it and, if applicable, its subrecipients, intend to count towards its project objectives for review and approval by the Federal Project Officer. Prime recipients must also submit all public-facing materials for review and approval if program funds will be used to facilitate any portion of the activity (e.g., editing presentation slide decks, or staff time spent providing training), even if the materials were not created using VHT-SO Pacific Program funds or have been reviewed previously by OTIP or other state or federal grantors. The Federal Project Officer will review for trauma-informed, and person-centered content, adherence to the Stevens Amendment, and alignment with general guidelines set by the President's Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, at a minimum. In response to the NAP (Priority Action 2.1.4: Increase access to public awareness materials focused on victim identification, including by displaying those materials in priority locations within 1 year), all new materials, excluding outreach materials created specifically for discreet use and dissemination, must include the NHTH phone number (1-888-373-7888) and include the link to the OTIP website (www.acf.hhs.gov/otip). The Federal Project Officer will have 30 days to review and approve all public-facing materials.

Prime recipients may receive ongoing, tailored training and technical assistance through

NHTTAC to promote capacity building through their period of performance. This technical assistance is available across a variety of formats, including coaching/mentoring, conference calls, webinars, and training. Topics will be determined in consultation with prime recipients and may include, but are not limited to, effective strategies around survivor engagement; housing; diversity, equity, and inclusion; direct outreach by population; subrecipient monitoring and evaluation; sustainability and succession planning; and collaboration.

Program Performance Indicators

OTIP is in the process of modernizing its grant reporting process to assess program performance, support evaluation efforts, and inform policy development to improve the federal government's efforts to combat human trafficking. OTIP is building a system to collect client- and program-level information to reduce the burden of data collection for prime recipients, enhance quality assurance, facilitate secure transfer and storage of sensitive information, aid in grant monitoring, and enable data analysis through the creation of charts and reports.

OTIP collects information from prime recipients to measure grant program progress and performance, improve program evaluation, inform policy, assess program outcomes, and build a response to human trafficking that is responsive to the needs of individuals with lived experience. Under the VHT-SO Pacific Program, OTIP will collect information from the prime recipients every quarter. Data collected has been cleared under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) and will include nonidentifiable client demographic information, information on the client's trafficking experience, information related to the client's enrollment status, types of services and benefits provided to the client, the kind of outreach conducted and number of foreign nationals who have experienced human trafficking identified through outreach efforts, and the types of training provided to local partners and community organizations. During the project period, the Federal Project Officer and the Office of Grants Management's Grant Management Specialist will verify that the information submitted in the prime recipient's reports is accurate and determine compliance with federal guidelines through desk and on-site monitoring. OTIP will notify prime recipients at least 30 days in advance of any scheduled on-site monitoring visit.

As required by the PRA, 44 U.S.C. 3501-3521, the public reporting burden for the following performance indicators is estimated to average one hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering, and maintaining the data needed, and reviewing the collection of information. Data collection forms have been approved under the OMB control number OMB No: 0970-0542; the expiration date is March 31, 2023. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. All data elements below have been cleared by PRA, and are approved under OMB 0970-0542:

Client Service Information

- Living situation
- Employment status
- Service needs, access, and location

- Demographic information (e.g., age, gender, 2SLGBTQIA+ identification, race and/or ethnicity, and country of origin)
- Trafficking experience (e.g., type of trafficking, trafficking industry, and location of trafficking incident)
- Referrals (e.g., types of referrals provided, types of public benefits accessed, and referrals for continued services after exit)
- Number of family members served through client
- Cost of services
- Summary of outreach efforts
- Number of individuals who have experienced human trafficking identified through the VHT-SO Pacific Program's project efforts
- Type of outreach settings
- Populations targeted (e.g., foreign national potential victims of trafficking accessing services at a drop-in center)
- Screening tool used
- Summary of Training Efforts
- Total trainings provided and topics covered
- Total number of professionals trained and audiences targeted

NOTE: Consistent with the PRA of 1995, 44 U.S.C. 3501-3521, under this NOFO, OTIP will not conduct or sponsor - and a person is not required to respond to - a collection of information covered by such Act unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Federal Evaluation

OTIP may fund a formal evaluation of the VHT-SO Pacific Program to evaluate the recipient's implementation strategies, potentially including the following:

- Geographic, historical, and cultural factors that impact planning and development of each project
- Projects' goals and how those goals were selected
- Characteristics of the project participants
- Development and maintenance of project partnerships
- Approaches used to reach and serve/assist victims and survivors

The prime recipient must participate in the mandatory evaluation as a condition of receiving the VHT-NC award. If applicable, prime recipients must agree to participate in the mandatory formal evaluation, sign a memorandum of understanding, and make available program implementation records for grant-funded activities. This includes records of activities conducted by subrecipient(s), if applicable, and program performance data. The study would engage an outside non-recipient evaluation team and would likely focus on the processes, implementation, progress indicators, and quality improvement of funded activities. The recipient will have an opportunity to meet with the federal evaluation contractor to learn about the project, provide feedback, and sign a memorandum of understanding before the start of the evaluation. Under no circumstance should personally identifiable information, including demographic information, from case management records be disclosed without the client's express permission. Prime

recipients must monitor their performance and, if applicable, that of their subrecipient(s). Prime recipients must dedicate appropriate staff support to evaluation activities, including data collection, data reporting, and coordination with the evaluator.

If OTIP does fund a federal evaluation, OTIP will seek approval for information collections related to the federal evaluation through the OMB Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, as necessary. OTIP will not request information for the federal evaluation that is subject to PRA until the information collection is approved.

NOTE: Consistent with the PRA of 1995, 44 U.S.C. 3501-3521, under this NOFO, OTIP will not conduct or sponsor - and a person is not required to respond to - a collection of information covered by such Act unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Kick-Off and Peer Meetings

OTIP will host a grant kick-off meeting either virtually or in Washington, DC within the first 6 months of the official award date. OTIP will host at least one annual meeting for prime recipients either virtually or in-person to meet with their Federal Project Officer and OTIP staff, receive technical assistance, share local human trafficking trends, discuss emerging topics, etc. Both the Project Director and the key staff person responsible for tracking and documenting progress toward project milestones and outcomes must attend the kick-off meeting. The participation of at least one staff member in all subsequent OTIP meetings and NHTTAC-sponsored events will be mandatory throughout the project period.

For more information on application requirements specific to this NOFO, please reference *Section IV.2. Content and Form of Application Submission, The Project Description,* and *The Project Budget and Budget Justification*.

II. Federal Award Information

Funding Instrument Type:
CA (Cooperative Agreement)

Estimated Total Funding:
$700,000

Expected Number of Awards:
2

Award Ceiling:
$ 350,000
Per Budget Period

Award Floor:
$350,000
Per Budget Period

Average Projected Award Amount:
$350,000
Per Budget Period

Anticipated Project Start Date:
09/30/2022

Length of Project Periods:
36-month project period with three 12-month budget periods

Additional Information on Project Periods and Explanation of 'Other'

Additional Information on Awards:
Awards made under this funding opportunity are subject to the availability of federal funds.

Applications requesting an award amount that exceeds the *Award Ceiling* per budget period, or per project period, as stated in this section, will be disqualified from competitive review and funding under this funding opportunity. This disqualification applies only to the *Award Ceiling* listed for the first 12-month budget period for projects with multiple budget periods. If the project and budget period are the same, the disqualification applies to the *Award Ceiling* listed for the project period. Please see *Section III.3. Other, Application Disqualification Factors.*

Note: For those programs that require matching or cost sharing, recipients will be held accountable for projected commitments of non-federal resources in their application budgets and budget justifications by budget period or by project period for fully funded awards, even if the projected commitment exceeds the required amount of match or cost share. **A recipient's failure to provide the required matching amount may result in the disallowance of federal funds.** For more information on these requirements, see *Section III.2. Cost Sharing or Matching.*

Awards for the second and third 12-month budget periods will be made after approval of non-competing continuation applications and will be subject to the satisfactory performance progress by the prime recipient (i.e., submission of all Performance Progress Reports and Federal Financial Reports, meeting all project deadlines, etc.) and a determination that continued funding would be in the best interest of the federal government.

Description of ACF's Anticipated Substantial Involvement Under the Cooperative Agreement Award

OTIP is using a cooperative agreement that requires substantial federal involvement on the part of OTIP with prime recipients. Federal involvement may include the following:

- Communicating at least quarterly via phone with the Federal Project Officer to discuss project implementation activities and overall program progress.
- Participating in NHTTAC-sponsored webinars to discuss human trafficking trends and emerging topics and to receive technical assistance.
- Obtaining approval from the Federal Project Officer for all non-ACF materials used or created for VHT-SO Pacific Region Demonstration Program-related training, technical assistance, or outreach (e.g., discreet pocket cards, hygiene kits, etc.) in adherence with the requirements outlined in *Section I. Post-Award Requirements, Tools and Resources*.

Please see *Section IV.6. Funding Restrictions* for limitations on the use of federal funds awarded under this NOFO.

III. Eligibility Information

III.1. Eligible Applicants

Eligibility under this NOFO is unrestricted. Eligible applicants include state governments; county governments; city or township governments; special district governments; independent school districts; public and state-controlled institutions of higher education; Native American tribal governments (federally recognized); public housing authorities/Indian housing authorities; Native American tribal organizations (other than federally recognized tribal governments); non-profits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS other than institutions of higher education; private institutions of higher education; for-profit organizations other than small businesses; and small businesses.

Please note that ACF does not fund concurrent projects, so if an applicant is successful under this NOFO, any successful applications in response to other OTIP NOFOs from the same applicant for the same service delivery area and activities will not be funded.

Applications from individuals (including sole proprietorships) and foreign entities are not eligible and will be disqualified from competitive review and funding under this funding opportunity. See *Section III.3. Other, Application Disqualification Factors.*

Faith-based and community organizations that meet the eligibility requirements are eligible to receive awards under this funding opportunity. Faith-based organizations may apply for this award on the same basis as any other organization, as set forth at and, subject to the protections and requirements of 45 CFR Part 87 and 42 U.S.C. 2000bb *et seq.*, ACF will not, in the selection of recipients, discriminate against an organization on the basis of the organization's religious character, affiliation, or exercise.

Reference to Legal Status
See *Section IV.2. Legal Status of Applicant Entity* for documentation required to support eligibility.

Funding Restrictions Reference
Please see *Section IV.6. Funding Restrictions* for any limitations on the use of federal funds that could affect the eligibility of an applicant or project.

III.2. Cost Sharing or Matching

Cost Sharing / Matching Requirement:
No
For all federal awards, any shared costs or matching funds and all contributions, including cash and third-party in-kind contributions, must be accepted as part of the recipient's cost sharing or matching when such contributions meet all criteria listed in 45 CFR § 75.306.

For awards that require matching by statute, recipients will be held accountable for projected commitments of non-federal resources in their application budgets and budget justifications by budget period, or by project period for fully funded awards, even if the projected commitment exceeds the amount required by the statutory match. **A recipient's failure to provide the statutorily required matching amount may result in the disallowance of federal funds. Recipients will be required to report these funds in the Federal Financial Reports.**

For awards that do not require matching or cost sharing by statute, where "cost sharing" refers to any situation in which the recipient voluntarily shares in the costs of a project other than

as statutorily required matching, recipients will be held accountable for projected commitments of non-federal resources in their application budgets and budget justifications by budget period, or by project period for fully funded awards. These include situations in which contributions are voluntarily proposed by a recipient or subrecipient and are accepted by ACF. Non-federal cost sharing will be included in the approved project budget so that the recipient will be held accountable for proposed non-federal cost sharing funds as shown in the Notice of Award (NoA). **A recipient's failure to provide voluntary cost sharing of non-federal resources that have been accepted by ACF as part of the approved project costs and that have been shown as part of the approved project budget in the NoA, may result in the disallowance of federal funds. Recipients will be required to report these funds in the Federal Financial Reports.**

III.3. Other

Application Disqualification Factors
Applications from individuals (including sole proprietorships) and foreign entities are not eligible and will be disqualified from competitive review and funding under this funding opportunity.

