



# **Supporting the Health and Economic Needs of Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault and Trafficking Survivors during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency**

**June 3, 2020**

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- You may listen to audio through the phone or through the computer.
- All participants are muted.
- You may use the chat box for questions and comments.
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- When using the chat box, please be sure to select "All Attendees and Panelists" from the dropdown menu in the bottom left corner of the chat box.
- Slides, handouts, a link to the webinar recording will be emailed to all participants after the webinar.



# Credit and Disclaimer

This webinar is part of a project entitled Building Collaborative Responses to Trafficked Victims of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, supported by the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.

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<https://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/human-trafficking>

- National Institutes: Next Institute in the Early Fall of 2020
- Resources and adaptable tools
- [Webinar archive](#)
- [TA Assistance](#): Phone, email, virtual, and on-site TA and trainings.

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# Welcome and Introduction of Presenters



**Anisa Ali, MA**



**Sarah Gonzalez Bocinski, MPP**



**Anna Marjavi**



**Kiricka Yarbough Smith**

Human Trafficking Program Director  
NC Department of Administration  
North Carolina Council for Women  
and Youth Involvement

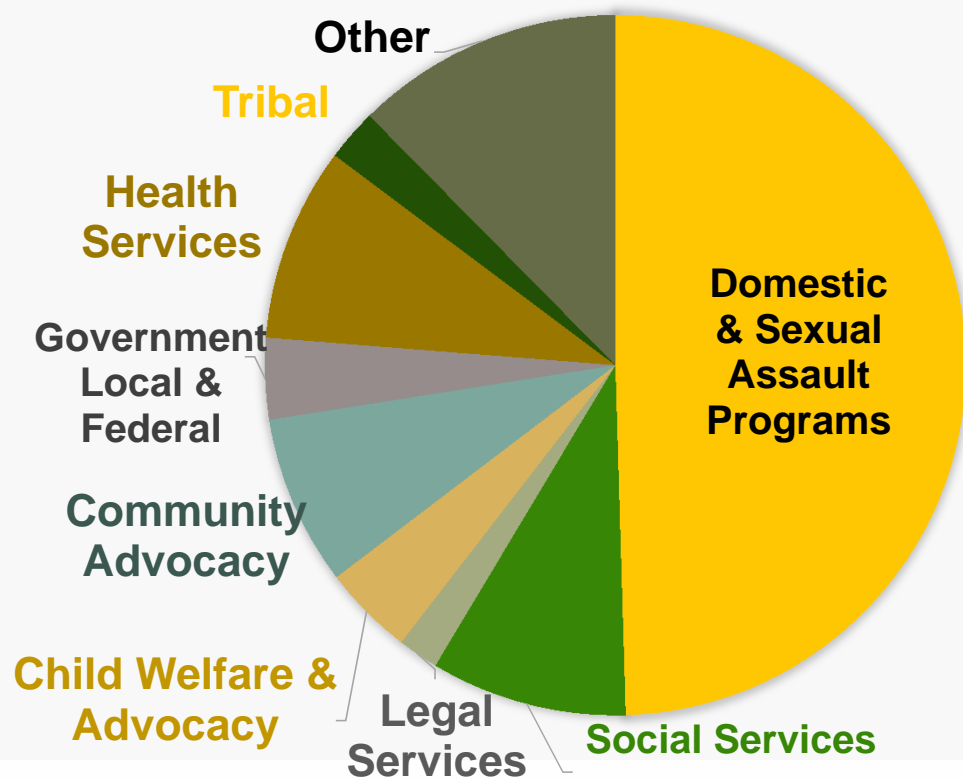


**Tina Pennington**

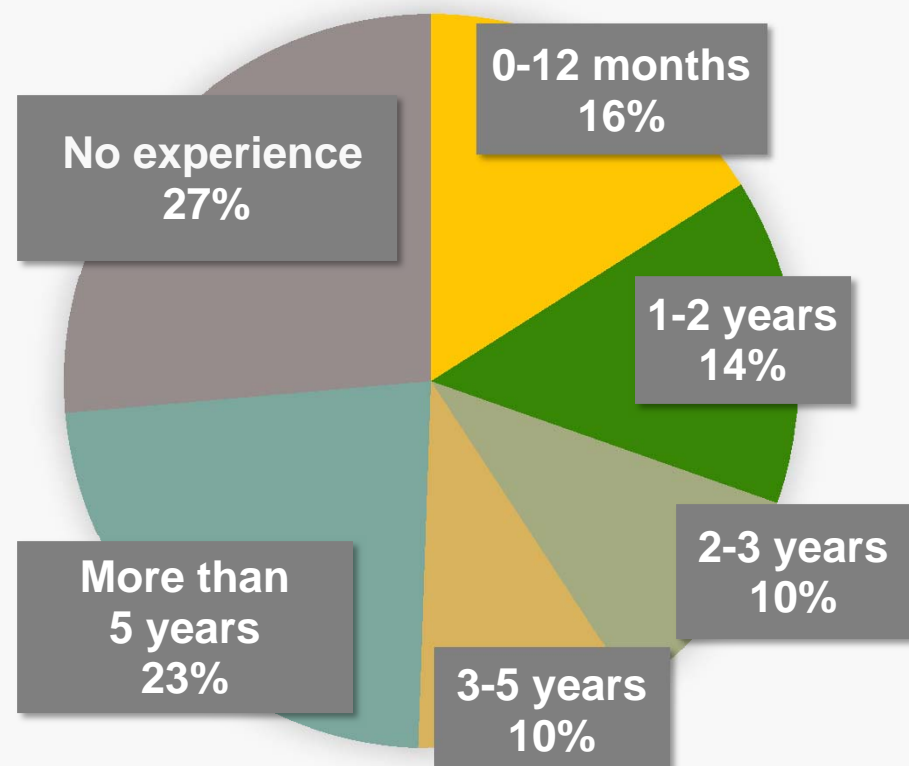
Founder & Executive Director  
The Beloved Haven  
(North Carolina)

