

Framework for Action: Addressing Sex and Labor Trafficking and Exploitation in Minneapolis

Human trafficking is an urgent issue in Minneapolis. State reports estimate that over 60% of trafficking victims in the state are found in the Twin Cities. The City of Minneapolis is committed to ending human trafficking and sexual and labor exploitation, and to addressing the harms that trafficking and exploitation cause. This Framework for Action sets out the next steps in establishing an effective city-wide response. The primary goals of the Framework and of future work on human trafficking are that residents of Minneapolis have the resources, the knowledge, and the support to make them less vulnerable to both sex and labor trafficking. In addition, staff at the City of Minneapolis are trained to recognize and respond to human trafficking and also work to end the labor and sexual exploitation that can give rise to trafficking. For additional context and details on these recommendations, see the full *Framework for Action*, available at: <https://www.minneapolismn.gov/government/programs-initiatives/human-trafficking-prevention/>.

The Framework for Action envisions a future where residents of Minneapolis will not be victimized by human trafficking and exploitation, and if they are, the City will quickly identify them and respond appropriately to prevent further harm and help promote healing.

Based on the opportunities and needs identified in conversations with city staff and community members, the Blueprint proposes five key objectives:

- I. Strengthen and empower city residents to prevent human trafficking
- II. Improve the City of Minneapolis response to human trafficking
- III. Ensure all relevant City of Minneapolis policies respond to and prevent human trafficking
- IV. Coordinate and partner with county and state government to strengthen Minnesota's response to human trafficking and exploitation
- V. Adopt a comprehensive response to adult victims of sexual exploitation driven by survivors' input

Supporting each objective are foundational goals to undertake within 1-3 years, intermediate goals, with a timeline of 3-7 years, and long-term goals, which will require a commitment from the City beyond 7 years.

● ● Objective I: Strengthen and empower city residents to prevent sex and labor trafficking

- » **Foundational goal 1.1:** Raise awareness of sex and labor trafficking and how to find help for people experiencing exploitation.
- » **Foundational goal 1.2:** Enforce city protections for workers to eliminate impunity for exploitation.
- » Long-term goal 1.3: Meet the basic needs of city residents to reduce vulnerability to human trafficking, such as affordable housing or access to employment.

● ● Objective II: Improve the City of Minneapolis response to human trafficking

- » **Foundational goal 2.1:** Facilitate a coordinated response between city departments.
- » **Foundational goal 2.2:** Train city staff to identify sex and labor trafficking and to refer victims to assistance.
- » **Foundational goal 2.3:** Formalize the referral process for trafficking survivors to access services and evaluate its effectiveness.
- » **Foundational goal 2.4:** Empower divisions and departments to identify how they can prevent and intervene as necessary to address human trafficking and assist survivors.

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- » **Foundational goal 2.5:** Equip applicable departments to respond to sex and labor trafficking cases identified by or referred to city staff.
- » Intermediate Goal 2.6: Evaluate data on sex and labor trafficking cases identified by or referred to city staff and use the findings to improve the City's response.
- » Intermediate goal 2.7: Fund community partners to provide missing services needed by survivors of trafficking and exploitation.

● ● Objective III: Ensure all relevant City of Minneapolis policies respond to and prevent human trafficking

- » **Foundational goal 3.1:** Foster participation and ensure the concerns of human trafficking survivors are fully incorporated into the City's new approach to community safety
- » Intermediate goal 3.2: Review city policies for areas where they could be modified or strengthened to better prevent trafficking and support survivors.
- » Intermediate goal 3.3: Create an emergency rapid response system to respond to events such as natural disasters and the COVID pandemic.

● ● Objective IV: Coordinate and partner with county and state government to strengthen Minnesota's response to human trafficking and exploitation

- » Long-term goal 4.1: With the support of the City's Human Trafficking fellow, assume a leadership role in anti-labor trafficking and exploitation efforts both within Minnesota and nationally.
- » Long-term goal 4.2: Partner with external stakeholders to develop and advance legislative priorities at the Capitol that will directly address human trafficking.

● ● Objective V: Adopt a comprehensive response to adult victims of sexual exploitation driven by survivors' input

- » Long-term goal 5.1: Commit to hiring and employment for survivors at all levels where the City has influence, including creating specific positions internally for survivors within the City enterprise, removing barriers for hiring within the City enterprise, and encouraging businesses in partnership with the City to do the same.
- » Intermediate goal 5.2: Create a survivor-led first response system in partnership with police response to potential trafficking victims, along with the adoption of a non-arrest policy for people selling sex. Increase police accountability and accountability of City staff who purchase sex.
- » Long-term goal 5.3: Prioritize permanent housing for survivors. Through private-public partnerships and tax incentive models, prioritize the creation of scattered site housing for survivors, remove the current barriers to housing, and increase tenant know-your-rights education.
- » **Foundational goal 5.4:** Invest funding in community-driven violence prevention and healing services specific to sexual exploitation.
- » **Foundational goal 5.5:** Review the adult entertainment ordinance to prioritize protections for sexually exploited people.
- » **Foundational goal 5.6:** Demonstrate City-enterprise wide commitment to supporting survivors through systemic training and language review.