

Anti-Trafficking Leadership, Innovation, and Sustainability (ATLIS) Project 2025–2026 Frequently Asked Questions

1. Can we apply if we do not have 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status from the Internal Revenue Service?

Survivor-led anti-trafficking collaborations and community groups without 501(c)(3) status are welcome to apply. However, applicants applying under the “survivor-led 501(c)(3) organization” category must have tax exemption and a 501(c)(3) tax exemption certification. Applicants are not required to have a fiscal sponsor.

2. Can the proposed project generate revenue? If so, are there limits?

The ATLIS Project cannot generate revenue during the program period of March 1, 2025–February 28, 2026.

3. Can we combine the project funding with other funding?

Yes. If your proposed project exceeds the \$25,000 stipend, please indicate the additional funding sources you will use in the application budget table.

4. Is trademarking a name a viable project cost?

No. The ATLIS Project stipend cannot be used to cover trademarking costs.

5. Does the Office on Trafficking in Persons’ (OTIP) National Human Trafficking Training and Technical Assistance Center (NHTTAC) require an anti-prostitution pledge for the ATLIS Project?

OTIP cannot provide technical assistance that supports or advocates for the legalization or practice of prostitution.

6. What project activities will the ATLIS Project not cover?

The ATLIS stipend can only be used for eligible project activities. Stipends may not be used for the following ineligible activities:

- conferences
- fundraising;
- financial campaigns;
- endowment drives;
- solicitation of gifts and bequests;

- similar expenses directly incurred to raise capital or obtain contributions;
- equipment purchases, as defined by [2 CFR § 200.33](#);
- construction;
- real estate property;
- land acquisition;
- projects unrelated to human trafficking;
- projects focused primarily outside the 50 U.S. states or territories; or
- compensation for federal full-time-equivalent employees.

7. Can we use funding for travel-related expenses?

In general, yes. Travel costs are allowable within the United States when associated with this project. However, pre-approval will be required before incurring any travel expenses. The ATLIS Project stipend cannot be used to pay for international travel.

8. Do you award grants to small organizations?

The ATLIS Project is not a grant. It is a specialized training and technical assistance opportunity with a stipend. We encourage small organizations that meet the eligibility criteria to apply. This project aims to support organizations that have not typically received federal funding before to ensure that we recognize and amplify the work of all organizations in the field.

9. Does our program qualify if it is a virtual group?

We will consider virtual groups if they fall into one of the eligible categories and project requirements:

- a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, survivor-led anti-trafficking organization;
- a survivor-led anti-trafficking collaboration; or
- a survivor-led community group.

10. Do you prioritize populations that have been historically marginalized?

The [application](#) contains information on the selection process criteria.

11. Will you administer the application process through grants.gov?

This is not a grant opportunity; therefore, you will not find the application for the ATLIS Project on grants.gov. Please refer to NHTTAC's [ATLIS Project web page](#), where you will find the link to complete the [application](#).

12. For the ATLIS Project, what is the definition of a survivor-led “community group?”

A survivor-led community group is an active, established group of three or more individuals who discuss and make decisions about anti-trafficking in the community's interest. The group must have at least one individual with lived experience in trafficking in a leadership position or comprise a majority of individuals with lived experience in trafficking. At least one individual with lived

experience must directly oversee the proposed project. For definitions of eligible entities, visit the [ATLIS Project web page](#).

13. Can we use the stipend for overseas projects?

No. The stipend cannot be used for overseas projects or for project work done overseas.

14. Will you publicly distribute the project's final product? Does the final product belong to the applicant, not NHTTAC or OTIP?

All materials developed under this project belong to the participant unless otherwise negotiated. NHTTAC and OTIP will spotlight the innovative projects and impacts in the field more generally.

15. What activities can we use the funds for?

The following activities are eligible for ATLIS Project stipend and capacity-building support:

- amplifying or expanding anti-trafficking efforts;
- initiating or implementing public awareness and education campaigns related to human trafficking;
- developing new specialized training on trafficking for social services providers and allied professionals;
- building collaboration between community partners and allied organizations or engaging with diverse partners to create a unified, effective approach to anti-trafficking strategies, including:
 - fostering out-of-the-box thinking and
 - enhancing the mission's impact and innovation; or
- developing multidisciplinary teams for coordinated community responses to trafficking.

16. Can we apply if we are not currently part of an anti-trafficking organization, collaboration, or community group?

No. To qualify, applicants must be a part of one of the following entities:

- a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, survivor-led anti-trafficking organization;
- a survivor-led anti-trafficking collaboration; or
- a survivor-led community group.

