



## **Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Victims of Human Trafficking (VOHT)**

### **Funding Recommendations**

**Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)**

**Director's Office Grant Management Unit (GMU)**

**Kelli Quintero, Social Services Chief III**

### **Account for Victims of Human Trafficking Overview**

- The NOFO is published by DHHS Director's Office, GMU and is focused strictly on victims of human trafficking. The Account for Victims of Human Trafficking was created by [NRS 217.500](#) and became effective July 1, 2023.
- This grant will serve as a one-time funding source.
- The purpose of this grant is to support the development, expansion, and strengthening of victim service programs specifically serving victims of human trafficking in Nevada.
- Nonprofit organizations and political subdivisions of the State with community-based programs were encouraged to apply. Entity applications submitted were evaluated and scored.
- The GMU received eight (8) applications requesting funds totaling \$1,885,605.00.

### **GMU NOFO Date 12.5.2023 Victims of Human Trafficking FINAL SCORES**

**1. AWAKEN**

**Score:** 96.40

**Total Funds Requested:** \$98,235.00

**Funding Recommendation:** Full Funding

**2. The Embracing Project**

**Score:** 91.80

**Total Funds Requested:** \$200,000.00

**Funding Recommendation:** Full Funding

3. **Xquisite**

Score: 89.80

Total Funds Requested: \$199,634.00

Funding Recommendation: Full Funding

4. **Washoe County Sherriff's Office HEAT**

Score: 89.40

Total Funds Requested: \$199,802.00

Funding Recommendation: Full Funding

**Awaken** specifically serves Washoe County which includes Reno, Sparks, and Incline Village and requests additional funding of \$98,235.00 through DHHS to sustain and expand meaningful services for adult and youth victims of sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation (CSE) by providing trauma informed services. The funding will support a new Case Manager for 18 months, which includes wages and fringe benefits. The objective is to increase and expand direct services for victims by serving 35 program participants. The services/activities provided will include crisis intervention, emotional/moral support, case management, transportation, material/education assistance, and social development activities. The agency has more than 12 years of experience working with this unique population.

**The Embracing Project (TEP)** serves Sexually Exploited Youth (SEY) and Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) that have been identified through state services and other agencies in southern Nevada. TEP provides specialized wrap around services to youth aged 12-21 at the only youth-focused drop-in center in Clark County. To expand services, TEP is requesting \$200,000.00 to increase the capacity of the already established program designed around holistic case management and trauma informed services. An additional Advocate recruitment will allow for reduced caseloads and increase home visits and outreach. TEP will also provide advanced Crisis Intervention Specialist Training.

**Xquisite** has served survivors of sex trafficking since 2012 and since has opened its Diamond Strong Freedom Center in 2022, that serves 107 new survivors to date at its current location. The request of \$199,634.00 is for providing survivors with trauma informed and trained advocates; strength and resilience for survivors to live free from control and violence; and access to trauma informed basic medical examinations and care. To accomplish these programs, an online Advocate Academy will be developed to provide training to help equip potential advocate applicants to fully support survivors.

**The Washoe County Sheriff's Office HEAT** request funding of \$199,802.00 for the embedded Human Exploitation and Trafficking (HEAT) unit Victim Advocate which

serves communities throughout Northern Nevada and neighboring states. The funds requested are for funding a Victims Advocate which costs include, the salary and benefits, training and travel, and a software subscription for a client database. The Victim Advocate serves as a liaison between victims and HEAT detectives investigating cases and establishes/maintains a network of community support and collaborates with partnering agencies to create programs and develop resources as well as monitoring cases to provide follow-up.

These organizations had the top four scores from the GMU Evaluation Committee. It is our recommendation to the Committee that these four be considered for funding from the Account for Victims of Human Trafficking.