

# Human Trafficking Commission Meeting: Updates from Appropriations Committee

April 28, 2022



# Important Updates:

## Refresher:

### Appropriations Act Grant Funding

- 8.8 million for grants to human trafficking direct service agencies. Two agencies are named as eligible and awarded in the statute, 23 others are named eligible to apply, and there is also a section where any direct service agency can apply for economic assistance to cover losses from COVID.
- 4.8 million for Facility Improvement grants to domestic violence / sexual assault agencies deemed eligible through NCCWYI.
- 15 million economic assistance for domestic violence / sexual assault agencies found eligible through NCCWYI. This can be used for human trafficking programming in these agencies.



# Important Updates:

Refresher continued:

## Appropriations Act Grant Funding

- Facility Improvement funds are state dollars and are not pandemic relief funds. These are to be issued and spent by June 30, 2023. The committee hopes to approve these blank templates on May 9<sup>th</sup> and to be sent out by May 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Remaining Sections are Federal Funds and must be encumbered by December 2024 and spent by December 2026, but we would target two-year grants for most sections. (Some agencies may be able to spend within 1 year and others may need a short extension beyond the two years.)
- Federal funds allow us using 10% for administering and monitoring the funds.



# Important Updates:

## Federal or ARPA Funding Updates:

- The MOU from the state was signed Friday. Both AOC and HTC signed the agreement.
- We still don't have a time frame for when we can expect the funds to arrive.
- Website pages for the grant sections are posted.
- Communications have been sent notifying DV/SA agencies of the website and funding.
- Tracking spreadsheet for contracts, correspondence, and meetings created.
- AOC finance has registered in the financial systems for the funding and has created expenditure tracking spreadsheets / reporting.



# Important Updates:

## Federal or ARPA Funding Updates:

- State reclassified most of the funding as revenue replacement, which means the work that is done will be considered “government services.” We are waiting for more guidance and information about monitoring / compliance.
- Working with a draft budget for the 10% administrative allowance and creating hiring posts. Positions would be budgeted for 3 years:
  - Grant Administrator (1)
  - Grant Managers (4)
  - Data / Reporting (1)
  - Small Contracts for training / technical assistance
  - Potential to bid out a contract that will help with technical assistance or housing certification
- ARPA funds have a broad use, and this funding could help lift many struggling agencies.



# Important Updates:

## Federal or ARPA Funding Updates:

- Continue to receive information about new programs or agencies interested in the funding. This includes programs out of state but wanting to expand to NC. It also includes programs new to NC, with out of state management.
- Requests received indicate wide interpretation of direct services and how to apply the funding.
- Funds will be audited. (Need to emphasize the importance of risk assessment, getting documents up front for internal controls / programmatic controls, requiring a detailed budget, and understanding what is allowable / unallowable costs.)



# Important Updates:

## Discussion Points:

- Definition of Direct Service Agency.
- Definition of Direct Services.
- Funding out of state entities that are wanting to start a branch in NC or have opened a branch here.
- When allowed within statute, requiring additional forms and attachments.
- Conducting a risk assessment.
- Requiring, where able, that agencies complete a self-assessment for the Standards for Direct Service Providers or to abide by the standards.
- Encourage agencies that house victims to go through HTC sponsored housing certification program, if this is made available to them.