**General Standards for *Rescue & Restore* Coalitions**

In 2004 the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) launched a public awareness campaign, *Rescue & Restore Victims of Human Trafficking,* in an effort to educate and inform key intermediary audiences, as well as the general public, about human trafficking, ultimately aiding in the identification of victims*.* At the core of the *Rescue & Restore* campaign was the development of local coalitions.

The vision for local *Rescue & Restore* coalitions was, and continues to be, that they be comprised of a network of social service providers, community based organizations, ethnic outreach groups, law enforcement personnel, and healthcare professionals who work together to meet the needs of the specific community in which they operate. HHS has supported the coalitions by providing technical assistance, and training and materials, and lists them on the *Rescue & Restore* campaign website, [www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking).

**HHS exercises full discretion in identifying a local coalition as a partner in its public awareness campaign, but offers the following guidance as to its expectations for coalitions that seek recognition by HHS as a *Rescue & Restore* coalition**:

1. By definition, a coalition is an alliance of distinct parties or persons for joint action. Coalitions should engage many different but relevant sectors in their communities, such as law enforcement, social service organizations, faith-based and community groups, immigrant outreach programs, and health care and legal assistance providers. Coalitions should show that they have at least 10 members who come from several of these sectors.

2. A significant part of the coalition’s purpose must be to raise awareness about sex and labor trafficking, as defined by the federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA), as amended, and to assist the identification of victims.

3. Coalitions should seek to increase the number of victims identified and assisted by providing resources, training, materials, and ongoing support to organizations and individuals who are most likely to come into contact with victims.

4. Coalitions should develop an understanding of the local context regarding human trafficking but should not focus all coalition activities on only one type of trafficking or a limited group of victims or potential victims.

5. Coalitions do not exist primarily to support the work of one organization, and should not be dominated by the objectives of one organization. Their activities should be reasonably diverse and not focused on one method of education, training, or outreach.

6. Coalitions should have a coalition manager or managers who is/are responsible for ensuring the ongoing functionality of the group, which includes:

* Maintaining a list of current coalition members;
* Holding a minimum of one meeting per quarter;
* Educating and training coalition members on human trafficking in the United States and the role of Federal and State agencies in investigating trafficking and assisting victims; and
* Organizing and encouraging coalition member participation in public awareness activities.

7. Coalitions should promote the National Human Trafficking Resource Center - a 24/7 hotline (888-3737-888) that provides service referrals, training and technical assistance, and reports tips to law enforcement within the community and encourage the use of *Rescue & Restore* campaign resources.

8. Coalitions should ensure that the information they provide is factual and properly sourced, particularly when representing the activities that constitute trafficking in persons and the extent of trafficking in the United States or the world.