



GOVERNOR'S COORDINATING OFFICES

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES • SERVICE & VOLUNTEERISM • PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT
CRIME CONTROL & PREVENTION • SMALL, MINORITY & WOMEN BUSINESS AFFAIRS
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January 7, 2019

The Honorable Larry Hogan
Governor of Maryland
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Statewide Human Trafficking Response Director (Executive Order 01.01.2018.19)

Dear Governor Hogan:

In accordance with Executive Order 01.01.2018.19, which created the Statewide Human Trafficking Response Director (Director) position within the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention (Office), please accept this letter as fulfillment of the required report.¹

Executive Order 01.01.2018.19 required the Director to report on the status of the following items: (1) progress made in establishing statewide best practices for serving victims of human trafficking; (2) a summary of State and federal funding available to serve and support victims of human trafficking; (3) an update on the work of the Crime Research and Innovation Center at the University of Maryland related to human trafficking; and (4) recommendations for administrative, regulatory, or statutory changes that would further the State's efforts to address human trafficking.

On October 1, 2018, a press release announced Laurie E. Culkin, an attorney and advocate for human trafficking victims, as Maryland's first Anti-Human Trafficking Director (Director), to coordinate supportive services for victims and law enforcement activities as they relate to human trafficking. Since this time, Ms. Culkin has collaborated with various public safety partners and victim service providers to identify and gather information on current efforts within the State to address human trafficking. Through this process, and in coordination with our local, State, and federal partners, Ms. Culkin will aid in the establishment of best practices to serve victims of human trafficking. This establishment will include an emphasis on juvenile victims to ensure the necessary services are provided in an efficient and timely manner. In addition, and to improve data sharing capabilities within the State, Ms. Culkin is collaborating with the Maryland Crime

¹ The State of Maryland, Executive Department. (2018). [Executive Order 01.01.2018.19: Statewide Human Trafficking Response Director](#).

Research and Innovation Center (Center) and other agencies to identify reliable data as it relates to the arrest and prosecution of traffickers, and the identification of victims. The data will be used to enhance our efforts to address human trafficking at each level of the criminal justice system (law enforcement, prosecution, defense attorneys, courts, and corrections) to be used towards a statewide best practices approach.

Per your direction, our Office is committed to providing funding for human trafficking victims with direct services such as emergency shelter, 24-hour talk-line, trauma-informed therapy, peer groups, support services (housing assistance, job training, life skills, economic empowerment, GED, and vocational training), assistance obtaining a driver's license or transportation to and from appointments and court appearance, legal advocacy, victim advocacy and system navigation, and street outreach.² At your direction, our Office prioritized human trafficking efforts and awarded over \$16 million through our Victims of Crime Act Grant Program beginning on the October 1, 2018 grant cycle. Our Office also encourages direct service providers and nonprofit organizations to apply for any open and available State and federal grant funding sources, to include the following:

- *Maryland Victims of Crime Fund (MVOC)* provides for advocacy and support services to victims of crime through the creation of new ideas and the enhancement of existing programs in Maryland.
- *Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)* helps to improve the treatment of victims of crime by providing victims with the assistance and services necessary to aid their restoration after a violent criminal act, and to support and aid them as they move through the criminal justice process. Victim assistance includes services such as crisis intervention, counseling, emergency transportation to court, temporary housing and criminal justice support, and advocacy.
- *STOP (Services * Training * Officers * Prosecutors) Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program (STOP VAWA)* encourages the development and strengthening of effective, victim-centered law enforcement, prosecution, and court strategies to combat crimes against women.

Since its establishment, the Center has launched its efforts to identify and leverage the expertise from the University System of Maryland, as well as industry partners, to work side-by-side with the Office to address your priorities to combat crime, to include human trafficking. Dawn Pulliam, with the University of Maryland's School of Public Policy, serves as the Program Director for this effort and works diligently to integrate the work of all the University System of Maryland Schools and industry. The objective is to conduct interdisciplinary research to inform policies and to help develop holistic enforcement solutions, victim services, prevention efforts, and other criminal justice programs. The Center is currently reviewing concepts for proof of concept pilot projects, which will be initiated by the end of 2018, to demonstrate the value of this evidence-based integrated approach.

² Office of Governor Larry Hogan. (2018). [Governor Larry Hogan Announces Initiatives to Combat Human Trafficking.](#)

Pursuant to Executive Order 01.01.2018.19, the Director is charged to provide recommendations for administrative, regulatory, or statutory changes to further the State's efforts to address human trafficking. Given its charge, Ms. Culkin has partnered with various stakeholders to identify the needs and gaps in services for victims of human trafficking; to retrieve more reliable data as it relates to the arrest and prosecution of traffickers; to monitor the *Workgroup to Study Safe Harbor Policy for Youth Victims of Human Trafficking* and its proposed anti-trafficking legislation; and to focus on legislative efforts that align with your goals to combat human trafficking. Further, Ms. Culkin is on the leadership team of the Child Advocacy Center Workgroup to develop best practices for Child Advocacy Centers when working with child victims of human trafficking. Ms. Culkin continues to work with public safety partners, victim services providers, and the Center to develop a statewide anti-human trafficking strategic plan, which will be released in April 2019. The strategic plan will be developed after examining the interaction of local and State agencies and victim services organizations in combating human trafficking and analyzing legislative efforts to ensure the State is effectively and efficiently responding to victims of this crime.

Based on the current efforts and partnerships in place, our Office anticipates that next year's report will capture more insight as it pertains to the Director's findings and recommendations to further the State's efforts to address human trafficking.

Should you have any questions relating to the information provided in this report, please feel free to contact me at 410-697-9338.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "V. Glenn Fueston, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

V. Glenn Fueston, Jr.
Executive Director