

Tribal Response and Resources for Human Trafficking Victims in Nebraska

Nebraska Indian Child Welfare Coalition (NICWC)
Nebraska Tribes Addressing Violence Coalition (NETAV)

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Training Objectives

This presentation will address:

- Identify indicators for human trafficking in adults and youth
- Present screening tool options for community agency implementation/use
- Introduction to tribal trafficking response checklist
- Identify available tribal resources and statewide resources for assisting human trafficking survivors

*Human Trafficking &
Exploitation Against
Native Americans*

Human Trafficking

According to the DOJ, human trafficking is a crime that involves exploiting a person for labor, services, or commercial sex.¹

- Exploiting a minor for commercial sex is human trafficking, regardless of whether force, fraud, or coercion were used.
- The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 states that human trafficking involves:
 - a) Sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age; or
 - b) The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, or debt bondage.

¹ U.S. Dept. of Justice. (2018). *Human trafficking defined*. Retrieved from: <https://www.justice.gov/humantrafficking>

Youth Human Trafficking Statistics

- National Human Trafficking Hotline's 2021 calls included¹:
 - **28%** of identified sex trafficking situation involved a minor¹
 - **13%** of identified labor trafficking situations involved a minor¹
 - **240** signals (**0.5%** of total signals) came out of Nebraska; **107** were received from victims/survivors²
 - **134** victims were involved in **57** identified cases in 2021 in Nebraska²
 - **47** cases involved sex trafficking²
 - **5** cases involved labor trafficking²
 - **16** cases were identified as involving a minor²
- **1 in 5** identified youth experiencing homelessness had been a victim of human trafficking (labor, sex, or both)³
 - **81%** of labor trafficking cases involved forced drug dealing, often through familial/cultural coercion³

¹ National Human Trafficking Hotline. (2022). National Human Trafficking Hotline Data Report: 1/1/2021-12/31/2021 Overview of Incoming Calls. Retrieved from: <https://humantraffickinghotline.org/sites/default/files/2023-01/National%20Report%20For%202021.docx%20%283%29.pdf>

² Polaris. (2023). National Human Trafficking Hotline Statistics for Nebraska in 2021. Retrieved from: <https://humantraffickinghotline.org/en/statistics/nebraska>

³ Murphy, L. T.(2016). Labor and Sex Trafficking Among Homeless Modern Slavery Research Project Loyola University. Retrieved from: <https://oag.ca.gov/sites/all/files/agweb/pdfs/ht/murphy-labor-sex-trafficking-homeless-youth.pdf>

Native American Trafficking Statistics

- Native Americans are considered a vulnerable population to be trafficked¹
- A study on trafficking of homeless youth age 17-25 conducted in the U.S. and Canada showed that of the **641 participants, 9% identified as Indigenous.**² Of the identified Indigenous youth:
 - **26%** identified as experiencing any trafficking
 - **9%** identified as sex trafficking victims
 - **18%** experienced labor trafficking
 - **24%** experienced any commercial sex
- While exact numbers are difficult to identify, a study conducted in the U.S. and Canada showed that “**an average of 40%**” of sex trafficking victims identified as Native women.³
- It is important to note that Native women only represent 10% or less of the general population in the studied communities.³
- **37%** of sex trafficking cases involving Native Americans reported to the National Human Trafficking Hotline from 1/1/2011-3/31/2017 involved a victim who was a minor.⁴

¹ Kane-Hartnett, L. (2018). Trafficking in Tribal Nations: the impact of sex trafficking on Native Americans. Human Trafficking Search. Retrieved from: <https://humantraffickingsearch.org/traffickingofnativeamericans/>.

