

Montana Human Trafficking Hotline Regional Liaison - Silver Bow Metro

*2025 Montana Opioid Abatement Trust
Grants-second half of 2025*

The LifeGuard Group

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Application Form

Region Selection

To collaborate with someone else on this request, click the blue "Collaborate" button in the top-right corner.

Project Name*

Montana Human Trafficking Hotline Regional Liaison - Silver Bow Metro

You may only select one Abatement Region, if you are applying for funding from more than one region you will need to fill out and submit a separate application for each region.

Select Multi County Abatement Region OR Metro Region*

Select the Multi-County Abatement Region **OR** the Metro Region you are requesting grant funds from. Click [HERE](#) for a detailed map of Multi-County Regions and Metro Regions.

Silver Bow County Metro Region

Regional Funding Request*

If you are applying to multiple regions, please select all the regions to which you are submitting applications.

Abatement Region 1
Abatement Region 2
Abatement Region 3
Abatement Region 4
Abatement Region 5
Cascade County Metro Region
Flathead County Metro Region
Gallatin County Metro Region
Lake County Metro Region
Lewis & Clark County Metro Region
Yellowstone County Metro Region

Application Overview

About the Organization/Program*

Give a brief description of the Organization/Program/Project. Include the mission statement and the services provided.

The LifeGuard Group is a Montana-based nonprofit leading the fight against human trafficking through swift response, compassionate care, and survivor-centered restoration. Although The LifeGuard Group is seven years old, our founders have worked as advocates for human trafficking survivors for 15 years. Our mission

is to respond to the hurting, rescue the exploited, restore wholeness, and revive hope through education, intervention, direct services, and long-term support.

In Montana, The LifeGuard Group operates the state's 24/7 human trafficking hotline, offering a critical lifeline to victims, law enforcement, and community responders. Calls to the hotline often result in emergency interventions, coordinated rescues, or connections to urgent care and shelter. The hotline is not only a response tool but also a front door to safety, healing, and justice.

We are seeking funding to expand the impact of this service by hiring regional liaisons in counties across Montana. These liaisons will play a vital role in localizing our statewide response by recruiting and equipping local volunteers and mapping and maintaining an up-to-date list of available direct services—including healthcare, shelter, legal aid, and counseling—within their respective regions.

This effort will significantly enhance our ability to provide timely, community-based solutions to survivors, particularly in rural and underserved areas. Liaisons will act as bridges between survivors, services, and The LifeGuard Group's statewide support network, ensuring no victim is left without options.

As a survivor-informed, justice-aligned organization, we provide comprehensive care that addresses the root causes of exploitation, including opioid addiction, homelessness, and trauma. Through The LifeHouse, our safehouse and transitional living campus, and through prevention, education, and hotline response, we offer rescue, refuge, and redemption—because every life matters, and every story deserves healing.

What category does the program fit into*

Check the category/categories the program fits into. You may select more than one option.

Click [HERE](#) for a list of approved opioid remediation uses

Prevention
Treatment
Recovery

Exhibit E List of Opioid Remediation Uses

Schedule A - select all that apply

G. PREVENTION PROGRAMS

I. EVIDENCE-BASED DATA COLLECTION & RESEARCH ANALYZING EFFECTIVENESS OF ABATEMENT STRATEGIES

Exhibit E List of Opioid Remediation Uses

Schedule B - select all that apply

B. SUPPORT PEOPLE IN TREATMENT & RECOVERY

C. CONNECTIONS TO CARE

J. LEADERSHIP, PLANNING, & COORDINATION

K. TRAINING

L. RESEARCH

How does the program meet the Opioid Remediation Guidelines*

Provide a detailed explanation of how the program fits into the approved Opioid Remediation Guidelines selected in the above question.

Please be specific

The LifeGuard Group's Montana Human Trafficking Hotline and proposed Regional Liaison Expansion directly align with Montana's Opioid Remediation Guidelines by addressing the critical intersection of opioid use disorder (OUD) and human trafficking. Traffickers often use opioids to control victims, while many survivors rely on substances to cope with trauma. This program provides a trauma-informed, community-based response to both crises. The LifeGuard Group is also a member of both RAM (Recovery Alliance of Montana) and NARR (National Alliance of Recovery Residence).

The statewide 24/7 Human Trafficking Hotline serves as an immediate access point for victims—many struggling with active addiction. Staff are trained to respond to opioid-related crises and connect callers to emergency shelter, detox, peer support, and treatment. However, service gaps—especially in rural areas—can delay help.

This grant will fund Regional Liaisons in counties across Montana. Liaisons will (1) recruit and train volunteers for outreach and survivor support, and (2) develop and maintain updated, county-specific resource directories, including OUD treatment, mental health services, and harm-reduction programs.

By embedding trained Liaisons locally, this project enhances access to care, strengthens crisis coordination, and extends the hotline's reach into underserved communities. It supports Opioid Remediation priorities by improving care navigation (A.7, A.8), addressing high-risk populations (B.2), and reinforcing recovery infrastructure (C.2, C.4).

As a survivor-informed, faith-driven organization, The LifeGuard Group delivers wraparound services that address both exploitation and addiction. This expansion bridges urgent gaps in Montana's behavioral health and anti-trafficking systems—offering survivors the support they need to heal, recover, and rebuild their lives.

New Program or Existing*

Is the funding intended for a new program or to expand an existing program?

A new program for your region.

Fiscal Information

Requested Amount*

\$100,584.48

Program Budget*

How will the funds be allocated? Attach a detailed line item budget breakdown for the program. If the funds are intended for a multi-year program please specify the amount budgeted for each year.

Budget Narrative- Hotline 10 hrs.pdf

Source of Funding*

Does the program currently receive funding from another source? If yes, please explain in detail. (i.e. amount, funding source, etc.)

Grant funding is intended for the creation or expansion of opioid prevention, treatment, and recovery projects. The money is **NOT** meant to replace or supplant existing funding.

The creation of the Regional Liason program for the Montana Human Trafficking Hotline is a new initiative, and at the current time, no additional funds are available for this project. However, we have requested funding for this project for three years and believe that, within that timeframe, the results of the regional liaison's work will be so apparent that other grantors and funders will take up the mantle and continue the work begun through the opioid abatement funding

Do you have a Fiscal Agent*

No

Program Abstract

Program Description*

Describe the objectives of this project. Provide a detailed overview of the program, including its purpose, priorities & objectives, and intended results.

The purpose of this project is to expand the capacity and reach of The LifeGuard Group's Montana Human Trafficking Hotline through the creation of a Regional Liaison Network. The hotline is a vital, around-the-clock resource for identifying and assisting victims of human trafficking across Montana—many of whom are also struggling with opioid addiction. This initiative responds to the increasing number of trafficking cases tied to opioid use disorder (OUD) and addresses urgent service gaps in rural and underserved counties. The project will prioritize regions lacking coordinated survivor services and expand localized response efforts through the hiring of trained Regional Liaisons. These liaisons will strengthen the state's anti-trafficking infrastructure by:

Recruiting and training county-based volunteers to assist with outreach, hotline follow-up, and peer support for survivors.

Mapping, building, and maintaining a comprehensive, real-time database of direct services available in each county, including OUD treatment programs, mental health services, safe shelter, medical care, and trauma-informed counseling.

Serving as county-level points of contact for law enforcement, service providers, and community partners seeking assistance for potential trafficking victims impacted by opioid addiction.

Improving coordinated care pathways between emergency response (via the hotline) and long-term support services, including housing at The LifeHouse—our trauma-informed transitional living campus.

The objectives of this project are to:

Enhance the speed and effectiveness of hotline responses in rural areas by equipping local liaisons with tools and networks tailored to their county.

Increase access to treatment and recovery options for trafficking victims with OUD, ensuring they are connected to the right care at the right time.