# About our Webinar Attendees

**WEBINAR REGISTRATION  
REPRESENTATION**



**YEARS SUPPORTING HUMAN  
TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS**




# Learning Objectives:

1. Learn how domestic violence and sexual assault programs are adapting their services to meet the needs of human trafficking/domestic violence/sexual assault survivors during the COVID-19 public health emergency.
2. Know how to initiate and/or expand formalized human trafficking collaborative partnerships with community health centers.
3. Describe how to develop and/or strengthen partnerships between and among victim service providers and local workforce development and educational service providers to address human trafficking.



# Today's Agenda

- 
- COVID-19: Impact on Health, Trafficking and Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Survivors, and their Families
  - Tina Pennington, Founder & Executive Director, The Beloved Haven
  - Supporting Survivor Health and Promoting Survivor Safety: Collaborating with Community Health Centers
  - Supporting Economic Needs of Survivors: Partnering with Workforce Development Boards
  - Questions & Answers chat
  - Evaluation and closing





# COVID, Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

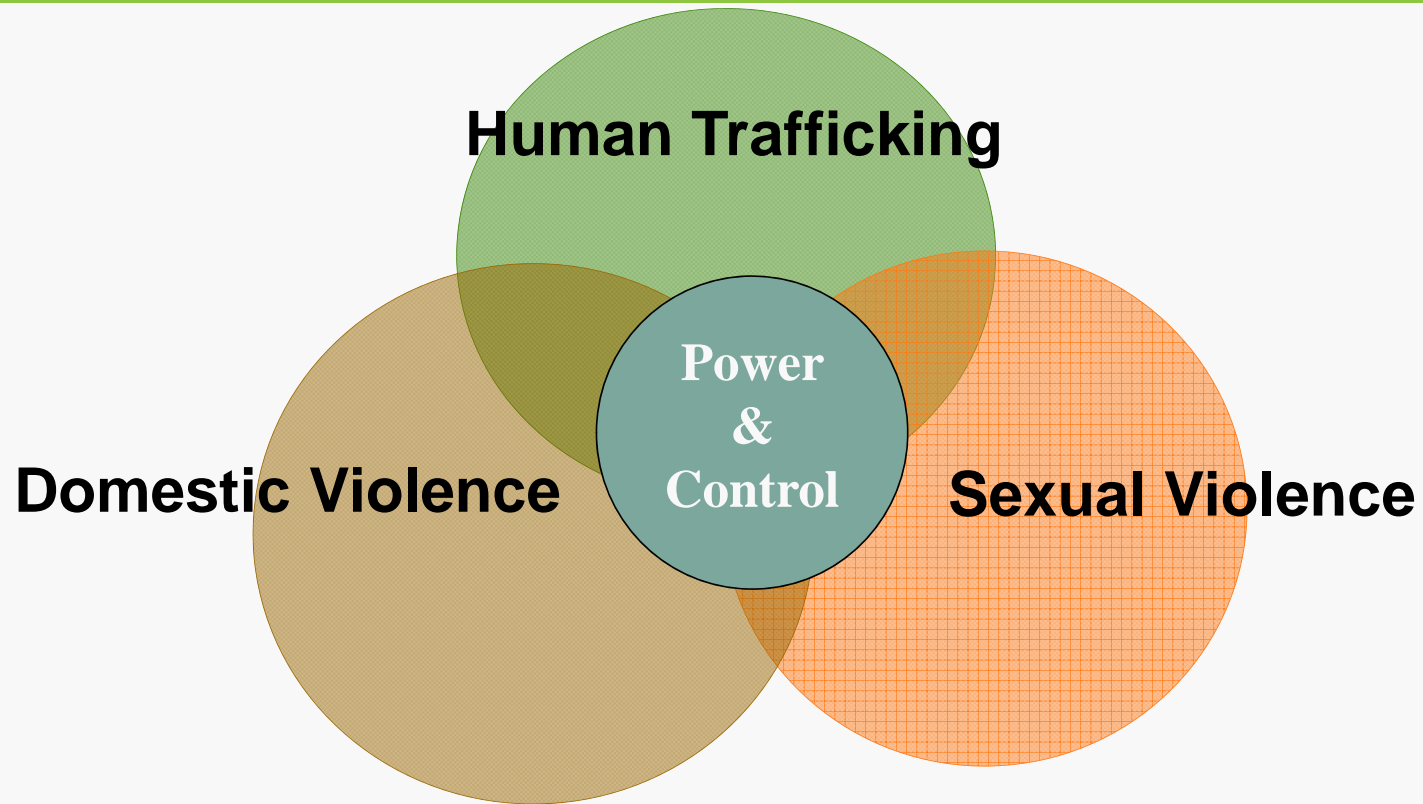
## Increased vulnerability and risk for violence