² Murphy, L. T. (2016). Labor and Sex Trafficking Among Homeless Modern Slavery Research Project, Loyola University. Retrieved from: <https://oag.ca.gov/sites/all/files/agweb/pdfs/ht/murphy-labor-sex-trafficking-homeless-youth.pdf>

³ National Congress of American Indians. (2016). Tribal insights brief: trafficking in Indian Country. Retrieved from: <http://www.ncai.org/policy-research-center/research-data/prc-publications/TraffickingBrief.pdf>

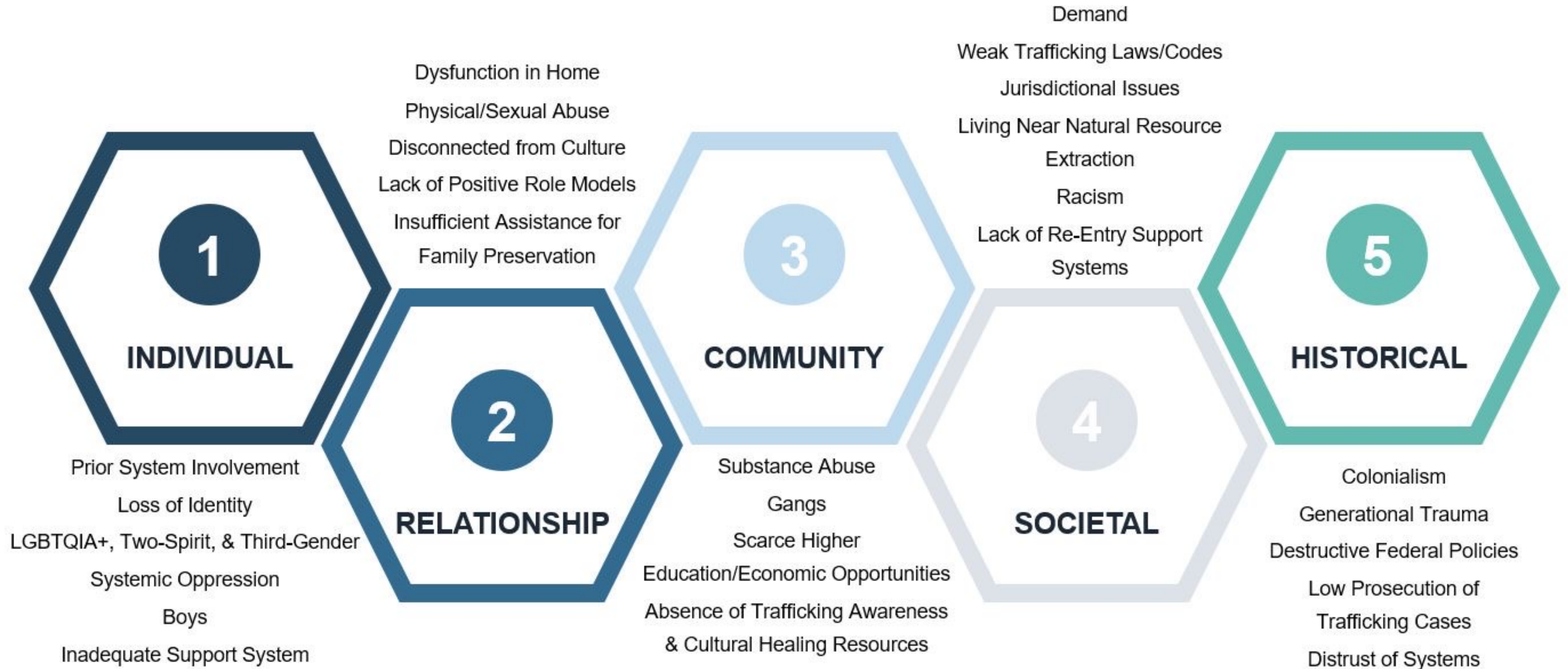
⁴ Administration for Children and Families (2018). Combatting trafficking; Native youth toolkit on human trafficking. Retrieved from https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/otip/native_youth_toolkit_on_human_trafficking.pdf

HTLA Class 5 Cohort Report

- Human Trafficking Leadership Academy (HTLA) is a fellowship program organized by the National Human Trafficking Training and Technical Assistance Center (NHTTAC) and Coro Northern California
- Class 5 (2019-2020) consisted of 11 Indigenous fellows
- Project Question:
How can culture be a protective factor in preventing trafficking among all Indigenous youth?

INDIGENOUS TRAFFICKING RISK FACTORS

Why are we targeted?



