

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **UMOS EXPANDS SERVICES STATEWIDE TO VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

UMOS was recently awarded a \$753, 212 grant to provide direct services to victims of human trafficking statewide, with a particular focus on Eastern Wisconsin.

The competitive federal grant was awarded by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Assistance, Office for Victims of Crime. The focus of the grant is to enhance the quality and quantity of services available throughout the state to victims of sex and labor trafficking. Funding will also be used by UMOS to increase the capacity of communities around the state to respond to human trafficking through the development of interagency partnerships, professional training and public awareness activities. This three-year grant was awarded to experienced service providers to offer comprehensive services.

The UMOS Latina Resource Center is the only bi-lingual, bi-cultural comprehensive services center in the state that provides human trafficking, domestic violence and sexual assault victim services under one roof. “We are once again appreciative of the opportunity to increase our efforts to help victims get through the difficult issue of sex and/or labor trafficking,” says Lupe Martinez, President and Chief Executive Officer of UMOS. “We will also increase opportunities to alert and train individuals and communities to recognize and combat this issue, while providing services to those in need.” Over the past 2 years UMOS has trained 1855 law-enforcement officers, service providers, medical providers and partner agencies.

For more information on services provided through this grant or on anti-human trafficking partnership opportunities contact Mariana Rodriguez at 414-389-6508 or [mariana.rodriguez@umos.org](mailto:mariana.rodriguez@umos.org). In the Oshkosh area call 920-966-1410.

*UMOS is a non-profit, advocacy organization that provides programs and services which improve the employment, educational, health and housing opportunities of under-served populations.*