

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security
Office of Grants and Research**



**State Fiscal Year 2025
Human Trafficking Enforcement and Training
Grant Program**

Report to the Massachusetts General Court
Senate and House Committees on Ways and Means

September 2025

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Introduction

Legislation – 8000-0605

The Office of Grants and Research (OGR) is pleased to submit this report on the FY25 Human Trafficking Enforcement and Training Grant Program to the House and Senate Committees on Ways and Means.

OGR is a state agency that is part of the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS). EOPSS is responsible for the policy development and budget oversight of the secretariat's agencies, independent programs, and several boards which aid in crime prevention, homeland security preparedness, and ensuring the safety of residents and visitors in the Commonwealth. The agencies that fall under EOPSS are:

- Massachusetts State Police
- Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency
- Sex Offender Registry Board
- Department of Fire Services
- Department of Criminal Justice Information Services
- Department of Correction
- Parole Board
- Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
- State 911 Department
- Massachusetts State Police Crime Lab
- Municipal Police Training Committee
- Massachusetts National Guard
- Office of Grants and Research
- Massachusetts Public Safety Broadband Office

In addition to managing and administering state-funded criminal justice, homeland security, and traffic safety grant programs, OGR is the State Administering Agency (SAA) for federal grant funding received by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts from the Department of Justice (DOJ), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). In total, the agency manages more than \$279 million in grant funds annually. Additionally, OGR's Research and Policy Analysis Division (RPAD), which houses the Massachusetts Statistical Analysis Center, utilizes research and evaluation to promote public safety in the Commonwealth by informing criminal justice and public safety policy. The goals of the OGR include:

- Improving community safety and local preparedness by providing resources to communities based on need;
- Investing in evidenced based innovative programs;
- Granting awards based on national and state priorities;
- Fostering collaboration across jurisdictions by delivering grant dollars with a regional approach;

- Making funding decisions based upon research, empirical data, and best practices; and
- Ensuring the grant awarding process is transparent and in compliance with federal and state guidelines.

This document serves as the report regarding the FY25 Human Trafficking Enforcement and Training Grant Program.

Program Overview

Pursuant to Fiscal Year 2025 General Appropriation Act, Chapter 140 of the Acts of 2024, OGR released an Availability of Grant Funds (AGF) inviting district attorney's offices to apply for funding in support of their efforts to combat human trafficking and enhance their capacity to identify, assist, and provide referral services to those most impacted. The relevant appropriation language states:

8000-0605 For efforts to combat human trafficking, including a competitive grant program to be administered by the executive office of public safety and security; provided, that not later than March 3, 2025, the executive office shall submit a report to the house and senate committees on ways and means detailing expenditures from this item, including a list of grant recipients[.]

Preference was given to applications that demonstrated greatest need, outlined a comprehensive plan proposing programs and activities that directly correlate to addressing such need, and proposed activities that targeted geographical locations that demonstrated high-risk or high levels of human trafficking. Applicants were permitted to sub-award funds to outside entities to assist with any enforcement and suppression efforts, such as a local police department, as well as outside entities to assist with prevention and intervention services such as a nonprofit that implements survivor support programs within the county. OGR strongly encouraged applicants to demonstrate a collaborative, community-wide stakeholder effort as part of their proposal.

Applicant Eligibility

Only a Massachusetts District Attorney's Office was eligible to apply for this grant program, though applicants were allowed to subaward funds to outside entities to assist in enforcement, prevention and intervention efforts. Only one application per District Attorney's office was permitted.

Allowable Funding Purposes and Costs

Allowable expenses under this grant program included:

- Human Trafficking Special Prosecutor;
- Enforcement and investigative efforts;
- Prevention and intervention services;
- Training;
- Activities to enhance community relationships and municipal law enforcement's capacity to work on anti-trafficking cases; and

- Expansion of victim-centered, multi-disciplinary approaches to working with survivors through trauma-informed programming and supporting services that promote justice, access, and empowerment.

Application Process

OGR conducted a competitive application process according to the following timeline:

Key Activity	Key Date
AGF Posted:	August 21, 2024
Application Due:	September 18, 2024
Award Notification (Tentative):	October 2024
Performance Period (Tentative):	November 2024 – June 30, 2025

OGR received applications from five District Attorney’s Offices.

Review Process

OGR determined award amounts based upon the total amount requested, availability of funds, applicants’ compliance with the application process, and the review and approval of proposed projects and requested budgets. OGR subjected applications to a competitive review process consisting of three (3) peer reviewers assigned to evaluate each proposal submitted based on the following criteria:

- Relevancy of applicant’s qualifications as well as their proposed project
- Justification of the partnership and collaboration
- Consistency between the proposed budget and strategy

Awarded Funds

OGR received applications from five District Attorney’s Offices. All proposed projects were fully or partially funded. The table below provides details on each grant recipient, award amount, and a brief project description of each program funded through the FY25 Human Trafficking Enforcement and Training Grant Program.

Award Recipient	Amount Requested	Award Amount
Berkshire County District Attorney’s Office	\$81,293.00	\$81,293.00
Cape & Islands District Attorney’s Office	\$99,950.00	\$99,950.00
Hampden County District Attorney’s Office	\$100,000.00	\$97,929.40
Middle (Worcester County) District Attorney’s Office	\$100,000.00	\$95,827.60
Suffolk County District Attorney’s Office	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00
Total	\$481,243.00	\$475,000.00

Disbursement and Administrative Costs

As all recipients are state agencies, OGR funding was disbursed via Interdepartmental Service Agreement.

A total of \$25,000 was initially set aside for OGR administrative costs and subsequently reduced to \$23,000.