

Staff Report:

Training and Events Conducted:

- HHS / SAMHSA about disasters
- Interdiction for the Protection of Children Training Samarcand Training Academy, December 3-4th

Upcoming Training and Events:

- NCCU Law School Human Trafficking Symposium, January 2025
- Interdiction for the Protection of Children Training and Train-the-Trainer

Staff Report:

		<u>FY 2023-24</u>	<u>FY 2024-25</u>
26	HTC Competitive Grant Program		
	Fund Code: 1700		
	Provides funding to support a competitive grant program, managed by the HTC, for nonprofit organizations providing direct services to victims of human trafficking. HTC may establish a time-limited Grants Manager to administer the		
		Requirements \$ 500,000R	\$ 500,000R
		Less: Receipts \$ -	\$ -
		Net Appropriation \$ 500,000	\$ 500,000

36 **COMPETITIVE GRANTS FOR NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS PROVIDING**
37 **SERVICES TO VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

38 **SECTION 16.23.(a)** Article 29 of Chapter 7A of the General Statutes is amended by
39 adding a new section to read:

40 **"§ 7A-354.1. Human Trafficking Commission Competitive Grant Program.**

41 **(a) Established. – The Human Trafficking Commission shall develop and implement the**
42 **Human Trafficking Commission Competitive Grant Program.**

Staff Report:

Lighthouse for Life

Continued Updates:

Last session NC increased penalty for those purchasing sex to a felony. A South Carolina group is organizing to follow!

North Carolina has recently upgraded their first offense solicitation statute from a misdemeanor to a felony, which will likely reduce the demand for commercial sex there. However, this change is expected to drive sex buyers and traffickers into South Carolina, where our solicitation laws are among the weakest in the nation. Currently, a first offense carries a fine of up to \$200, ranking us 47th out of 50 states.

Texas was the first state to make this change, and Oklahoma soon followed after experiencing a surge in cross-border sex buyers. We have spoken with the Oklahoma Attorney General's Human Trafficking Response Unit, and they believe North Carolina's new law will cause a similar influx into South Carolina. They noted that sex buyers are already viewing our border communities as "safe havens," and traffickers will undoubtedly follow.

Staff Report:

Continued Updates:

Applewhite Case

- NC Supreme Court
- Challenge to HT statute
- Statute upheld

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF NORTH CAROLINA

No. 39A22

Filed 23 August 2024

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

v.

ROBIN APPLEWHITE

Appeal pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 7A-30(2) from the decision of a divided panel of the Court of Appeals, 281 N.C. App. 66 (2021), finding no error in judgments entered on 5 March 2019 by Judge Thomas H. Lock in Superior Court, Cumberland County. On 4 May 2022, the Supreme Court allowed defendant's petition for discretionary review of additional issues. Heard in the Supreme Court on 15 February 2024.

Staff Report:

On-Going Projects:

- Debt Bondage Repair Act discussions
- NCDOL Hotel and Lodging Training and Material Development
- NC Housing Finance Agency
- Conversations with NC Child Welfare

Staff Report:

January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month:

“Connecting the Dots. Strengthening Communities. Preventing Trafficking.” The theme for Human Trafficking Prevention Month 2025 highlights the importance of a holistic approach to preventing human trafficking, recognizing its intersection with other forms of violence and social issues. We invite you to visit the Administration of Children and Families’ National Human Trafficking Prevention Month page.

- US ACF, OTIP



Staff Report:

Other updates:

- Governor's Crime Commission grant renewal 2024-2025 and new application for 2025-2026.
- Two interns for Spring 2025
- NC CODA positions posted last week
- Public Records Request is on-going
- Next meeting: Buffett Foundation Update; Amtrak; OVC Funded Projects; Demo of potential outreach software