

## Michigan State Bar Foundation Final Report

### 1. Describe actual results that were achieved through the use of the grant funds.

#### Include outcomes identified in your grant application.

- a. The program helped seven (7) survivors of trafficking obtain work authorization in the U.S.
- b. The program assisted 17 survivors of trafficking with applications for immigration relief. Of these 17 survivors, 10 were minors.
- c. The program assisted 6 multi-member families.
- d. The program assisted 14 survivors of trafficking with comprehensive case management services. The case manager assisted with navigating community resources and meeting basic needs such as food assistance, medical services, and housing/shelter.
- e. USCRI conducted extensive outreach in the Detroit area, and made large contributions as a member of the City of Detroit Human Trafficking Task Force. USCRI believes that these efforts did meaningfully contribute to the creation of a safety net for foreign national survivors of trafficking. USCRI received referrals from other service providers and law enforcement and played a key role in the anti-trafficking response.

### 2. Were there any unanticipated challenges or outcomes? If so, describe below:

- a. This grant was originally designated as a private “match” fund for a larger grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime (project period October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2026). On April 22, 2025, USCRI received notice of termination of its OVC grant as it was deemed that the award “no longer effectuates the program goals or agency priorities.” While USCRI appealed this termination, we still have not received any determination on whether the grant can continue. This was a major challenge as it caused USCRI to have to stop taking new cases in April 2025, only halfway through the originally intended project period. Without these funds, USCRI ultimately had to wind down its legal services component in September 2025 as it lacked sufficient alternative funding to support its legal personnel costs.
- b. USCRI notes that it took longer than expected to build a referral pipeline for the STARS Detroit program. This is attributed to Detroit not having a similar program already in place, which meant there was a gap in awareness of the needs of foreign national survivors of trafficking in the Detroit area. Therefore, a large amount of effort at the beginning of the program was dedicated to outreach and partnership building, such as participation in the City of Detroit

Human Trafficking Task Force. USCRI was beginning to see an increase in referrals in Federal Fiscal Year 2025, when the grant from the U.S. Department of Justice was terminated mid-way through the year.

- c. The change in administration in 2025 caused many foreign national survivors to report increased fears of immigration enforcement and reluctance to access resources. This further complicated efforts of USCRI to conduct outreach to those in need of immigration legal services.

**3. Provide “actual” numbers of how many people will be served by completing the chart below.**

Type of legal problem	Cases closed after limited service	Cases closed after extended service	Total cases closed
Consumer/finance			
Education			
Employment			
Family			
Juvenile			
Health			
Housing			
Income Maintenance			
Individual Rights			
Other*	0	17	17

**4. If applicable, explain if all the grant conditions set forth in the grant award letter were accomplished. If not, explain why.**

- a. USCRI spent funds consistent with the grant proposal and was approved for a budget modification by the Michigan State Bar Foundation. USCRI was also approved for an extension of six months due to the slow pace of referrals at the beginning of the project, as described above.
- b. USCRI ultimately fell short of its projection of serving 40 clients for legal services (serving 17) and 30 survivors for case management services (serving 14). This was primarily due to the termination of USCRI’s grant from the U.S. Department of Justice for the program, which meant that USCRI had to cease accepting new participants for services halfway through the project period.

**5. If applicable, describe the plans for continuing or expanding this project following exhaustion of MSBF funds. If not, explain why.**

- a. At this time, USCRI has had to suspend legal services for foreign national survivors under this project due to the termination of its OVC grant that

provided the majority of funding to support legal personnel. Participants were connected to continued legal support as their immigration cases were pending final decisions.

- b. USCRI was able to utilize other funding to continue its comprehensive case management services in Detroit. USCRI continues to employ a case manager and is accepting cases of foreign national survivors of trafficking for case management.
- 6. Should this project be tried elsewhere? If so, what changes would you suggest and/or what partners should be involved? If not, explain why.**
  - a. USCRI would recommend that this project be tried elsewhere. While referrals for the Detroit area were initially low, USCRI through its other programs sees a very large need for legal assistance and case management services for foreign national survivors of trafficking across the country. USCRI would recommend that other agencies be sure to anticipate that when starting such a program, there may be a “lag time” in receiving referrals while the agency builds community trust through partnership building. USCRI found that its partnerships with the local human trafficking task force, other service providers, and law enforcement were ultimately fruitful in identifying survivors in need of services, but that spreading awareness of a new program takes time and a large amount of staff effort.
- 7. Was the Michigan State Bar Foundation acknowledged? If so, describe how? If not, explain why.**
  - a. USCRI plans to acknowledge the support of Michigan State Bar Foundation on its website and in its annual report. USCRI will work with the Michigan State Bar Foundation to ensure that appropriate language and imagery is used in this acknowledgement.
- 8. Describe how a sample individual or group benefited as a result of the project funded by the grant (do not mention names).**
  - a. USCRI represented a family unit that included three children in immigration court when they would not have had assistance or representation otherwise. If not for the program’s skilled attorney, the children’s cases would’ve stayed in removal proceedings. The program has helped the family stay together in the U.S. and has placed the family on the path to receiving immigration relief.
  - b. USCRI supported a teenager who had been labor trafficked by a family member, causing him to present a range of medical and mental health needs. Through the support of USCRI’s case manager, the client received regular home visits, medical check-ups, and translation/interpretation

services. As a result of this support, the minor reported improved stability and progress in his recovery journey.