- Reduced access to resources and support
- Increased disconnection from social support systems
- Increase of stressors
  - Job loss, financial strains
  - Being at home with family members 24/7
- Social Inequities intensified
  - Increased burdens for underserved communities



# Overlap & Intersections

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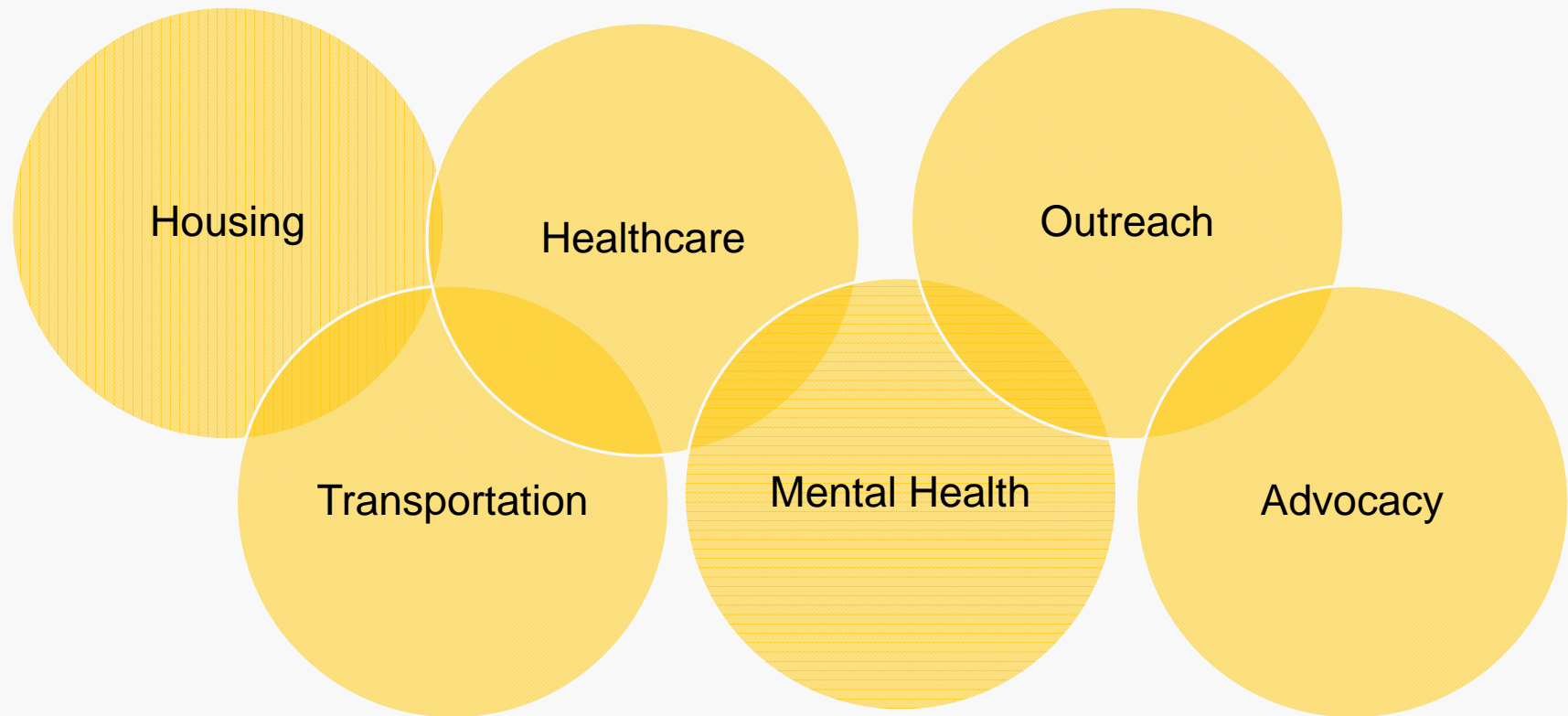


# COVID, Human Trafficking, and Children

- Some similar evolving dynamics/challenges as domestic violence
- Economic fallout, increased vulnerability to exploitation (labor and sexual) as people struggle to meet basic needs (housing, food, childcare)
- Anticipate increased domestic violence/HT intersectionality
- Children in foster care, homeless youth at increased risk
- Increased HT recruitment for youth & college age students



