

Supporting human trafficking survivors in Peel region

Protecting victims and survivors

Peel Region is grateful for the Province of Ontario's continued leadership and investment in combatting human trafficking through the **Ontario Anti-Human Trafficking Strategy**. Building on this commitment, Peel Region received funding approvals from the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services totaling \$823,500 to support the **nCourage Hub** and a dedicated Human Trafficking Youth-in-Transition Worker.

This provincial investment has enabled Peel Region and its partners to strengthen coordinated, trauma and violence informed supports for children and youth affected by human trafficking. It also reinforces Ontario's commitment to protecting vulnerable individuals and improving outcomes for survivors.

Addressing Critical Service Gaps

Peel Region has successfully aligned its Anti-Human Sex Trafficking (AHST) program with the Ontario Anti-Human Trafficking Strategy 2025–2030, which prioritizes children and youth. Through its integrated nCourage Hub, Peel has rapidly shifted services to ensure youth aged 12–17 represent the majority of clients served, meeting provincial expectations.

However, this change has created significant service gaps for adult survivors aged 25 and older, many of whom experience complex trauma, housing instability, mental health and addiction challenges, and repeated interactions with the health, social service, and justice systems.

Adult survivors often require longer-term, intensive supports due to prolonged exploitation and trauma. The lack of dedicated trafficking-specific housing creates a significant barrier to exiting exploitation. Without safe housing options, many survivors return to traffickers to meet basic shelter needs.



Provincial support

Provide funding for a pilot that:

- Expands equitable access to emergency, transitional and long-term housing
- Provides wraparound supports for survivors of sex trafficking

Implementing a pilot for trafficking victims

\$1.2 million in annual provincial funding will support Peel Region's proposed three-year pilot project and address critical gaps in housing, case management, and specialized supports for victims and survivors of human sex trafficking. The funding will help ensure a comprehensive and equitable continuum of care for both youth and adult survivors.

Investment	Annual Funding Request
Dedicated case worker (1 FTE) for survivors aged 25+	\$100,000
Dedicated housing and operational supports for adult survivors (25+)	\$850,000
Emergency housing beds for youth aged 12–17 at risk of or experiencing trafficking	\$250,000
Total Annual Request	\$1.2 million

Key takeaway

Peel Region is proposing a three-year provincially supported pilot, co-designed with the Ministry of the Attorney General and partner ministries.

The pilot would create an integrated, housing-focused service pathway that:

- Stabilizes high-acuity adult survivors (25+) through dedicated housing, trauma-informed supports, and case management;
- Expands emergency and transitional housing capacity for youth aged 12–17;
- Prevents re-exploitation by providing safe housing and wraparound supports;
- Improves coordination across justice, health, child welfare, housing, and community sectors;
- Reduces reliance on emergency shelters, hospitals, correctional facilities, and other high-cost public systems.