Award Ceiling Disqualification

Applications that request an award amount that exceeds the *Award Ceiling* per budget period or per project period ("per project period" refers only to fully funded awards), as stated in *Section II. Federal Award Information,* will be disqualified from competitive review and funding under this funding opportunity. This disqualification applies only to the *Award Ceiling* listed for the first 12-month budget period for projects with multiple budget periods. If the project and budget period are the same, the disqualification applies to the *Award Ceiling* listed for the project period.

Required Electronic Application Submission

ACF requires electronic submission of applications at Grants.gov. **Paper applications received from applicants that have not been approved for an exemption from required electronic submission will be disqualified from competitive review and funding under this funding opportunity.**

Applicants that do not have an internet connection or sufficient computing capacity to upload large documents to the internet may contact ACF for an exemption that will allow the applicant to submit applications in paper format. Information and the requirements for requesting an exemption from required electronic application submission are found in "ACF Policy for Requesting an Exemption from Electronic Application Submission."

Missing the Application Deadline (Late Applications)

The deadline for electronic application submission is 11:59 pm ET on the due date listed in the *Overview* and in *Section IV.4. Submission Dates and Times.* Electronic applications submitted to Grants.gov after 11:59 pm ET on the due date, as indicated by a dated and time-

stamped email from Grants.gov, will be disqualified from competitive review and funding under this funding opportunity. That is, applications submitted to Grants.gov, on or after 12:00 am ET on the day after the due date will be disqualified from competitive review and funding under this funding opportunity.

Applications submitted to Grants.gov at any time during the open application period, and prior to the due date and time, which fail the Grants.gov validation check, will not be received at, or acknowledged by ACF.

Each time an application is submitted via Grants.gov, the submission will generate a new date and time-stamp email notification. Only those applications with on-time date and time stamps that result in a validated application, which is transmitted to ACF will be acknowledged.

The deadline for receipt of paper applications is 4:30 pm ET on the due date listed in the *Overview* and in *Section IV.4. Submission Dates and Times*. Paper applications received after 4:30 pm ET on the due date will be disqualified from competitive review and funding under this funding opportunity. **Paper applications received from applicants that have not received approval of an exemption from required electronic submission will be disqualified from competitive review and funding under this funding opportunity.**

Notification of Application Disqualification
Applicants will be notified of a disqualification determination by email or by USPS postal mail within 30 federal business days from the closing date of this NOFO.

IV. Application and Submission Information

IV.1. Address to Request Application Package

Flavia
Keenan
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Children and Families
Office on Trafficking in Persons
330 C St., SW.
Washington
DC
20201
202-401-9303
Flavia.Keenan@acf.hhs.gov

Application Packages

Electronic Application Submission:

The electronic application submission package is available in the NOFO's listing at Grants.gov.

Applications in Paper Format:
For applicants that have received an exemption to submit applications in paper format, Standard

Forms (SFs), assurances, and certifications are available in the "Select Grant Opportunity Package" available in the NOFO's Grants.gov Synopsis under the Package tab at Grants.gov. See *Section IV.2. Request an Exemption from Required Electronic Application Submission* if applicants do not have an Internet connection or sufficient computing capacity to upload large documents (files) to Grants.gov.

Federal Relay Service:
Hearing-impaired and speech-impaired callers may contact the Federal Relay Service (FedRelay) for assistance at www.gsa.gov/fedrelay.

IV.2. Content and Form of Application Submission

FORMATTING APPLICATION SUBMISSIONS
Each applicant applying electronically via Grants.gov is required to upload only two electronic files, excluding SFs and Office of Management and Budget (OMB)-approved forms. No more than two files will be accepted for the review, and additional files will be removed. SFs and OMB-approved forms will not be considered additional files.

FOR ALL APPLICATIONS:

Authorized Organization Representative (AOR)
AOR is the designated representative of the applicant/recipient organization with authority to act on the organization's behalf in matters related to the award and administration of grants. In signing a grant application, this individual agrees that the organization will assume the obligations imposed by applicable Federal statutes and regulations and other terms and conditions of the award, including any assurances, if a grant is awarded.

Point of Contact
In addition to the AOR, a point of contact on matters involving the application must also be identified. The point of contact, known as the Project Director or Principal Investigator, should not be identical to the person identified as the AOR. The point of contact must be available to answer any questions pertaining to the application.

Application Checklist
Applicants may refer to *Section VIII. Other Information* for a checklist of application requirements that may be used in developing and organizing application materials.

Accepted Font Style
Applications must be in Times New Roman (TNR), 12-point font, except for footnotes, which may be TNR 10-point font. Pages that contain blurred text, or text that is too small to read comfortably, will be removed.

English Language
Applications must be submitted in the English language and must be in the terms of United States (U.S.) dollars. If applications are submitted using another currency, ACF will convert the foreign currency to U.S. currency using the date of receipt of the application to determine the

rate of exchange.

Page Limitations
Applicants must observe the page limitation(s) listed under "PAGE LIMITATIONS AND CONTENT FOR ALL SUBMISSION FORMATS:." Page limitation(s) do not include SFs and OMB-approved forms.

All applications must be double-spaced. An application that exceeds the cited page limitation for double-spaced pages in the Project Description file or the Appendices file will have extra pages removed, and those pages will not be reviewed.

Application Elements Exempted from Double-Spacing Requirements
The following elements of the application submission are exempt from the double-spacing requirements and may be single-spaced: the table of contents, the one-page Project Summary, required Assurances and Certifications, required SFs, required OMB-approved forms, resumes, logic models, proof of legal status/non-profit status, third-party agreements, letters of support, footnotes, tables, the line-item budget and/or the budget justification.

Adherence to NOFO Formatting, Font, and Page Limitation Requirements
Applications that fail to adhere to ACF's NOFO formatting, font, and page limitation requirements will be adjusted by the removal of page(s) from the application. Pages will be removed before the objective review and will not be made available to reviewers.

Applications that have more than one scanned page of a document on a single page will have the page(s) removed from the review.

For applicants that submit paper applications, double-sided pages will be counted as two pages. When the maximum allowed number of pages is reached, excess pages will be removed and will not be made available to reviewers.

NOTE: Applicants failing to adhere to ACF's NOFO formatting, font, and page limitation requirements will receive a letter from ACF notifying them that their application was amended. The letter will be sent after awards have been issued and will specify the reason(s) for removal of page(s).

Corrections/Updates to Submitted Applications
When applicants make revisions to a previously submitted application, ACF will accept only the last on-time application for pre-review under the Application Disqualification Factors. The Application Disqualification Factors determine the application's acceptance for competitive review. See *Section III.3. Other, Application Disqualification Factors* and *Section IV.2. Application Submission Options*.

Copies Required
Applicants must submit one complete copy of the application package electronically. Applicants

submitting electronic applications need not provide additional copies of their application package.

Applicants submitting applications in paper format must submit one original and two copies of the complete application, including all SFs and OMB-approved forms. The original copy must have original signatures.

Signatures
Applicants submitting electronic applications must follow the registration and application submission instructions provided at Grants.gov.
The original of a paper format application must include original signatures of the authorized representatives.

Accepted Application Format
With the exception of the required SFs and OMB-approved forms, all application materials must be formatted so that they are 8 ½" x 11" white paper with 1-inch margins all around.

If possible, applicants are encouraged to include page numbers for each page within the application.

ACF generally does not encourage submission of scanned documents as they tend to have reduced clarity and readability. If documents must be scanned, the font size on any scanned documents must be large enough so that it is readable. Documents must be scanned page-for-page, meaning that applicants may not scan more than one page of a document onto a single page. Pages with blurred text will be removed from the application.

PAGE LIMITATIONS AND CONTENT FOR ALL SUBMISSION FORMATS:

Project Description
With the exceptions of the SFs and OMB-Approved forms, the application submission in its entirety (Project Description and Appendices) is limited to 110 pages.

The Project Description must include the following:

- Table of Contents
- Geographic Location
- Need for Assistance
- Objectives
- Expected Outcomes
- Approach
- Project Timeline and Milestones
- Organizational Capacity
- Plan for Oversight of Federal Award Funds
- Program Performance Evaluation Plan
- Protection of Sensitive and/or Confidential Information
- Line-Item Budget and Budget Justification

Appendices
The appendices must include the following:

- Proof of Legal Status (i.e., proof of nonprofit status, prime recipient's agency mission statement, governing body documentation, prime recipient's Articles of Incorporation, Board Bylaws, etc.)
- Organizational Capacity (i.e., organizational charts, documentation of experience in the program area, personnel policies, and any other pertinent information the applicant deems relevant)
- Resumes and/or Project Descriptions for Key Staff and, if applicable, Subrecipient(s)
- Letters of Support, if applicable
- Third-Party Agreements, if applicable
- Copy of Auditor's One Page Summary Report
- Logic Model

ELECTRONIC APPLICATION SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS
Applicants are required to submit their applications electronically unless they have received an exemption that will allow submission in paper format. See *Section IV.2. Application Submission Options* for information about requesting an exemption**.**

Electronic applications will only be accepted via Grants.gov. **ACF will not accept applications submitted via email or via facsimile.**

Each applicant is required to upload ONLY two electronic files, excluding SFs and OMB-approved forms.

File One: Must contain the entire Project Description, and the Budget and Budget Justification (including a line-item budget and a budget narrative).

File Two: Must contain all documents required in the Appendices.

Adherence to the Two-File Requirement
No more than two files will be accepted for the review. Applications with additional files will be amended and files will be removed from the review. SFs and OMB-approved forms will not be considered additional files.

Application Upload Requirements
ACF strongly recommends that electronic applications be uploaded as Portable Document Files (PDFs). One file must contain the entire Project Description and Budget Justification; the other file must contain all documents required in the Appendices. Details on the content of each of the two files, as well as page limitations, are listed earlier in this section.

To adhere to the two-file requirement, applicants may need to convert and/or merge documents together using a PDF converter software. Many recent versions of Microsoft Office include the ability to save documents to the PDF format without need of additional software. Applicants

using the Adobe Acrobat Reader software will be able to merge these documents together. ACF recommends merging documents electronically rather than scanning multiple documents into one document manually, as scanned documents may have reduced clarity and readability.

Applicants must ensure that the version of Adobe Acrobat Reader they are using is compatible with Grants.gov. To verify Adobe software compatibility please go to Grants.gov and click on "Applicants" at the top bar menu and select "Adobe Software Compatibility", which is listed under "Applicant Resources." The Adobe verification process allows applicants to test their version of the software by opening a test Workspace PDF form. Grants.gov also includes guidance on how to download a supported version of Adobe, as well as troubleshooting instructions for use, if an applicant is unable to open the test form.

The Adobe Software Compatibility page located on Grants.gov also provides guidance for applicants on filling out a Workspace PDF form. In addition, it addresses local network and/or computer security settings and the impact this has on use of Adobe software.

Required SFs and OMB-approved Forms
SFs and OMB-approved forms are uploaded separately at Grants.gov. These forms are submitted separately from the Project Description and Appendices files. See *Section IV.2. Required Forms, Assurances, and Certifications* for the listing of required SFs, OMB-approved forms, and required assurances and certifications.

Naming Application Submission Files
Carefully observe the file naming conventions required by Grants.gov. Limit file names to 50 characters (characters and spaces). Please also see https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/submitting-utf-8-special-characters.html.

Use only file formats supported by ACF
Applicants must submit applications using only the supported file formats listed here. While ACF supports all of the following file formats, **we strongly recommend that the two application submission files (Project Description and Appendices) are uploaded as PDFs in order to comply with the two-file upload limitation.** Documents in file formats that are not supported by ACF will be removed from the application and will not be used in the competitive review. This may make the application incomplete, and ACF will not make any awards based on an incomplete application.

ACF supports the following file formats:

- Adobe PDF – Portable Document Format (.pdf)
- Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx)
- Microsoft Excel (.xls or .xlsx)
- Microsoft PowerPoint (.ppt)
- Image Formats (.JPG, .GIF, .TIFF, or .BMP only)

Do Not Encrypt or Password-Protect the Electronic Application Files
If ACF cannot access submitted electronic files because they are encrypted or password

protected, the affected file will be removed from the application and will not be reviewed. This removal may make the application incomplete, and ACF will not make awards based on an incomplete application.

