



**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF COOK COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**Cook County Building, Board Room,
118 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois**

New Items Agenda

Thursday, February 29, 2024, 10:00 AM

Second Set - Issued on: 2-27-2024

[24-1768](#)

Sponsored by: STANLEY MOORE and KEVIN B. MORRISON, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

PROPOSED RESOLUTION REQUESTING A PUBLIC HEARING OF THE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMITTEE TO ADDRESS THE TRAFFICKING AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF MEN AND BOYS IN COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS

WHEREAS, the Cook County Board reaffirms that trafficking in persons and sexual exploitation are crimes, grave violations of human rights, and public health issues that affect individuals across gender, sex, age, and nationality, with a significant yet underrecognized impact on men and boys; and

WHEREAS, the National Human Trafficking Hotline has described Chicago, Cook County's largest city, as having a robust sex trade, a claim that is further supported by the following: a recent Department of Justice (DOJ) study estimated that 3,303 young adults ages 18-24 are engaged in the sex trade in the city. This data parallels informed estimates from the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless that Chicago has 15,744 homeless youth ages 14-24, a quarter (27.5%) of whom have likely sold sex to survive with 60% of Chicago's homeless youth identifying as male, a conservative estimate of male victims in Chicago places this figure at 2,500 male victims, for whom there are virtually no gender-specific services available. An additional study exploring the relative participation of male- to female-identified victims found that 36% of youth (14-24) engaged in the sex trade are male; and

WHEREAS, societal misunderstandings, stereotypes, and stigma around victimhood lead to a lack of identification of men and boys as victims and survivors of trafficking and sexual exploitation from those from whom they seek help, including law enforcement, healthcare providers, and social services, and handicaps prevention by parents who are significantly less likely to use filtering software on their son's computers versus their daughter's; and

WHEREAS, the current landscape of support services and resources for male-identified victims of trafficking and sexual exploitation, including only one residential program for males in the nation and a small minority of social service agencies nationally and locally who are willing to serve males, is significantly lacking in provisions for male victims, including contributing to their further marginalization and suffering; and

WHEREAS, the Cook County Board acknowledges the necessity of a comprehensive, inclusive, and intersectional approach to combat human trafficking and sexual exploitation, which includes addressing the specific needs of male victims; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Cook County Board hereby commits to the following actions to address trafficking in persons and sexual exploitation of men and boys in Cook County, Illinois: and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Cook County Board of Commissioners request a convening of the Cook County Human Relations Committee to conduct a hearing; and

1. **Establish a task force or a subcommittee within the current Cook County Human Trafficking Task Force:** Create a dedicated task force or a subcommittee within the current Cook County Human Trafficking Task Force to encourage effective cooperation and coordination of efforts in partnership with other anti-trafficking advocates such as law enforcement, social-service agencies, healthcare providers, nonprofit organizations, and survivor advocacy groups to combat trafficking in persons and exploitation of men and boys in Cook County.

2. **Develop Specialized Support Services:** Allocate funding and resources to develop and implement specialized support services for male victims and survivors of trafficking in persons and exploitation, including safe housing, medical care, psychological support, legal assistance, job training, and more.

3. **Raise Awareness and Training:** Launch public awareness campaigns to shed light on male victimhood, including the social, economic, cultural, and political factors that make men and boys vulnerable to trafficking in persons and sexual exploitation. These factors include, but are not limited to, poverty, unemployment, inequality, sexual violence, gender discrimination, social exclusion, and marginalization, as well as the social and cultural bias around males. Additionally, develop comprehensive training programs for law enforcement, healthcare providers, educators, and social-service personnel to identify male or male-identified victims among vulnerable populations through appropriate, inclusive, and nondiscriminatory measures.

4. **Promote Research and Data Collection:** Encourage and support research initiatives to gather data on the trafficking and exploitation of men and boys to better understand their needs and improve the effectiveness of interventions and support services. Conduct research and collect suitable disaggregated data to enable proper analysis of the nature and extent of trafficking in persons for men and boys specifically.

5. **Engage Community and Survivor Voices:** Foster strong partnerships with community organizations and ensure the meaningful involvement of survivors in shaping policies, services, and awareness efforts to ensure that interventions are survivor-informed and culturally sensitive.

6. **Advocate for Policy Changes:** Advocate for changes in local, state, and federal policies to recognize the needs of male victims of trafficking in persons and sexual exploitation and to ensure that laws and regulations are inclusive and supportive of all victims, regardless of gender.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Cook County Board shall review the progress of these initiatives annually and adjust as necessary to ensure that Cook County is a leading example of comprehensive and inclusive support for all victims of trafficking in persons and sexual exploitation. That a suitable copy of this resolution be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body this 29th day of February 2024.

[24-1756](#)

Presented by: TIMOTHY C. EVANS, Chief Judge, Circuit Court of Cook County

PROPOSED GRANT AWARD

Department: Office of the Chief Judge, Circuit Court of Cook County

Grantee: Office of the Chief Judge

Grantor: United States Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention

Request: Authorization to accept grant

Purpose: The intent of the project is to support a long-term plan of building and staffing Assessment Centers and Community Centers of Care, as alternatives to detention.

Grant Amount: \$450,000.00

Grant Period: 1/1/2024 - 6/30/2025

Fiscal Impact: None

Accounts: The account string where cash match requirement, if applicable, is funded, in following format: Fund. Office. Object Account, Object Account Description.

Concurrences:

The Budget Department has received all requisite documents and determined the fiscal impact on Cook County, if any

Summary: The Office of the Chief Judge program will support the court's commitment to reimagining youth detention through the development of Assessment Centers and Community Centers of Care. Specifically, this grant funding will support four specific goals: 1) Implement a multi-agency planning and governance structure that will be inclusive of youth, families, and those with lived experience to oversee design and implementation activities; 2) Host a series of community forums to gain input on the needs of impacted communities; 3) Retrain detention center staff who wish to work at alternative centers, as well as staff of community-based partners; 4) Based on the planning process and youth and community input, establish Assessment Centers and Centers of Care as alternatives to detention.

Program funds will be allocated to staff salaries and fringe benefits, professional services, training, travel, supplies and Cook County administrative costs.