



**JOHN BEL EDWARDS**  
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF PROGRAMS AND PLANNING  
OFFICE OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION

**State of Louisiana**  
**Anti-Human Trafficking Efforts**

**Mission: "Preventing and combatting human trafficking...Promoting justice and healing for victims and survivors"**

**Fiscal Years 2012-2022**

Louisiana has taken progressive steps over the last decade to address the issue of human sex and labor trafficking. The information below is a comprehensive list of legislation, programs, and initiatives established to combat human trafficking and to promote healing and justice for victims and survivors.

**Legislative  
Accomplishments**

Louisiana has some of the toughest anti-trafficking laws in the nation. In 2016, Shared Hope International ranked Louisiana #1 in the nation for its laws against trafficking and we received an A+ ranking.

*2012 Regular Session*

- [Act 446](#) increased penalties for prostitution-related offenses involving a minor; provided affirmative defense to prosecution for certain prostitution offenses when defendant is a victim of trafficking of children for sexual purposes; extended a 30-year time limit to commence prosecution to human trafficking when it involves sexual purposes, trafficking of children for sexual purposes, and other prostitution-related offenses involving persons under 18; authorizes the expungement of prostitution-related offenses when person seeking expungement is a victim of trafficking of children for sexual purposes.
- [Act 154](#) R.S. 15:541.1 required the National Human Trafficking Resource Center hotline information to be posted at certain establishments, truck stops, and rest stops.

*2013 Regular session*

- [Act 430](#) amended R.S. 15:541.1 to require the national human trafficking hotline number to be posted at every fuel service facility adjacent to an interstate highway or highway rest stop.
- [Act 144](#) amended the definition of "racketeering activity" under R.S. 15:1352(A) to include both human trafficking under R.S. 14:46.2 and trafficking of children for sexual purposes under R.S. 14:46.3.



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#### Legislative Accomplishments (cont.)

- [Act 429](#) enacted R.S. 15:539.2 which creates the “Exploited Children’s Special Fund” and La. R.S. 15:539.3 which requires mandatory restitution, which shall include the costs of medical and psychological treatment, costs of necessary transportation and temporary housing R.S. 46:2161-46:2162, which establishes an intricate service delivery plan for human trafficking victims; RS. 46: 2163 creates civil cause of action for human trafficking victims.

#### *2014 Regular Session*

- [Act 554](#) allowed for the creation of human trafficking courts as a special division of the court.
- [Act 565](#) amended R.S. 15:541.1 requiring every outpatient abortion facility to post information regarding the National Human Trafficking Resource Center hotline.
- [Act 564](#) expanded the existing law on the crimes of human trafficking and trafficking of children for sexual purposes; provides for affirmative defense to prosecution of certain prostitution-related offenses committed by a victim as a direct result of being trafficked; requires the Council of POST to develop a human trafficking training course; establishes victim service plan for adult victims; requires the development of an annual statistical report on human trafficking in Louisiana.

#### *2015 Regular Session*

- [Act 327](#) R.S. 46:1860-1863 enacted to create Family Justice Centers to provide multiagency services to human trafficking victims and other related victims, directed at enhancing victim safety, increasing offender accountability and reducing the number of times a victim is questioned, examined, and the number of places a victim must go to receive assistance.

#### *2016 Regular Session*

- [Act 269](#) amended R.S. 14:46.2 to expand the crime of human trafficking and increases penalties for trafficking of persons under the age of twenty-one engaged in commercial sexual activity.
- [Act 298](#) required the National Human Trafficking Resource Center hotline to be posted at hotels.



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#### Legislative Accomplishments (cont.)

##### *2017 Regular Session*

- [Act 181](#) enacted R.S. 42:2165 to create the Human Trafficking Prevention Commission and Human Trafficking Prevention Advisory Board within the Office of the Governor.
- [Act 376](#) required the DCFS to identify and maintain a current listing of safe houses that specialize in services for sexually exploited children; authorized a child housed at a residential facility to remain until their twenty-first birthday to complete any education course begun at the facility.

##### *2018 Regular Session*

- [Act 361](#) amended R.S. 15:541.1(A) (6) and (7) to require the National Human Trafficking Resource Center hotline information to be posted in additional locations specifically airports, railroad passenger stations and bus terminals and bus stations.
- [Act 703](#) enacted R.S. 23:1019.4 to require age and work status verification prior to work in a sexually oriented business to prevent human trafficking.
- [Act 663](#) amended R.S. 15:243 to authorize the creation of Buyer Beware Programs and increased fines for purchase of commercial sexual activity and soliciting prostitutes.