FORMATTING FOR PAPER APPLICATION SUBMISSIONS:
The following requirements are only applicable to applications submitted in paper format. Applicants must receive an exemption from ACF in order for a paper format application to be accepted for review. For more information on the exemption, see "*ACF Policy for Requesting an Exemption from Required Electronic Application Submission'" at* www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/howto#chapter-6.

Format Requirements for Paper Applications
All copies of mailed or hand-delivered paper applications must be submitted in a single package. If an applicant is submitting multiple applications under a single NOFO, or multiple applications under separate NOFOs, each application submission must be packaged separately. The package(s) must be clearly labeled with the NOFO title and Funding Opportunity Number.

Applicants using paper format should download the application forms package associated with the NOFO's Synopsis on Grants.gov under the Package tab.

Applicants are advised that the copies of the application submitted, not the original, will be reproduced by the federal government for review. **All application materials must be one-sided for duplication purposes. All pages in the application submission must be sequentially numbered.**

Addresses for Submission of Paper Applications
See *Section IV.7. Other Submission Requirements* for addresses for paper format application submissions.

Required Forms, Assurances, and Certifications

Applicants seeking an award under this funding opportunity must submit the listed SFs, assurances, and certifications with the application. All required SFs, assurances, and certifications are available in the Application Package posted for this NOFO at Grants.gov.

Forms/Assurances/Certifications	Submission Requirement	Notes/Description
SF-424 - Application for Federal Assistance	Submission is required for all applicants by the application due date.	Required for all applications.
Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and System for Award Management (SAM) registration.	Required of all applicants.	See *Section IV.3. Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and System for*

Forms/Assurances/Certifications	Submission Requirement	Notes/Description
	Applicants must have a UEI and maintain an active SAM registration throughout the application and project award period. Obtain a UEI and SAM registration at: http://www.sam.gov.	*Award Management (SAM)* for more information.
SF-424 Key Contact Form	Submission is required for all applicants by the application due date.	Required for all applications.
Certification Regarding Lobbying (Grants.gov Lobbying Form)	Submission required of all applicants with the application package. If it is not submitted with the application package, it must be submitted prior to the award of a grant.	Submission of the certification is required for all applicants.
SF-424A - Budget Information - Non- Construction Programs and SF-424B - Assurances - Non- Construction Programs	Submission is required for all applicants when applying for a non-construction project. SFs must be used. Forms must be submitted by the application due date. By signing and submitting the SF-424B, applicants are making the	Required for all applications when applying for a non-construction project.

Forms/Assurances/Certifications	Submission Requirement	Notes/Description
	appropriate certification of their compliance with all Federal statutes relating to nondiscrimination.	
SF-Project/Performance Site Location(s) (SF-P/PSL)	Submission is required for all applicants by the application due date.	Required for all applications. In the SF-P/PSL, applicants must cite their primary location and up to 29 additional performance sites.
SF-LLL - Disclosure of Lobbying Activities	If submission of this form is applicable, it is due at the time of application. If it is not available at the time of application, it may also be submitted prior to the award of a grant.	If any funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a member of Congress in connection with this commitment providing for the United States to insure or guarantee a loan, the applicant shall complete and submit the SF-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions.

Additional Required Assurances and Certifications

Mandatory Grant Disclosure

All applicants and recipients are required to submit, in writing, to the awarding agency and to the HHS Office of the Inspector General (OIG), all information related to violations of federal criminal law involving fraud, bribery, or gratuity violations potentially affecting the federal award. (Mandatory Disclosures, 45 CFR § 75.113)

Disclosures must be sent in writing to:

The Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Grants Management, ATTN: Grants Management Specialist, 330 C Street, SW., Switzer Building, Corridor 3200, Washington, DC 20201

And to:

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General, ATTN: Mandatory Grant Disclosures, Intake Coordinator, 330 Independence Avenue, SW., Cohen Building, Room 5527, Washington, DC 20201

Fax: (202) 205-0604 (Include "Mandatory Grant Disclosures" in subject line) or

Email: grantdisclosures@oig.hhs.gov

Non-Federal Reviewers
Since ACF will be using non-federal reviewers in the review process, applicants have the option of omitting from the application copies (not the original) specific salary rates or amounts for individuals specified in the application budget as well as Social Security Numbers, if otherwise required for individuals. The copies may include summary salary information. If applications are submitted electronically, ACF will omit the same specific salary rate information from copies made for use during the review process.

The Project Description

The Project Description Overview

General Expectations and Instructions
The Project Description provides the information by which an application is evaluated and ranked in competition with other applications for financial assistance. It must address all activities for which federal funds are being requested and all application requirements as stated in this section. The Project Description must explain how the project will meet the purpose of the NOFO, as described in *Section I. Program Description*. As a reminder, reviewers will be evaluating this section in accordance with *Section V.1. Criteria*.

The Project Description must be clear, concise, and complete. ACF is particularly interested in Project Descriptions that convey strategies for achieving intended performance. Project Descriptions are evaluated on the basis of substance and measurable outcomes, not length.

Cross-referencing should be used rather than repetition. Supporting documents designated as required must be included in the Appendix of the application.

Table of Contents
List the contents of the application including corresponding page numbers. The table of contents may be single spaced.

Project Summary
Provide a summary of the application project description. It must be clear, accurate, concise, and without cross-references to other parts of the application. The summary must include a brief description of the proposed grant project including the needs to be addressed, the proposed services, and the population group(s) to be served.

Please place the following at the top of the Project Summary:

- Project Title
- Applicant Name
- Address
- Contact Phone Numbers (Voice, Fax, Cell)

- Email Address
- Website Address, if applicable

The Project Summary must be single-spaced, Times New Roman 12-point font, and limited to one page in length. Additional pages will be removed and will not be reviewed.

Geographic Location
Describe the precise physical location of the project and boundaries of the area to be served by the proposed project.

Legal Status of Applicant Entity
Applicants must provide the following documentation:

items such as proof of nonprofit status, prime recipient's agency mission statement, governing body documentation, prime recipient's Articles of Incorporation, Board Bylaws, etc.

Non-Profit Organizations

Proof of Non-Profit Status Options:

Option 3: 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations are eligible
Non-profit 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations applying for funding are required to submit proof of their non-profit status. Proof of 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4) non-profit status is any one of the following:

- A reference to the applicant organization's listing in the IRS's most recent list of tax-exempt 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4) organizations described in the IRS Code.
- A copy of a currently valid IRS 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4) tax-exemption certificate.

Unless directed otherwise, applicants must include proof of non-profit status in the *Appendices* file of the application submission.

For-Profits and Small Businesses
For-profit organizations (including small businesses) applying for funding must submit the following to provide proof of their legal status: Documentation establishing the power granted to the entity to enter into contractual relationships and/or accept awards (i.e., articles of incorporation, bylaws).

Small Businesses
Small businesses must submit a certification signed by the chief executive officer or designee that states that the entity qualifies as a small business under 13 CFR §§ 121.101- 121.201.

Need for Assistance
Clearly identify the physical, economic, social, financial, institutional, and/or other problem(s) requiring a solution. The need for assistance, including the nature and scope of the problem, must be demonstrated. Supporting documentation, such as letters of support and testimonials from concerned parties, may be included in the Appendix. Any relevant data based on planning studies or needs assessments should be included or referred to in the endnotes or footnotes. Incorporate demographic data and participant/beneficiary information, as available.

Objectives
Clearly state the principal and subordinate objectives of the project. Applicants must address how the objectives stated relate to the overall purpose of the program and describe how objectives will be achieved.

Expected Outcomes
Identify the outcomes to be achieved from the project. Outcomes should relate to the overall program as described in *Section I. Program Description*. If research is part of the proposed work, outcomes must include hypothesized results and implications of the proposed research.

Approach
Outline a plan of action that describes the scope and detail of how the proposed project will be accomplished. Applicants must account for all functions or activities identified in the application.

Cite potential obstacles and challenges to accomplishing project goals and explain strategies that will be used to address these challenges.

Project Plan

Applicants may partner with an organization(s) in their targeted geographic location to achieve the objectives of this NOFO. If the applicant chooses to partner, their application must delineate their own, and any subrecipient(s) roles, and responsibilities in the project consistent with the requirements listed in *Section I. VHT-SO Pacific Program Administrative Requirements, Subawards*. Additionally, applicants must describe how subawards will comply with *Section IV.6. Funding Restrictions*.

Applicants must describe how VHT-SO Pacific Program funds will complement, and not duplicate, existing anti-trafficking efforts and services in the proposed geographic area. If the applicant is receiving other federal funds to implement a human trafficking program, the applicant will include the name of the awarding federal agency, the name of the grant, the project period, the amount they currently receive, and how they will ensure any funds awarded through the VHT-SO Pacific Program will not be used to supplant or augment any other related federal funding.

Applicants must describe the plan to provide comprehensive case management services to foreign national adult victims of human trafficking as discussed in *Section I. VHT-SO Pacific Program Service Requirements, Comprehensive Case Management Services*. Additionally, in their plan, the applicant must describe how they will ensure only qualified participants will be enrolled in the VHT-SO Pacific Program as required in *Section I. VHT-SO Pacific Program Service Requirements, Eligible Beneficiaries of Program Services,* and in accordance with *Section IV.6. Funding Restrictions*.

Applicants must identify and describe how their programming and service delivery will be trauma-informed, culturally responsive, and linguistically appropriate to ensure their project activities are person-centered and meet the diverse needs of those with different racial, ethnic, cultural, gender identity/sexual orientation, abilities, and religious backgrounds as described in *Section I. VHT-SO Pacific Program Service Requirements, Guiding Principles*. The plan may include any proposed partnerships with agencies possessing demonstrated experience serving

foreign nationals, 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals, and related/eligible underserved communities.

Applicants with any religious objections to providing certain kinds of services must specify this within their one-page summary and provide further detail as to their objection and alternative approach within their application as referenced in *Section I. VHT-SO Pacific Program Administrative Requirements, Faith-Based Organizations*.

Applicants must include a thorough outreach plan that describes their efforts to make foreign nationals who have experienced human trafficking aware of available services through the VHT-SO Pacific Program in accordance with all requirements listed in *Section I. VHT-SO Pacific Program Service Requirements, Outreach*. The outreach plan must include a detailed description of the proposed outreach activities, a timeline, and a dissemination plan of any discrete outreach materials the applicant intends to distribute. The plan may include any proposed partnerships with agencies possessing demonstrated experience conducting outreach to increase victim identification, if applicable. The outreach plan must not include any public awareness activities, which are unallowable under the VHT-SO Pacific Program. For more information, please see Section *IV.6. Funding Restrictions.*

Applicants must provide a comprehensive training plan that demonstrates how they will build local capacity to serve and respond to foreign nationals who have experienced human trafficking, in accordance with all requirements listed in *Section I. VHT-SO Pacific Program Service Requirements, Community Training*. The plan must include proposed required training topics, audiences, and any proposed optional partnerships with agencies possessing demonstrated experience conducting training to local professionals, including agencies with expertise on tailoring policies and programs to better serve foreign national communities.

Applicants must describe how all personnel and, if applicable, subrecipient staff that interacts with individuals who have experienced human trafficking will complete at least 10 hours per budget period of training in connection with trafficking in persons as required in *Section I. VHT-SO Pacific Program Administrative Requirements, Capacity Building for Project Staff and Subrecipients* and in compliance with *Section IV.6 Funding Restrictions.*

Applicants must describe how they will adjust their program activities in accordance with state and federal public health guidance as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic in accordance with *Section I. Post-Award Requirements, COVID-19 Response*.

Project Timeline and Milestones
Provide quantitative monthly or quarterly projections (for the entire project period) of the accomplishments to be achieved for each function or activity, in such terms as the number of people to be served and the number of activities accomplished. Data may be organized and presented as project tasks and subtasks with their corresponding timelines during the project period. When accomplishments cannot be quantified by activity or function, list them in chronological order to show the schedule of accomplishments and their target dates.

