

To: DCF/DMCPS Administrator  
DCF Area Administrators  
Child Placing Agency Directors  
Child Welfare Agency Directors  
County Departments of Community Programs Directors  
County Departments of Human Services Directors  
County Departments of Social Services Directors  
Group Home Providers  
Tribal Social Service/Indian Child Welfare Directors  
Private Child Placing Agencies  
Residential Care Center Providers  
Shelter Care Providers  
Tribal Chairpersons

From: Fredi-Ellen Bove  
Administrator

Re: Anti-Sex Trafficking Innovation Grants

## PURPOSE

The Department of Children and Families (DCF) invites applicants to apply for Anti-Sex Trafficking Innovation Grants that will assist local efforts to support and care for youth that have experienced sex trafficking. The Anti-Sex Trafficking Innovation Grant opportunity is open to all county agencies, tribal agencies, for-profit, and non-profit organizations. This is a one-time funding opportunity.

## BACKGROUND

Based on funding provided in Act 55, the 2019-21 biennial budget bill, DCF issued a competitive Request for Proposal (RFP) to establish a specialized residential treatment program for female youth in non-Milwaukee counties who have experienced sex trafficking. A contract was awarded in 2018; however, the proposed vendor made a business decision to not proceed with the contract. In order to continue supporting counties and tribes while future options are explored, DCF is funding one-time only grants that that will fund services and/or training for the population of youth who have either experienced sex trafficking or are at risk of being trafficked.

## INFORMATION SUMMARY

Based on funding provided in WI Act 59, the 2017-2019 biennial budget bill for the provision of services to sex trafficking survivors in Wisconsin, the Department of Children and Families is providing a new opportunity to pursue innovative anti-sex trafficking initiatives at the local level for youth who have experienced sex trafficking. One-time innovation grant funding is being awarded via a competitive grant process for the purpose of supporting counties, tribes, and non-profit organizations to maintain current services or implement new activities and opportunities that would not occur without financial assistance.

All grant proposals must seek to serve sex trafficking survivors, or those at risk of sex trafficking who are either under the age of 18 or are under jurisdiction of the child welfare or youth justice systems in Wisconsin, such as an extension of out-of-home care, up to age 21. All counties, tribes, for-profit and non-profit organizations are eligible to apply. **Agencies that have already been awarded funding through an Anti-Human Trafficking Regional Hub** are not eligible for funding opportunities rendered through this grant.

Agencies may only request one grant per agency. Grant awards will be based on number of applications and the availability of funds.

All counties, tribes, for-profit and non-profit organizations are eligible to apply. Only agencies with an established capacity to serve youth who have experienced sex trafficking, or those at risk of trafficking, shall be considered. Applicants must be able to demonstrate how the agency's services and service providers meet, at a minimum, the Core Competencies developed by the Wisconsin Anti-Human Trafficking Taskforce: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/aht/pdf/corecompetencies.pdf>.

**Qualifying activities under the grant include:**

**1) General Resource Development and Direct Services to Survivors or At Risk Youth**

- a. Resource development
- b. Direct aid
  - i. Legal-related expenses for survivors (i.e. attorney fees, obtaining legal documents, filing fees, etc.)
  - ii. Transportation assistance (bus pass, cab fare, etc.)
  - iii. Personal care items
  - iv. Other, as approved by the Division
- c. Advocacy services (e.g., service representative as provided under Act 351)
- d. Peer/survivor mentorships
- e. Survivor support group services
- f. Other, as approved by the Division

Agencies may apply for funding that seeks to create or expand direct resources and aid for survivors and at risk youth. Funding provided through awarded grants shall not be used to supplant placement and care responsibilities of child welfare agencies outlined by the state rules and regulations of the child welfare system.

**2) Training Opportunities for Survivors & Child Welfare Professionals**

- a. Curriculum/programs specific to supporting survivors (i.e. healthy relationships)
- b. Hiring speakers/trainers for providers and/or facilities
- c. Training for staff in congregate care settings and/or integration of Advanced Core Competencies into trainings and materials:  
<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/cwportal/policy/pdf/memos/2018-29-lic.pdf>
- d. Other, as approved by the Division

Training opportunities outside of the curriculum identified above may also be eligible for reimbursement; however, training cannot be implemented in lieu of the State approved Advanced Core Competencies training requirements and shall not be used to supplant training responsibilities of child welfare agencies outlined by the state rules and regulations of the child welfare system.

Within 90 days of the conclusion of the grant program, agencies that receive the grant shall submit an exit summary to the Department that includes all of the following:

- 1) How the agency used the grant funding to meet its intended purpose.
- 2) The total associated cost to the agency for activities provided under the grant.
- 3) The effectiveness of the activities as measured by the agency.
- 4) Number of youth served and/or staff trained.

All applications must be completed and submitted to [DCFAHT@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DCFAHT@wisconsin.gov) no later than 5:00 pm on April 24, 2019. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered. Successful applicants are expected to be notified by May 15, 2019, with an anticipated contract start date of June 1, 2019.

Funding is available that is allocated and spent for grant activities from the contract start date to

December 31, 2019. An agency may apply for one grant only, up to \$200,000.

It is possible that additional one-time funding will be available to be allocated and spent for grant activities from January 1, 2020-June 30, 2020. Agencies that apply for funding for the June 1-December 31, 2019 time period may also propose grant activities to be funded during the January 1-June 30, 2020 time period, up to \$100,000, with the understanding that grant awards for the January-June 2020 time period are contingent on availability of funds.

CENTRAL OFFICE CONTACT: Program & Policy Analyst – Adv.  
Out-of-Home Care Section  
Division of Safety and Permanence  
608-422-6945  
[DCFAHT@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DCFAHT@wisconsin.gov)

MEMO WEB SITE: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/cwportal/policy>

Attachments Link: Anti-Sex Trafficking Innovation Grant Application  
<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/aht/doc/2019-09i-aht-ig-app.docx>