Indicators of Human Trafficking

- Traffickers are not always strangers; in many cases, traffickers are someone the victim knows (i.e. family member, partner, friend, community member, etc.)
 - Move beyond the “white van/abduction” narrative
 - While this sometimes happens, it is not the majority of cases
- Traffickers often use love, affection, attention, bribery/promises to lure the victims and gain their trust
 - To make victims stay, traffickers may use physical force, threats, blackmail, manipulation, and controlling resources/basic needs

Indicators of Human Trafficking

- Trafficking can happen ANYWHERE
 - Rural and Urban areas (including Indian Country)
 - Factories, farms/ranches, restaurants/bars, construction sites, hotels, casinos, strip clubs, and private homes
 - Internet-based services, brothels, street-based, drug trade, etc.
 - High attendance events (such as sports games, conventions, etc.) can increase trafficking in an area

Indicators of Human Trafficking

- Not able to be independent; is accountable to someone
- Works unusual/excessively long hours
- Unable to pay off a large debt
- Fearful, anxious, depressed, tense, nervous
- Fearful or anxious when Law Enforcement is discussed
- Lacks health care
- Malnourished
- Inconsistencies with story
- Signs of physical and/or sexual abuse
- Very few personal possessions
- Claims to be “just visiting” or “passing through;” no tangible address/doesn't know where staying
- Lack of knowledge of whereabouts
- Lost sense of time
- Avoids eye contact

Indicators of Trafficking of Youth

- Does not attend school on a regular basis/unexplained absences
- Frequently runs away from home
- Makes references to frequent travel to other cities
- Exhibits bruises or other signs of physical trauma
- Withdrawn behavior, depression, anxiety, fear
- Shows signs of drug addiction
- Coached/rehearsed responses to questions
- Sudden changes in attire, personal hygiene, relationships, or material possessions
- Sudden delinquent conduct
- Has a “boyfriend,” “girlfriend,” or significant other who is noticeably older and/or refusal to disclose the identity of their dating partner
- Confusion about when/where they are
- Attempts to conceal recent scars or tattoos

Possible Factors for Additional Consideration

- Disproportionality of Native children in the foster care system and the separation of Native families and children¹
 - In Nebraska Native children are 2.5X more likely to be placed in foster care than non-Native children
- Suicide rates for Natives are more than 3.5 times higher than other race/ethnicity groups with the lowest rates²
 - Native youth, aged 10-24, made up over 1/3 of all Native suicides, from 2003-2014²
 - From 1999 to 2017, Native females had the largest increase in suicides, by 139%³
 - Higher suicide rates linked to poverty, substance abuse, geographic location, and limited access to health services
- Native Americans have some of the highest rates of substance abuse, among persons aged 12 or older⁴
 - Alcohol abuse was reported by 69% Native youth aged 15-24 admitted for SA treatment

1. State of Nebraska Foster Care Review Office. (2018). Annual Report, 2017-2018. Retrieved from: <http://www.fcro.nebraska.gov/pdf/FCRO-Reports/2018-annual-report.pdf>

2. Leavitt RA, Ertl A, Sheats K, Petrosky E, Ivey-Stephenson A, Fowler KA. Suicides Among American Indian/Alaska Natives — National Violent Death Reporting System, 18 States, 2003–2014. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep* 2018;67:237–242. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm6708a1external icon>.

3. Curtin SC, Hedegaard H. Suicide rates for females and males by race and ethnicity: United States, 1999 and 2017. *NCHS Health E-Stat*. 2019.

4. Substance Abuse and mental Health Services Administration. (2013). SAMHSA American Indian/Alaska Native Data. Retrieved from: https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/topics/tribal_affairs/ai-an-data-handout.pdf

Intersection Between Human Trafficking and Domestic Violence

- Often an individual who is a victim of trafficking, first presents to professionals as a victim/survivor of domestic violence or other form of violence
- Intimate Partner Violence and Trafficking often intersect through abusive behavior as means of power and control:
 - Physical abuse
 - Financial abuse and exploitation
 - Sexual abuse
 - Emotional/Verbal abuse
- It is hard to separate the two crimes, and therefore, it is important to provide services that won't limit the survivor when recovering and healing from both
- Adopting a similar survivor-centered approach to both, will enable the survivor to make the best decisions for them

Indicators and Screening

- It is important to note that indicators are factors you may come across that may alert you to screen someone.
- You may want to consider screening all clients for human trafficking as you work with them and in your initial intake.
- Screening should be introduced after some rapport and working relationship has been established, and only if the client is able/willing/comfortable doing so. Clients should NOT be forced to complete a screening tool.
- Screening should not be completed while a client is in active distress.