17. Is an organization, collaboration, or community group's years in operation or existence considered for eligibility?

No. An organization, collaboration, or community group's years in operation or existence are not a factor in determining eligibility. We will prioritize emerging anti-trafficking entities that have been operating less than 3 years. We will also prioritize entities that demonstrate a fresh approach to anti-trafficking initiatives, including those that may have experience in other sectors but are new to the anti-trafficking field. We recognize the value of diverse expertise and the potential for innovative solutions from entities expanding their focus.

18. Are fiscally sponsored organizations eligible?

To qualify, the applicant must be one of the following:

- a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, survivor-led anti-trafficking organization;
- a survivor-led anti-trafficking collaboration; or
- a survivor-led community group.

19. Does this mean that those who have received federal grant funding or state funding may not be eligible?

Your prior funding experience does not affect your eligibility. However, projects are not eligible if the activities duplicate or replace existing efforts in your area that receive similar funding or resources. The ATLIS Project is focused on ensuring a diverse, complementary range of initiatives within each community.

20. What is the maximum word count for each question on the application, or how many pages should it be?

Applicants are encouraged to respond comprehensively to each question clearly and concisely. The [application](#) includes maximum word counts for each question.

21. Who can we contact if we have questions?

Please visit the [ATLIS Project web page](#) for more detailed information about the ATLIS Project or contact us at info@nhttac.org with additional questions.

22. What is the last day to apply?

[Applications](#) are due November 8, 2024, at 5 p.m. Eastern.

23. How many applicants do you usually have or expect?

The ATLIS Project is a newer initiative, so we cannot estimate the number of applications we will receive. For the first cohort, we received more than 80 applications.

24. For community group applicants, does each member have to be actively involved equally?

No. The level of involvement and commitment of each partner is at the applicant's discretion.

25. Are survivor-led organizations and collaborations outside the United States eligible to apply?

The ATLIS Project is limited to programs implementing projects focused within the United States. Travel is also restricted to the 50 U.S. states and requires pre-approval. You cannot use stipends to pay for travel to or from the U.S. territories or abroad.

26. What if we and the organization we partner with are in different states? Does that make a difference?

No. The geographical location within the United States of each partner is not restricted. The ATLIS Project is limited to programs focused within the United States. Travel is restricted to the 50 U.S.

states and requires pre-approval. You cannot use stipends to pay for travel to or from the U.S. territories or abroad.

27. Being “survivor-led” usually requires an executive director or senior leader to have lived experience in trafficking. Are entities composed of leaders with lived experience in trafficking who serve in other roles eligible?

At least one individual with lived experience in trafficking must directly oversee the proposed project and have decision-making authority. The survivor-led collaboration or community group must have at least one individual with lived experience in trafficking in a leadership position, regardless of their title, and comprise a majority of the individuals with lived experience in human trafficking.

In addition to this requirement, the entity must also demonstrate in its project proposal how its mission, goals, work, or project is survivor informed. Within survivor-led organizations, leadership positions can include the executive director or another senior leader.

28. Does the “community group” have to have an official status (e.g., coalition, task force), or can it be a group of partners who engage in anti-trafficking solutions?

Official status is not required. A survivor-led community group is an active, established group of three or more individuals who discuss and make decisions about anti-trafficking in the community’s interest. The group must have at least one individual with lived experience in trafficking in a leadership position or comprise a majority of individuals with lived experience in trafficking. At least one individual with lived experience must directly oversee the proposed project.

29. What can the peer learning community meetings help with?

The purpose of the peer learning community is to provide networking opportunities and an intentional space for projects to connect with one another. It is an open forum for dialogue, sharing about the work, discussing challenges, and offering lessons learned. Peer learning community meetings are an essential project component, and attendance and participation are required.

30. How many awards will you provide?

The ATLIS Project will provide an estimated 12 applicants up to \$25,000 each plus technical assistance and capacity-building support.

31. Can we apply as an organization *and* as a community group for two different projects?

Applications are limited to one submission per organization, collaboration, or community group.

32. What does support look like for organizations led by and serving transgender individuals? Does NHTTAC have adequate transgender consultants to support this ever-rising need?

NHTTAC has a diverse network of consultants and continually accepts consultant referrals and new applications. We will match projects based on the requested, needed support and the community served.

33. What could a consultant help with?

We will select consultants based on project scope. The technical assistance will range from capacity-building coaching to peer-reviewing materials or sharing ways to center the voices of those directly affected by your work.

34. Will the ATLIS Project focus on men and boys?

The ATLIS Project is focused on ensuring a diverse, complementary range of initiatives within each community. We will select projects that introduce a new activity for or approach to preventing human trafficking or protecting or serving individuals with lived experience in or at increased risk for trafficking. The unique approach proposed is at the entity's discretion.