Organizational Capacity
Provide the following information on the applicant organization and, if applicable, on any cooperating partners:

- Organizational charts.
- Resumes.
- Biographical Sketches (short narrative description).
- Audit reports or statements from Certified Public Accountants/Licensed Public Accountants, if available, submit statements for up to the two most recently completed fiscal years (this requirement does not apply to start-up organizations).
- Copy or description of the applicant organization's fiscal control and accountability procedures.
- Evidence that the applicant organization, and any partnering organizations, have relevant experience and expertise with administration, development, implementation, management, and evaluation of programs similar to that offered under this funding opportunity.
- Evidence that each participating organization, including partners, contractors and/or subrecipients, possess the organizational capability to fulfill their role(s) and function(s) effectively.
- Information on compliance with federal/state/local government standards.
- Job descriptions for each vacant key position.

Applicants must demonstrate substantive prior experience in serving foreign nationals who have experienced severe forms of human trafficking by describing in detail their experience with this population and their experience in the anti-trafficking field. Applicants must note the total number of foreign national victims of severe forms of trafficking previously identified and served in the last 3 calendar years (2018–2021) within the targeted geographic region; the types of victims it has served (i.e., sex trafficking, labor trafficking, or both); and why the community does not have the current capacity to provide the services, long-term resources, and support needed.

If known at the time of application submission, applicants must disclose their intent to enter into subaward arrangements in the application. For each subaward, applicants must include a description of the work to be performed by the subrecipient(s). No more than 40 percent of total award funds per budget period may be awarded as subawards.

Plan for Oversight of Federal Award Funds and Activities
Recipients are required to ensure proper oversight in accordance with 45 CFR Part 75 Subpart D.

These regulations set forth the following standards for effective oversight:

- Financial and Program Management
- Property (if applicable by program legislation)
- Procurement
- Performance and Financial Monitoring and Reporting
- Subrecipient Monitoring and Management
- Record Retention and Access

- Remedies for Noncompliance

Describe the framework (e.g., governance, policies and procedures, risk management, systems) in place to ensure proper oversight of federal funds and activities in accordance with 45 CFR Part 75 Subpart D. The description must include: system(s) for record-keeping and financial management; procedures to identify and mitigate risks and issues (e.g., audit findings, continuous program performance assessment findings, program monitoring); and those key staff that will be responsible for maintaining oversight of program activities staff, and, if applicable, partner(s) and/or subrecipient(s).

Program Performance Evaluation Plan
Applicants must describe a plan for the program performance evaluation that will contribute to continuous quality improvement. The program performance evaluation must monitor ongoing activities and the progress towards the goals and objectives of the project. Include descriptions of the inputs (e.g., organizational profile, collaborative partners, key staff, budget, and other resources), key activities, and expected outcomes of the funded activities. The plan must explain how the inputs, activities, and outcomes will be measured; how the resulting information will be used to inform improvement of funded activities; and any processes that support the overall data quality of the performance outcomes.

Applicants must describe the organizational systems and processes that will effectively track performance outcomes, including a description of how the organization will collect and manage data (e.g., assign skilled staff, data management software, data integrity, etc.) in a way that allows for accurate and timely reporting of performance outcomes. Applicants must describe any potential obstacles for implementing the program performance evaluation and how those obstacles will be addressed. Applicants must include a timeline for how information from the quality improvement evaluation will be reviewed and applied to the ongoing project.

Applicants must describe their plan to collect data and report progress toward accomplishing each of the performance indicators as described in *Section I. Post-Award Requirements, Program Performance Indicators*.

Applicants must provide first-year target numbers for the project period for each of the following program indicators:

- Projected number of foreign national victims of human trafficking to be served through the VHT-SO Pacific Program;
- Projected number of outreach activities to be conducted;
- Projected number of community trainings to be conducted; and
- Projected number of professionals trained, excluding staff and, if applicable, subrecipient(s) staff, funded through the VHT-SO Pacific Program.

Project targets must reflect the CDC's Guidance for COVID-19 recommendations to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Please see *Section I. Post-Award Requirements, COVID-19 Response* for more information.

Logic Model
Applicants must submit a logic model for designing and managing their projects. A logic model is a diagram that presents the conceptual framework for a proposed project and explains the links

among program elements. Logic models must target the identified objectives and goals of the grant program. While there are many versions of logic models, for the purposes of this funding opportunity, the logic model may include connections between the following items:

- Inputs (e.g., additional resources, organizational profile, collaborative partner(s), key staff, budget);
- Target population (e.g., the individuals to be served, identified needs);
- Activities, Mechanisms, Processes (e.g., evidence-based practices, best practices, approach, key intervention and evaluation components, continuous quality improvement efforts);
- Outputs (i.e., the immediate and direct results of program activities);
- Outcomes (i.e., the expected short and long-term results the project is designed to achieve, typically described as changes in people or systems), and
- Goals of the project (e.g., overarching objectives, reasons for proposing the project).

Project Sustainability Plan
Applicants must propose a plan for project sustainability after the period of federal funding ends. Recipients are expected to sustain key elements of their grant projects, e.g., strategies or services and interventions, which have been effective in improving practices and outcomes.

Describe the approach to project sustainability that will be most effective and feasible. Provide a description of key individuals and/or organizations whose support will be required. Address the types of alternative support that will be required to maintain the program. If the proposed project involves key project partners, describe how their cooperation and/or collaboration will be maintained after the end of federal funding.

Protection of Sensitive and/or Confidential Information
Provide a description of how protected personally identifiable information and other information that is considered sensitive, consistent with applicable federal, state, local and tribal laws regarding privacy and obligations of confidentiality, will be collected and safeguarded. The applicant must provide the methods and/or systems that will be used to ensure that confidential and/or sensitive information is properly handled and if applicable, address the process for subrecipient(s) and/or contractors. Also, provide a plan for the disposition of such information at the end of the project period.

Dissemination Plan
Applicants must propose a plan to disseminate reports, products, and/or grant project outputs so that project information is provided to key target audiences. Dissemination plans must include:

- Dissemination goals and objectives;
- Strategies to identify and engage with target audiences;
- Allocation of sufficient staff time and budget for dissemination purposes;
- A preliminary plan to evaluate the extent to which target audiences have received project information and have used it as intended, and
- The timeline for dissemination.

Third-Party Agreements

Third-party agreements include Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) and Letters of Commitment. Letters of Commitment and MOUs must both clearly describe the roles and responsibilities for project activities and the support and/or resources that the third-party (i.e., subrecipient, contractor, or other cooperating entity) is committing. The Letters of Commitment and MOUs must be signed by the person in the third-party organization with the authority to make such commitments on behalf of their organization. General letters of support are **not** considered to be third-party agreements.

Applicants must provide Letters of Commitment or MOUs between recipients and third-parties (i.e., subrecipients, contractors, or other cooperating entities). In addition to clearly describing the roles and responsibilities for project activities and support and/or resources that the third-party is committing, these agreements must detail work schedules and estimated remuneration with an understanding that a finalized agreement will be negotiated once the successful applicant is awarded the grant.

Letters of Support

Provide statements from community, public, and/or commercial leaders that support the project proposed for funding. All submissions must be included in the application package. At minimum, each letter of support must identify the individual writing the letter, the organization they represent, the date, and reason(s) for supporting the project.

The Project Budget and Budget Justification

All applicants are required to submit a project budget and budget justification with their application. The project budget is entered on the Budget Information SF, either SF- 424A or SF-424C. Applicants are encouraged to review the form instructions in addition to the guidance in this section. The budget justification consists of a budget narrative and a line-item budget detail that includes detailed calculations for "object class categories" identified on the Budget Information Standard Form. Applicants must indicate the method they are selecting for their indirect cost rate. See Indirect Charges for further information.

Project budget calculations must include estimation methods, quantities, unit costs, and other similar quantitative detail sufficient for the calculation to be duplicated. If cost sharing or matching is a requirement, applicants must include a detailed listing of any funding sources identified in Block 18 of the SF-424 (Application for Federal Assistance). See the table in *Section IV.2. Required Forms, Assurances, and Certifications* listing the appropriate budget forms to use in this application.

Special Note: *The Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2022 and Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022, (Division H, Title II, Sec. 202), limits the salary amount that may be awarded and charged to ACF grants and cooperative agreements. Award funds issued under this funding opportunity may not be used to pay the salary of an individual at a rate in excess of Executive Level II. For the Executive Level II salary, please see "Executive & Senior Level Employee Pay Tables" under https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/pay-leave/salaries-wages/. The salary limitation reflects an individual's base salary exclusive of fringe benefits, indirect costs and any income that an individual may be permitted to earn outside of the duties of the applicant*

organization. This salary limitation also applies to subawards and subcontracts under an ACF grant or cooperative agreement.

Provide a budget for the initial budget period only (typically the first 12 months of the project) using the SF-424A and/or SF-424C, as applicable. Provide a budget justification, which includes a budget narrative and a line-item detail, for only the first budget period of the proposed project. The budget narrative should describe how the categorical costs are derived. Discuss the necessity, reasonableness, and allocation of the proposed costs.

For applicants proposing to use subaward(s), the applicant must explain how the prime recipient plans to maintain a substantive role in the project. Applicants must explain why the participation of the subrecipient is necessary, and why the prime recipient cannot achieve the objectives without their participation.

General

Use the following guidelines for preparing the project budget and budget justification. The budget justification includes a budget narrative and a line-item detail. Applications should only include allowable costs in accordance with 45 CFR Part 75 Subpart E.

Personnel

Description: Costs of employee salaries and wages. See 45 CFR § 75.430 for more information on allowable personnel costs. Do not include the personnel costs of consultants, contractors and subrecipients under this category.

Justification: For each position, provide: the name of the individual (if known), their title; time commitment to the project in months; time commitment to the project as a percentage or full-time equivalent; annual salary; grant salary; wage rates; etc. Identify the project director or principal investigator, if known at the time of application.

Fringe Benefits

Description: Costs of employee fringe benefits are allowances and services provided by employers to their employees in addition to regular salaries and wages. For more information on Fringe Benefits please refer to 45 CFR § 75.431. Do not include the fringe benefits of consultants, contractors, and subrecipients.

Typically, fringe benefit amounts are determined by applying a calculated rate for a particular class of employee (full-time or part-time) to the salary and wages requested. Fringe rates are often specified in the approved indirect cost rate agreement. Fringe benefits may be treated as a direct cost or indirect cost in accordance with the applicant's accounting practices. Only fringe benefits as a direct cost should be entered under this category.

Justification: Provide a breakdown of the amounts and percentages that comprise fringe benefit costs such as health insurance, Federal Insurance Contributions Act taxes, retirement, taxes, etc.

Travel

Description: Costs of project-related travel (i.e., transportation, lodging, subsistence) by employees of the applicant organization who are in travel status on official business. Travel by non-employees such as consultants, contractors or subrecipients should be included under the Contractual line item. Local travel for employees in non-travel status should be listed on the Other line. Travel costs should be developed in accordance with the applicant's travel policies and 45 CFR § 75.474.

Justification: For each trip show: the total number of travelers; travel destination; duration of trip; per diem; mileage allowances, if privately owned vehicles will be used to travel out of town; and other transportation costs and subsistence allowances. If appropriate for this project, travel costs for key project staff to attend ACF-sponsored workshops/conferences/recipient orientations should be detailed in the budget justification.

Equipment

Description: "Equipment" means an article of nonexpendable, tangible personal property (including information technology systems) having a useful life of more than one year and a per unit acquisition cost that equals or exceeds the lesser of: (a) the capitalization level established by the organization for the financial statement purposes, or (b) $5,000. (Note: Acquisition cost means the net invoice unit price of an item of equipment, including the cost of any modifications, attachments, accessories, or auxiliary apparatus necessary to make it usable for the purpose for which it is acquired. Ancillary charges, such as taxes, duty, protective in-transit insurance, freight, and installation, shall be included in, or excluded from, acquisition cost in accordance with the organization's regular written accounting practices.) See 45 CFR §75.439 for more information.