Strengthen Montana's statewide anti-trafficking infrastructure through localized coordination, ultimately reducing the number of survivors who fall through the cracks.

Promote long-term stability and healing for victims through streamlined service connections and regional partnerships.

The intended result of this project is a more responsive, survivor-centered system that ensures trafficking victims—especially those facing opioid addiction—receive immediate, compassionate, and comprehensive support. By investing in regional coordination, this project will help break the cycles of exploitation and addiction and offer survivors a path to safety, recovery, and lasting hope.

Specific Goals*

Describe the primary goals your program seeks to achieve. For each goal, explain how the program intends to accomplish it.

The LifeGuard Group's Montana Human Trafficking Hotline and Regional Liaison Expansion project seeks to build a stronger, more coordinated statewide response to human trafficking and opioid addiction. The primary goals of the program are:

Goal 1: Increase the capacity and responsiveness of the Montana Human Trafficking Hotline, especially in rural and underserved counties. The program will hire Regional Liaisons in key counties who will serve as localized extensions of the hotline. These liaisons will improve the speed and accuracy of emergency responses by providing real-time, regional knowledge and contacts, helping the hotline connect victims to the right services without delay.

Goal 2: Strengthen access to opioid-related recovery services for trafficking survivors. Regional Liaisons will build and maintain a county-level directory of available services, including detox programs, medication-assisted treatment, peer recovery networks, and behavioral health resources. This ensures survivors experiencing opioid addiction can be rapidly connected to trauma-informed care and ongoing support.

Goal 3: Build and mobilize a trained, local volunteer base to support trafficking survivors. Each liaison will recruit and train volunteers to assist with outreach, follow-up care, and survivor support in their region. These volunteers will act as trusted community advocates, bridging the gap between survivors and formal services while expanding the reach of The LifeGuard Group's mission.

Goal 4: Improve long-term outcomes for trafficking survivors through coordinated, wraparound support. Through a trauma-informed, survivor-centered approach, the program will connect victims to The LifeHouse (our safehouse and transitional housing campus) and other essential services such as legal advocacy, case management, therapy, and workforce readiness programs. By addressing both opioid addiction and the trauma of trafficking, survivors will have a clear path to healing, recovery, and independence.

This program is designed to offer rapid, local, and lasting impact. By embedding support at the county level and linking it to our statewide infrastructure, we aim to save lives, end exploitation, and break the destructive cycle between opioid addiction and trafficking.

Evaluation Method*

Please explain in detail how you will gauge the effectiveness and overall impact of the program. What specific evaluation methods, tools, or metrics will you use to measure success.

The LifeGuard Group will evaluate the effectiveness and impact of the Montana Human Trafficking Hotline and Regional Liaison Expansion Project using a comprehensive approach that combines quantitative metrics, qualitative feedback, and performance benchmarks. Our evaluation strategy is rooted in accountability, continuous improvement, and survivor-centered care.

1. Key Performance Metrics We will track essential data points, including:

Hotline Utilization: Number of calls, call types (crisis, referral, follow-up), and opioid-related trafficking cases.

Response Time: Average time from hotline contact to intervention or referral, with comparisons between regions with and without a Regional Liaison.

Service Linkage: Number of survivors connected to detox, housing, mental health, or other services via liaisons.

Volunteer Engagement: Number of trained volunteers per county, hours served, and their roles.

Resource Development: Number of new or updated service providers added to county directories, especially those offering OUD-related care.

2. Survivor Outcomes Case management systems will monitor progress in areas such as:

Participation in OUD treatment or harm-reduction programs

Entry into safe or transitional housing

Engagement in trauma therapy, legal services, or workforce readiness

When available, reductions in re-victimization or relapse

3. Tools and Reporting We utilize secure, cloud-based software to log all hotline interactions, referrals, and outcomes. Regional Liaisons will submit standardized monthly reports documenting volunteer activity, service gaps, and community needs to ensure consistent data collection across regions.

4. Feedback and Quality Improvement We will collect survivor feedback through voluntary, trauma-informed surveys and interviews. Additional input from partners—such as law enforcement, medical providers, and volunteers—will inform program adjustments. Quarterly internal reviews and annual evaluations will guide ongoing improvements and identify emerging trends.

5. Indicators of Success Program success will be measured by increased hotline responsiveness, improved access to OUD treatment, stronger survivor outcomes, and high levels of engagement at the county level. These indicators demonstrate progress in closing service gaps and delivering timely, effective, and compassionate care to trafficking survivors statewide.

Data Source*

What data or evidence will you collect to show you are meeting your program goals? What specific information, metrics and documentation will you provide to demonstrate the program objectives have been achieved.

To demonstrate progress toward the goals of the Montana Human Trafficking Hotline and Regional Liaison Expansion Project, The LifeGuard Group will collect and analyze both quantitative and qualitative data aligned with our program objectives. This evidence will demonstrate the program's effectiveness in identifying trafficking victims, connecting them to services—especially opioid treatment—and strengthening local response systems.

1. Hotline Operations Data We will track:

Total call volume, segmented by county or region

Nature of each call (crisis, referral, inquiry, etc.)

Number of calls involving opioid use or substance concerns

Number of trafficking victims identified

Time from initial call to intervention or service referral

2. Regional Liaison Activity Reports Each Liaison will submit monthly reports that document:

Number of volunteers recruited and trained

Volunteer roles and total hours served

Service providers added to the regional directory, with focus on OUD and trauma-related services

Outreach events, public trainings, and local partnerships established

Interagency collaboration and referrals made

3. Survivor Services and Outcomes Survivor data will be collected through secure case management tools, including:

- Referrals to detox, OUD treatment, or harm-reduction programs
- Housing placements (emergency or transitional)
- Participation in trauma therapy, job readiness, or legal advocacy
- Repeat hotline calls or requests for continued support

4. System Impact Metrics To evaluate broader system impact, we will monitor:

- Reduction in crisis response times in counties with active liaisons
- Increased availability and use of local services for trafficking survivors
- Partner agency collaboration and satisfaction

- Survivor feedback via trauma-informed surveys and voluntary interviews

5. Reporting & Use of Data All data will be securely stored and used to produce quarterly and annual reports with performance indicators, narrative summaries, and progress toward stated objectives. This structured evaluation framework ensures transparency, accountability, and responsiveness to community needs.

Awareness*

How do you plan to create awareness of this program? Briefly describe what action the program plans to take to create awareness in the community.

Creating public awareness is essential to the success of The LifeGuard Group's Montana Human Trafficking Hotline and Regional Liaison Expansion Project. This initiative depends on visibility, trusted relationships, and community-based leadership. Our outreach combines local and statewide efforts in a trauma-informed, inclusive manner.

1. Regional Liaison Outreach

Each Liaison will lead county-level awareness through events, coalition participation, and presentations in schools, churches, hospitals, and civic groups. Their outreach will target key stakeholders—law enforcement, educators, healthcare workers—ensuring the hotline is known and trusted, particularly in opioid-affected communities.

2. Community Trainings and Volunteer Engagement

We will host public trainings to educate residents about trafficking, its link to opioid addiction, and how to respond. Attendees will be encouraged to volunteer or serve as program ambassadors, extending awareness through word-of-mouth and action.

3. Print and Digital Media Campaigns

Montana-specific materials (flyers, posters, wallet cards) will be placed in clinics, libraries, schools, and sheriff's offices. Geo-targeted social media ads will promote the hotline in regions with new liaisons, increasing visibility in high-need areas.

4. Partner Organization Integration

We will work with treatment centers, law enforcement, and victim service agencies to integrate hotline access into their intake and outreach. These partnerships help normalize the use of the hotline and deepen its reach.

5. Storytelling and Testimonies

With consent, anonymized survivor stories will be shared through newsletters, media, and presentations to humanize the statistics and highlight the program's impact. These stories remind communities that help is real—and recovery is possible.