# Impact on Survivor Services



# Impact of COVID-19 on DV/SA/HT Survivors

**Loss of employment creating financial instability for survivors**

**Lack of access to quality healthcare for chronic illnesses**

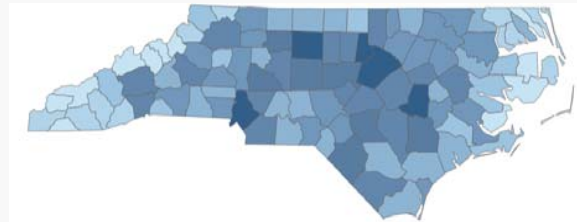
**Survivors are often sheltered in place with their abusers**

**Isolation from family, friends, school, employment, and their other usual support systems**



# North Carolina: COVID-19 Strategies

- Leveraging Existing Partnerships and building new collaboratives
  - Grocery stores, essential supply stores, and restaurants/food vendors for most NC counties
- Increased support for survivors & transitional housing
- Designated shelter space for isolation or quarantine
- Working with funding agencies to reallocate grant funds to address acute needs.



# Lessons from the Field: The Beloved Haven

## **Mission:**

Providing Hope and  
Support Services  
for Victims of Human Trafficking

Tina Pennington  
Founder & Executive Director  
Moyock, NC



# Beloved Haven Services

## **Support Services for Survivors**

- Heart & Soul drop-in center
- Case management
- Systems advocacy
- Transportation
- Connection to temporary housing, temporary emergency shelter (24-72 hours)
- Medical attention trauma counseling, and other needed services

## **Community Outreach**

- Street outreach and community education on human trafficking



# Service Delivery Adaptation & Outreach Due to COVID-19

**Response to  
COVID-19**

**Emergency Bags**  
Clothes, Toiletries, Personal Hygiene Products

**Gift Cards**  
Grocery, Gas, Amazon

**Emergency Services**  
Drop-In Center

**SUPPORT Helpline**  
24 Hours a day/ 7 days a week

[www.belovedhaven.org](http://www.belovedhaven.org)

Made with PosterMyWall.com

*We are serving the community*

**Emergency Bags**

**EMERGENCY BAGS CONTAIN:  
PERSONAL ESSENTIAL ITEMS  
GIFT CARDS  
CLOTHING  
BABY ITEMS**

**NEED: \$50-\$100 PER BAG**

**THE COST PROVIDES A GIFT CARD, CLOTHING AND PERSONAL ESSENTIALS**

**GIVE NOW: DONATIONS CAN BE MADE ON OUR WEBSITE  
[WWW.BELOVEDHAVEN.ORG](http://WWW.BELOVEDHAVEN.ORG)  
OR FACEBOOK PAGE**

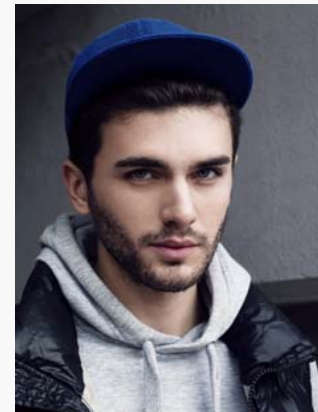
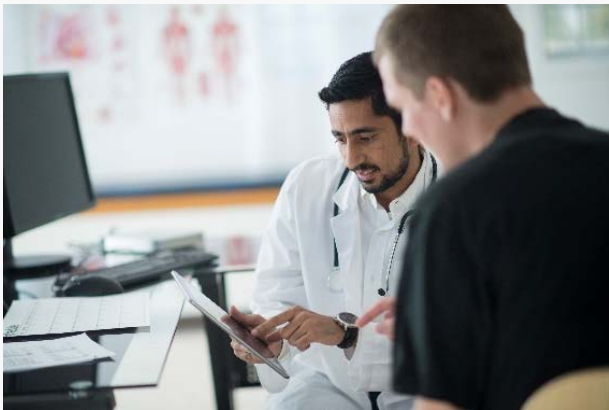
# Support for Health, Economic, and Educational Needs



## **Beloved Haven's Karma Blue Thrift Store**

Employment and volunteer opportunities for clients.





## **Supporting the Health of DV/SA/HT Survivors in the Time of COVID-19: Building Collaborations with Community Health Centers**

Anna Marjavi, Program Director, Futures Without Violence  
Anisa Ali, MA, Senior Program Specialist, Futures Without Violence



# Health Providers Can Be a Lifeline

Health Care Providers may be:

- the **first** responders for people experiencing DV/SA/HT
- the only other person the patient is allowed to speak to
- the only kind words heard
- the only access to information on help and safety



# Meeting People Where They Are

- ✓ Health centers are one of the few places where people can still go and where survivors + their children can receive support.

**In-person + virtually**

- ✓ DV advocacy programs are still operating and adapting to meet the needs of survivors and their children.

