



PROJECT GRANT APPLICATION

Submission Checklist

To submit, visit smithfamily.foundation and select GRANTS. Use the file submission form to upload the following:

1. All Organization information under STEP 1.
2. This completed form in PDF format.
3. Most recent annual report, if available
4. 501c3 Determination Letter
5. Financials for current and prior 2 fiscal years, including internal budget, audited financials (if applicable) and 990's.
6. Any other relevant documentation.

Organization Name

Elijah Rising

Grant Amount Requested

\$25,000

Annual Budget

\$2,553,642.

How does your organization align with Christian values?

We are a Christ-centered organization founded out of a prayer group. Our mission is to end human trafficking through prayer, awareness, intervention and restoration. We start each day with an hour in prayer, reflecting our belief that the battle is primarily spiritual. And while ending human trafficking may be beyond our immediate efforts, we know that in God's timing every tear will be washed away.

Until that time, while Jesus is in heaven, we seek to be His hands and feet on earth. We believe there is no greater strength than being wholly dependent upon the Holy Spirit to lead, protect and give us strength. Perhaps the best answer to how we align with Christian values is that "our love never quits."

How does your organization fit with our mission?

Like the Smith Family, we find and provide love to the most vulnerable in our society. Many victims of trafficking are orphans, some in the literal sense but others because their parents abused, neglected or subjected them to sexual exploitation during childhood. As adults, they have been treated as objects to be sold and used for so long that they have forgotten what it is like to be treated as a human worthy of love.

Elijah Rising's Intervention Staff train and lead teams of volunteers on direct outreach to find and provide love to the victims of human trafficking. We go where women are being sold for sex, whether it is on the streets, in illicit massage parlors, or around motels, strip clubs, brothels, and cantinas. Once found, we help meet the victims' spiritual and physical needs to create a trusted bond and pathway out of being sexually exploited.

Project Proposal

Please tell us how grant funds would be used, if awarded. *Operating costs is an acceptable answer, but please provide more detail if you are able.*

We request support for our restorative care program and the addiction recovery component in particular.

Even after victims have escaped their trafficker, freedom is not automatically achieved. Though God has made humans in His own image, thus giving each of us incredible worth, the victims of sex trafficking cannot see their value because of the unimaginable abuse and degradation they have endured. The Elijah Rising Restorative Care Program is a multi-year journey of rehabilitation and finding freedom. Here, oppression and addiction are replaced with Biblical instruction, personal and group devotions, one-on-one counseling, as well as therapeutic and addiction recovery-informed support. The cloak of isolation created by the traffickers is removed through relational, life skill-building activities and application, as well as group therapies and social outlets. Where abusers have crushed survivors' intellects, academic and GED courses and vocational certification equip each survivor to rise to her full potential. Finally, the inward focus of a survival instinct is supplanted by opportunities to serve others, volunteer in the community, participate in internal internships, and obtain external employment.

We request funds to increase services for survivors who struggle with substance abuse and other addictions. Today, the primary form of "force, fraud, or coercion" used against victims of human trafficking is the provision of substances for abuse (getting them addicted) and then exploiting that addiction. (Polaris Project, 2019). Survivors often start using substances to numb both physical and emotional pain. Once addicted to a substance, Survivors must perform sex for money to obtain the substance from the trafficker.

The restorative care programs for Survivors has only been around for seven to eight years. During this time, most homes have relied on care designed for domestic abuse victims in same homes to provide services to the Survivors of human trafficking. We have done the same, but where we see differences and particular needs, we are pioneering new approaches. Addiction recovery for Survivors is one such area. While general addiction recovery programs are helpful, we are using our expertise to create new strategies for addiction recovery specifically for Survivors.

One factor that makes recovery for Survivors more challenging is that they have experienced "complex trauma," meaning they were exposed to varied and multiple traumatic events of an invasive, interpersonal nature. Their trauma must be addressed contemporaneously with addiction recovery for the best outcomes. We also found that the addictions experienced by Survivors are often more numerous and diverse than those frequently encountered by persons who have not experienced trafficking. Another issue encountered is that a stigma remains against the victims of human trafficking in the addiction recovery community that makes them feel unwelcome. This presents a challenge as Survivors feel they cannot discuss their past during recovery meetings.

In order to address these issues and improve our program, we are seeking funds to help support a second peer recovery coach, allowing our recovery and human trafficking expert time to prepare and test evidence-based solutions. Once we have created and tested our program, we will share it with other restorative care programs so as to improve care around the country.

We would like to include here our expected outcomes for Survivors in our program which are stabilization, growth, and independence. But these outcomes are dependent upon each survivor replacing oppression, isolation, and addiction with real connections. It's the human connection that each person needs in order to feel loved, supported, and understood. These outcomes are achieved through one-on-one counseling with our trauma-informed clinical psychologist and other therapeutic and addiction recovery-informed support. The objective for our addiction recovery support services is for each resident to become addiction-free and have addiction support for at least 24 months post entry into the program.

Anything else you want to tell us?

It is an honor to be invited to submit a grant application to the Smith Family Foundation. Learning about the Smiths and their family has been of great personal encouragement. Thank you for following Jesus and becoming his hands and feet for so many!

Christ has no body on earth but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours. Yours are the eyes through which Christ's compassion for the world is to look out; yours are the feet with which He is to go about doing good; and yours are the hands with which He is to bless us now." ~Saint Teresa of Avila