Justification: For each type of equipment requested provide: a description of the equipment; the cost per unit; the number of units; the total cost; and a plan for use on the project; as well as use and/or disposition of the equipment after the project ends.

Supplies

Description: Costs of all tangible personal property, other than included under the Equipment category. This includes office and other consumable supplies with a per-unit cost of less than $5,000. See 45 CFR § 75.453 for more information.

Justification: Specify general categories of supplies and their costs. Show computations and provide other information that supports the amount requested.

Contractual

Description: Cost of all contracts and subawards except for those that belong under other categories such as equipment, supplies, construction, etc. Include third-party evaluation contracts, if applicable, and contract or subawards with secondary recipient organizations (with budget detail), including delegate agencies and specific project(s) and/or businesses to be financed by the applicant. Costs related to individual consultants should be listed on the Other line. Recipients are required to use 45 CFR §§ 75.326-.340 procurement procedures, and subawards are subject to the requirements at 45 CFR §§ 75.351-.353.

Justification: Demonstrate that all procurement transactions will be conducted in a manner to provide, to the maximum extent practical, open, and free competition. Applicants must justify any anticipated procurement action that is expected to be awarded without competition and exceeds the simplified acquisition threshold stated in 48 CFR § 2.101(b). Recipients may be required to make pre-award review and procurement documents, such as requests for proposals or invitations for bids, independent cost estimates, etc., available to ACF.

Indicate whether the proposed agreement qualifies as a subaward or contract in accordance with 45 CFR § 75.351. Provide the name of the contractor/subrecipient (if known), a description of anticipated services, a justification for why they are necessary, a breakdown of estimated costs, and an explanation of the selection process. In addition, for subawards, the applicant must provide a detailed budget and budget narrative for each subaward, by entity name, along with the same justifications referred to in these budget and budget justification instructions.

Other

Description: Enter the total of all other costs. Such costs, where applicable and appropriate, may include, but are not limited to: consultant costs, local travel, insurance, food (when allowable), medical and dental costs (non-personnel), professional service costs (including audit charges), space and equipment rentals, printing and publications, computer use, training costs (such as tuition and stipends), staff development costs, and administrative costs. Please note costs must be allowable per 45 CFR Part 75 Subpart E.

Justification: Provide a breakdown of costs, computations, a narrative description, and a justification for each cost under this category.

Indirect Charges

Description: Total amount of indirect costs. This category has one of two methods that an applicant can select. An applicant may only select one.

1. The applicant currently has an indirect cost rate approved by HHS or another cognizant federal agency.

   Justification: An applicant must enclose a copy of the current approved rate agreement. If the applicant is requesting a rate that is less than what is allowed under the program, the authorized representative of the applicant organization must submit a signed acknowledgement that the applicant is accepting a lower rate than allowed. Choosing to charge a lower rate will not be considered during the objective review or award selection process.

2. Per 45 CFR § 75.414(f) Indirect (F&A) costs, "any non-Federal entity [i.e., applicant] that has never received a negotiated indirect cost rate, ... may elect to charge a *de minimis* rate of 10% of modified total direct costs (MTDC) which may be used indefinitely. As described in Section 75.403, costs must be consistently charged as either indirect or direct costs, but may not be double charged or inconsistently charged as both. If chosen, this methodology once elected must be used consistently for all Federal awards until such

time as the non-Federal entity chooses to negotiate for a rate, which the non-Federal entity may apply to do at any time."

Justification: This method only applies to applicants that have never received an approved negotiated indirect cost rate from HHS or another cognizant federal agency. Applicants awaiting approval of their indirect cost proposal may request the 10 percent *de minimis* rate. When the applicant chooses this method, costs included in the indirect cost pool must not be charged as direct costs to the grant.

Commitment of Non-Federal Resources

Description: Amounts of non-federal resources that will be used to support the project as identified in Block 18 of the SF-424. This line should be used to indicate required and/or voluntary committed cost sharing or matching, if applicable.

For all federal awards, any shared costs or matching funds and all contributions, including cash and third-party in-kind contributions, must be accepted as part of the recipient's cost sharing or matching when such contributions meet all of the criteria listed in 45 CFR § 75.306.

For awards that require matching or cost sharing by statute, recipients will be held accountable for projected commitments of non-federal resources (at or above the statutory requirement) in their application budgets and budget justifications by budget period, or by project period for fully funded awards. **A recipient's failure to provide the statutorily required matching or cost sharing amount (and any voluntary committed amount in excess) may result in the disallowance of federal funds. Recipients will be required to report these funds in the Federal Financial Reports.**

For awards that do not require matching or cost sharing by statute, recipients are not expected to provide cost sharing or matching. However, recipients are allowed to voluntarily propose a commitment of non-federal resources. If an applicant decides to voluntarily contribute non-federal resources towards project costs and the costs are accepted by ACF, the non-federal resources will be included in the approved project budget. The applicant will be held accountable for all proposed non-federal resources as shown in the Notice of Award (NoA). **A recipient's failure to meet the voluntary amount of non-federal resources that was accepted by ACF as part of the approved project costs and that was identified in the approved budget in the NoA, may result in the disallowance of federal funds. Recipients will be required to report these funds in the Federal Financial Reports.**

Justification: If an applicant is relying on cost share or match from a third-party, then a firm commitment of these resources (letter(s) or other documentation) is required to be submitted with the application. Detailed budget information must be provided for every funding source identified in Item 18. "Estimated Funding ($)" on the SF-424.

Applicants are required to fully identify and document in their applications the specific costs or contributions they propose in order to meet a matching requirement. Applicants are also required to provide documentation in their applications on the sources of funding or contribution(s). In-kind contributions must be accompanied by a justification of how the stated valuation was determined. Matching or cost sharing must be documented by budget period (or by project period for fully funded awards).

Applications that lack the required supporting documentation will not be disqualified from competitive review; however, it may impact an application's scoring under the evaluation criteria in *Section V.1. Criteria* of this funding opportunity.

Paperwork Reduction Act Disclaimer
As required by the Paperwork Reduction Act, 44 U.S.C. 3501-3521, the public reporting burden for the Project Description is estimated to average 60 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and reviewing the collection of information. The Project Description information collection is approved under OMB control number 0970-0139, which expires 03/31/2025. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Application Submission Options

Electronic Submission via Grants.gov

This section provides the application submission and receipt instructions for ACF program applications. Please read the following instructions carefully and completely.

Electronic Delivery

ACF is participating in the Grants.gov initiative to provide the grant community with a single site to find and apply for funding opportunities. ACF applicants are required to submit their applications online through Grants.gov.

How to Register and Apply through Grants.gov

Read the following instructions about registering to apply for ACF funds. Applicants should read the registration instructions carefully and prepare the information requested before beginning the registration process. Reviewing and assembling the required information before beginning the registration process will alleviate last-minute searches for required information.

Organizations must have an active System for Award (SAM) registration which provides a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI), and Grants.gov account to apply for grants.

Creating a Grants.gov account can be completed online in minutes, but SAM registration may take several weeks. Therefore, an organization's registration should be done in sufficient time to ensure it does not impact the entities ability to meet required application submission deadlines.

Organization applicants can find complete instructions here: https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/organization-registration.html

***Register with SAM*:** All organizations (entities) applying online through Grants.gov must register with SAM. Failure to register with SAM will prevent your organization from applying through Grants.gov. SAM registration must be renewed annually. For detailed instructions for registering with SAM, refer to: https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/organization-registration.html

***Create a Grants.gov Account*:** The next step in the registration process is to create an account with Grants.gov. Follow the on-screen instructions provided on the registration page.

***Add a Profile to a Grants.gov Account*:** A profile in Grants.gov corresponds to a single applicant organization the user represents (i.e., an applicant). If you work for or consult with multiple organizations, you can have a profile for each organization under one Grants.gov account. In such cases, you may log in to one Grants.gov account to access all your grant profiles. To add an organizational profile to your Grants.gov account, enter the UEI for the organization in the UEI field. For detailed instructions about creating a profile on Grants.gov, refer to: https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/registration/add-profile.html

EBiz POC Authorized Profile Roles: After you register with Grants.gov and create an Organization Applicant Profile, the applicant's request for Grants.gov roles and access is sent to the EBiz POC. The EBiz POC is then expected to log in to Grants.gov and authorize the appropriate roles, which may include the AOR role, thereby giving you permission to complete and submit applications on behalf of the organization. You will be able to submit your application online any time after you have been assigned the AOR role. For detailed instructions about creating a profile on Grants.gov, refer to: https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/registration/authorize-roles.html

***Track Role Status*:** To track your role request, refer to: https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/registration/track-role-status.html

When applications are submitted through Grants.gov, the name of the organization's AOR that submitted the application is inserted into the signature line of the application, serving as the electronic signature. The EBiz POC must authorize individuals who are able to make legally binding commitments on behalf of the organization as a user with the AOR role; this step is often missed and is crucial for valid and timely submissions.

How to Submit an Application to ACF via Grants.gov

Grants.gov applicants can apply online using Workspace. Workspace is a shared, online environment where members of a grant team may simultaneously access and edit different webforms within an application. For each NOFO, you can create individual instances of a workspace.

For an overview of applying on Grants.gov using Workspaces, refer to: https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/workspace-overview.html

***Create a Workspace*:** Creating a workspace allows you to complete an application online and route it through your organization for review before submitting.

***Complete a Workspace*:** Add participants to the workspace to work on the application together, complete all the required forms online or by downloading PDF versions, and check for errors before submission. The Workspace progress bar will display the state of your application process as you apply. As you apply using Workspace, you may click the blue question mark icon near the upper-right corner of each page to access context-sensitive help.

***Adobe Reader*:** If you decide not to apply by filling out webforms you can download individual PDF forms in Workspace. The individual PDF forms can be downloaded and saved to your local device storage, network drive(s), or external drive(s), then accessed through Adobe Reader.

NOTE: Visit the Adobe Software Compatibility page on Grants.gov to download the appropriate version of the software at: https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/adobe-software-compatibility.html

***Mandatory Fields in Forms*:** In the forms, you will note fields marked with an asterisk and a different background color. These fields are mandatory fields that must be completed to successfully submit your application.

***Complete SF-424 Fields First*:** These forms are designed to fill in common required fields across other forms, such as the applicant name, address, and SAM UEI. Once it is completed, the information will transfer to the other forms.

***Submit a Workspace*:** An application may be submitted through Workspace by clicking the Sign and Submit button on the Manage Workspace page, under the Forms tab. Grants.gov recommends submitting your application **at least 24-48 hours prior to the close date** to provide you with time to correct any potential technical issues that may disrupt the application submission.

***Track a Workspace*:** After successfully submitting a Workspace application, a Grants.gov Tracking Number (GRANTXXXXXXXX) is automatically assigned to the application. The number will be listed on the Confirmation page that is generated after submission. Using the tracking number, access the Track My Application page under the Applicants tab or the Details tab in the submitted workspace.

For additional training resources, including video tutorials, refer to: https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/applicant-training.html

Grants.gov provides applicants 24/7 support via the toll-free number 1-800-518-4726 and email at support@grants.gov. For questions related to the specific funding opportunity, contact the number listed in the application package of the grant you are applying for.

If you are experiencing difficulties with your submission, it is best to call the Grants.gov Support Center and get a ticket number. The Support Center ticket number will assist ACF with tracking and understanding background information on the issue.

Timely Receipt Requirements and Proof of Timely Submission

All applications must be received by 11:59 pm ET on the due date established for each program. Proof of timely submission is automatically recorded by Grants.gov. An electronic date/time stamp is generated within the system when the application is successfully received by Grants.gov. The applicant AOR will receive an acknowledgment of receipt and a tracking number (GRANTXXXXXXXX) from Grants.gov with the successful transmission of their application. Applicant AORs will also receive the official date/stamp and Grants.gov Tracking number in an email serving as proof of their timely submission.

When ACF successfully retrieves the application from Grants.gov, and acknowledges the download of submission, Grants.gov will provide an electronic acknowledgment of receipt of the application to the email address of the applicant with the AOR role. Again, proof of timely submission shall be the official date and time that Grants.gov receives your application.