35. How will you score applications?

Applications will be scored by a panel of experts in the anti-trafficking field, program management, and related areas. The panel will not receive specific program information about the applicant to ensure fair and impartial scoring. The panel will evaluate applications on a scale of 1–5 using set criteria. You can find more information about scoring criteria in the [ATLIS Project application](#).

36. Is this opportunity open to people with lived experience who are planning on opening a nonprofit organization?

To qualify for this opportunity, you must be a part of one of the following entities:

- a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, survivor-led anti-trafficking organization;
- a survivor-led anti-trafficking collaboration; or
- a survivor-led community group.

If you are eligible but do not yet have 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status, you may apply as a survivor-led anti-trafficking collaboration or community group.

37. We applied last year but were not accepted. Can we apply again?

Yes.

38. We want to use funds for a conference. Are we able to charge attendees to help cover expenses as long as we do not make a profit?

No. Only the following activities are eligible for ATLIS Project stipend and capacity-building support:

- amplifying or expanding anti-trafficking efforts;
- initiating or implementing public awareness and education campaigns related to human trafficking;
- developing new specialized training on trafficking for social services providers and allied professionals;
- building collaboration between community partners and allied organizations or engaging with diverse partners to create a unified, effective approach to anti-trafficking strategies, including:
 - fostering out-of-the-box thinking and
 - enhancing the mission's impact and innovation; or

- developing multidisciplinary teams for coordinated community responses to trafficking.

All costs and activities must fall under an eligible expense and be part of the project's implementation.

39. Can NHTTAC assist with providing access to data that we can use to build our application?

NHTTAC cannot assist with an entity's application.

40. What is considered an “innovative” project?

Projects are not eligible if the activities duplicate or replace existing efforts in your area that receive similar funding or resources. This project also aims to support organizations that have not typically received federal funding before to ensure we recognize and amplify the work of all organizations in the field. Applicants should review and ensure they meet all eligibility requirements.

41. Is the stipend monthly? Will it be drawn down or paid directly?

ATLIS Project participants will receive a stipend of \$25,000, which NHTTAC will disburse in seven monthly installments. Participants select how they would like to receive payment when they set up as a vendor (i.e., electronically or mailed checks).

42. Will we receive information on the scoring for each section if our application is not accepted?

Unfortunately, we are unable to provide feedback to applicants because of the number of applications received.

43. Who are the previous participants?

You can find information about previously selected ATLIS Project participants on our [website](#).

44. What is needed from collaboratives and community groups to become a vendor if selected?

Selected applicants who apply as a collaborative or a community group must provide the following:

- a completed W-9 for the individual or organization, available on the [IRS website](#);
- the bank account information for the individual or organization receiving payment, including a voided check or a letter from your bank; and
- fiscal sponsorship information (if applicable, not required).

If your project is selected, our team will work with you to set you up as a vendor to receive the monthly stipends.

45. What is needed from 501(c)(3) organizations to become a vendor if selected?

Selected applicants who apply as a 501(c)(3) organization must provide the following:

- a completed W-9 for the organization, which can be found on the [IRS website](#);

- your organization’s bank account information, including a voided check or a letter from your bank;
- fiscal sponsorship information (if applicable, not required);
- insurance (as required; this might include:
 1. worker’s compensation insurance, depending on the location and number of employees at your organization;
 2. business automobile liability insurance, if using a personal vehicle for business purposes;
 3. professional liability, errors, and omissions insurance; or
 4. additional insurance based on the nature and location of your organization);
- a unique entity ID (UEI), which can be applied for on sam.gov; and
- your 501(c)(3) employer identification number (EIN; if applicable).

If your project is selected, our team will work with you to set you up as a vendor to receive the monthly stipends.

Helpful Tips for Using Qualtrics

Qualtrics is the platform hosting the application for the ATLIS Project. Below are helpful tips to troubleshoot common issues when working in Qualtrics.

- Although you can work on your application directly in Qualtrics, we highly recommend downloading the PDF version of the application and writing out your responses outside of Qualtrics. When ready, copy and paste your answers into the Qualtrics form to submit your application.
- If working directly in Qualtrics, you can save your responses and return to them later. Your work will be saved once you close out of the application. You can then re-access saved work using the link in the email sent to you with the subject line “Link to your ATLIS application.”
- You may share your application link with others at your organization if you want to work collaboratively, but please ensure that only one person is in the application at a time. The system will not save responses that are open using the same link at the same time. To ensure that your work is saved, please close out of the application when you are not actively working on it.
- After submitting your application, you will receive an email confirmation of the submission to the email address provided in the “Application Submitter” form. If you do not receive this confirmation, please check your spam or quarantine inboxes before contacting NHTTAC.