Through these coordinated efforts, we aim not just for awareness, but for deep and lasting engagement with this life-saving work.

Additional Documents

Tax Exempt Organization*

By clicking this box you are confirming the applying organization is a tax exempt organization.

Yes

Tax Exempt Determination Letter*

Please upload a copy of the Organization 501(C)(3) Tax Exempt Determination Letter.

IRS Determination Letter.pdf

Use this section to upload or explain any additional information regarding the program/organization. ie. a detailed budget projection, program/organization history, etc.

Upload #1

Hotline 2024 Report 2.pdf

Upload #2

Upload #3

Additional Information

While the core components of The LifeGuard Group's proposal have outlined the programmatic framework, statewide need, and intended outcomes of the Montana Human Trafficking Hotline and State Coordinator Project, there remains a deeper truth—one that data alone cannot capture.

Attached to this application is our 2024 Montana Human Trafficking Hotline Annual Report, which documents the number of calls received, the nature of those calls, the counties and communities they came from, and demographic breakdowns of callers. The report includes data on whether individuals identified as male or female, were victims of sex trafficking or labor trafficking, or were calling on behalf of someone else in crisis. It identifies opioid-related calls and trends, areas of highest activity, and common needs among survivors.

But what no report can ever show is the soul behind the statistics.

Every number is a person. Every call is a cry for help from someone's son, someone's daughter. Every data point has a name.

The hotline does not just log trafficking cases—it bears witness to suffering. It listens to the voices of the 99% who may never be found, and the 1% who are. It records their trauma but cannot convey the weight of it. The statistics don't tell you about "L," who called the hotline from a hospital room after narrowly escaping a trafficking ring. They don't tell you about "A," who reached out after being sold by her own family, brutally beaten, her hair set on fire, and forced into repeated sexual exploitation. They don't tell you how drugs were weaponized against her—forced into her body as a means of control, or taken voluntarily as a way to survive the unspeakable.

No spreadsheet can describe the terror, the betrayal, or the complex grief these survivors carry. Yet we hear it every day on the hotline. We hear their trembling voices, their whispered hopes, and sometimes, their silence when it's too hard to speak.

This is why we're asking for your support. Not simply to grow a program, but to change the trajectory of real lives. The funding requested through this Opioid Abatement Grant isn't just about infrastructure—it's about redemption. It's about using the very resources intended to undo lives—the profits and penalties of opioid misuse—to rebuild those lives instead.

The State Coordinator position will amplify our reach, improve the consistency and speed of care, and guide Regional Liaisons across Montana to ensure that no call goes unanswered, and no survivor slips through the cracks. With this grant, we can strengthen county-level support, expand access to treatment and safe shelter, and build trauma-informed care into every part of the system.

The victims we serve are not faceless. They are brave, broken, resilient human beings who deserve more than survival. They deserve restoration. With your partnership, we can give them something many have never had before: a future.

The 1% who make it out are not statistics—they are stories still being written. And with your help, we can ensure that their next chapter is one of safety, sobriety, and hope.

The creation of the Regional Liason program for the Montana Human Trafficking Hotline is a new initiative, and at the current time, no additional funds are available for this project. However, we have requested funding for this project for three years and believe that, within that timeframe, the results of the regional liaison's work will be so apparent that other grantors and funders will take up the mantle and continue the work begun through the opioid abatement funding

File Attachment Summary

Applicant File Uploads

- Budget Narrative- Hotline 10 hrs.pdf
- IRS Determination Letter.pdf
- Hotline 2024 Report 2.pdf



Addendum to Grant Application

Montana Human Trafficking Hotline Regional Liaison Project

Butte-Silver Bow Metro Region

Thank you to the Butte-Silver Bow Committee for its thoughtful review of our application and for recommending funding for this project. We greatly appreciate the Committee's recognition of the importance of community education, awareness, and coordinated response to human trafficking and the intersection of trafficking and opioid addiction.

Since submission of our original application, one operational change has occurred. As part of a planned statewide transition, the Montana Department of Justice now operates the Montana Human Trafficking Hotline. The LifeGuard Group worked closely with the Department of Justice and Safe House Project throughout this transition to ensure that the same hotline phone number would be used as well as uninterrupted services for victims and continued statewide collaboration. Although the LifeGuard Group started the hotline, it has always been our hope that one day the State of Montana would find the capacity to take over the efforts, as their reach and resources are so wide spread. The LifeGuard Group, however, will continue to play an active role in the efforts of the hotline.

While The LifeGuard Group no longer answers hotline calls directly, **our role in Montana's anti-trafficking response remains active and essential.** The Department of Justice and Safe House Project have asked The LifeGuard Group to continue serving as a key statewide partner through public education, volunteer engagement, survivor resource development, community outreach, promotion of the hotline and collaborative response efforts. Our partnerships remain strong, and our commitment to serving trafficking victims has not changed.

If awarded, the Butte-Silver Bow funding will be dedicated to strengthening local prevention, education, creating partnerships with other direct service providers, promotion of the hotline number to places where victims can find it and community response efforts within the Butte Silver Bow region.

Specifically, grant funds will support:

- Public education presentations for healthcare professionals, public health staff, behavioral health providers, first responders, educators, civic organizations, businesses, and faith communities to improve identification of trafficking victims and strengthen understanding of the relationship between human trafficking and opioid use disorder.



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Budget Narrative

Montana Human Trafficking Hotline Regional Liaison Program

This budget outlines the necessary costs to support one part-time Regional Liaison under The LifeGuard Group's Montana Human Trafficking Hotline Expansion Project. The position will strengthen county-level response to human trafficking and opioid-related exploitation by recruiting volunteers, mapping local services, and building trusted community partnerships.

YEAR #1

1. Regional Liaison – Part-Time Salary: \$10,400.00

This cost covers compensation for a part-time Regional Liaison working 10 hours per week at a rate of \$20.00/hour. The Liaison will serve as the primary contact and community organizer for their designated county, supporting public awareness events, service coordination, and hotline outreach. The position is **crucial** to ensuring a timely and informed response in local communities.

2. Payroll Taxes, Unemployment Insurance, and Workers' Compensation: \$1560.00

This line item accounts for employer obligations, including payroll taxes (Social Security and Medicare), state unemployment insurance, and workers' compensation coverage for the Regional Liaison. This ensures compliance with employment regulations and provides necessary protections for the employee.

3. Laptop, Equipment, and Technology: \$5,000

To perform their duties effectively, the Regional Liaison will require a computer, phone, mobile hotspot or internet access, and related technology tools for case documentation, communication, and remote meetings. This one-time investment ensures the Liaison is fully equipped to carry out statewide and county-level duties.

4. Travel Expenses: \$6,000

Allocated at \$500/month, this line item supports in-county travel to community events, coalition meetings, service provider visits, and training sessions. Travel is a vital part of relationship-building in rural areas and enables the Liaison to maintain a consistent presence across the region.

5. Training, Printed Materials, and Office Supplies: \$12,000

This allocation—at \$1,000/month—covers the cost of educational materials for public trainings, volunteer recruitment packets, awareness posters, printing of county-specific resource directories, and basic office supplies. It also includes costs associated with trauma-informed training for the Liaison and local partners. These materials will strengthen the public's understanding of human trafficking, increase hotline visibility, and improve the quality of volunteer engagement.



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YEAR #2

1. Regional Liaison – Part-Time Salary: \$10,660.00

Part-time Regional Liaison working 10 hours per week to receive a cost-of-living raise for the second year of service. The Liaison will serve as the primary contact and community organizer for their designated county, supporting public awareness events, service coordination, and hotline outreach. The position is **crucial** to ensuring a timely and informed response in local communities.