Applications received by Grants.gov after the established due date for the program will be considered late and will not be considered for funding by ACF.

Applicants with slow internet connections should be aware that transmission can take some time before Grants.gov receives your application. Therefore, applicants should allow enough time to prepare and submit the application before the package closing date.

Grants.gov will provide either an error or a successfully received submission message in the form of an email sent to the applicant with the AOR role.

Issues with Federal Systems

For any systems issues experienced with Grants.gov or SAM.gov, please refer to ACF's "Policy for Applicants Experiencing Federal Systems Issues" document for complete guidance.

Request an Exemption from Required Electronic Application Submission

To request an exemption from required electronic submission, please refer to ACF's "Policy for Requesting an Exemption from Required Electronic Application Submission" document for complete guidance.

Paper Format Application Submission

An exemption is required for the submission of paper applications. See the preceding section on "*Request an Exemption from Required Electronic Application Submission.*"

Applicants with exemptions that submit their applications in paper format, by mail or delivery, must submit one original and two copies of the complete application with all attachments. The original and each of the two copies must include all required forms, certifications, assurances, and appendices, be signed by the AOR, and be unbound. The original copy of the application must have original signature(s). See *Section IV.7. Other Submission Requirements* of this funding opportunity for address information for paper format application submissions. Applications submitted in paper format must be received by 4:30 pm ET on the due date.

Applicants may refer to *Section VIII. Other Information* for a checklist of application requirements that may be used in developing and organizing application materials. Details concerning acknowledgment of received applications are available in *Section IV.4. Submission Dates and Times* in this funding opportunity.

IV.3. Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and System for Award Management (SAM)

All applicants must have a UEI and an active registration with SAM (https://www.sam.gov) prior to applying to a funding opportunity.

All applicants are required to maintain an active SAM registration until the application process is complete. If a grant is awarded, the SAM registration must be active throughout the life of the award. Your SAM registration must be renewed every 365 days to keep it active.

Plan ahead. Allow at least 10 business days after you submit your registration for it to become active in SAM and at least an additional 24 hours before that registration information is available in other government systems, i.e., Grants.gov.

This action should allow you time to resolve any issues that may arise. Failure to comply with these requirements may result in your inability to submit your application through Grants.gov or prevent the award of a grant. Applicants should maintain documentation (with dates) of their efforts to request a UEI, register for, or renew a registration, at SAM.

Please see the "Help" tab at https://sam.gov/content/help for more information and assistance with this process.

HHS requires all entities that plan to apply for, and ultimately receive, federal grant funds from any HHS Agency to:

- Be registered in SAM prior to submitting an application or plan;
- Maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during which it has an active award or an application or plan under consideration by an OPDIV;
- Provide its UEI in each application or plan it submits to the OPDIV; and
- Ensure any proposed subrecipient(s) have obtained and provided to the recipient their UEI(s) prior to making any subawards (**Note:** Subrecipients are not required to complete full SAM registration.).

ACF is prohibited from making an award until an applicant has complied with these requirements. At the time an award is ready to be made, if the intended recipient has not complied with these requirements, ACF:

- May determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive an award; and
- May use that determination as a basis for making an award to another applicant.

IV.4. Submission Dates and Times

Due Dates for Applications

Due Date for Applications 07/01/2022

07/01/2022

Explanation of Due Dates

The due date for receipt of applications is listed in the *Overview* section and in this section. See *Section III.3. Other, Application Disqualification Factors*.

Electronic Applications

The deadline for submission of electronic applications via Grants.gov is 11:59 pm ET on the due date. Electronic applications submitted at 12:00 am ET on the day after the due date will be considered late and will be disqualified from competitive review and funding under this funding opportunity.

Applicants are required to submit their applications electronically via Grants.gov unless they received an exemption through the process described in *Section IV.2. Request an Exemption from Required Electronic Application Submission.*

ACF does not accommodate transmission of applications by email or facsimile.

Instructions for electronic submission via Grants.gov are available at: www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/apply-for-grants.html.

Applications submitted to Grants.gov at any time during the open application period prior to the due date and time that fail the Grants.gov validation check will not be received at ACF. These applications will not be acknowledged.

Mailed Paper Format Applications
The deadline for receipt of mailed, paper applications is 4:30 pm ET on the due date. Mailed paper applications received after the due date and deadline time will be considered late and will be disqualified from competitive review and funding under this funding opportunity.

Paper format application submissions will be disqualified if the applicant organization has not received an exemption through the process described in *Section IV.2. Request an Exemption from Required Electronic Application Submission*.

Hand-Delivered Paper Format Applications
Hand-delivered applications must be received on, or before, the due date listed in the *Overview* and in this section. These applications must be delivered between the hours of 8:00 am ET and 4:30 pm ET Monday through Friday (excluding federal holidays).

Applications should be delivered to the address provided in *Section IV.7. Other Submission Requirements*.

Hand-delivered paper applications received after the due date and deadline time will be considered late and will be disqualified from competitive review and funding under this funding opportunity.

Hand-delivered paper format application submissions will be disqualified if the applicant organization has not received an exemption through the process described in *Section IV.2. Request an Exemption from Required Electronic Application Submission*.

No appeals will be considered for applications classified as late under the following circumstances:

- Applications submitted electronically via Grants.gov are considered late when they are dated and time-stamped after the deadline of 11:59 pm ET on the due date.
- Paper format applications received by mail or hand-delivery after 4:30 pm ET on the due date will be classified as late and will be disqualified.
- Paper format applications received from applicant organizations that were not approved for an exemption from required electronic application submission under the process described in *Section IV.2. Request an Exemption from Required Electronic Submission* will be disqualified.

Emergency Extensions
ACF may extend an application due date when circumstances make it impossible for an applicant to submit their applications on time. Only events such as documented natural disasters (floods, hurricanes, tornados, etc.), or a verifiable widespread disruption of electrical service, or mail service, will be considered. The determination to extend or waive the due date, and/or receipt time, requirements in an emergency situation rests with the Grants Management Officer listed as the Office of Grants Management Contact in *Section VII. HHS Awarding Agency Contact(s)*.

Acknowledgement of Received Application

Acknowledgement from Grants.gov

Applicants will receive an initial email upon submission of their application to Grants.gov. This email will provide a **Grants.gov Tracking Number**. Applicants should refer to this tracking number in all communication with Grants.gov. The email will also provide a **date and time stamp**, which serves as the official record of the application's submission**.** Receipt of this email does not indicate that the application is accepted or that it has passed the validation check.

Applicants will also receive an email acknowledging that the received application is in the **Grants.gov validation process**, after which a third email is sent with the information that the submitted application package has passed, or failed, the series of checks and validations.

Applications that are submitted on time that fail the validation check will not be transmitted to ACF and will not be acknowledged by ACF.

Acknowledgement from ACF of an electronic application's submission:

Applicants will be sent additional email(s) from ACF acknowledging that the application has been retrieved from Grants.gov by ACF. Receipt of these emails is not an indication that the application is accepted for competition.

Acknowledgement from ACF of receipt of a paper format application:
ACF will not provide acknowledgement of receipt of hard copy application packages submitted via mail or courier services.

IV.5. Intergovernmental Review

This program is not subject to Executive Order (E.O.) 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs," or 45 CFR Part 100, "Intergovernmental Review of Department of Health and Human Services Programs and Activities." No action is required of applicants under this funding opportunity with regard to E.O. 12372.

IV.6. Funding Restrictions

Costs of organized fund raising, including financial campaigns, endowment drives, solicitation of gifts and bequests, and similar expenses incurred to raise capital or obtain contributions are unallowable. Fund raising costs for the purposes of meeting the Federal program objectives are allowable with prior written approval from the Federal awarding agency. (45 CFR § 75.442)

Proposal costs are the costs of preparing bids, proposals, or applications on potential Federal and non-Federal awards or projects, including the development of data necessary to support the non-Federal entity's bids or proposals. Proposal costs of the current accounting period of both successful and unsuccessful bids and proposals normally should be treated as indirect (F&A) costs and allocated currently to all activities of the non-Federal entity. No proposal costs of past accounting periods will be allocable to the current period. (45 CFR § 75.460)

Pre-award costs are not allowable.

Construction is not an allowable activity or expenditure under this award.

Purchase of real property is not an allowable activity or expenditure under this award.

This funding is restricted to adult foreign national victims of human trafficking.

Funds may not be used to pay for direct benefits for family members.

Clients that are within 8 months before program discharge may receive one-time financial assistance for transitional costs up to $2,000 during the client's service period under the VHT-NC Program. Payments must be made directly to the third-party (e.g., security deposit paid directly to a landlord, tuition paid directly to an educational institution, child care payment paid directly to provider, etc.), and not directly to the client. The client must be enrolled while receiving the financial assistance of up to $2,000. Future expenses outside the enrollment period may not be dispersed. Financial assistance may cover expenses the client, in collaboration with the case manager, identify as necessary for the client's successful discharge from services, including housing, education, employment, or other costs. Prime recipients and, if applicable, any subrecipient(s) must maintain detailed records documenting the disbursement of financial assistance disbursed to clients for transitional services in accordance with Section I. VHT-NC Service Requirements, Financial Assistance for Transitional Costs. The issuance of alternative payment mechanisms (i.e., gift cards or cash) is not permitted.

No more than 10 percent of total award funds per budget period may be used to support both grant-funded staff and, if applicable, subrecipient staff professional capacity-building training in connection with trafficking in persons. VHT-SO Pacific Program funds may be used to cover costs associated with continuing education units for VHT-SO Pacific Program project staff and, if applicable, its subrecipient(s). Priority should be given to grant-funded staff who have mandated continuing education requirements related to licensure for their anti-trafficking efforts.

No more than 5 percent of total award funds per budget period may be used to support community training activities. VHT-SO Pacific Program funds may not be used to cover any costs associated with continuing education units within community training activities.

No more than 3 percent of total award funds per budget period may be used to support client satisfaction evaluation efforts.

No award funds may be used to pay for international travel for training or any other purpose, including client relocation.

VHT-SO Pacific Program funding may not be used to create public awareness materials or fund public awareness activities.

VHT-SO Pacific Program funding may not be used to purchase or lease motor vehicles.

No funds made available through this grant may be used to promote, support, or advocate the legalization or practice of prostitution. Nothing in the preceding sentence shall be construed to preclude assistance designed to promote the purposes of the TVPA of 2000, as amended, by ameliorating the suffering of, or health risks to, victims while they are being trafficked or after they are out of the situation that resulted from such victims being trafficked.

Funds may not be used to act as attorneys of record or provide legal services for victims of

trafficking or possible victims of trafficking in matters against the federal Government.

Each year, HHS appropriations include a prohibition stating that none of the funds appropriated may be expended for an abortion, except in cases where pregnancy is a result of rape or incest or where the woman suffers from a physical disorder, physical injury, or physical illness, including a life-endangering physical condition caused by or arising from the pregnancy itself, and that would, as certified by a physician, place the woman in danger of death unless an abortion is performed (See Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, Public Law 116- 260, 506, 507).

ACF does not fund awards where the role of the applicant is primarily to serve as a conduit of funds to other organizations unless that arrangement is authorized by statute. In the absence of such statutory authority, each prime recipient's primary role must be to ensure the delivery of the statutorily authorized services, whether provided directly or through collaborative involvement with their subrecipients. No more than 40 percent of total award funds per budget period may be awarded as subawards.

As referenced in 45 CFR § 75.216(b), HHS funds awarded under this grant are prohibited from being paid as profit to any recipient, as well as subawards to such entities, even if they are a commercial organization. Profit is defined as any amount in excess of allowable direct and indirect costs.

IV.7. Other Submission Requirements

Submit paper applications to one of the following addresses. Also see *ACF Policy for Requesting an Exemption from Required Electronic Application Submission at www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/howto#chapter-6*.

Submission by Mail
Manolo
Salgueiro
Administration for Children and Families
Office of Grants Management
Health Promotion Portfolio
330 C St., SW.
Washington
DC

Hand Delivery
Same as Above

Electronic Submission
See *Section IV.2.* for application requirements and for guidance when submitting applications electronically via Grants.gov.

