

Grant Proposal: Combating Human Trafficking in Florida

Project Title:

Florida Rotary Districts Human Trafficking Prevention and Response Program (FRDGHTPRP)

District 6890 – Central Florida (includes parts of Tampa Bay)

District 6930 – East Central and Southeast Florida (coastal areas including Vero Beach and Palm Beach)

District 6940 – Florida Panhandle (includes Tallahassee, Pensacola, and surrounding areas)

District 6950 – West Central Florida (includes parts of Tampa Bay, Clearwater, and St. Petersburg)

District 6960 – Southwest Florida (Naples, Fort Myers, and surrounding areas)

District 6970 – Northeast Florida (includes Jacksonville and St. Augustine)

District 6980 – Central Florida (includes Orlando and surrounding areas)

District 6990 – South Florida (includes Miami, Fort Lauderdale, and the Florida Keys)

Applicant Name:

Florida Rotary Districts

Grant Amount Requested:

\$393,750

Project Duration:

36 months

Executive Summary:

Human trafficking is a persistent and growing issue in Florida, one of the leading states in the nation for reported trafficking cases. This proposal seeks funding to support a comprehensive, statewide effort aimed at preventing human trafficking, providing victim support services, and enhancing law enforcement capabilities to address trafficking-related crimes. The Florida Rotary District Governors Human Trafficking Prevention and Response Program (FRDGHTPRP) will work closely with local government agencies, non-profits, law enforcement, and community organizations to ensure a coordinated response.

Problem Statement:

Florida's diverse and growing population, along with its tourism-driven economy, makes it a key target for traffickers. The state faces challenges due to its large immigrant and transient populations, which are particularly vulnerable to exploitation. Despite existing efforts, there is still a need for more robust resources and coordination to combat this heinous crime effectively.

Goals and Objectives:

The primary goal of this project is to reduce human trafficking across the state of Florida by addressing the root causes, protecting victims, and enhancing the capacity of law enforcement. Specific objectives include:

1. Prevention and Education:

- Develop and distribute educational materials to schools, tourism-related industries, and vulnerable communities.
- Train at least 2,000 individuals, including law enforcement, educators, and healthcare workers, to recognize and respond to human trafficking.

2. Victim Support and Rehabilitation:

- Establish or enhance support services for trafficking survivors, including housing, counseling, legal assistance, and job training.
- Provide comprehensive, trauma-informed care for at least 300 victims over the 24-month project period.

3. Law Enforcement and Prosecution Enhancement:

- Offer specialized training programs for law enforcement and legal professionals to improve investigation techniques and successful prosecutions.
- Increase collaboration between local law enforcement, state agencies, and federal authorities to strengthen anti-trafficking enforcement.

4. Community Awareness:

- Launch a statewide public awareness campaign aimed at increasing understanding of human trafficking and encouraging community engagement in prevention efforts.

Implementation Plan:

1. Prevention and Education Program:

- Partner with school districts and community organizations to deliver human trafficking awareness programs to students, teachers, and administrators.
- Work with the tourism industry (hotels, airports, etc.) to train staff in identifying potential trafficking victims.
- Develop an online platform to provide accessible educational materials and resources.

2. Victim Services Program:

- Collaborate with existing organizations that specialize in trauma care, mental health services, housing, and job placement to create a comprehensive support network for trafficking survivors.
- Implement a case management system to track and support victims throughout their recovery process.

3. Law Enforcement Training Program:

- Conduct quarterly training sessions with law enforcement and judicial professionals, focusing on advanced investigation techniques, victim identification, and the legal aspects of trafficking cases.
- Develop inter-agency task forces to foster collaboration between state and federal authorities.

4. Public Awareness Campaign:

- Launch a multi-media campaign across television, radio, social media, and print to educate Floridians about the signs of human trafficking and how to report suspicious activities.
- Organize community events, workshops, and forums to engage residents in anti-trafficking efforts.

Evaluation and Reporting:

Progress will be monitored through key performance indicators such as:

- Number of individuals trained.
- Number of victims identified and assisted.
- Law enforcement task forces established.
- Number of public awareness materials distributed and engagement rates.

The project team will submit quarterly progress reports to the state detailing the outcomes and adjustments made to enhance effectiveness.

Budget:

The total budget for the Florida Human Trafficking Prevention and Response Program is \$393,750. Key budget categories include:

- **Awareness & Outreach**
- **Prevention Programs**
- **Public and Community Partner Training**
- **Advocacy**

Sustainability:

To ensure the program's long-term sustainability, Florida Rotary District Governors will actively seek partnerships with private-sector entities, non-profits, and other governmental agencies to secure additional funding sources. The program will also focus on building local capacity to allow for continued operations once the grant funding concludes.

Conclusion:

Florida is at the forefront of the fight against human trafficking, but more resources are needed to meet the challenges effectively. This grant will enable the eight Rotary Districts in the state to

take a bold, coordinated approach that emphasizes prevention, victim care, law enforcement support, and public awareness. By working together with communities, organizations, and agencies, Florida can make a lasting impact on reducing human trafficking and providing care for its victims.

Contact Information:

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