Indicators and Screening

- If you are simply carrying out the screening and will refer the client/patient to another provider in the case of a positive screen, ask the questions as written.
- If you will continue services after a positive screen, then follow up with a deeper conversation using elements of motivational interviewing to confirm trafficking, perform a lethality assessment, pursue safety planning, and/or provide referrals to other resources based on identified needs.
- Discuss confidentiality and the limits to what can and cannot be asked.
- Respect the client/patient's right not to answer questions and to make their own decisions, even if you don't agree with them.

Indicators and Screening

- If human trafficking is suspected following the screening, identify whether mandated reporting is required. It is crucial that the individual filing the report discusses the need to file a report using a nonthreatening manner. This is critical to maintaining rapport. With adult potential victims of human trafficking, it is important to explain in a sensitive way the reasons for concern, the potential benefits of filing a report, and what to expect when filing a report.
- Following a positive screen, make the necessary referrals to services, whether those services exist within or outside of the agency/organization, in a manner that will enhance their follow-up.

Screening Tools

Quick Youth Indicators for Trafficking (QYIT)

- 4 YES/NO questions
- Best for:
 - Limited time
 - Homeless/runaway youth
 - Initial screener and can then follow up with more thorough assessment
- Link to copy for printing:
 - https://vcrhyp.org/client_media/Trafficking%20and%20Exploitation%20Tools/QYIT%20-%20Covenant%20House%20NJ.pdf

Quick Youth Indicators for Trafficking (QYIT)

Circle one response (Yes, No, Skip) for each question below:

It is not uncommon for young people to stay in work situations that are risky or even dangerous, simply because they have no other options. Have you ever worked, or done other things, in a place that made you feel scared or unsafe?	Yes No Skip
Sometimes people are prevented from leaving an unfair or unsafe work situation by their employers. Have you ever been afraid to leave or quit a work situation due to fears of violence or threats of harm to yourself or your family?	Yes No Skip
Sometimes young people who are homeless or who have difficulties with their families have very few options to survive or fulfill their basic needs, such as food and shelter. Have you ever received anything in exchange for sex (e.g. a place to stay, gifts, or food)?	Yes No Skip
Sometimes employers don't want people to know about the kind of work they have young employees doing. To protect themselves, they ask their employees to lie about the kind of work they are involved in. Have you ever worked for someone who asked you to lie while speaking to others about the work you do?	Yes No Skip

Adult Human Trafficking Screening Tool

- 8 YES/NO questions
- Best for:
 - Limited time
 - Initial screener and can then follow up with more thorough assessment
- Link to copy for printing:
 - https://nhttac.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/2018-07/adult_human_trafficking_screening_tool_and_guide.pdf ; pgs. 16-17

Adult Human Trafficking Screening Tool		
This screening tool is part of a guide and is to be used with the “Adult Human Trafficking Screening Tool and Guide.” It has been provided as part of a screening toolkit to a professional who is trained to administer it. For information about this screening tool or the recommended training for its application, please contact the National Human Trafficking Training and Technical Assistance Center (NHTTAC) at info@nhttac.org or 844-648-8822.		
Question	Respondent Answers	Notes
1. Sometimes lies are used to trick people into accepting a job that doesn't exist, and they get trapped in a job or situation they never wanted. Have you ever experienced this, or are you in a situation where you think this could happen?	Yes No Declined to Answer Don't Know	
2. Sometimes people make efforts to repay a person who provided them with transportation, a place to stay, money, or something else they needed. The person they owe money to may require them to do things if they have difficulty paying because of the debt. Have you ever experienced this, or are you in a situation where you think this could happen?	Yes No Declined to Answer Don't Know	
3. Sometimes people do unfair, unsafe, or even dangerous work or stay in dangerous situation because if they don't, someone might hurt them or someone they love. Have you ever experienced this, or are you in a situation where you think this could happen?	Yes No Declined to Answer Don't Know	
4. Sometimes people are not allowed to keep or hold on to their own identification or travel documents. Have you ever experienced this, or are you in a situation where you think this could happen?	Yes No Declined to Answer Don't Know	
5. Sometimes people work for someone or spend time with someone who does not let them contact their family, spend time with their friends, or go where they want when they want. Have you ever experienced this, or are you in a situation where you think this could happen?	Yes No Declined to Answer Don't Know	
6. Sometimes people live where they work or where the person in charge tells them to live, and they're not allowed to live elsewhere. Have you ever experienced this, or are you in a situation where you think this could happen?	Yes No Declined to Answer Don't Know	
7. Sometimes people are told to lie about their situation, including the kind of work they do. Has anyone ever told you to lie about the kind of work you're doing or will be doing?	Yes No Declined to Answer Don't Know	
8. Sometimes people are hurt or threatened, or threats are made to their family or loved ones, or they are forced to do things they do not want to do in order to make money for someone else or to pay off a debt to them. Have you ever experienced this, or are you in a situation where you think this could happen?	Yes No Declined to Answer Don't Know	
If the client/patient answered YES to any of the questions, this may indicate a risk for current, former, or future trafficking. If you feel this individual is at risk, or is being trafficked, discuss referral options, including possibly reporting to the appropriate authorities trained on human trafficking. Ask, “do you want		