2. Payroll Taxes, Unemployment Insurance, and Workers' Compensation: \$1599.00

This line item accounts for employer obligations, including payroll taxes (Social Security and Medicare), state unemployment insurance, and workers' compensation coverage for the Regional Liaison. This ensures compliance with employment regulations and provides necessary protections for the employee.

3. Phone and Internet: \$2,400

4. Travel Expenses: \$6,000

Allocated at \$500/month, this line item supports in-county travel to community events, coalition meetings, service provider visits, and training sessions. Travel is a vital part of relationship-building in rural areas and enables the Liaison to maintain a consistent presence across the region.

5. Training, Printed Materials, and Office Supplies: \$12,000

This allocation—at \$1,000/month—covers the cost of educational materials for public trainings, volunteer recruitment packets, awareness posters, printing of county-specific resource directories, and basic office supplies. It also includes costs associated with trauma-informed training for the Liaison and local partners. These materials will strengthen the public's understanding of human trafficking, increase hotline visibility, and improve the quality of volunteer engagement.



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Year #3

1. Regional Liaison – Part-Time Salary: \$10,926.50

Part-time Regional Liaison working 10 hours per week to receive a cost-of-living raise for the third year of service. The Liaison will serve as the primary contact and community organizer for their designated county, supporting public awareness events, service coordination, and hotline outreach. The position is **crucial** to ensuring a timely and informed response in local communities.

2. Payroll Taxes, Unemployment Insurance, and Workers' Compensation: \$1,638.98

This line item accounts for employer obligations, including payroll taxes (Social Security and Medicare), state unemployment insurance, and workers' compensation coverage for the Regional Liaison. This ensures compliance with employment regulations and provides necessary protections for the employee.

3. Phone and Internet: \$2,400.00

4. Travel Expenses: \$6,000.00

Allocated at \$500/month, this line item supports in-county travel to community events, coalition meetings, service provider visits, and training sessions. Travel is a vital part of relationship-building in rural areas and enables the Liaison to maintain a consistent presence across the region.

5. Training, Printed Materials, and Office Supplies: \$12,000.00

This allocation—at \$1,000/month—covers the cost of educational materials for public trainings, volunteer recruitment packets, awareness posters, printing of county-specific resource directories, and basic office supplies. It also includes costs associated with trauma-informed training for the Liaison and local partners. These materials will strengthen the public's understanding of human trafficking, increase hotline visibility, and improve the quality of volunteer engagement.

Year #1: \$34,960.00

Year #2: \$32,659.00

Year #3: \$32,965.48

Total Amount Requested: \$100,584.48

This budget reflects The LifeGuard Group's commitment to sustainable, cost-effective programming with high community impact. Each line item is directly tied to program execution and outcomes, supporting our mission to respond to the hurting, rescue the exploited, and restore survivors—particularly those caught in the intersection of human trafficking and opioid addiction.



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INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
P. O. BOX 2508
CINCINNATI, OH 45201

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Date: **APR 01 2019**

THE LIFEGUARD GROUP INC
13320 BUNCHGRASS LANE
MISSOULA, MT 59808

Employer Identification Number:
83-0973814
DLN:
17053309303048
Contact Person:
MICHAEL T UPSHAW ID# 17310
Contact Telephone Number:
(877) 829-5500
Accounting Period Ending:
December 31
Public Charity Status:
170(b)(1)(A)(vi)
Form 990/990-EZ/990-N Required:
Yes
Effective Date of Exemption:
June 14, 2018
Contribution Deductibility:
Yes
Addendum Applies:
No

Dear Applicant:

We're pleased to tell you we determined you're exempt from federal income tax under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 501(c)(3). Donors can deduct contributions they make to you under IRC Section 170. You're also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under Section 2055, 2106, or 2522. This letter could help resolve questions on your exempt status. Please keep it for your records.

Organizations exempt under IRC Section 501(c)(3) are further classified as either public charities or private foundations. We determined you're a public charity under the IRC Section listed at the top of this letter.

If we indicated at the top of this letter that you're required to file Form 990/990-EZ/990-N, our records show you're required to file an annual information return (Form 990 or Form 990-EZ) or electronic notice (Form 990-N, the e-Postcard). If you don't file a required return or notice for three consecutive years, your exempt status ~~will be~~ automatically revoked.

If we indicated at the top of this letter that an addendum applies, the enclosed addendum is an integral part of this letter.

For important information about your responsibilities as a tax-exempt organization, go to www.irs.gov/charities. Enter "4221-PC" in the search bar to view Publication 4221-PC, Compliance Guide for 501(c)(3) Public Charities, which describes your recordkeeping, reporting, and disclosure requirements.

Letter 947

THE LIFEGUARD GROUP INC

Sincerely,

Stephen a. martin

Director, Exempt Organizations
Rulings and Agreements



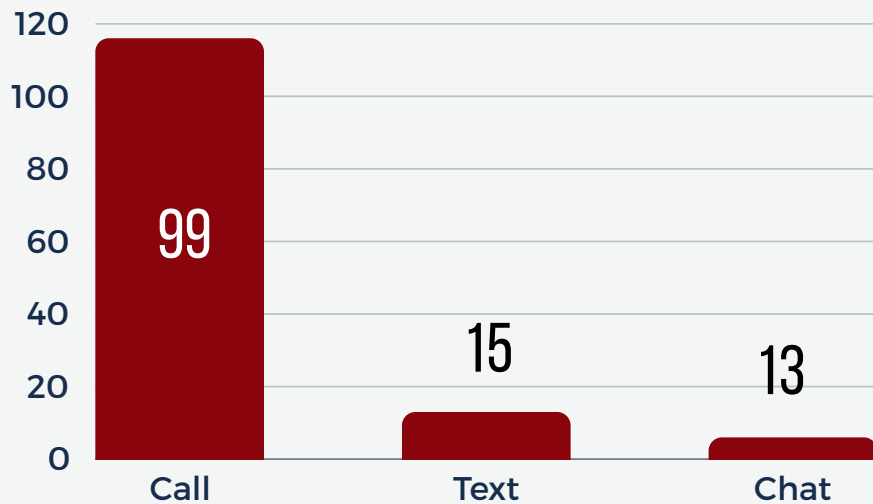
2024

MONTANA
HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE
ANNUAL REPORT

THE DATA PRESENTED IN THIS REPORT IS A PRODUCT OF INFORMATION VOLUNTARILY SHARED WITH THE MONTANA HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE THROUGH PHONE CALLS, TEXT MESSAGES, AND ONLINE CHATS. IT'S IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT INDIVIDUALS SEEKING ASSISTANCE WILLINGLY PROVIDE THIS INFORMATION, AND IT IS NOT A PREREQUISITE FOR RECEIVING HELP. OCCASIONALLY, SOME CALLERS MAY NOT RESPOND TO ALL QUESTIONS, WHICH CAN LEAD TO DISCREPANCIES IN SPECIFIC CATEGORIES AND MAY NOT REFLECT THE TOTAL NUMBER OF CONTACTS DURING THE SPECIFIED TIME PERIOD.



