

**ENGAGE
TOGETHER®**

STEERING COMMITTEE REPORT

TENNESSEE 2024

THIS REPORT

Engage Together Project for the state of Tennessee was made possible by a grant from and in partnership with the TBI Human Trafficking Task Force, and was accomplished in collaboration with many partners, including especially the Task Force, Tennessee Counter Trafficking Alliance (TCTA), Belmont University's Data Collaborative, Pomerol Partners and Qlik.

Steering Committee Members are providing strategic leadership to strengthen Tennessee's statewide response to end and prevent human trafficking. This Report provides a summary of the working plans from each member in response to the findings and gaps identified in the recent Engage Together Reports.

To access those reports and additional details, visit the Project's website at engagetgether.com/project/tn.



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STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

In addition to the leadership of the TBI Task Force and Tennessee Counter Trafficking Alliance (TCTA), the following organizations are members of the Steering Committee:

Alcoholic Beverage Commission
Amerigroup
Attorney General's Office
Belmont University
Catholic Charities
Children's Advocacy Centers of TN
Department of Children Services
Department of Commerce & Insurance
Department of Corrections
Department of Human Services
Department of Tourist Development
Tennessee Alliance for Drug Endangered Children
The Governor's Office of Faith Based & Community Initiatives
TN Department of Health (County Health Councils)
Tennessee Sheriff's Association
Willowbend Farms
West TN Healthcare

PRIORITIES

In 2023, Engage Together Project provided a comprehensive assessment of the current strengths, gaps, needs, vulnerabilities and opportunities to strengthen efforts to end and prevent human trafficking in Tennessee.

Based on those findings, the top 5 recommended priorities for immediate action in 2024 included:

- 1** **Improve IDENTIFICATION efforts** by TRAINING all organizations and professions who are in a position to recognize & respond to human trafficking in their local communities.
- 2** **Increase RESCUE/EXIT and RESTORATION program capacity** in order to provide both immediate and long-term support and services for all victims and survivors of either labor or sex trafficking, whether adults or children, foreign nationals or citizens.
- 3** **Improve DATA COLLECTION efforts** in order to more effectively develop and assess prevention and early intervention strategies.
- 4** **Increase efforts to address LABOR TRAFFICKING**, including educating at-risk populations with the knowledge they need to stay safe or self-report.
- 5** **Catalyze MULTI-SECTOR engagement** across the board in every community in order to expand and resource existing programs and services, meet needs, and fill identified gaps.

The TBI Human Trafficking Task Force and the Tennessee Counter Trafficking Alliance (TCTA) are actively engaged in and are providing leadership in each of these recommended priorities. Learn more about the efforts of the Task Force and TCTA at tn.gov/tbi/crime-issues/crime-issues/human-trafficking and tncountertraffickingalliance.org.



The remainder of this Report catalogs the ways in which members of the Steering Committee for the Project are planning to engage these priority areas to strengthen Tennessee's response.

Alcoholic Beverage Commission

The ABC plans to strengthen anti-trafficking efforts in Tennessee by:

- Sharing human trafficking information and indicators with business licensees and individual servers, and
- Strengthening local protocols and partnerships for when a potential case of trafficking is identified.

These efforts will impact several identified gaps in Tennessee's response, including: 1) increasing awareness for those in a position to identify human trafficking in local communities, 2) empowering those at-risk with the information they need to stay safe or self-report, and 3) strengthening efforts to address labor trafficking. Learn more about the ABC at tn.gov/abc.

Amerigroup

Amerigroup plans to strengthen anti-trafficking efforts in Tennessee by:

- Equipping frontline healthcare and child-serving professionals in their network to recognize and respond to human trafficking, and
- Developing a plan to detect early warning signs of potential human trafficking indicators among their members across the state.

These efforts will impact several identified gaps in Tennessee's response, including: 1) increasing training for healthcare providers and child-serving professionals in local communities, 2) improving data collection and analysis efforts, and 3) improving care for victims, survivors, and at-risk populations. Learn more about Amerigroup at myamerigroup.com/tn.

Attorney General's Office

The AG's Office plans to strengthen anti-trafficking efforts in Tennessee by:

- Continuing to engage in a leadership role in the Human Trafficking Advisory Council, and
- Supporting the development of a plan to strengthen investigations and prosecutions of all forms of trafficking across all counties in TN

Learn more about the AG's Office at tn.gov/attorneygeneral/.

Belmont University Data Collaborative

Belmont plans to strengthen anti-trafficking efforts in Tennessee by:

- Continuing to support Engage Together's Vulnerable Population Index score through data collection, analytics, and updates to assess and identify risk factors and vulnerabilities in each county, and
- Supporting the work to help mobilize local community leaders to take collaborative action based on data-driven insights and strategies

These efforts will impact several identified gaps in Tennessee's response, including: 1) improving data collection and analysis efforts, 2) strengthening prevention and early intervention strategies for all victims of labor and/or sex trafficking, and 3) catalyzing multi-sector engagement to meet needs and fill gaps in their local communities. Learn more about Belmont Data Collaborative at belmontdata.org.