Trauma-Informed Screening Practices

- Recognize the effects of violence on human development and coping
- Ensure that services are accessible and readily available
- Identify co-occurring problems comprehensively
- Ensure that services are culturally and linguistically appropriate
- Minimize possibility of re-traumatization
- Emphasize education, choice, and resilience

Administering Human Trafficking Screening Tools

- Establish a relationship/rapport
- Be aware that survivors current state will differ when seeking services; do your best to meet their current needs
- Avoid criticizing or condemning the trafficker as the survivor may be defensive on the trafficker's behalf
- Administer the screening verbally; not as a written self-evaluation for the survivor

Best Practices for Screening and Relationship-Building

- Create a safe and private space for screening
- Offer water, snacks, show survivor where the restroom is, and check in to give them breaks
- Cue into your body language
 - Avoid: touching the person, hovering, crossing your arms
 - Try to: remain close, stay at eye-level, respect personal space
- Limit yes/no questions to screening tools; allow for open-ended responses from the survivor to tell their story

Resources/Needs

Resources to Assist Survivors

- **Housing**

- Shelter
- Safety Modifications to Current Home
- Assistance Finding a New Place to Live

- **Job/Income/School**

- Assisting with job ideas
- Asking how survivor can support themselves moving forward

- **Physical Health/Medical Care**

- **Substance Abuse Treatment**

- **Mental Health Care**

- Referrals to Counseling Services

- **Childcare Situation and Assistance**

- **Social Benefits (SSI/SSDI, SNAP, Food Stamps, Etc.)**

- SNAP:

https://www.benefitscheckup.org/factsheets/factsheet_nutrition_ne_snap_program/#/

- SSI/SSDI:

<https://www.ssa.gov/applyfordisability/>

- **Crime Victim Reparations Fund**

- From The Nebraska Crime Commission:

<https://ncc.nebraska.gov/crime-victim-reparations>

Nebraska Human Trafficking Resource Lists

- Nebraska PATH Directory
 - https://www.nebraskacoalition.org/get_informed/publications/resources.html
- Tribal Response and Resources for Human Trafficking Victims in Nebraska

*Additional Questions or
Concerns*

Resources

- **StrongHearts Native Helpline**– 1-844-762-8483
- **National Human Trafficking Hotline:**
 - Call 1-888-373-7888
 - Text “BeFree” to 233733
- **National Center for Missing and Exploited Children:**
 - Call 1-800-LOST; 1-800-843-5678
- In cases involving an active threat to you or the victim, or to report a human trafficking case to law enforcement, **call 911**
 - Tips for law enforcement can also be directed to the **National Human Trafficking Hotline** (1-888-373-7888)
 - For tips to Nebraska State Patrol (for cases on non-reservation land) call the **Nebraska Human Trafficking Tip Line** (1-833-757-5665; 1-833-PLS-LOOK).
- If you have a case involving a child/minor, it is best practice to call the Nebraska Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline 1-800-652-1999 (on or off the reservation)

Contact Info for Questions and Assistance



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Thank you!
Questions?