For all submissions, see *Section IV.4. Submission Dates and Times*.

V. Application Review Information

V.1. Criteria

Please note: With the exception of the notice of funding opportunity and relevant statutes and regulations, reviewers must not access, or review, any materials that are not part of the application documents. This includes information accessible on websites via hyperlinks that are referenced, or embedded, in the application. Though an application may include web links, or embedded hyperlinks, reviewers must not review this information as it is not considered to be part of the application documents. Nor will the information on websites be taken into consideration in scoring of evaluation criteria presented in this section. Reviewers must evaluate and score an application based on the documents that are presented in the application and must not refer to, or access, external links during the objective review.

Applications competing for financial assistance will be reviewed and evaluated using the criteria described in this section. The corresponding point values indicate the relative importance placed on each review criterion. Points will be allocated based on the extent to which the application proposal addresses each of the criteria listed. Applicants should address these criteria in their application materials, particularly in the project description and budget justification, as they are the basis upon which competing applications will be judged during the objective review. The required elements of the project description and budget justification may be found in *Section IV.2. The Project Description* of this funding opportunity.

Need for Assistance **Maximum Points:** 7

1. The applicant thoroughly justifies the need for assistance, including identifying barriers and needs. The applicant's proposed activities for the targeted service area are aligned with the geographic and programmatic requirements outlined in *Section I. VHT-SO Pacific Program Overview, Project Objectives* and *Section I. VHT-SO Pacific Program Overview, Project Scope*. **(0-7 points)**

Approach **Maximum Points:** 28

1. The applicant provides detailed and thorough information on how all project activities will be developed and carried out in a manner that is trauma-informed, person-centered, culturally responsive, and linguistically appropriate to foreign nationals who have experienced human trafficking in accordance with *Section I. VHT-SO Pacific Program Service Requirements, Guiding Principles.* **(0-5 points)**

2. The applicant demonstrates a clear, thorough, and convincing strategy for providing comprehensive case management services and referrals to foreign nationals who have experienced labor trafficking that fully addresses the program objectives, and requirements listed under *Section I. VHT-SO Pacific Program Service Requirements, Comprehensive Case Management Services* and is in accordance with *Section IV. 6 Funding Restrictions*. The applicant's plan incorporates confidentiality measures, which include established policies, procedures and protocols to ensure the non-disclosure of confidential, private, or personally identifiable information concerning clients. **(0–5 points)**

3. The applicant demonstrates a clear, thorough, and convincing strategy for providing comprehensive case management services and referrals to foreign nationals who have experienced sex trafficking that fully addresses the program objectives and requirements listed under *Section I. VHT-SO Pacific Program Service Requirements, Comprehensive Case*

Management Services and is in accordance with *Section IV.6. Funding Restrictions*. The applicant's plan incorporates confidentiality measures, which include established policies, procedures, and protocols to ensure the non-disclosure of confidential, private, or personally identifiable information concerning clients. **(0–5 points)**

4. The applicant's plan describes a clear and realistic plan to determine eligibility that is in accordance with the requirements listed in *Section I. VHT-SO Pacific Program Service Requirements, Eligible Beneficiaries of Program Services*. **(0–3 points)**

5. The applicant presents a strong and achievable plan to increase the identification and referral of foreign national adults who have experienced human trafficking to services and support through direct outreach that accords with the requirements noted in *Section I. VHT-SO Pacific Program Service Requirements, Outreach*. The applicant's plan includes a detailed description of the proposed outreach activities, a timeline, a dissemination plan, and a description of any proposed partnerships, if applicable. The applicant provides a detailed and realistic mechanism for referral of services to individuals identified through outreach activities found ineligible for services under the VHT-SO Pacific Program. **(0–5 points)**

6. The applicant clearly outlines reasonable and detailed training efforts that accord with the requirements as noted in *Section I. VHT-SO Pacific Program Service Requirements, Community Training*, including proposed training audiences and topics, and notes how these activities will lead to increased identification and referral of foreign national adults who have experienced human trafficking. **(0–5 points)**

Organizational Capacity **Maximum Points:** 25

1. The applicant provides the professional qualifications of the main project staff who will be responsible for program oversight and describes sufficient policies and procedures that will be used to oversee staff and, if applicable, subrecipient staff. If the applicant chooses to partner with any other organizations, they must include third-party agreements that outline how the prime recipient will oversee the subrecipient(s). The proposed staff has the appropriate level of qualifications and cultural competence to manage the VHT-SO Pacific Program. **(0–4 points)**

2. The applicant and, if applicable, the subrecipient(s) demonstrate how the roles, responsibilities, and time commitments of their proposed staff positions are clearly designed and appropriate to the successful implementation of the proposed project. **(0–3 points)**

3. The applicant has appropriate staff and sufficient resources dedicated to program performance evaluation activities, including data collection and data reporting. **(0–3 points)**

4. The applicant provides strong evidence of sufficient capacity, experience, and expertise in providing comprehensive case management to foreign nationals who have experienced labor trafficking. The applicant provides the number of foreign national victims of human trafficking they and, if applicable, the subrecipient(s) have served within the last 3 calendar years (2018–2021). **(0– 3 points)**

5. The applicant provides strong evidence of sufficient capacity, experience, and expertise in providing comprehensive case management to foreign nationals who have experienced sex

trafficking. The applicant provides the number of foreign national victims of human trafficking they and, if applicable, the subrecipient(s) have served within the last three calendar years (2018–2021). **(0– 3 points)**

6. The applicant and, if applicable, the subrecipient(s), demonstrate experience conducting outreach to identify foreign nationals who have experienced human trafficking. **(0–3 points)**

7. The applicant and, if applicable, the subrecipient(s), demonstrate experience providing training to service providers and those in professions who may encounter foreign nationals who have experienced human trafficking. The applicant can reasonably be expected to effectively train on all required topics listed under *Section I. VHT-SO Pacific Program Service Requirements, Community Training*. **(0–4 points)**

8. The applicant describes how all personnel and, if applicable, subrecipient staff interacting with individuals who have experienced human trafficking will complete at least 10 hours per budget period of training in connection with trafficking in persons as required in *Section I. VHT-SO Pacific Program Administrative Requirements, Capacity Building for Project Staff and Subrecipients* and in compliance with *Section IV.6. Funding Restrictions.* **(0-2 points)**

Program Performance Evaluation Plan **Maximum Points:** 15

1. The applicant provides realistic and appropriate projected first-year target numbers for the following:

- Number of foreign national adult victims of human trafficking to be served;
- Number of outreach activities to be conducted;
- Number of community trainings to be conducted; and
- Number of professionals trained.

Project targets must reflect the CDC's Guidance for COVID-19 recommendations to prevent the spread of COVID-19. For more information see *Section I. Post-Award Requirements, COVID-19 Response*. **(0–5 points)**

2. The applicant provides a reasonable and thorough plan to collect data and report progress, including subrecipient(s) data, if applicable, toward accomplishing each of the performance indicators as described in *Section I. Post-Award Requirements, Program Performance Indicators,* and how the indicators will be used for continuous program improvement during the project period. **(0–5 points)**

3. The applicant clearly describes an adequate data management and collection plan that is sufficiently aligned with the services to be delivered. If applicable, the plan describes how subrecipient(s) data will be collected and integrated into this system. **(0–5 points)**

Timeline **Maximum Points:** 10

1. The applicant presents a clear and detailed project implementation timeline and uses it to describe how the program will document progress in meeting VHT-SO Pacific Program's objectives, including subrecipient progress, if applicable. The project timeline and milestones

are precise and reasonable for the project's size and scope, adhere to the schedule of deliverables, and account for all activities necessary to achieve program objectives. The project timeline includes activities to be performed during the 12-month implementation period in accordance with the schedule of deliverables listed in *Section I. Post-Award Requirements, Schedule of Deliverables*. **(0–5 points)**

2. The applicant's project timeline clearly defines progress for each of the three program objectives and the corresponding OTIP performance indicators referenced in *Section I. VHT-SO Pacific Program Overview,* and *Section I. Post-Award Requirements, Program Performance Indicators*. **(0–5 points)**

Budget and Budget Justification **Maximum Points:** 15

1. The applicant provides a first-year budget and budget narrative that is clearly outlined, and aligned with the project proposal, and includes a detailed narrative justification for the amounts that clearly state how the applicant derived categorical costs, and how each itemized expense will be used. The narrative justification is detailed in nature and clearly demonstrates that costs are reasonable and justified. **(0-5 points)**

2. The applicant describes a clear plan for the oversight of federal funds, and explains how it will ensure grant activities and, if applicable, how subrecipient(s), will adhere to applicable federal and programmatic regulations. If the applicant is receiving other federal funds to implement a human trafficking program, the application includes the name of the awarding federal agency, the name of the grant, the duration of the project period, the amount it currently receives, and how it will ensure any funds awarded through the VHT-SO Pacific Program will not be used to supplant or augment any other related federal funding. **(0–5 points)**

3. The applicant describes how it will ensure funds will not be used for unallowable costs as referenced in *Section IV.6. Funding Restrictions*. **(0–5 points)**

Bonus Points **Maximum Points:** 19

1. Bonus points will be awarded to applicants that are located in the U.S. Pacific territories (Hawaii, American Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Marshall Islands, Republic of Palau, and the Northern Mariana Islands). **(12 points)**

2. The applicant presents an innovative plan to conduct outreach within, or in partnership with, federally funded migrant health centers. The applicant provides a detailed description of previous engagement with migrant health centers to substantiate prior work in this area. (**2 points**)

3. The applicant presents an achievable and innovative plan to conduct outreach to individuals who may have experienced human trafficking working in the commercial fishing and seafood industry. The applicant provides documentation or a detailed description of previous experience to substantiate prior work in this area. The applicant provides data or other strong evidence substantiating their proposed activities. **(5 points)**

V.2. Review and Selection Process

No grant award will be made under this funding opportunity on the basis of an incomplete application. No grant award will be made to an applicant that does not have a UEI and an active SAM registration. See *Section IV.3. Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and System for Award Management (SAM)*.

Initial ACF Screening

Each application will be screened to determine whether it meets any of the disqualification factors described in *Section III.3. Other, Application Disqualification Factors*.

Disqualified applications are considered to be "non-responsive" and are excluded from the competitive review process. Applicants will be notified of a disqualification determination by email or by USPS postal mail within 30 federal business days from the closing date of this NOFO.

Objective Review and Results

Applications competing for financial assistance will be reviewed and evaluated by objective review panels using only the criteria described in *Section V.1. Criteria* of this funding opportunity. Each panel is composed of experts with knowledge and experience in the area under review. Generally, review panels include three reviewers and one chairperson.

Results of the competitive objective review are taken into consideration by ACF in the selection of projects for funding; however, objective review scores and rankings are not binding. Scores and rankings are only one element used in the award decision-making process. If identified in *Section I. Program Description*, ACF reserves the right to consider preferences to fund organizations serving emerging, unserved, or under-served populations, including those populations located in pockets of poverty. In addition, ACF reserves the right to evaluate applications in the larger context of the overall portfolio by considering geographic distribution of federal funds (e.g., ensuring coverage of states, counties, or service areas) in its pre-award decisions.

ACF may elect not to fund applicants with management or financial problems that would indicate an inability to successfully complete the proposed project. In addition, ACF may elect to not allow a prime recipient to subaward if there is any indication that they are unable to properly monitor and manage subrecipients.

Applications may be funded in whole or in part. Successful applicants may be funded at an amount lower than that requested.

ACF does not fund awards where the role of the applicant is primarily to serve as a conduit of funds to other organizations unless that arrangement is authorized by statute. In the absence of such statutory authority, each prime recipient's primary role must be to ensure the delivery of the statutorily authorized services, whether provided directly or through collaborative involvement with their subrecipient(s). Prime recipients of an award under this NOFO will be legally accountable to ACF for the performance of the project or program. Prime recipients will be held solely responsible in the event of non-compliance by a subrecipient. Applicants proposing to use subrecipient(s) to complete the proposed project will be reviewed by ACF for any management

or financial problems.

