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Rep. Matsui Announces up to \$862k in Federal Grants to Combat Human Trafficking in Sacramento Region

Three Year Grant Provides \$287k in First Year to Sacramento Rescue & Restore Coalition

SACRAMENTO, CA – Today, Congresswoman Doris Matsui (D-Sacramento) announced that a three year federal grant that could total up to \$862,236 has been awarded to the Sacramento Employment and Training Agency (SETA) and the Sacramento Rescue & Restore Coalition by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Service’s Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR). This grant comes as part of the federal government’s Rescue and Restore Victims of Human Trafficking Regional Program. SETA will receive \$287,412 for the first year of the three year grant period. Additional funds will be contingent upon the program hitting specified targets.

SETA will use the funds to partner with community organizations, law enforcement, and government agencies in order to increase the identification and protection of human trafficking victims and to raise public awareness about human trafficking in the Sacramento region. In January, Congresswoman Matsui sent a [letter](#) to the ORR in support of SETA’s application for this grant.

“While it might be easy to think of human trafficking as a problem that exists somewhere overseas, in faraway or foreign place, the unfortunate truth is that human trafficking also occurs right here in our hometown,” said Congresswoman Matsui. “This federal grant will help Sacramento non-profit organizations and local government agencies partner in the fight against human trafficking in our community, and allow local agencies to better identify and protect victims.”

SETA operates the Sacramento Rescue & Restore Coalition in collaboration with local

organizations Opening Doors, Inc., My Sister's House, and Women Escaping a Violent Environment (WEAVE). Opening Doors conducts community awareness activities and provides services to victims of human trafficking. My Sister's House also conducts outreach and assists in providing culturally appropriate services to Asian and Pacific Islander victims. WEAVE provides 24 hour emergency response to victims and assists law enforcement agencies. As the grantee, SETA will serve as the regional focal point and be responsible for continuing to lead the Coalition, conducting public awareness activities, and providing training and technical assistance on human trafficking issues to local organizations.

“Since 2009, the Sacramento Rescue & Restore Regional Program has gained knowledge of potential human trafficking in the Sacramento region, built key relationships, established service systems for victims, and raised awareness of human trafficking” said Kathy Kossick, Executive Director for SETA. “This renewed funding will allow the Rescue and Restore Coalition, SETA and its partners, Opening Doors, My Sister's House and WEAVE, to intensify outreach and training efforts to result in greater victim identification and connection to services.”

SETA has received similar federal support in recent years.

To learn more about the work of the Coalition, click [here](#) . For more information on Rep. Matsui's work in Congress, visit

matsui.house.gov

[www.](#)

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