2024 Overview



TOTAL CONTACTS

127

CONTACTS PER MONTH



135

Contacts in 2023

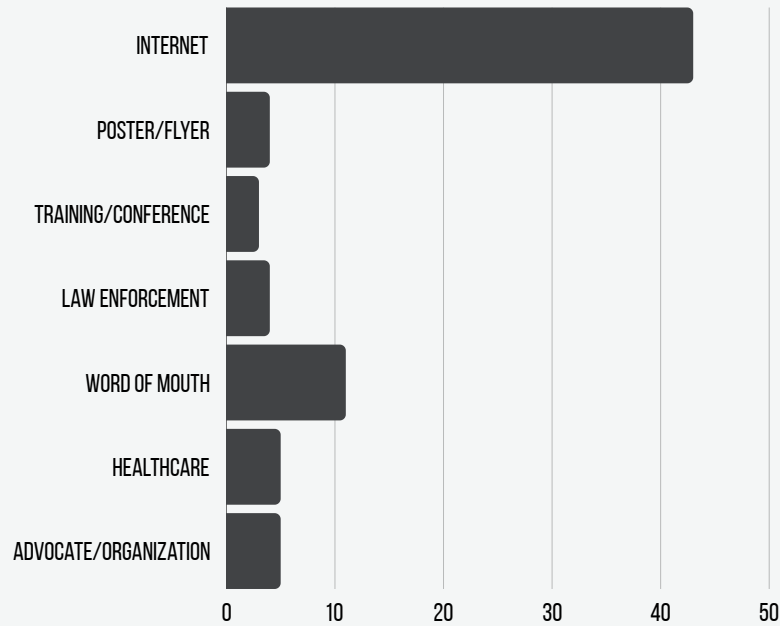


509

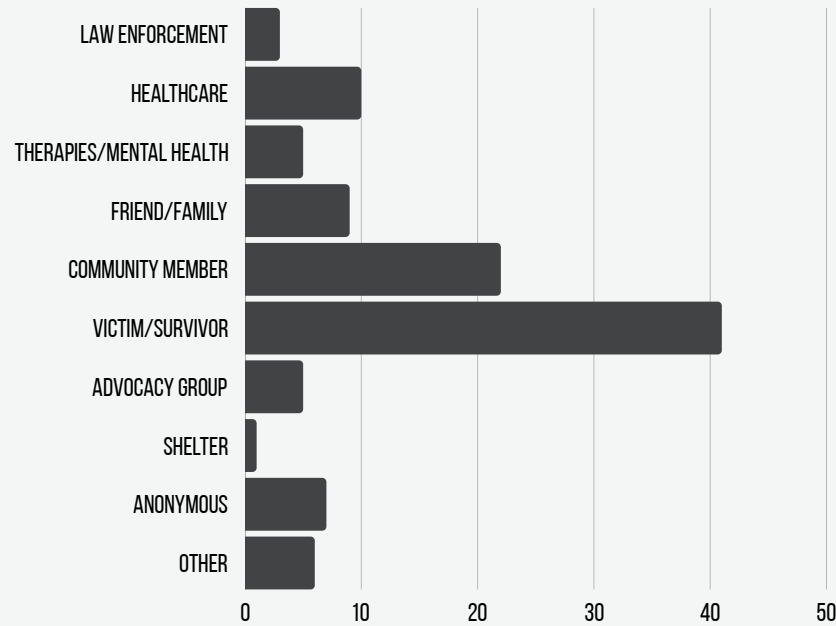
Contacts since launch
(Nov. 2020)

The Caller

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT US?

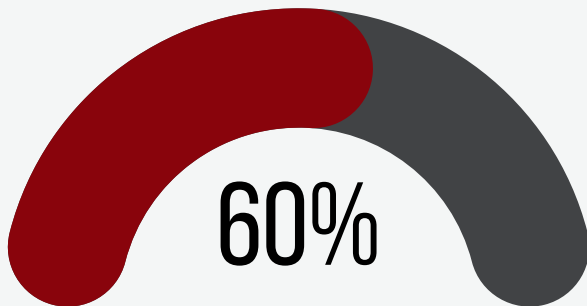


REPORTER AFFILIATION

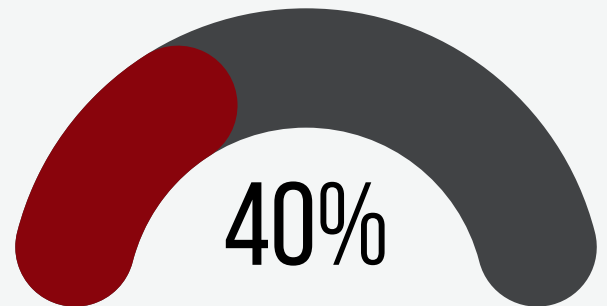


WHO DID THEY CALL FOR?

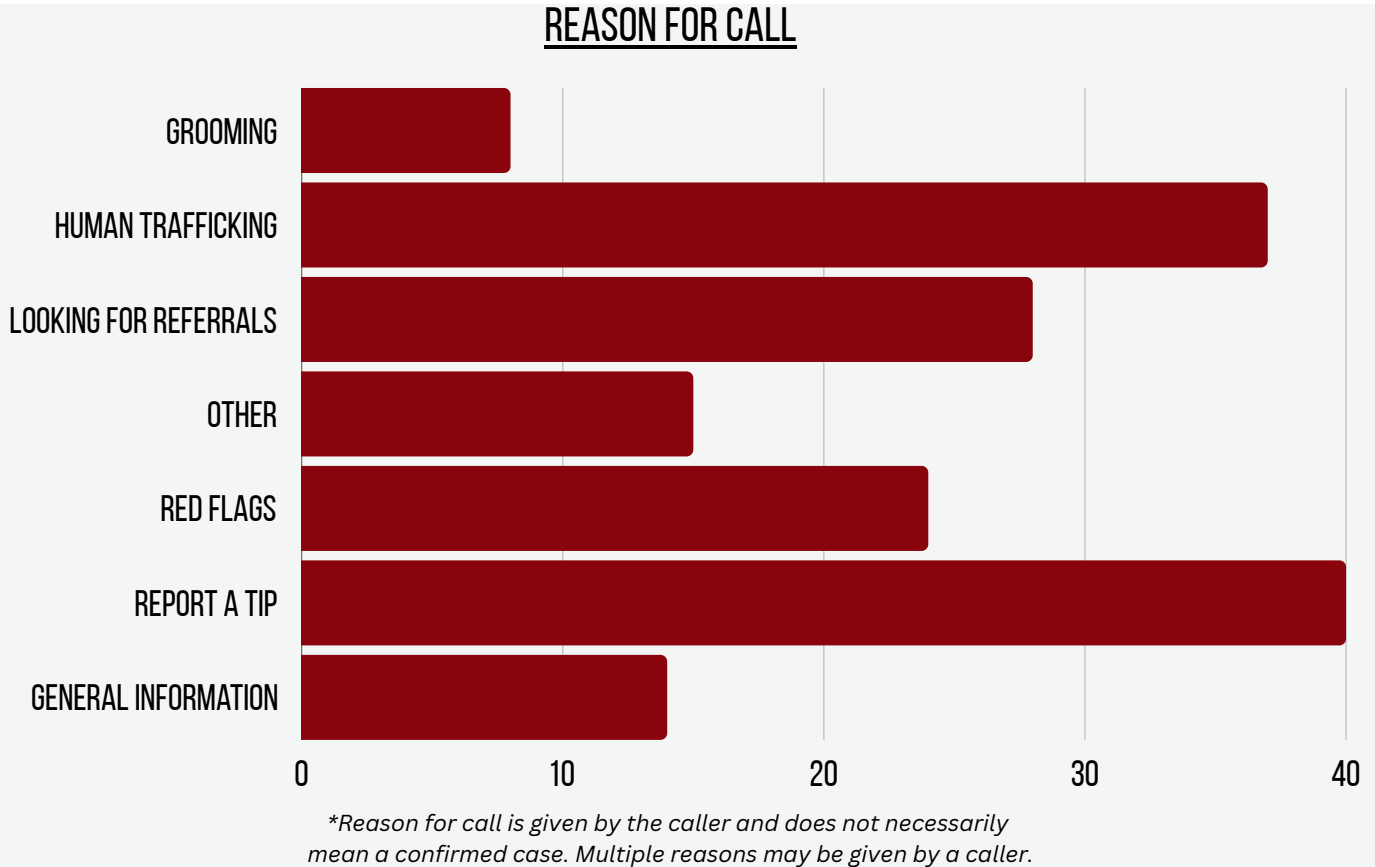
SELF



SOMEONE ELSE



The Caller



ARE YOU IN IMMEDIATE DANGER?