Catholic Charities

Catholic Charities plans to strengthen anti-trafficking efforts in Tennessee by:

- Increasing awareness through multi-lingual and multi-medium campaigns aimed at educating recent migrants and refugees on human trafficking, and
- Training staff and community partners working with at-risk individuals to recognize and respond to human trafficking

These efforts will impact several identified gaps in Tennessee's response, including: 1) empowering those at-risk with the information they need to stay safe or self-report, 2) increasing training and support for those in a position to recognize and respond to human trafficking in local communities, and 3) strengthening efforts to address labor trafficking. Learn more about Catholic Charities at cctenn.org.

Children's Advocacy Centers of Tennessee

CACTN plans to strengthen anti-trafficking efforts in Tennessee by:

- Coordinating with DCS's new Human Trafficking Unit to support victims of CSEC (commercial sexual exploitation of children), and
- Supporting the development of a plan to equip all healthcare professionals across the state to recognize and respond to human trafficking

These efforts will impact several identified gaps in Tennessee's response, including: 1) increasing training for healthcare providers and child-serving professionals in local communities, and 2) improving care for victims, survivors, and at-risk populations. Learn more about CACTN at cactn.org/.

Department of Children's Services

DCS plans to strengthen anti-trafficking efforts in Tennessee by:

- Continuing to strengthen identification and interventions for child victims of human trafficking through its new Human Trafficking Response Team, and
- Expanding agency and community partnerships to provide immediate and longer-term care and support for identified victims and those at high-risk

These efforts will impact several identified gaps in Tennessee's response, including: 1) strengthening identification and early intervention strategies for child victims of human trafficking, and 2) improving care for victims, survivors, and at-risk populations. Learn more about the DCS at tn.gov/dcs.

Department of Commerce & Insurance

The TDCI plans to strengthen anti-trafficking efforts in Tennessee by:

- Developing awareness and education campaigns for key professions, industries, and associations within DCI's network that need training on how to recognize and respond to human trafficking, and
- Working with Engage Together to gather and analyze data that will illuminate opportunities to strengthen prevention strategies

These efforts will impact several identified gaps in Tennessee's response, including: 1) increasing training and support for those in a position to recognize and respond to human trafficking in local communities, 2) improving data collection and analysis efforts, and 3) catalyzing the business sector to join the fight alongside government and nonprofit leaders. Learn more about the TDCI at tn.gov/commerce.

Department of Corrections

The DOC plans to strengthen anti-trafficking efforts in Tennessee by:

- Developing an assessment and referral process in women's prisons to identify potential victims of human trafficking, and
- Expanding community partnerships to provide support and services to women who have experienced or are at-risk of human trafficking

These efforts will impact several identified gaps in Tennessee's response, including: 1) strengthening identification efforts for victims of human trafficking, 2) improving care for victims, survivors, and at-risk populations, and 3) expanding multi-sector engagement in local communities. Learn more about the DOC at tn.gov/correction.

Department of Human Services

The DHS plans to strengthen anti-trafficking efforts in Tennessee by:

- Building smoother bridges to access DHS-supported programs and services for youth aging out of foster care, and
- Providing training on how to recognize and respond to human trafficking to DHS grantees working with high-risk populations

These efforts will impact several identified gaps in Tennessee's response, including: 1) increasing training for those in a position to identify human trafficking in local communities, and 2) strengthening prevention and early intervention strategies for at-risk populations. Learn more about the DHS at tn.gov/humanservices.

Department of Tourist Development

The TDTD, in collaboration with Hospitality TN, plans to strengthen anti-trafficking efforts in Tennessee by:

- Promoting awareness of human trafficking for the travel, tourism, and hospitality sectors through various campaigns and mediums, and
- Training all security personnel at all welcome centers and rest areas across TN to recognize and respond to human trafficking

These efforts will impact several identified gaps in Tennessee's response, including: 1) increasing training for those in a position to identify human trafficking in local communities, and 2) catalyzing multi-sector engagement to end and prevent human trafficking. Learn more about the TDTD at tn.gov/tourism.

Tennessee Alliance for Drug Endangered Children

The TADEC plans to strengthen anti-trafficking efforts in Tennessee by:

- Hosting events and activities across TN to increase education and collaboration among community partners and concerned citizens, and
- Equipping their network to provide identification training to key community leaders, such as teachers, parents, program directors, and more

These efforts will impact several identified gaps in Tennessee's response, including: 1) increasing training for those in a position to recognize and respond to human trafficking in local communities, 2) expanding outreach to and support for at-risk populations, and 3) catalyzing multi-sector engagement. Learn more about the TADEC at tn.gov/tbi/crime-issues/crime-issues/drug-endangered-children.

