

Q&A
Request for Proposals #065
Human Trafficking Intervention Court Evaluation in Buffalo, New York

1. Has HTIC been evaluated in the past, and if so, by whom?
A. No, the HTIC has not been evaluated in the past.

2. What services or types of services do defendants engage in currently?
A. The HTIC currently partners with numerous stakeholders to meet the needs of the criminal defendants who are victims of trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation. The defendant is currently linked with a confidential advocate/case manager to assist them in meeting their needs and assist with safety, planning, housing and social services. Examples of some of the services available are drug and alcohol treatment, legal services, linkages to local colleges, and specialized services to address sexual assault.

3. What was the impetus for developing the trauma initiative?
A. The HTIC found the percentage of defendants who reported trauma exceeds 80%. The HTIC lacks appropriate mental health treatment for the defendants to address their extensive trauma histories and there is a need for better access to trauma counseling. There are limited counselors who are trauma-trained and who also specialize in human trafficking practicing in the region. It is often difficult to access these counselors, as they have limited availability. Working with trauma survivors requires more time for outreach, engagement, rapport building, and other specialized interventions that are not always available through traditional outpatient mental health structures. Other clinicians who may be available often lack the in-depth training and education to appropriately treat co-occurring disorders that are associated with this kind of trauma.

4. What is the approximate case volume of the HTICS on a monthly or annual basis?
A. The HTIC has averages approximately 100 cases per year.

5. Will court staff be able to assist in data gathering such as administering a survey or providing an environment for subjects to answer an online questionnaire?
A. No. Surveys administered should be voluntary and should be administered by the evaluator with the appropriate consent forms. The court will assist in providing space for the evaluator to administer surveys as needed.

6. Is a sample of data currently tracked by the court available for review?
A. No. The court currently uses the Universal Case Management System (UCMS) which is a statewide database system that collects data involving demographics, past criminal history, medical and mental health history, substance use, trauma history, educational background and treatment services.