YES

12

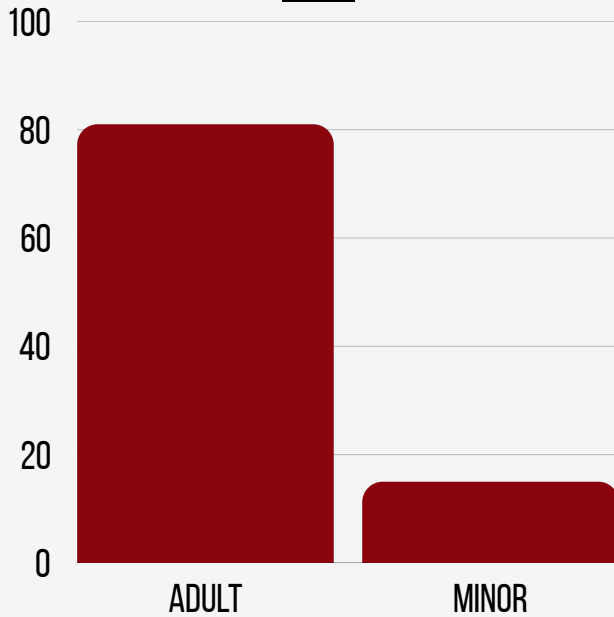
NO

115

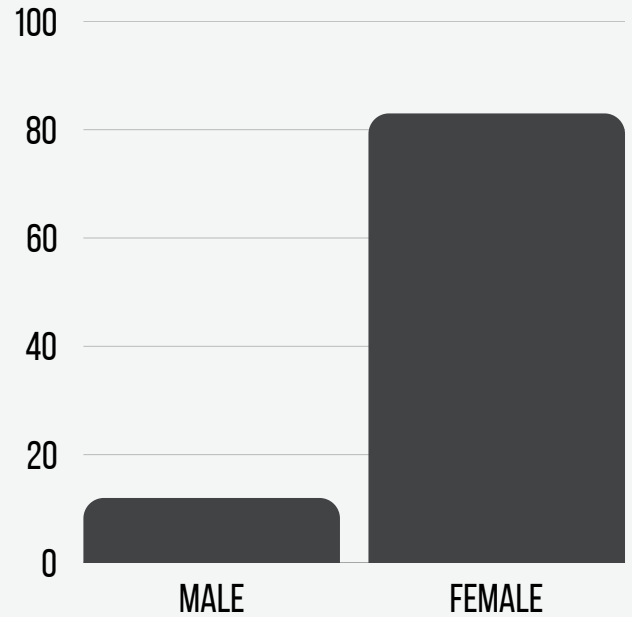


The Victim

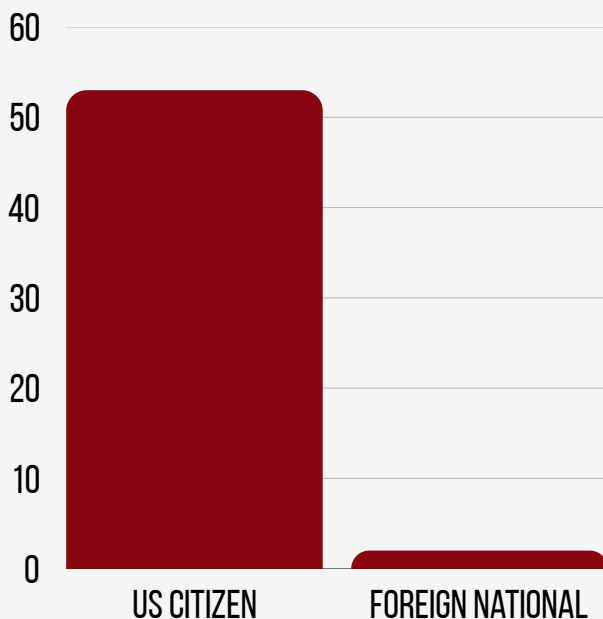
AGE



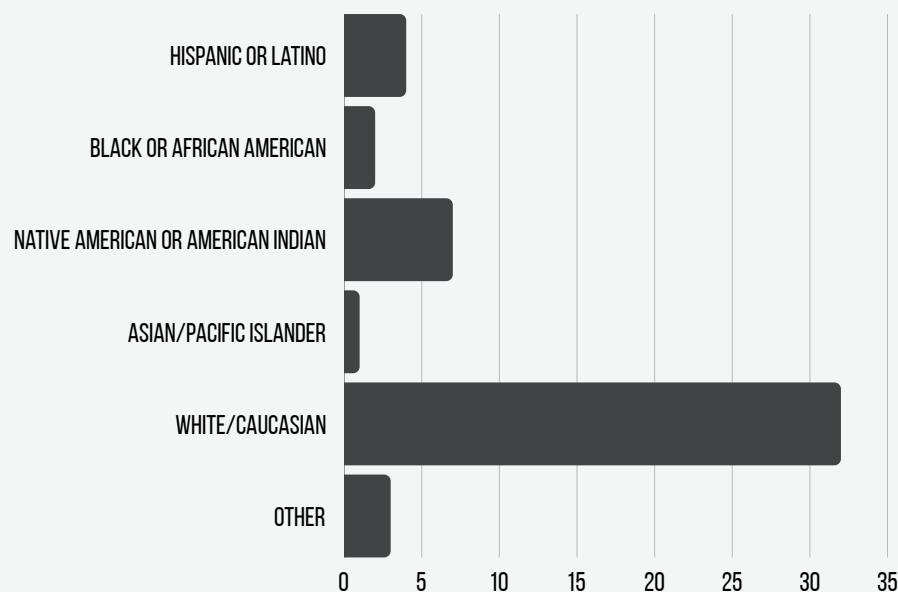
GENDER



CITIZENSHIP

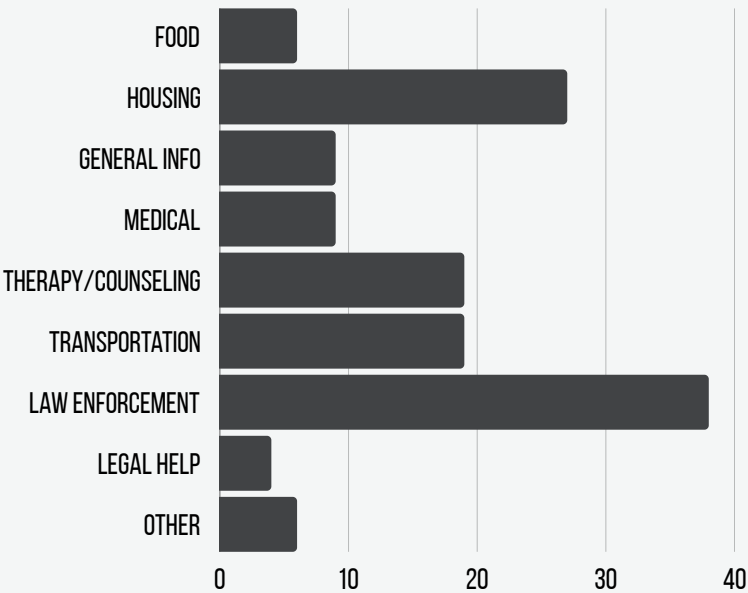


ETHNICITY



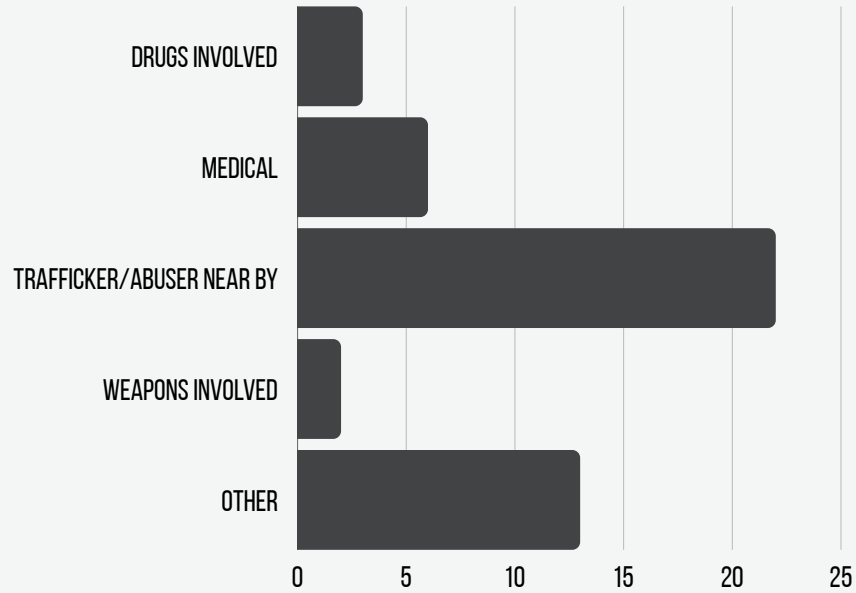
The Victim

CURRENT NEEDS



