



December 6, 2018

Grants Management Advisory Committee,
Office of Community Partnerships and Grants
Nevada Department of Health and Human Services
4126 Technology Way
Carson City, NV 89706

Dear Members of the Grants Management Advisory Committee,

Awaken is a 501(c)3 non-profit agency mission-driven to increase awareness and education surrounding the issue of commercial sexual exploitation and to provide housing and restoration for its victims. Executive Director, Melissa Holland, Marriage and Family Therapist, founded Awaken along with Jen Robinson in May of 2011 after years of providing pro bono counseling to victims. Since then, Awaken has served more than 500 women and children. It now operates a drop-in center, has a professional staff of 13, and has added programming specifically geared for minor victims.

While we currently offer a wide range of services, including case management, counseling, mentorship, financial/material assistance and more, for some victims, the lack of stable housing can make a chance at a new life nearly impossible. In light of this, opening a home specifically for victims of sex trafficking and CSE has always been a priority for the agency. This past year, Awaken successfully secured the use of a four-bedroom home, located within city limits and conveniently located close to grocery stores, shopping centers, and bus lines. Using a highly successful 20-year-old model from a Nashville-based agency that has seen an amazing 80% success rate, the program can serve up to five women at a time. Through this program, Awaken will work to ensure that every resident has access to the services and opportunities she needs to heal and thrive. We will seek to empower women by:

- Providing an 18 to 24 month, rent-free, home environment based on a community living model;
- Helping residents live honest, sober, and self-sufficient lives;
- Connecting residents with the specific services that will help them heal, including alcohol and drug treatment programs, mental health services and physical healthcare;
- Providing educational and job training opportunities;
- Fostering self-understanding through personal and spiritual growth;
- Offering the time, space, and support needed to recover from past trauma.

Awaken respectfully requests \$20,000 for this life-changing housing program from the Contingency Fund for Victims of Human Trafficking. Funding will cover 25% of the full-time house manager position (\$10,500) who will provide skills groups, intakes, and case management services to residents of the Awaken house. It will also fund 95 individual and group therapy sessions for house residents from a licensed contract therapist (\$100/session = \$9,500). Funding will allow Awaken to provide women who have survived lives of violence, prostitution and addiction with hope and healing. Together with community partners like you, we can make real and lasting change in the life of a survivor. Thank you for your consideration of this proposal and for all that you do in our community.

Sincerely,

Melissa Holland
Executive Director