

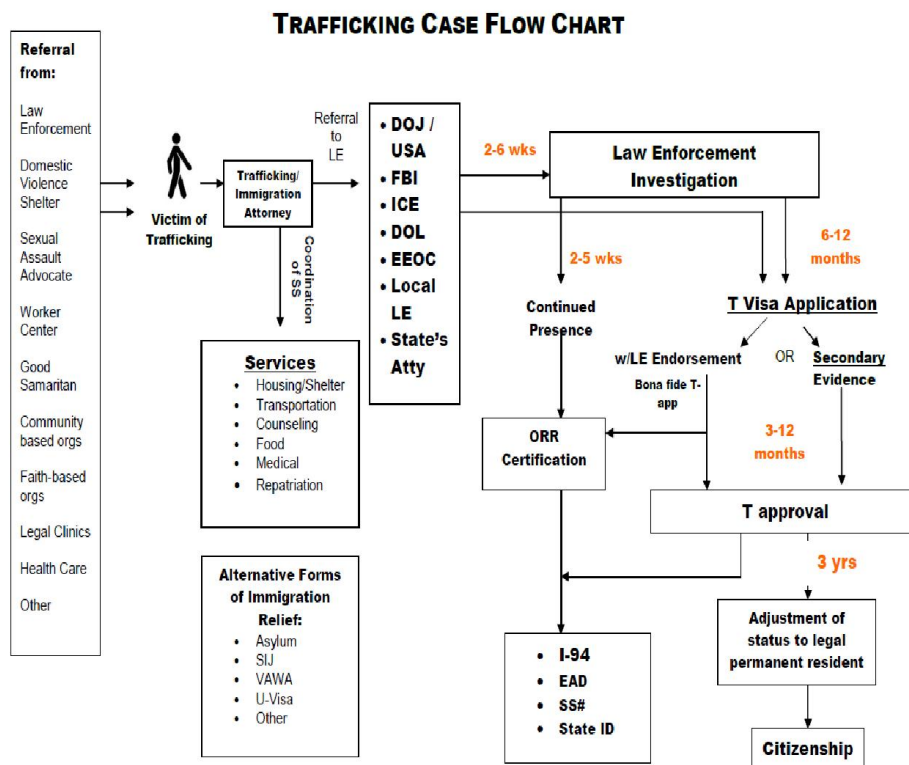
HHS Certification

Adult foreign victims of human trafficking (age 18 and over) who are certified by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) can receive federally funded services and benefits to the same extent as refugees. To receive certification, an individual must have completed an application for a T-visa or have received Continued Presence status from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Child victims (under 18) are immediately eligible for benefits and do not need to apply for a T-visa or Continued Presence status. Certified and eligible victims can receive benefits and services necessary for their safety including:

Housing or shelter assistance	English language training
Food assistance	Health care assistance
Income assistance	Mental health services
Employment assistance	Assistance for victims of torture

Trafficking Case Flow Chart

The Trafficking Case Flow Chart below, developed by the National Immigration Justice Center, provides a snapshot view of the process and timeline by which foreign victims may seek immigration relief. To ensure trafficking victims’ rights are protected, the first step in seeking immigration relief is to secure legal representation with an immigration attorney. It is highly encouraged that victims should seek legal counsel before contacting law enforcement, or at the earliest possible time thereafter. Legal counsel provides an extra layer of protection that ensures that victims receive fair treatment within the boundaries of current immigration law.



**Adopted from the National Immigration Justice Center.*

Identifying and Assisting Victims

First responders play a critical role in uncovering human trafficking victims. While anyone may encounter a victim of trafficking, certain professionals, by virtue of their work, have greater access to potential victims and have a better chance of uncovering this hidden crime. Examples include emergency room personnel, health care providers, law enforcement, emergency rescue personnel, domestic violence and sexual assault advocates, homeless and shelter agencies, and clergy. It is important that these professional groups and others who encounter victims receive training on how to identify human trafficking victims, and then how to engage and assist them. Due to the complexity and the uniqueness of each human trafficking case, the following guidelines should be used with caution and not as a rigid set of questions and observations.

Immediate Assistance and Problem Solving

First responders who discover a victim of human trafficking have an obligation to take action to ensure the victim's safety. The coordinated efforts of service providers, local and federal law enforcement, local advocates, victim service providers, religious organizations, and others are needed to combat human trafficking. Throughout the process of identifying the victim and addressing her/his needs, **safety must be the highest priority.**

The flow chart below was originally designed by Dane County Commission on Sensitive Crimes to assist first responders in sexual assault cases. It is equally applicable for first responders who encounter victims of human trafficking. Following these steps will ensure that victims' rights are prioritized and that their needs are addressed.

IMMEDIATE PROBLEM SOLVING ASSISTANCE