**In-person + virtually**



# About Community Health Centers

**Community health centers are community-based and patient-directed organizations that deliver low cost comprehensive primary health care services.**

Often include:

- ✓ pharmacy
- ✓ mental health services
- ✓ substance abuse programs
- ✓ oral health services
- ✓ pregnancy, perinatal and post-partum care



<https://findahealthcenter.hrsa.gov>



# Medical Health Coverage Enrollment

**Did you know?: Being a survivor of domestic violence is considered a "Qualifying Life Event" meaning survivors can enroll in health care at anytime throughout the year.**

- ✓ Survivors of DV may apply for health insurance through [healthcare.gov](https://healthcare.gov) at ANY TIME.
- ✓ They qualify for a Special Enrollment Period (SEP) because they are survivors of DV.



***Support survivor access to health by asking about coverage needs and making a warm referral to your local health center.***

## ***Human Trafficking Collaboratives Can Partner with Community Health Centers to Support Survivor Health:***

Domestic violence (DV) programs, law enforcement, legal services, and other partners can make a **warm referral** to a community health center. DV programs and community health centers can offer **bi-directional warm referrals** to one another to improve survivor health and promote safety.





# Health Impact of DV/SA and Human Trafficking

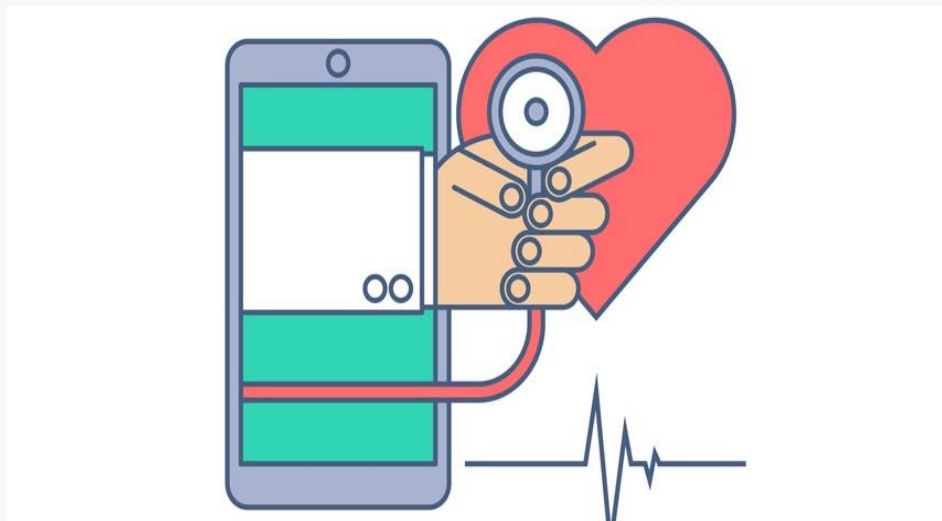
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Center for Disease Control and Prevention

# Addressing DV/SA/HT Using Telehealth during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency

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# CUES: An Evidence-based Intervention

**C**onfidentiality  
**U**niversal Education  
**E**mpowerment  
**S**upport



**Homelessness Safety Card**  
Being pilot tested



## [www.IPVHealthPartners.org](http://www.IPVHealthPartners.org) online toolkit + CUES

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Guidance on:

- ✓ Enhancing patient privacy
- ✓ Disclosing limits of confidentiality
- ✓ Universal education scripts
- ✓ Reaching friends and family
- ✓ Disclosures + supportive messages
- ✓ Warm referrals to local DV programs
- ✓ Safely sharing resources
- ✓ Tech privacy tips



# Empowerment through Altruism

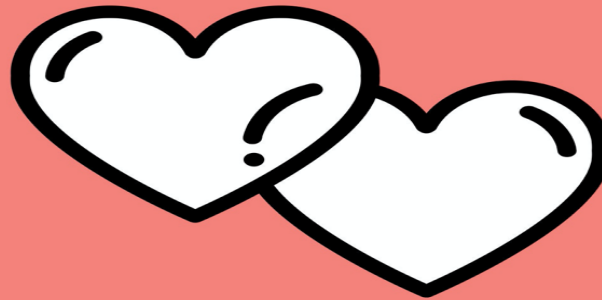
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**The New York Times**

## The Science of Helping Out

During a crisis, the people who cope best are those who help others.

Universal Education + altruism  
= survivor strength



# Tips to Include CHCs in your Collaborative

1. Identify your local community health center by visiting:  
<https://findahealthcenter.hrsa.gov>.
2. Identify a champion within the CHC and invite them to your collaborative meetings.
3. Visit [www.IPVHealthPartners.org](http://www.IPVHealthPartners.org) for sample MOUs and tools for collaboration.
4. Work with the CHC to provide a training to all staff.
5. Establish referral processes for survivors once the CHC implements the “CUES” intervention.
6. Monitor and evaluate your progress.



