



Leaders at the Core of Better Communities

2015 Local Government Excellence Awards Program Program Excellence Awards Nomination Form

(All programs nominated must have been fully operational for a minimum of 12 months, prior to January 31, 2015)

Deadline for Nominations Extended to March 30, 2015

Complete this form (sections 1 and 2) and submit with your descriptive narrative.

SECTION 1: Information About the Nominated Program

Program Excellence Award Category (*select only one*):

- Community Health and Safety
- Community Partnership
- Community Sustainability
- Strategic Leadership and Governance

Name of program being nominated: The Human Trafficking Task Force

Jurisdiction(s) where program originated: City of Phoenix

Jurisdiction population(s): 1,506,439

Please indicate the month and year in which the program you are nominating was fully implemented. (Note: All Program Excellence Award nominations must have been fully implemented for at least 12 months prior to January 31, 2015, to be eligible. The start date [on or before January 31, 2014] should not include the initial planning phase.)

Month: December Year: 2013

Name(s) and title(s) of individual(s) who should receive recognition for this award at the ICMA Annual Conference in Seattle, Washington, September 2015. (Each individual listed MUST be an ICMA member to be recognized.):

Name: Ed Zuercher

Title: City Manager Jurisdiction: City of Phoenix

Name: Milton Dohoney

Title: Assistant City Manager Jurisdiction: City of Phoenix

Name: _____

Title: _____ Jurisdiction: _____

SECTION 2: Information About the Nominator/Primary Contact

Name of contact: Milton Dohoney

Title: Assistant City Jurisdiction: City of Phoenix
Manager

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The City of Phoenix submits The Human Trafficking Task Force as its 2015 Local Government Excellence Awards Program, Community Partnership Award nominee. Established December 6, 2013 by Mayor Greg Stanton, the Human Trafficking Task Force (Task Force) demonstrates innovation, excellence and success as a community-based program to improve the quality of life of residents through the development of a sustainable planning body charged with preventing and combating human trafficking in the Phoenix Metropolitan area.

Problem Assessment

Human trafficking is the second most lucrative organized criminal offense in the world. At least 100,000 American children under the age of 18 are victims of commercial child prostitution and trafficking. One in eight endangered runaways reported to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children is likely a child sex trafficking victim. Human trafficking is widespread and dangerous, and affects many women and children in Phoenix today. In the United States, the average age of entry into trafficking for girls is 13 and the average age of entry for boys is 12. The average age a child is sold into prostitution in Arizona is 14. The National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline has received over 100,000 calls resulting in 14,500 suspected cases of human trafficking. The number of calls to the hotline continues to increase every year. The call volume from 2012 to 2013 increased by 55 percent. Human trafficking is a problem that affects this community 365 days a year.

Program Implementation and Costs

The Task Force was formed as a multi-disciplinary and diverse workgroup of community leaders and City staff, chaired by Vice Mayor Jim Waring and Sarah Suggs

of O'Connor House, to develop and present a plan to enhance human trafficking prevention and increase services to survivors. The Task Force recognized the issue of human trafficking as the second most lucrative organized criminal offense in the world, claiming at least 100,000 American children under the age of 18, as victims of commercial child prostitution and trafficking.

Building on existing national successful systems and best practices, the Task Force instituted a two-tiered strategy to the issue: (1) A series of short, medium and long-term actions outlined in the Strategic Work Plan; and (2) A community campaign, demonstrating the City's leadership in ending human trafficking and reaching out to the private sector and the community at large to join the effort.

The Compass Plan is an evolving plan and process to reflect best practices and innovative strategies. The Task Force created four workgroups—Community Awareness and Outreach, Training, Law Enforcement and Victim Services—to develop and implement the City of Phoenix Compass Plan. Through Awareness and Outreach, the Task Force engages the community in conversation and action to stop human trafficking, support state and national campaigns and utilizes marketing materials and community collaborations. The Task Force incorporated high-level sustainable education by creating awareness, prevention, and detection and intervention strategies. Moreover, training courses were developed and media outlets utilized. Community collaborations strengthened law enforcement services. This workgroup also developed mandatory training, enhanced technology utilization and operational enforcement activities. Finally, strengthened, coordinated and improved access to victim services was established, which allow victims enhanced access to local and national resources.

The city of Phoenix Police Department has the only Vice Enforcement Unit in the State. The force has 17 full-time detectives working on cases related to prostitution and trafficking. The Task Force helped align existing community resources to support law enforcement and required no new costs to staff. Task Force members included the O'Connor House, Ascension Lutheran Church, the Hickey Family Foundation, the Maricopa County Attorney's Office, the Arizona Lodging and Tourism Association, Arizonans for the Protection of Exploited Children and Adults, Natalie's House, Training and Resources United to Stop Trafficking (TRUST), the Arizona State University School of Social Work, Tumbleweed Center for Youth Development, the Phoenix Dream Center, the Arizona Foundation for Women and the Arizona State Attorney General's Office and numerous city departments and functions.

Program Results and Outcomes

Task Force accomplishments:

Engaged the community in conversations and actions to stop human trafficking through activities such as:

- Coordinated a "Stop Human Trafficking" Campaign
- Increased awareness through educational/awareness multimedia materials
- Developed effective marketing multi-media strategies
- Developed a resource website
- Coordinated with existing partnerships engaged in human trafficking work
- Utilized post-secondary institutions to further the Task Force's plan

Implemented sustainable high-level trainings by creating awareness, prevention, detection and intervention strategies through activities such as:

- Identified underserved and/or populations not trained
- Leveraged and created a tracking system for existing training resources to partner with to expand attendee populous
- Developed an assessment tool to evaluate organizational training needs
- Educated media outlets on human trafficking and how to report it

Strengthened law enforcement services through community collaborations

through activities such as:

- Established a new law, enabling prosecutors to charge human traffickers with appropriate offenses and sentences; and provide victims an affirmative defense to prostitution charges.
- January 2015, the Task Force successfully developed and established a City policy to require police book all individuals arrested under Phoenix City Code (P.C.C.) Section 23-52(A)(2). Further the Task Force successfully amended P.C.C. Section 23-52(C) to include an educational component in the mandatory sentencing of a person soliciting or hiring a person to commit prostitution to deter persons from engaging in prostitution and amplify community awareness.
- Implementation of Operation Blue Wave (a training program for law enforcement)
- Participated in task force with law enforcement, FBI, prosecutors and coordination/participation of service providers, Department of Labor, tribal and state agencies, conducted human trafficking trainings
- Partnered with Phoenix Police Missing Persons Unit to identify recidivist runaways for prevention and intervention services

- Updated city of Phoenix policies and training including the right to leave work for victims of domestic violence
- Phoenix Police Department participated in two national enforcement initiatives: "Operation Cross Country," during which 41 johns were arrested and 42 individuals were provided with victim services, and the "Week of Johns," during which 150 arrests were made and 80 vehicles were impounded

Lessons Learned

As evidenced by its successes, the collaborative community partnership is a successful strategy towards impacting Human Trafficking. The Task Force and its plan provide a platform for all aspects of the community to work together through a focused and coordinated effort. Working together brought a pool of resources and technical assistance which produced measurable results with a collective impact far beyond what could be achieved independently. Moreover, the outcomes were achieved on both the supply and demand sides of the issue and impacted current activity as well as enhancing long-term, preventative measures. These first-year outcomes indicate the City of Phoenix Human Trafficking Task Force is an effective mechanism towards the ultimate goals of creating a culture and climate where human trafficking is no longer tolerated and the myth of it being a "victimless crime" is shattered.