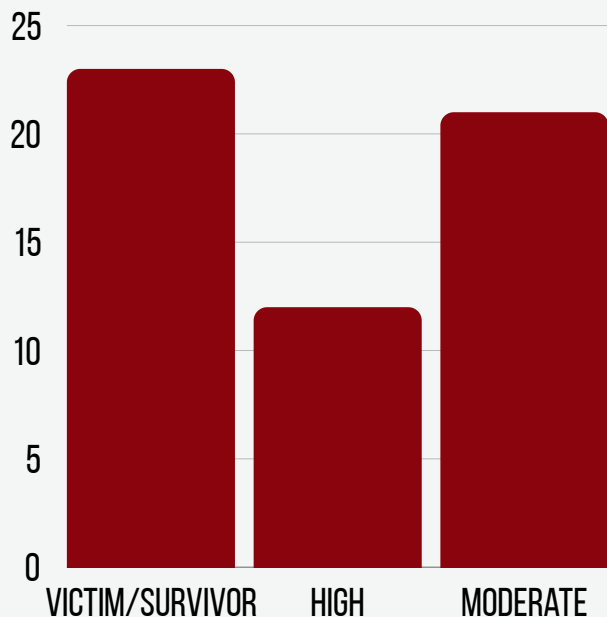
*Multiple needs may be given by a single caller.

SAFETY CONCERNS

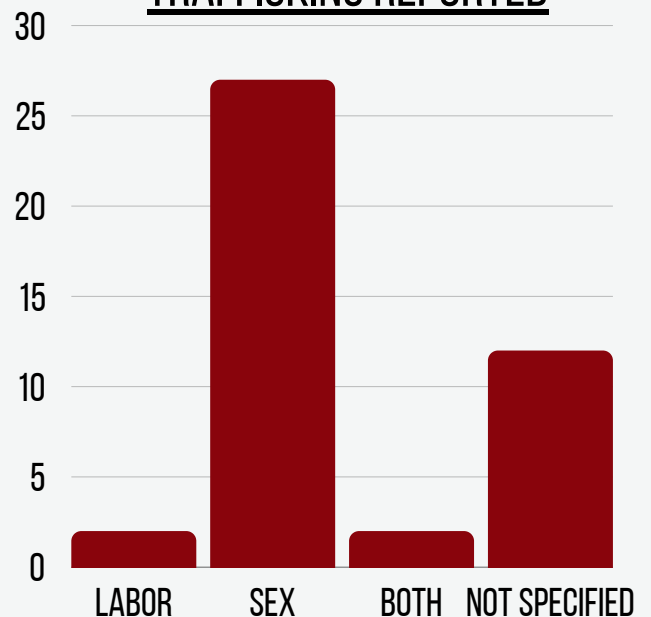


*Multiple concerns may be given by a single caller.

TRAFFICKING INDICATORS



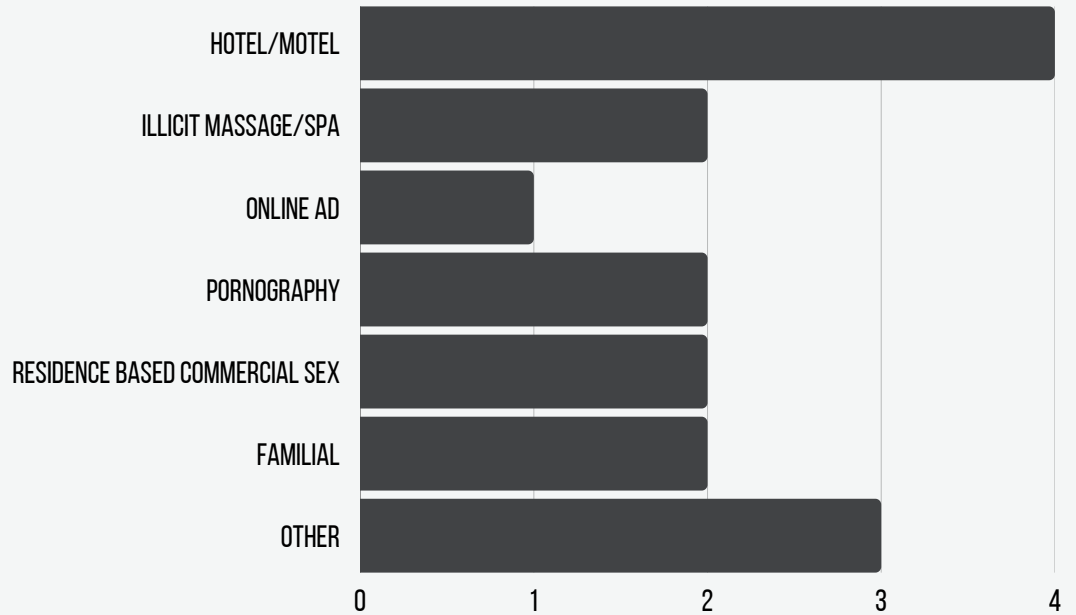
TYPE OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING REPORTED