## CHC Partnership Benefits for Advocacy Programs and Collaborative Systems

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- ✓ COVID operational protocol: consultation with health center staff (guidance on SIP; shelter/isolation; staff illness support)
- ✓ Health enrollment for clients or staff (sick or not) (medical home, PCP)
- ✓ Enabling services (transportation, interpretation)
- ✓ COVID education/support for clients
- ✓ COVID testing; some drive-through or walk-up
- ✓ Access to prescriptions and medication refills



# Telehealth, COVID-19, DV, and Human Trafficking: Increasing Safety for People Surviving Abuse

## *A Guide for Community Health Centers and Partnering Domestic Violence Programs*

- Telehealth strategies for community health centers to support survivors of human trafficking and domestic violence, in partnership with DV Programs
- Step-by-step guide to the “CUES” intervention
- Sample scripts for talking with patients about DV and trafficking, including responding to disclosures
- Visual pathway for addressing DV and trafficking in health centers

[www.ipvhealthpartners.org](http://www.ipvhealthpartners.org)

Telehealth, COVID-19, Intimate Partner Violence, and Human Trafficking:  
Increasing Safety for People Surviving Abuse  
A Guide for Community Health Centers and Partnering Domestic Violence Advocacy Programs

The COVID-19 public health crisis and subsequent social distancing measures are increasing risk for survivors of intimate partner violence (IPV) and human trafficking (HT) and their children, reducing families' financial security, making it harder to stay connected to support networks, and is a source of stress. This increased stress and increased proximity to the person causing harm may also intensify abuse. As many health centers now shift to telehealth, providing virtual support to all patients, including those who may be experiencing abuse or exploitation can be lifesaving. Health centers and local domestic violence advocacy programs can establish, or build upon their partnerships to support survivors of IPV/HT and promote their health and safety outcomes. See below "Building Sustainable and Fruitful Partnerships between Community Health Centers and Domestic Violence Advocacy Organizations" for additional information and guidance.

**Before the visit:**

- Prepare a "script" integrating information into the visit about IPV/HT and available survivor support resources for people to share with their family and friends.
- Understand that telehealth visits may not be a safe time for discussing IPV/HT—others may be in the room or listening in.
- Connect with local domestic violence advocacy agencies and hotlines to understand what services they provide.
- Identify other ways to share info with patients: add in patient portals, staff resource lists, e-newsletters, and by U.S. mail (ask patient if it is safe to do so).

**During the visit:**

Offer normalizing information about relationships, health, and stress during the COVID-19 public health crisis. One method for this is the "CUES" intervention for IPV/HT, which can be used within telehealth visits:

**C= Prioritize Confidentiality** by ensuring it is safe for the patient to speak over the phone/video and letting them know that their health information will be kept safe (discussing any reporting requirements).

*"Your medical information is confidential, that doesn't change just because you're not in a clinic setting. I will not share anything we talk about here outside of with the care team [or if you tell me [refer to your state laws](#)]. Are you somewhere where you can speak freely?"*

**U= Offer Universal Education** to all patients about how stress can affect relationships and relationships can affect health, and that there are support resources available.

*"Before we get started, I want to say that I know COVID-19 has made things harder for everyone. Because people are stressed, we are sharing ideas about helping yourself and people you care about. For example, we may experience more stress now in our relationships including increased fighting or harm, and that can affect our health. There is free, confidential help available if you know someone who is being hurt in their relationship. Would it be okay if I sent some resources for you to share? I will also send information on support around parenting, access to food and stress. How are things going right now for you?"*

Providers can also offer **Universal Education** to patients normalizing financial struggles to pay for necessary things like food and shelter, and where to go for support if they need it.

*"Many people are also feeling pressure around money and paying rent or bills—sometimes others take advantage of people for work and also for sex—so we're sharing information about resources that are available if you find yourself in a situation like this. Can I give you unemployment resources, housing and food support, and other things to share if you know someone who needs it?"*

**S= Providing Support** if patients disclose experiences of IPV/HT or other needs, offer validating messages and a warm referral to an IPV survivor support agency, crisis text line and health promotion information.

*"Thank you for sharing this with me. I am so sorry this is happening. What you are telling me makes me worry about your safety and health. A lot of my patients experience things like this and there are people who can help. I can connect you today if that interests you—even right now if you like—stay on the line with you—whatever you like."*

You may also be able to brainstorm with patients who are experiencing violence or exploitation about ways to stay connected when someone is controlling their access to health care and support networks.

*"I'd like to think about your health too and hear if your partner or someone else is interfering in any way with your plans to stay healthy like messing with your medicines, taking away hand sanitizer, preventing you from seeking help, or keeping you from connecting with friends and family."*





## **Supporting the Economic Needs of DV/SA/HT Survivors in the Time of COVID-19: Partnering with Workforce Development Boards**