For those applicants that have proposed an alternative approach, OTIP will review the applicant's proposal, and reserves the right to negotiate with applicants on their alternative approach and revise budgets and activities accordingly.

Post-Award Requests Involving Real Property
All real property costs, including supporting documentation, are subject to ACF administrative review. Recipients, and if applicable, subrecipient(s), will be required to provide detailed listings of all real property addresses and their associated costs (45 C.F.R §75.436, §75.439, §75.462, and §75.465) used and claimed under this federal award. This includes all real property owned or leased by the recipient, and if applicable, subrecipients. Information on facilities, administrative buildings and offices must be provided. **Information for any and all** real property costs claimed under the award must be provided. For more information, see ACF Property Guidance pages, including, Rent/Lease Arrangement Guidance, Real Property Documentation, and Unallowable Property Costs.

After the initial award, if there are any modifications, budget revisions, and/or additional requests for funding, and the impact any of the original approved real property or real property-related costs, the real property listing and related costs documentation requested must be updated.

Federal Awarding Agency Review of Risk Posed by Applicants

ACF is required to review and consider any information about the applicant that is in the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS), www.fapiis.gov/, before making any award in excess of the simplified acquisition threshold over the period of performance. An applicant may review and comment on any information about itself that a federal awarding agency has previously entered into FAPIIS. ACF will consider any comments by the applicant, in addition to other information in FAPIIS, in making a judgment about the applicant's integrity, business ethics, and record of performance under federal awards when completing the review of risk posed by applicants as described in 45 CFR § 75.205(a)(2) Federal Awarding Agency Review of Risk Posed by Applicants.

Non-Federal Reviewers Reference
Please refer to *Section IV.2. Required Forms, Assurances, and Certifications* of this funding opportunity for information on non-federal reviewers in the review process.

Approved but Unfunded Applications
Applications recommended for approval in the objective review process, but not selected for award may receive funding if additional funds become available in the current Fiscal Year. For those applications determined as "approved but unfunded," notice will be given of the determination by email.

V.3. Anticipated Announcement and Federal Award Dates

Announcement of awards and the disposition of applications will be provided to applicants at a later date. ACF staff cannot respond to requests for information regarding funding decisions prior to the official applicant notification.

VI. Federal Award Administration Information

VI.1. Federal Award Notices

Successful applicants will be notified through the issuance of a NoA that sets forth the amount of funds granted, the terms and conditions of the grant, the effective date of the grant, the budget period for which initial support will be given, the non-federal share to be provided (if applicable), and the total project period for which support is contemplated. The NoA will be signed by the Grants Officer and transmitted via email or by GrantSolutions, or the Head Start Enterprise System (HSES), whichever is
relevant.

Following the finalization of funding decisions, organizations whose applications will not be funded will be notified by letter signed by the cognizant Program Office head. Any other correspondence that announces to a Principal Investigator, or a Project Director, that an application was selected is not an authorization to begin performance.

Information on allowable pre-award costs and the time period under which they may be incurred is available in *Section IV.6. Funding Restrictions,* if applicable. Project costs that are incurred prior to the receipt of the NoA are at the recipient's risk.

Recipients may translate the Federal award and other documents into another language. In the event of inconsistency between any terms and conditions of the Federal award and any translation into another language, the English language meaning will control. Where a significant portion of the recipient's employees who are working on the Federal award are not fluent in English, the recipient must provide the Federal award in English and in the language(s) with which employees are more familiar.

VI.2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Awards issued under this funding opportunity are subject to 45 CFR Part 75 - Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for HHS Awards currently in effect or implemented during the period of award, other Department regulations and policies in effect at the time of award, and applicable statutory provisions. The Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) is available at www.ecfr.gov. Unless otherwise noted in this section, administrative and national policy requirements that are applicable to discretionary grants are available at: www.acf.hhs.gov/administrative-and-national-policy-requirements.

An application funded with the release of federal funds through a grant award does not constitute or imply compliance with federal regulations. Funded organizations are responsible for ensuring that their activities comply with all applicable federal regulations.

Please review all HHS regulatory provisions for Termination at 2 CFR § 200.340.

HHS Grants Policy Statement

The HHS Grants Policy Statement (HHS GPS) is the Department of Health and Human Services' single policy guide for discretionary grants and cooperative agreements. ACF grant awards are subject to the requirements of the HHS GPS, which covers basic grants processes, standard terms and conditions, and points of contact, as well as important agency-specific requirements. The general terms and conditions in the HHS GPS will apply as indicated unless there are statutory,

regulatory, or award-specific requirements to the contrary that are specified in the NoA. The HHS GPS is available at https://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/discretionary-post-award-requirements#book_content_0.

Equal Treatment of Faith-Based Organizations

A faith-based organization that participates in this program will retain its independence from the federal government and may continue to carry out its mission consistent with religious freedom, nondiscrimination, and conscience protections in federal law, including the Free Speech and Free Exercise Clauses of the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (42 U.S.C. 2000bb *et seq.*), the Coats-Snowe Amendment (42 U.S.C. 238n), Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000e–1(a) and 2000e–2(e)), Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. 12113(d)(2), section 1553 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18113), the Weldon Amendment (e.g., Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020, Public Law 116–94, 133 Stat. 2534, 2607, div. A, sec. 507(d) (Dec. 20, 2019)), or any related or similar federal laws or regulations. Religious accommodations may also be sought under many of these religious freedom and conscience protection laws.

Consistent with 45 CFR § 87.3(b), a faith-based organization that receives direct financial assistance from HHS may not engage in any explicitly religious activities (including activities that involve overt religious content such as worship, religious instruction, or proselytization) as part of the programs or services funded with direct financial assistance from the HHS awarding agency. Such an organization, whether faith-based or not, also shall not, in providing services funded by HHS, discriminate against a program beneficiary or prospective program beneficiary on the basis of religion, a religious belief, a refusal to hold a religious belief, or a refusal to attend or participate in a religious practice, as provided in 45 CFR § 87.3(d).

Pursuant to authority provided to federal agencies under 45 CFR 75.101(c), ACF is exercising its discretion to make awards issued through this NOFO to for-profit entities, as well as subawards to such entities, subject to subparts A-E of 45 CFR Part 75, notwithstanding provisions of Part 75 that may otherwise exclude for-profit recipients and subrecipients from certain subparts of Part 75.

VI.3. Reporting

Performance Progress Reports:
Quarterly

Reporting Requirements

Recipients under this funding opportunity will be required to submit performance progress and financial reports periodically throughout the project period. Information on reporting requirements is available on the ACF website at www.acf.hhs.gov/discretionary-post-award-requirements#chapter-2.

For planning purposes, the frequency of required reporting for awards made under this funding opportunity are as follows:

Financial Reports:
Semi-Annually

As required by the PRA of 1995, 44 U.S.C. 3501-3521, the public reporting burden for the performance indicators as referenced in *Section I. VHT-SO Post-Award Requirements, Program Performance Indicators*, is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering, and maintaining the data needed, and reviewing the collection of information. Data collection forms have been approved under the OMB control number OMB No: 0970-0542; the expiration date is March 31, 2023.

VHT-SO PACIFIC PROGRAM NOTE: Consistent with the PRA of 1995, 44 U.S.C. 3501-3521, under this NOFO, OTIP will not conduct or sponsor - and a person is not required to respond to - a collection of information covered by such Act unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

VII. HHS Award Agency Contact(s)

Program Office Contact

Flavia
Keenan
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Children and Families
Office on Trafficking in Persons
330 C St., SW.
Washington
DC
20201
202-401-9303
flavia.keenan@acf.hhs.gov

Office of Grants Management Contact

Manolo
Salgueiro
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Children and Families
Office of Grants Management
330 C St., SW.
Washington
DC
20201
202-690-5811
Manolo.Salgueiro@acf.hhs.gov

Federal Relay Service:

Hearing-impaired and speech-impaired callers may contact the Federal Relay Service (FedRelay) at www.gsa.gov/fedrelay.

VIII. Other Information

Reference Websites

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) www.hhs.gov/.

Administration for Children and Families (ACF) www.acf.hhs.gov/.

ACF Funding Opportunities Forecasts and NOFOs www.grants.gov/.

ACF "How To Apply For A Grant" https://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/how-apply-grant.

ACF Property Guidance https://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/real-property-and-tangible-personal-property

Grants.gov Accessibility Information www.grants.gov/ web/grants/accessibility-compliance.html.

Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) http://www.ecfr.gov/.

United States Code (U.S.C.) http://uscode.house.gov/.

Application Checklist

Applicants may use this checklist as a guide when preparing an application package.

What to Submit	Where Found	When to Submit
SF-424 - Application for Federal Assistance	Referenced in *Section IV.2.Required Forms, Assurances, and Certifications.* This form is available in the NOFO's forms package at www.Grants.gov in the Mandatory section.	Submission is due by the application due date found in the *Overview* and in *Section IV.4. Submission Dates and Times.*
Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and System for Award Management (SAM) registration.	Referenced in *Section IV.3. Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and System for Award Management (SAM)* in the funding opportunity. To obtain a UEI and SAM registration, go to http://www.sam.gov.	A UEI and registration at SAM.gov are required for all applicants. Active registration at SAM must be maintained throughout the application and project award period.
SF-424 Key Contact Form	Referenced in *Section IV.2. Required Forms, Assurances, and Certifications.* This form is available in the NOFO's forms package at www.Grants.gov.	Submission is due with the application by the application due date found in the *Overview* and in *Section IV.4. Submission Dates and Times.*
Certification Regarding Lobbying	Referenced in *Section IV.2. Required Forms, Assurances, and Certifications.*	Submission is due with the application package

What to Submit	Where Found	When to Submit
(Grants.gov Lobbying Form)	This form is available in the NOFO's forms package at www.Grants.gov.	or prior to the award of a grant.
SF-424A - Budget Information - Non-Construction Programs and SF-424B - Assurances - Non- Construction Programs	Referenced in *Section IV.2. Required Forms, Assurances, and Certifications.* These forms are available in the NOFO's forms package at www.Grants.gov in the Mandatory section. They are required for applications that include only non-construction activities.	Submission is due by the application due date found in the *Overview* and in *Section IV.4. Submission Dates and Times.*
SF-Project/Performance Site Location(s) (SF-P/PSL)	Referenced in *Section IV.2.Required Forms, Assurances, and Certifications.* This form is available in the NOFO's forms package at www.Grants.gov.	Submission is due by the application due date found in the *Overview* and in *Section IV.4. Submission Dates and Times.*
SF-LLL - Disclosure of Lobbying Activities	"Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying" is referenced in *Section IV.2. Required Forms, Assurances, and Certifications.* This form is available in the NOFO's forms package at www.Grants.gov.	If submission of this form is applicable, it is due at the time of application. If not available at the time of application, it may also be submitted prior to the award of a grant.
Table of Contents	Referenced in *Section IV.2. The Project Description*.	Submit with the application by the due date found in the *Overview* and in *Section IV.4. Submission Dates and Times*.
Project Summary	Referenced in *Section IV.2. The Project Description.* The Project Summary is limited to one single-spaced page.	Submission is due by the application due date found in the *Overview* and in *Section IV.4. Submission Dates and Times*.

What to Submit	Where Found	When to Submit
Proof of Non-Profit Status	Referenced in *Section IV.2. The Project Description, Legal Status of Applicant Entity*.	Proof of non-profit status should be submitted with the application package by the application due date and time listed in the *Overview* and *Section IV.4.* of the NOFO. If it is not available at the time of application submission, it must be submitted prior to the award of a grant.
The Project Budget and Budget Justification	Referenced in *Section IV.2. The Project Budget and Budget Justification*.	Submission is required in addition to submission of SF-424A and / or SF-424C. Submission is required with the application package by the due date in the *Overview* and in *Section IV.4. Submission Dates and Times*.
The Project Description	Referenced in *Section IV.2. The Project Description*.	Submission is due by the application due date found in the *Overview* and in *Section IV.4. Submission Dates and Times*.