

AG Fitch Announces Nearly \$1.5 Million For Organizations Helping Human Trafficking Victims



Working together, we can put an end to human trafficking in our State. Mississippi is blessed with many organizations, including these nine, committed to walking alongside victims on their journey to find healing. I am grateful to the State Legislature for ensuring these organizations have the resources they need to support these brave individuals working to rebuild their lives. And I am thankful for the Fund Committee for their commitment to ensuring these organizations have the resources they need to support these individuals as they work to rebuild their lives.

Lynn Fitch

(Jackson, Mississippi) Today, Attorney General Lynn Fitch announced the distribution of nearly \$1.5 million from the Victims of Human Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation Fund to nine organizations that help human trafficking victims become survivors. These awards bring the total distributed for human trafficking victim services to \$11 million since the Legislature created the Fund in 2020.

"Working together, we can put an end to human trafficking in our State," **said Attorney General Lynn Fitch**. "Mississippi is blessed with many organizations, including these nine, committed to walking alongside victims on their journey to find healing. I am grateful to the State Legislature for ensuring these organizations have the resources they need to support these brave individuals working to rebuild their lives. And I am thankful for the Fund Committee for their commitment to ensuring these organizations have the resources they need to support these individuals as they work to rebuild their lives."

During the 2025 Special Legislative Session, the Governor vetoed the appropriation of \$2.5 million for the Fund. As a result, the Committee awarded partial funding for approved projects in **December 2025**. During this year's session, the Legislature appropriated \$1.5 million for the Fund, allowing the Committee to complete funding for the approved projects.

Recipients of 2026 Victims of Human Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation Fund

Center for Violence Prevention will receive \$441,507.62 to enhance and expand the reach of support services throughout Mississippi and improve outcomes for human trafficking victims through their Tower residential program and the Rapid Response Team of advocates. They will continue operating the Tower Learning Center to support client group and individual activities in a trauma-informed and appropriate space for focusing on goal achievement.

Domestic Abuse Family Shelter will receive \$283,134.20 to continue providing comprehensive services to victims of human trafficking in their 11-county service area and continue providing education to the community through public awareness presentations and outreach efforts to reach populations vulnerable to human trafficking.

Easterseals will receive \$51,236.48 for prevention efforts including human trafficking education and awareness in Lee and Pontotoc Counties.

Gulf Coast Center for Nonviolence will receive \$241,219.73 to continue providing a comprehensive and holistic array of services to families and individuals in crisis due to human trafficking. They also plan to provide trainings on sex trafficking, trauma-informed care, and connecting survivors to program services.

Hope Community Collective will receive \$3,000.00 for a bilingual family support services advocate.

Mississippi Coalition Against Human Trafficking will receive \$161,608.08 to continue growing and supporting their Independent Living Assistance Program (ILA), a program designed to promote sustainable independent living for survivors of human trafficking. Participants will be connected to mentoring, peer support, financial planning, resources, and follow-up case management for 12-18 months.

Southern Christian Services will receive \$239,215.50 to continue operating Mississippi's safe home exclusively for adolescent survivors of human trafficking which allows young survivors to receive specialized and evidence-based therapeutic services for up to two years. They will also provide therapy services to secondary victims such as parents, guardians, and caregivers to create supportive relationships for primary victims.

Southwest Mississippi Children's Advocacy Center will receive \$38,502.51 to provide a comprehensive array of services for both child and vulnerable adult victims of human trafficking. The award funding will be used to continue their mental health therapy program and sustain the services of the mental health therapist.

Sunnybrook Children's Home will receive \$7,198.00 to continue their collaboration with Southern Christian Services and the Mississippi Coalition Against Human Trafficking in providing a safe home for adolescent survivors of human trafficking.

The Legislature created the Victims of Human Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation Fund through HB 1559 during the 2020 Legislative Session to provide funding to direct service providers for trafficking victims throughout Mississippi. By statute, funding comes from assessments for convictions of certain crimes, donations, and legislative appropriations.

More information on the application and solicitation, Fund rules, and other information related to this distribution and the Fund in general can be found on the Attorney General's Office [website](#).

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