##### *2019 Regular Session*

- [Act 409](#) enacted to establish a coalition; to provide for the development of a human trafficking victim services delivery model plan.
- [Act 280](#) provided for abortion clinic employees to be mandatory reporters of human trafficking and certain sexual based crimes to law enforcement and provides for the additional postings of the National Human Trafficking Resource Center hotline information.

##### *2021 Regular Session*

- [Act 352](#) provided relative to the creation of the Office of Human Trafficking Prevention within the Office of the Governor.
- [Act 322](#) eliminated the prescriptive period for a civil action against a person for sexual abuse of minors, including human trafficking and trafficking of children for sexual purposes.
- [Act 324](#) provided for human trafficking training to the Louisiana Board of Massage Therapy members, staff, and contract inspectors.



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#### Legislative Accomplishments (cont.)

- [Act 18](#) authorized the use of administrative subpoenas for the production of information in investigations of human trafficking offenses.
- [Act 439](#) provided relative to power-based violence, including human trafficking as defined in 14:46.2, requirements on college and university campuses.

#### *Executive Order*

May 5th, 2021, Governor John Bel Edwards signed an executive order creating the Governor's Task Force on Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG).

#### *2022 Regular Session*

- [Act 662](#) allocates funding to care coordination and advocacy services for minor victim of trafficking; creates new mandatory reporting guidelines for minor victims of sex trafficking
- [Act 538](#) creates mandatory human trafficking training for peace officers
- [Act 130](#) provides for post-conviction relief for victims of human trafficking, when offense was committed as a result of trafficking victimization.

For pdf copies of the legislation and additional information, please visit the Louisiana Legislature website at <https://legis.la.gov/legis/home.aspx>

#### Additional key legislative recommendations from the Human Trafficking Prevention Commission

- Extend the prescriptive period for victims to file a civil suit to ten years
- Expand HT Training Mandates to include K-12 school personnel and emergency medical provider



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Federal grants and national funding

***November 2017-\$25,000- National Criminal Justice Training Center***

- Secured 25k to host 9 Regional Summits (Nov. 2017-March 2018)

***October 2018-\$1,200,000-U.S. Dept. of Justice***

- In 2018, Louisiana was the only state in the United States to receive a 1.2 million dollar grant award for the *Improving Outcomes for Child and Youth Victims of Human Trafficking* program.
- Federal funds were utilized to implement the Louisiana Child & Youth Trafficking Collaborative (LCYTC), a statewide initiative with the following goals:
  - Screening & Victim Identification
  - Outreach and Training
  - Advocacy
  - Statewide Collaboration
  - Multidisciplinary teams (MDTs)
  - Hire dedicated staff in each region of the state

***Note.*** In Jan. 2020, the Governor's Office contracted with the Louisiana Alliance of Children's Advocacy Centers (LACAC) and local CACs to hire 8 Regional Coordinators throughout the state whose role is training, advocacy, and case management.

***December 2021-\$1,500,000 – U.S. Dept. of Justice***

- In 2021, Louisiana was one of two states in the United States (Colorado the second state) to receive a 1.5 million dollar grant award for the *Improving Outcomes for Child and Youth Victims of Human Trafficking* program.
- Federal funds are being utilized to implement the Louisiana Child & Youth Trafficking Collaborative Accessibility Initiative (LCYTC-AI), a statewide initiative with the following goals:
  - Creating an equitable and accessible care coordination model
  - Improving victim identification among under-identified trafficking typologies (familial trafficking and labor trafficking)
  - Increasing access for vulnerable populations (rural youth, non-system involved youth, native youth, LGBTQ+, immigrant youth)
  - Ensuring cultural awareness and equity across systems





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#### Training, Education, and Outreach