- c. USCRI supported another pair of young brothers, who were victims of both sex and labor trafficking by multiple traffickers and family members. After escaping the situation, the brothers were threatened if they ever returned to their home country. The brothers were supported with trauma-informed case management to assist with access to medical treatment and ESL classes and received legal services from the USCRI STARS attorney. While their case is ongoing, this support has allowed them to work towards a safer and more stable future.
- d. USCRI also successfully collaborated with law enforcement to provide case management support to two young female survivors of labor and sex trafficking. The dedication and emotional of the USCRI case manager helped these survivors process their trauma while they assisted with the investigation, and hopefully future prosecution, of their traffickers.

**9. If applicable, describe to whom and when the materials or project results and information distributed (do not mention names).**

- a. N/A

**1. Complete the chart below to reflect the project’s actual expenditures detailed by major line items. Include only direct needs for this project under “MSBF funds.” Explain any variances from the budget submitted in the application.**

**(Enter numbers without punctuation: 1000 rather than \$1,000.00.)**

<b>Category</b>	<b>MSBF Funds</b>	<b>Other Funds</b>	<b>In-Kind Support</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>*Provide further details</b>
<b>*Personnel – Existing</b>	22878.24	287840.78	0	319719.02	MSBF grant was used to cover partial salaries of the Staff Attorney, Legal Assistant, Case Manager, and database developer.  After USCRI’s DOJ OVC grant was terminated in April 2025,

					USCRI sought to use a higher amount of foundation grant funding to cover salaries to extend employment of staff (and correlated services offered) for as long as possible
<b>*Personnel – New</b>	0	0	0	0	
<b>Employee Benefits</b>	445.35	96211.13	0	96656.48	
<b>Consultant fees</b>	0	586.08	0	586.08	
<b>*Travel</b>	0	32.23	0	32.23	N/A
<b>*Space</b>	8160.82	22041.59	0	30202.41	USCRI underspent its expected budget for rental space, as USCRI consolidated its offices when its DOJ OVC grant was terminated in April 2025.
<b>*Equipment</b>	0	1978	0	1978	Small equipment (e.g. laptops) purchased with other funds.
<b>*Supplies</b>	631.65	9663.77	0	10295.42	Supplies such as notepads, pens, pencils, headphones, computer equipment, computer

					software, and other necessary materials.
<b>Telephone</b>	234.90	2264.71	0	2499.61	Internet expenses for staff work.
<b>Postage</b>	726.99	245.61	0	972.60	
<b>Printing/copies</b>	0	65.50	0	65.50	
<b>Audit</b>	0	0	0	0	
<b>*Other</b>	1922.05	70979.66	0	72901.71	MSBF funds were used for Interpreters and Translators for clients.

**2. List all other revenues that were used to complete this project:**

<b>Source</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Government grants (list)</b>	800,000	Original Grant from DOJ OVC (full amount was not spent as grant was terminated in April 2025)
<b>Foundations (list)</b>	75,000	Grant from the Community Foundation of SE Michigan
<b>Corporations (list)</b>	0	
<b>Religious institutions (list)</b>	0	
<b>United Way (list)</b>	0	
<b>Income from project</b>	0	
<b>Other (list)</b>	0	

**Grant Payment(s) and Request for Final Payment**

<b>Total MSBF Funds used</b>	35,000
<b>Less amount previously disbursed (If any)</b>	17,500
<b>Balance to be paid</b>	17,500

**From:** Patricia Sheppard <psheppard@refugees.org>

**Sent:** Friday, April 11, 2025 9:40 AM

**To:** Celee Marchek <CELEE@msbf.org>

**Cc:** Bart Bachman <BBachman@refugees.org>; Julie Beyer <jbeyer@refugees.org>; Jasmine Ljungberg <jljungberg@refugees.org>

**Subject:** Budget modification for U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants grant

Dear Ms. Marchek:

This email serves as an update on USCRI's Surviving Trauma and Reaching Success (STARS) program offering case management and legal services for foreign-national survivors of human trafficking in the Detroit Metropolitan and surrounding areas. The Michigan State Bar Foundation has generously granted us \$35,000 for this program. The need is great for STARS services. Thus far, the program has served 15 victims and 17 of their family members. A substantial number of referrals have been for unaccompanied immigrant children who were trafficked in their home countries and fled to the U.S. USCRI has also been conducting extensive outreach in the Detroit area to raise awareness of our services, leading to a growing number of referrals identified by federal law enforcement agencies (Homeland Security Investigations and the FBI).

USCRI would like to request a budget modification for our grant from MSBF, as indicated below. The adjustments reflect expenditure activity more representative of activities and costs.