Sarah Gonzalez Bocinski, MPP, Program Manager, Futures Without Violence



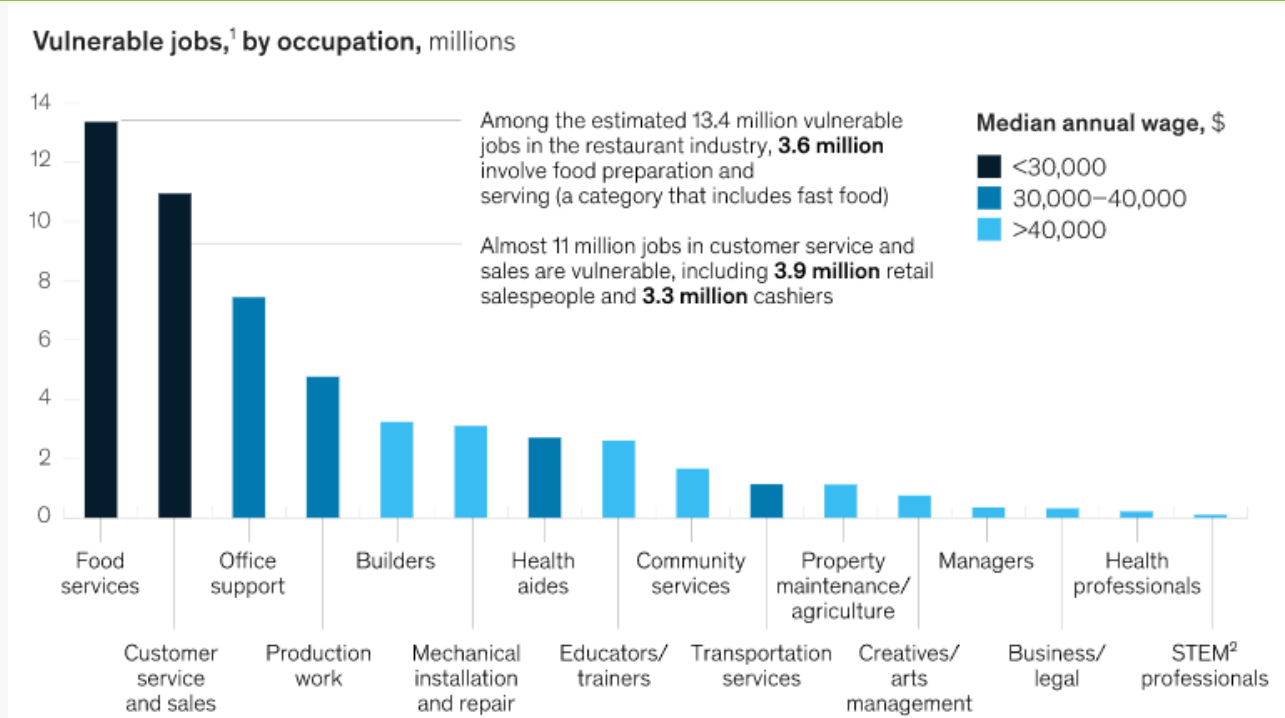
## Chat Box Discussion

What types of employment opportunities do you connect survivors to? / What types of jobs do the survivors you serve typically hold?

Type in the chat box...



# Shifting Employment Pathways



<https://www.mckinsey.com/industries/public-sector/our-insights/lives-and-livelihoods-assessing-the-near-term-impact-of-covid-19-on-us-workers>

# COVID-19 and Jobs

## Immediate

- Very limited opportunities
- Growth in some occupations – grocery/pharmacy, delivery, warehousing
- Essential workers face high risks

## Long-term

- Hospitality and service sectors will be the last to recover
- Some jobs will be automated
- Labor market will be very competitive