- *Sept. 2017.* Governor and First Lady Edwards hosted the Louisiana Statewide Anti-Trafficking Symposium (over 400 participants)
- *Nov. 2017.* March 2018 hosted 9 Regional Summits Statewide (collectively over 730 participants)
- *Sept. 2019.* Governor and First Lady Edwards hosted an in-person Summit at the Governor's Mansion (over 100 participants)
- *May & June 2020.* Governor's Office LCYTC hosted two Child Sexual Exploitation Identification Tool (CSE-IT) trainings
- *2020.* The Office of First Lady Donna Edwards developed a map of national resources housed on the Louisiana First Foundation's website. Visit <http://louisianafirstfoundation.com/>
- *Sept. 2020.* First Lady Donna Edwards hosted the first virtual global summit with special guests First Lady Yumi Hogan of Maryland, First Lady Marty Kemp of Georgia and other international and national leaders (over 130 participants)
- *Oct. 2020.* First Lady Edwards partnered with the Louisiana Sheriff's Association D.A.R.E. program to train D.A.R.E. officers on human trafficking indicators
- *January 2021.* First Lady Donna Edwards hosted the second virtual global summit in partnership with First Lady Cecilia Abbott of Texas
- *April 2021.* First Lady Donna Edwards hosted the third virtual global summit in partnership with First Lady Yumi Hogan of Maryland (over 400 registrants)
- *Spring 2021.* The Governor's Office, The First Lady's Office, US District Attorney's Office, Louisiana State Police, and the Northwest District HT taskforce joined together to host a series of statewide trainings for physicians and medical providers
- *July 2021.* The Governor's Office LCYTC project held the state's first Train-the-Trainer for the following disciplines: Medical Providers, Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries, Emergency Medical Services



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Training, Education and Outreach (cont.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>July 2021.</i> Trained over 200 Police Chiefs at the Annual Chiefs of Police Association conference</li> <li>• <i>October 2021.</i> First Lady Donna Edwards hosted the fourth global summit in partnership with First Lady Cecilia Abbott and the state of Texas. (over 600 registrants)</li> <li>• <i>January 2022.</i> Launched the Human Trafficking Prevention Resource Center of Louisiana to provide the public, community partners, and survivors with basic information on human trafficking, survivor services per region, education materials, and reporting</li> <li>• <i>February 2022.</i> First Lady Donna Edwards hosted a meeting with members of the Consular Corps of New Orleans at the Governor's Mansion to discuss human trafficking (over 18 Consulars from several countries in attendance)</li> <li>• <i>April 2022.</i> First Lady Donna Edwards NCPHST launched Louisiana's first statewide Public Awareness Campaign entitled Stop Trafficking La: Human Trafficking is R.E.A.L. (over 500 guests in attendance) Visit <a href="https://www.stoptraffickingla.com/">https://www.stoptraffickingla.com/</a></li> </ul>
Boards, Commissions & Councils	<p>Each of the following are housed within the Governor's Office of Human Trafficking Prevention:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Human Trafficking Prevention Commission (HTPC) &amp; Human Trafficking Prevention Advisory Board (HTPAB)</li> <li>• Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Taskforce (MMIWG)</li> <li>• <i>June 2020.</i> Established the Louisiana Survivor Advisory Council (3 meetings held annually)</li> </ul>
Statewide Data Collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Dec. 2021.</i> Governor's Office of Human Trafficking Prevention contracted with Allies Against Slavery to develop and deploy Lighthouse, a cutting edge software to evaluate and monitor human trafficking data analytics and to expand screening of the Commercial Sexual Exploitation Identification Tool (CSE-IT)</li> </ul>
Other Key Statewide Initiatives/Partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Fall 2018.</i> Governor John Bel Edwards and First Lady Donna Edwards joined Father Jeff Bayhi and Senator Ronnie Johns in the opening of Metanoia Manor, the first of its kind safe haven for girls who have been traumatized</li> </ul>



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#### Other Key Statewide Initiatives/Partnerships (cont.)

- *January 2019 & January 2021.* Hosted Annual Human Trafficking Prevention Awareness Event
- *May 2021.* Expanded partnership with Louisiana State Police; LSP fills a vacant position with an LSP Liaison to the Office of Human Trafficking Prevention
- *July 2021.* The Office of Human Trafficking Prevention partnered with the Greater New Orleans Crime Stoppers and Louisiana State Police to implement the Louisiana Safety in Schools App (a tool for students to anonymously report incidences of crime to law enforcement and school officials) and train students in human trafficking and online safety. The app is live in 415 Louisiana schools across 13 parishes. The app has received over 1,000 tips from students since its launch.
- *Fall 2021.* First Lady Donna Edwards established the National Coalition For the Prevention of Human Sex Trafficking (NCPHST)
- *January 2022.* Hosted Annual Human Trafficking Event at the Governor's Mansion featuring national speaker and author Cyntoia Brown-Long (80 guests in attendance)