<b>Category</b>	<b>Current budget</b>	<b>Budget Modification</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
Personnel – Existing	9,000	9,732	Adjusted with regards to other funding
Personnel – New	0	0	N/A
Employee benefits	2,197	2,269	See above.
Consultant fees	0	0	N/A

Travel	10,000	0	Travel expenses were less than anticipated.
Space	0	17,000	Office leasing expenses
Equipment	0	0	N/A
Supplies	7,667	749	Supply expenses were less than anticipated.
Telephone / utilities	3,000	3,000	No change
Postage	3,136	600	Postage expenses were less than anticipated.
Printing/copies	0	0	N/A
Audit	0	0	N/A
Other – Interpretation	0	1,650	Interpretation is needed for multiple languages (STARS staff are bilingual, but there has been a wider range of languages encountered than expected).
TOTAL	35,000	35,000	

We thank you for your consideration. As with all nonprofit organizations nationwide – and in particular, those that serve refugees and immigrants, USCRI has experienced funding stoppages and delays which have caused interruptions in services. Fortunately, our grant with the Office for Victims of Crime – which covers the bulk of the STARS program – continues, and we continue to seek required matching funds.

We would appreciate a discussion with you to update you on our progress and discuss our challenges for the current and upcoming fiscal year. Might we arrange a virtual or telephone call, and if so, when are times for you?

Once again, thank you for your support, and we look forward to speaking with you.

Sincerely,



**Pat Sheppard** (she/her)

Development Officer

U.S. Committee for Refugees and  
Immigrants



**+1 404-731-7410**

[psheppard@refugees.org](mailto:psheppard@refugees.org)

[refugees.org](http://refugees.org)

Atlanta, GA (Field Office)

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Mary Gladstone-Highland





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To: Patricia Sheppard <psheppard@refugees.org>

Fri 2025-04-25 4:02 PM

Hi Pat,

I hope you are well. I wanted to let you know that we have approved your budget adjustment as you outlined previously. If you would still like to make changes in light of your recent funding shifts, please email me, but as far as what you have already submitted, we are happy to accept that adjustment.

Thank you for what you do and have a great weekend.

---

**Mary Gladstone-Highland**

**Director of Grants**

Michigan State Bar Foundation

306 Townsend Street

Lansing, MI 48933

517-346-6408

[Mary@msbf.org](mailto:Mary@msbf.org)

[Book a meeting with me](#)

Patricia Sheppard<psheppard@refugees.org>

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To:

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Mary Gladstone-Highland

Cc:Julie Beyer <jbeyer@refugees.org>;+1 other

Mon 2025-04-28 4:00 PM

Dear Mary:

Thank you again for meeting with myself, USCRI's Senior Director of Humanitarian Legal Services Julie Beyer and Associate Director of Anti-Trafficking Programs Bart Bachman last week. We appreciate the opportunity to update you on the progress of the Surviving Trauma and Reaching Success (STARS) program, particularly in light of the termination of our federal grant by the Office for Victims of Crime (of the Dept. of Justice).

We appreciate the approval given for the budget modification. USCRI is still awaiting clarity from OVC regarding budgeting procedures, and if any additional changes are needed, we will contact you as soon as possible.

We will keep you posted on the achievements of our activities and our continued raising of funds for this important program. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

**Pat Sheppard** (she/her)

Development Officer

U.S. Committee for Refugees and  
Immigrants

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[psheppard@refugees.org](mailto:psheppard@refugees.org)

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Atlanta, GA (Field Office)



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**RE: Budget Adjustment**

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**From** Patricia Sheppard <psheppard@refugees.org>

**Date** Mon 2025-04-28 4:00 PM

**To** Mary Gladstone-Highland <mary@msbf.org>

**Cc** Julie Beyer <jbeyer@refugees.org>; Bart Bachman <BBachman@refugees.org>

Dear Mary:

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Sincerely,



**Pat Sheppard** (she/her)

Development Officer

U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants

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+1 404-731-7410

[psheppard@refugees.org](mailto:psheppard@refugees.org)

[refugees.org](https://www.refugees.org)

Atlanta, GA (Field Office)



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El Salvador • Honduras • Kenya • Mexico

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**From:** Mary Gladstone-Highland <mary@msbf.org>

**Sent:** Friday, April 25, 2025 4:02 PM

**To:** Patricia Sheppard [psheppard@refugees.org](mailto:psheppard@refugees.org)

**Subject:** Budget Adjustment

Hi Pat,

I hope you are well. I wanted to let you know that we have approved your budget adjustment as you outlined previously. If you would still like to make changes in light of your recent funding shifts, please email me, but as far as what you have already submitted, we are happy to accept that adjustment.

Thank you for what you do and have a great weekend.



**Mary Gladstone-Highland**

**Director of Grants**

Michigan State Bar Foundation

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517-346-6408

[Mary@msbf.org](mailto:Mary@msbf.org)

[Book a meeting with me](#)