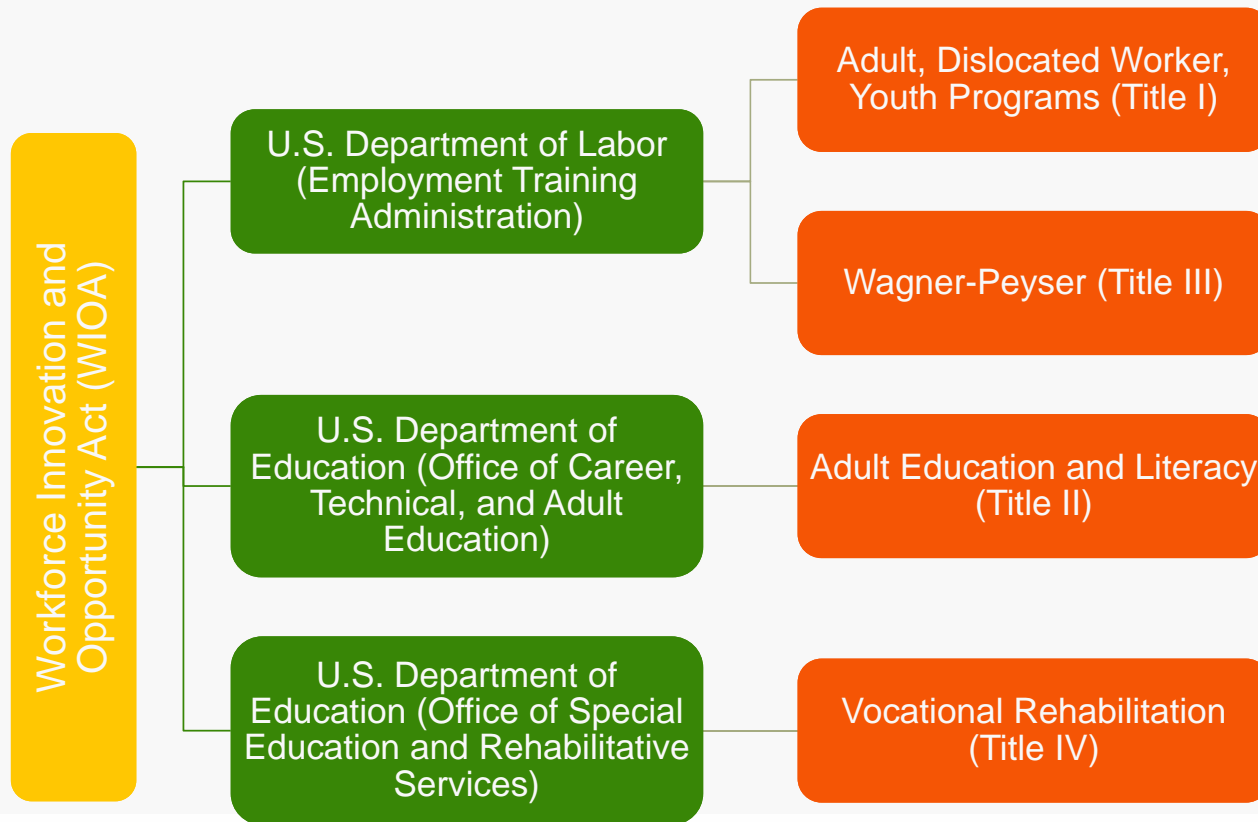


# Accessing Economic Opportunity

- There are lots of unknowns in the job market
- Job seekers may need new skills to match available job opportunities
- Workforce connections are more important than ever



# The Workforce Development System



# Resources for Job Seekers

## American Job Centers

- Universal access point
- Offers basic and individualized career services, education and job training programs, and various support services
- Tailored services for youth and veterans

[www.careeronestop.org/localhelp/find-american-job-centers.aspx](http://www.careeronestop.org/localhelp/find-american-job-centers.aspx)



## Resources for Job Seekers, cont.

- Apprenticeship programs
- CBO or community college based job training programs

### **Considerations:**

- How do you navigate these resources?
- Are there remote opportunities?
- Are they credentialed?
- Are there related job openings?
- Are they trauma informed?
- Do they provide support services?





# Opportunities for Systems Advocacy

## Workforce Development Boards

- Direct federal, state, and local funding to workforce development programs.
- Develop strategic plans that focus on local high-growth industries and set funding and training priorities for their area.

[www.careeronestop.org/LocalHelp/WorkforceDevelopment/find-workforce-development-boards.aspx](http://www.careeronestop.org/LocalHelp/WorkforceDevelopment/find-workforce-development-boards.aspx)



# Collaborative Model

Covenant House (Trenton, NJ) and UPS – offering job readiness to job placement resources for youth survivors of trafficking



[www.covenanthouse.org/charity-blog/blog/ups-partners-covenant-house](http://www.covenanthouse.org/charity-blog/blog/ups-partners-covenant-house)

## Strengthen Support & Services for Survivors and their Families

- ✓ Remain flexible and adapt to the evolving environment in order to meet the needs of survivors/victims of DV/SA/HT
- ✓ Ensure access to health care and social support
- ✓ Facilitate access to employment and education opportunities
- ✓ Encourage predictability & harm reduction, along with healthy social, spiritual, and community connections
- ✓ Increase awareness of risks for human trafficking exploitation
- ✓ Strengthen collaboration with key partners



A photograph of a healthcare professional, a Black man with glasses and a beard, wearing a light blue shirt, interacting with a young girl. The girl has brown hair in braids and is wearing a pink jacket over a blue denim dress. They are both looking at each other, and the man is holding the girl's hand.

# Health centers are key to violence prevention

Information for promoting domestic violence and health partnerships for domestic violence/sexual assault advocates, and for health centers.

[IPVHealthPartners.org](https://IPVHealthPartners.org) is an online toolkit for establishing and expanding partnerships between community health centers and local DV programs. The toolkit offers easily adaptable tools making it the go-to resource for community health centers and DV agencies partnering to improve the health and safety of survivors of DV/HT.



# COVID-19 Resources for Survivors and Families

- Resources for Protecting your Health:  
<https://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/protecting-your-health/>
- Resources for Kids and Families:  
<https://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/resources+for+kids+and+families>
- Resources for Economic Empowerment Programs:  
[www.futureswithoutviolence.org/human-trafficking/covid-19-economic-resources](http://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/human-trafficking/covid-19-economic-resources)
- Resources for Workplaces:  
<https://www.workplacesrespond.org/page/covid19/>



## Group Chat & Questions:

- Use the chat to share any questions or comments you have for the presenters.
- Share one or two strategies that have been meaningful, or helpful to you in incorporating services for HT survivors.



## Thank you! + Evaluation

**Please take a moment to complete a short evaluation regarding today's webinar and to request resources, or a certificate of participation.**

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/webevalhealthwork>

**Additional resources:**

<https://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/organizational-leadership-training/building-collaborative-responses-to-human-trafficking/>

**For questions and resources, please contact Mónica Arenas:**

[marenas@futureswithoutviolence.org](mailto:marenas@futureswithoutviolence.org)

