Project overview

Project LIFE is an advocacy program implemented by North County Lifeline (NCL) that provides critical intervention services to victims of human trafficking in the San Diego Region. Project LIFE provides a range of trauma informed services including victim advocacy, emergency response, crisis intervention and safety planning, intensive case management, peer support, counseling, housing and residential coordination, and linkage to community resources. Through its extensive experience providing responsive services and advocacy to victims, NCL identified the most critical period for survivor engagement in services occurs through emergency response services, including placement in safe shelter. Additionally, NCL observed that when housing is successfully secured with minimal barriers, it results in increased trust with the service provider and a greater likelihood the survivor will reach self-sufficiency. Lack of adequate short-term housing for trafficking survivors in San Diego County has served as a barrier to stabilization. In response to this housing gap, funding was sought and awarded by the Office of Victims of Crime (OVC) for a three year time frame (10/1/2017 – 9/30/2020) with the purpose of ensuring all survivors of human trafficking can access culturally sensitive, gender responsive, and trauma informed housing and services.

Program Model

PHASE 1
Victim/Orientation
- Emergency response
- Access to basic needs through NCL
- Immediate need service referral
- Safe Shelter/Housing

PHASE 2
Survivor/Stabilization
- Ongoing case management
- Ongoing/increased referral to services
- Short-term interventions

PHASE 3
Thriver/Empowerment
- Ongoing/transition case management
- Ongoing referral to increased services
- Long-term recovery strategies

Figure 1: Gender, sexual orientation, and ethnicity
- 89% Female
- 7% Male
- 3% Transgender

- 12% Identify as LGBTQ

Figure 2: Countries of origin
- Most clients named the United States of America as their country of origin (74%), with 9% from Mexico, and 3% each from China and Honduras. The remaining clients (11%) identified countries in Asia, Africa, South America, and Eastern Europe as their place of origin.

Figure 3: Exploitation summary

TRAFFICKING TYPES
- Prostitution
- Stripping/exotic dancing
- Escort service
- Restaurant/food service
- Domestic servitude
- Pornography
- Other*
- Field labor
- Other

TRAFFICKING SETTINGS
- 57% Hotel/Motel
- 36% Private Home
- 26% Street
- 1%–7% Other

NOTE: Percentages do not equal 100 due to multiple responses per client. Cases with missing data not included.

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Figure 4: Top services delivered
Project LIFE provided and/or facilitated the connection to 25 different service types over the study period, consistent with what was anticipated as the greatest need for those entering services in a state of active crisis and/or with unsafe and unstable housing. The top three most common services provided to clients were Emotional/Moral Support (98%), Ongoing Case Management (90%), and Housing/Shelter Advocacy (69%).

Questions regarding these statistics should be directed to the Research Division of SANDAG. T (619) 699-1900 | F (619) 699-6905 SANDAG.ORG/CJ

Figure 5: Matrix domains
The Matrix is an assessment tool used to inform the case plan of client needs at intake and assist staff in monitoring client progress towards stability and ultimately self-sufficiency. The matrix measures client improvement in terms of level of stability across domains. Possible scores are:

- 1-2: in crisis or vulnerable
- 3: stable
- 4-5: safe/self-sufficient or thriving

Percentage of clients demonstrating progress toward stability from their Matrix completed at intake to their most recent Matrix score:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service Type</th>
<th>Pre</th>
<th>Post</th>
<th>Difference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Financial</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic needs</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelter/housing</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education/employment</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health/medical</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social and emotional health</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental health</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immigration/legal</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safety</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What did the Matrix reveal about clients?

- 87% of clients served received housing placements.
- Over two-thirds of clients received Housing/Shelter support (69%).
- More than two-times the number of clients achieved stable housing scores in their Matrix post-assessment (17% at pre to 37% post Matrix score).

NOTE: Percentages do not equal 100 due to multiple responses per client.

Figure 6: Housing-specialization highlights
Placement Types

- 80% Emergency
- 42% Transitional
- 35% Long-Term

Setting Types
- Shelter: 66%
- Friends/Family: 38%
- Hotel/Motel: 35%
- Other: 25%
- Independent: 13%
- Other Victims: 2%

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