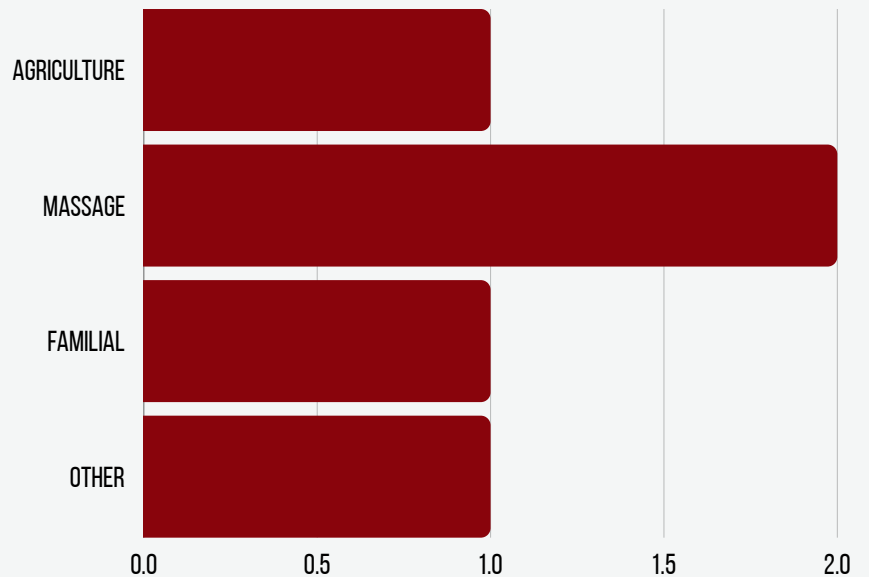
The Victim

REPORTED VENUES FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING

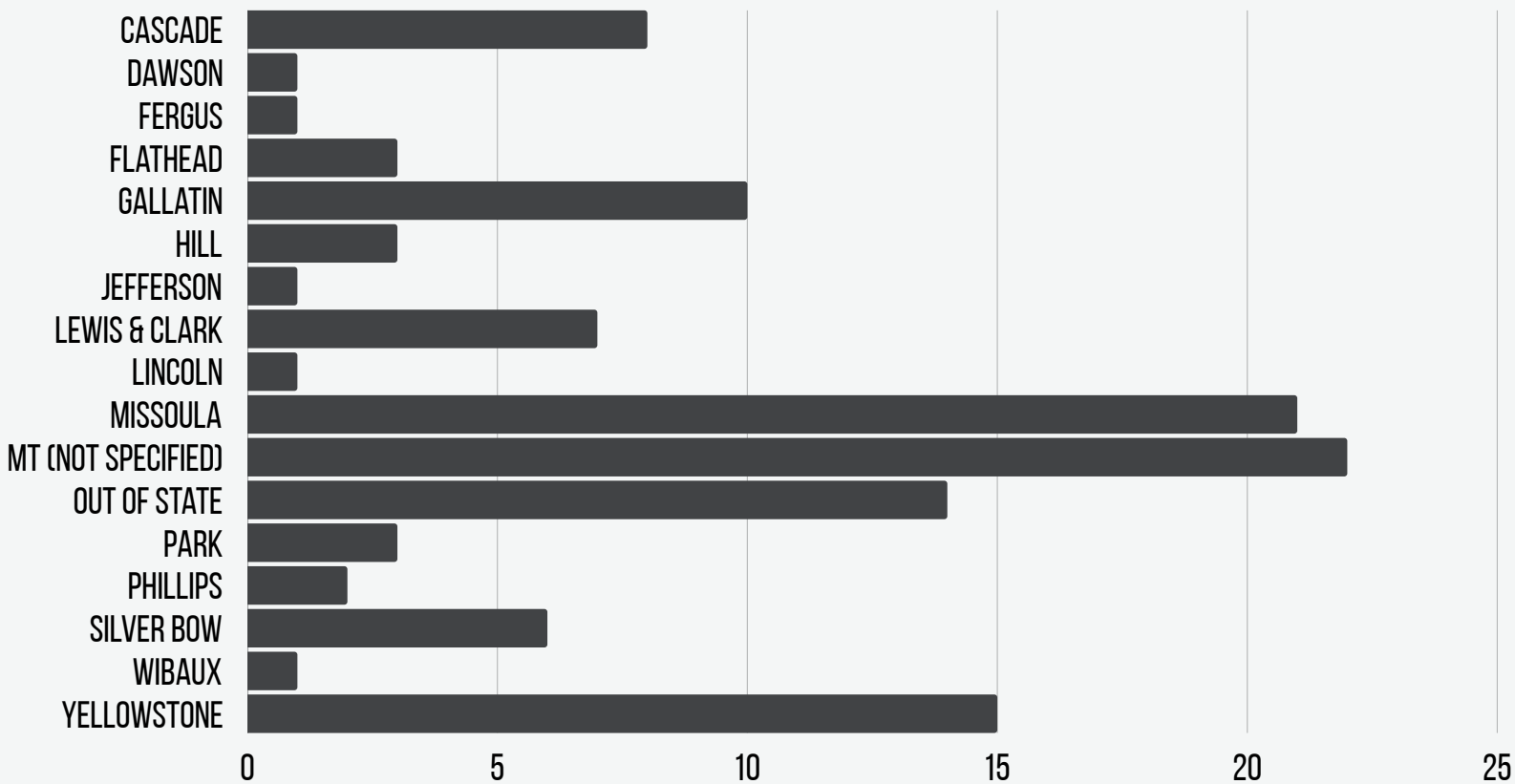
SEX TRAFFICKING



LABOR TRAFFICKING



CONTACTS PER COUNTY



OUR PARTNERS

ATTORNEY GENERAL



AUSTIN KNUDSEN



THE **LIFEGUARD** GROUP



GOVERNOR
GREG GIANFORTE



MONTANA
Department of Transportation



SENTINEL PROJECT



A special thank you to all those who volunteered in 2024 as a Montana Human Trafficking Hotline Advocate.



- Community awareness campaigns utilizing professionally developed print materials, for the Butte-Silver Bow community. These campaigns will increase awareness of trafficking indicators, available resources, and reporting pathways.
- Development and maintenance of a comprehensive regional resource directory/database identifying local victim service providers, substance use disorder treatment providers, mental health services, emergency shelter, legal assistance, recovery programs, and other community resources to ensure coordinated referrals for victims.
- Recruitment, training, and coordination of local volunteers who can assist with community awareness events, prevention activities, resource distribution, and support for collaborative anti-trafficking initiatives.
- Ongoing collaboration with the Montana Department of Justice, Safe House Project, local law enforcement, healthcare systems, treatment providers, victim service organizations, and community partners to strengthen regional response capacity.

Human trafficking and opioid addiction remain deeply connected. Traffickers frequently exploit substance dependency to control victims, while many survivors develop addictions as a direct result of prolonged trauma and exploitation. Increasing community awareness and equipping professionals to recognize trafficking victims earlier are critical components of reducing victimization and connecting survivors with life-saving services.

Although the operational responsibility for answering hotline calls has transitioned to Simply Report, the need for trained local partners, coordinated community education, and informed referral networks has only increased. The LifeGuard Group continues to play an important role in building those systems throughout Montana.

As a result of the planned transition of the Montana Human Trafficking Hotline to the Montana Department of Justice, a portion of the funds originally designated for direct hotline operations and statewide hotline promotional materials is no longer required for those specific activities. Those funds will instead be reallocated to expand community-based education, outreach, and regional response efforts within the Butte-Silver Bow Metro region. Specifically, the reallocated funding will support additional training opportunities for healthcare professionals, behavioral health providers, first responders, educators, and community organizations; increased volunteer recruitment and development; expansion and maintenance of local victim service resource directories; enhanced collaboration with regional partners; and the development of locally targeted awareness materials and digital outreach campaigns. While the Department of Justice now manages hotline operations, The LifeGuard Group continues to serve as an active statewide partner responsible for education, community engagement, and coordinated victim response. This reallocation ensures that grant funds remain dedicated to the original intent of the project—improving the identification of trafficking victims, strengthening local response systems, increasing access to services for individuals impacted by opioid use disorder, and preventing future exploitation.



THE LIFEGUARD GROUP

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The call volume of the hotline is important, however, the numbers cannot capture the human stories behind each call. Every statistic represents a person. Every number represents someone's son, someone's daughter, someone's family member.

The numbers cannot convey the trauma survivors have endured or the courage it takes to ask for help. Nor does it reflect the countless professionals and community members who must be equipped to recognize trafficking and respond appropriately when they encounter a victim.

This funding will allow The LifeGuard Group to continue building that community capacity throughout the Butte-Silver Bow region by educating professionals, increasing public awareness, strengthening local partnerships, and ensuring victims can be identified and connected to appropriate services more quickly.

We remain deeply committed to working alongside the Montana Department of Justice, Safe House Project, and local Butte Silver Bow partners to ensure that every victim has the greatest possible opportunity for safety, healing, and restoration. We sincerely appreciate the Butte-Silver Bow Committee's continued support and consideration of this important work.



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