The Governor's Office of Faith Based & Community Initiatives

The GOFBCI plans to strengthen anti-trafficking efforts in Tennessee by:

- Continuing to engage in a leadership role in the Human Trafficking Advisory Council, and
- Strengthening faith-based and community partnerships to better support at-risk populations, especially youth aging out of foster care

These efforts will impact several identified gaps in Tennessee's response, including: 1) strengthening legal and policy efforts to end and prevent human trafficking, 2) expanding outreach to and support for at-risk populations, and 3) catalyzing multi-sector engagement across the state and in local communities. Learn more about the GOFBCI at faithandcommunity.org.

TN Bureau of Investigation

The TBI is home to Tennessee's Human Trafficking Task Force, and as such, supports all efforts to end and prevent human trafficking in TN. Learn more at tn.gov/tbi/crime-issues/crime-issues/human-trafficking.

TN Counter Trafficking Alliance

The TCTA also supports all efforts to end and prevent human trafficking in TN and is especially dedicated to identifying, protecting and supporting victims. Leading organizations include Freed Life/Restore Corps (West) restorecorps.org, Ancora TN (Middle) ancoratn.org, and CCAHT/Grow Free (East) growfreetn.org.

TCTA plans to strengthen anti-trafficking efforts in Tennessee by:

- Collaborating with regional nonprofit partners to identify ways to build the capacity needed to serve all survivors of labor or sex trafficking, whether adults or children, foreign nationals or citizens.
- Leading training initiatives in collaboration with healthcare providers, DCS, DOC, and DOE to ensure front-line professionals can recognize and respond to human trafficking.

These efforts will impact several identified gaps in Tennessee's response, including: 1) increasing training for those in a position to recognize and respond to human trafficking in local communities, 2) expanding resources and care and collaboration for both labor and sex trafficking victims, survivors, and at-risk populations, and 3) increasing multi-sector engagement. Learn more about the TCTA at [tncountertraffickingalliance](https://tncountertraffickingalliance.org).

TN Department of Health (County Health Councils)

TN's Health Councils plan to strengthen anti-trafficking efforts in Tennessee by:

- Providing human trafficking training to all Health Council members across all counties in Tennessee, and
- Supporting the development of a plan to equip all healthcare professionals across the state to recognize and respond to human trafficking

These efforts will impact several identified gaps in Tennessee's response, including: 1) increasing training for frontline professionals in a position to recognize and respond to human trafficking in local communities, and 2) improving care and collaboration for victims, survivors, and at-risk populations. Learn more about the TDH County Health Councils at tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/county-health-councils.

TN Sheriffs' Association

The TSA plans to strengthen anti-trafficking efforts in Tennessee by:

- Providing trainings to local law enforcement to strengthen both labor and sex trafficking interventions and investigations across the state, and
- Supporting the development of a plan to increase prevention and early identification of human trafficking of justice-involved youth

These efforts will impact several identified gaps in Tennessee's response, including: 1) increasing training for frontline professionals in a position to recognize and respond to human trafficking in local communities, 2) expanding efforts to address labor trafficking, and 3) strengthening prevention and early intervention strategies for at-risk populations. Learn more about the TSA at tnsheriffs.com.

WillowBend Farms

WillowBend Farms plans to strengthen anti-trafficking efforts in Tennessee by:

- Catalyzing local community coalitions and task forces to foster coordinating response and expanding support and services for victims and at-risk individuals
- Improving identification efforts by providing specialized training at the annual "Are You Awake?" conference

These efforts will impact several identified gaps in Tennessee's response, including: 1) improving availability and accessibility of support for victims, survivors, and at-risk populations, and 2) strengthening multi-sector engagement in local communities. Learn more about WillowBend Farms at willowbendfarms.org.

West TN Healthcare

West TN Healthcare plans to strengthen anti-trafficking efforts in Tennessee by:

- Developing a plan to train all frontline healthcare professionals in their network to recognize and respond to human trafficking, and
- Strengthening local community partnerships in high-risk counties in West Tennessee to improve care and collaboration for identified victims

These efforts will impact several identified gaps in Tennessee's response, including: 1) increasing training and support for those in a position to recognize and respond to human trafficking in local communities, 2) improving care and collaboration for victims, survivors, and at-risk populations, and 3) strengthening multi-sector engagement. Learn more about West TN Healthcare at wth.org.

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Engage Together® Project exists to strengthen community response to end and prevent human trafficking. Learn more at engagetogether.com/project.

To access and download this report and all supplemental reports and resources for this Project, go to engagetogether.com/project/tn.