



Growing Quality Capacity to Serve CSEY Survivors and Youth At-Risk

Request for Applications Training and Technical Assistance Opportunity

November 14, 2022

The Texas Center for Child and Family Studies (The Center), in partnership with the Office of the Governor's Child Sex Trafficking Team (CSTT), seeks to support community-based child welfare residential childcare provider organizations that are serving either youth survivors of commercial sexual exploitation (CSE) or children/youth at-risk of CSE. RFA Q&A Forums will be held on November 18th and December 6th. Please see page 5 for more details on how to register.

The Center's support is provided through training, technical assistance, and coaching to improve or sustain best practices in supporting this population, develop or sustain program-level improvements, and/or help plan for growth, expansion, and sustainability. Organizations applying for this opportunity are **not** required provide specialized services to survivors of CSE (see [Application Requirements](#) below).

Who We Are

The Center focuses on supporting the continuum of child welfare and family community service providers in Texas. The Center is a 501(c)(3) and a supporting organization of the Texas Alliance of Child and Family Services (TACFS). The Center strives to support and initiate the development of high-quality services to ensure appropriate care for all Texas children, youth, and families. Our mission is to provide education, research, and training to strengthen the capacity of organizations and systems of care to deliver high quality services to children, youth, and families in Texas. Please visit www.tacfs.org/thecenter for more information.

TACFS is a network of mission-driven organizations that have embraced the call to help vulnerable children, youth, and families. These organizations are working together to improve care, services, and outcomes in their communities and statewide. TACFS works to achieve these goals through education and training, collaboration, and advocacy. The strength of TACFS is attributable to its diverse, high quality, and collaborative membership. Please visit www.tacfs.org for more information.

This opportunity is available through a generous grant from the Office of the Governor's Child Sex Trafficking Division.



Background: Growing Quality Capacity to serve CSE Youth and Youth At-Risk

Employing a dedicated and talented workforce, residential provider organizations serve and support the most vulnerable Texans, including youth who have been commercially sexually exploited and/or who are at-risk of being targeted by a trafficker.

The Texas Center for Child & Family Studies supports the work of the Office of the Governor's (OOG) Child Sex Trafficking Team to help build sustainable capacity for youth victims of commercial sexual exploitation and support their healing through immediate and long-term services. Our overall vision for this project is to grow capacity and improve the quality of care at emergency and long-term residential placements serving commercially sexually exploited youth (CSEY), or youth at-risk of CSEY through trauma-responsive targeted training and technical assistance.

The Center's Statewide Assessment (*Scanning, Assessing, and Resourcing: Support to Community Organizations Serving Victims of Child Sex Trafficking, May 2020*) revealed that residential childcare providers serving youth survivors of CSE and/or youth at-risk desired support in further developing, expanding, and enhancing their capacity and capability to serve this population. 35% of responding agencies who do not currently have specialized CSE programming reported that they had identified CSE victims in the clients they were already serving. The most common identified needs by organizations currently serving or interested in serving CSE youth included:

- Access to general and practice-specific Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Youth (CSEY) training
- Access to clinical training in modalities recommended for survivors of CSE
- Recruiting and retaining a qualified workforce
- Navigating regulatory issues
- Working with a challenging population (risk mitigation)
- Funding

Many residential provider organizations have limited resources available to meet these needs. If these needs are not addressed, circumstances may arise in which service capacity and quality is insufficient to meet the demand, or in which services rendered do not have the desired impact. This is where The Center can help.

Request for Applications

The Center seeks applications from community-based residential childcare provider organizations that want to engage in training and technical assistance to grow capacity or build new capacity to serve youth survivors of CSE and/or youth at-risk through a focus on best practice and program-level improvements, including growth and sustainability planning. The Center



encourages applications from all eligible organizations, especially those led by or serving historically under-represented populations. The Center is committed to nondiscrimination in all of our activities, including the selection of awardees and provision of services described in this request for applications.

Project Objectives and Scope

The Center will provide awardees with targeted training, technical assistance, and/or coaching toward the objectives stated above. Priorities will be determined collaboratively after the selection process. The Center's CSEY training and technical assistance services are trauma-responsive, evidence-based, and tailored to provide actionable recommendations.

While project timelines may differ from organization to organization, we anticipate engagements to begin in January of 2023 and end in September of 2023. Awardees can anticipate receiving an offered minimum of 40 combined training and technical assistance hours.

The following are supports and services available to awardees through this opportunity. Final scope of supports and services provided to awardees will be determined collaboratively based on the priorities stated in the application, as well as The Center's assessment of organizational needs.

Training:

The Center partners with local, state, and national CSEY subject matter experts to deliver the highest-quality trainings available directly to Texas providers. Through this opportunity, the following trainings will be available to awardees at no-cost, and you will be able to select your training priorities in the application:

- CSE-IT® User Training
 - The Commercial Sexual Exploitation Identification Tool is a well-researched screening instrument that helps providers utilize all the information that they have about a child to determine the Level of Concern appropriate for each child's risk factors and vulnerabilities to commercial sexual exploitation. This training covers basic information about commercial sexual exploitation, the principles of trauma-informed care, how to use the CSE-IT tool, and how to interpret the results.
- Outcomes for Human Trafficking Survivors Instrument, RTI International
 - The OHTS Instrument is designed to help organizations track youth recovery and development across 14 different life domains. With high reliability and validity characteristics, this tool tracks both individual and aggregate outcomes over time for survivors of CSE. This training outlines how to use the tool, how to utilize the data obtained from the tool, and how to integrate in other forms of information you may already be tracking in order to analyze outcome trends.
- Stages of Change in Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth


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- Designed with clinicians, case managers, and program leadership in mind, Stages of Change in CSEY dives deep into how individuals change, the factors that can act as barriers to change specific to this population, recognizing which stage a client is in, and how to respond appropriately at every stage to support continued growth, healing, and recovery.
- Human Trafficking 101
 - Like other forms of abuse, human trafficking tends to be hidden in plain sight, which makes it challenging to identify and understand. This introduction into the topic of human trafficking explores what makes youth vulnerable to victimization, methods of recruitment, types of human trafficking, the basic dynamics that occur in trafficking situations, and what youth who are in our care need in response.
- Reducing Elopement via Strengths-Based Approaches
 - An eye-opening conversation on the scale and prevalence of youth running away from care, the link between elopement and commercial sexual exploitation, the push and pull factors that cause youth to run, and how to utilize strengths-based approaches to reduce these behaviors.
- Motivational Interviewing
 - Together we explore the clinical techniques of Motivational Interviewing, including ways to utilize this approach in working with CSEY. This training features hands-on practice using case scenarios, and it is designed to incorporate trauma-responsive features into MI.
- Power Dynamics in Trafficking and Recovery
 - In trafficking situations, youth frequently experience skewed power dynamics, leaving them unable to believe in their own efficacy. This training explores the types of power used against youth in trafficking, how this affects youth's ability to advocate for themselves in recovery, and how we can intentionally work to avoid recreating those same power dynamics in placement.
- Great Service Planning for CSEY
 - A deep dive into service planning, including specific considerations for creating service plans for trafficking survivors. Great Service Planning for CSEY covers minimum standards for service plans, who should attend service planning sessions, incorporating MDTs into service planning, and collaboratively designing service plans with youth involvement.
- Pre-Adolescent/Adolescent Development and Commercial Sexual Exploitation
 - Designed to look at development from a variety of perspectives, this first explores what typical and healthy development looks like for most youth. However, experiences of trauma, like commercial sexual exploitation, can derail healthy development in a wide variety of ways. Participants will learn how to respond appropriately to developmental challenges experienced by youth at high risk of CSE or who have been victimized via CSE.
- Trust Based Relational Intervention (TBRI)[®] Overview
 - Trust-Based Relational Intervention is an approach crafted to support healthy development in young people who have had trauma in their lives. Based in attachment-theory, TBRI[®] teaches strategies for connecting, empowering, and

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correcting youth in a trauma-informed manner.

- My Life My Choice Advanced Residential Institute
 - This is the first and only intensive online course designed specifically for congregate care settings seeking to create a safer and more engaging environment for girls who have been, or are at risk of, commercial sexual exploitation. This highly interactive course is comprised of six 75-minute live sessions with an expert trainer, and up to 60 minutes of asynchronous content/assignments between live sessions. Participants share current practices and experiences among providers from across the country. They will hear from young people impacted by CSEC, as well as experts in the fields of congregate care, CSEC, and law enforcement. It is a holistic training experience fostering lasting programmatic change.

Additionally, awardees will receive first-priority to register for these trainings at no-cost:

- GEMS CSEC 201: Victim, Survivor, Leader
 - A comprehensive look inside the award-winning GEMS VSL program model, with its two foundational principles: Survivor Leadership and Transformational Relationships, and the six key core values. The VSL trainings take participants through the key factors and approaches that make up successful GEMS programming and teach them how to utilize this model in their own organizations and work.
- My Life My Choice: Understanding & Responding to Victims of CSEY 101
 - This introductory training gives service providers, law enforcement, and youth-serving professionals the tools needed to better understand, identify, respond, and ultimately better serve victims of the commercial sexual exploitation of children.
- Practice Self-Regulation®
 - This three-day, in-person clinical training teaches practitioners to utilize PS-R with the youth that they serve. PS-R teaches participants to put past trauma in a new light, manage emotions in healthy ways, and take steps toward achieving life goals. This program helps participants to recognize and restructure thoughts, regulate emotions and physiological reactions, and change behavior to achieve desired outcomes. PS-R addresses motivation to decrease problem behavior, manage impulsivity, negotiate, and practice health promoting and harm-free relationships.
- West Coast Children's Clinic CSEC Supervisor Training
 - This training provides a foundation of CSEC information for clinical supervisors. Trainings also highlight the special supervision issues that arise in working with exploited youth and explore strategies to set the clinician, supervisor, and agency up for safety, quality care, and CSEC informed care.

Technical Assistance/Coaching:

Awardees will also have access to Center staff as well as national experts who can provide CSEY-specific technical assistance and /or coaching at no-cost on the following topics:

- Screening



- Developing programming/program-level improvements
- CSEY best practice recommendations for clinicians and staff
- Individual and program outcome evaluation
 - Including *Outcomes for Human Trafficking Survivors Instrument* implementation technical assistance from RTI International instrument developers/experts
- Stakeholder engagement to facilitate funding to expand and/or sustain CSEY capacity
- Navigating CSEY regulatory issues
- Vocational and life skills services development
- Risk management
- Survivor-leadership

Peer-to-Peer Learning:

Awardees will have the opportunity to participate in a TBRI® Learning Collaborative, composed of organizations serving survivors of CSE and youth-at-risk in Texas. Through engaging with The Center's staff and other providers with experience in utilizing this model of trauma-informed care, organizations will be better equipped to engage in empowering attachment-focused approaches with survivors of CSE. This collaborative will include training components, implementation assistance, networking, and peer-to-peer learning.

Application Requirements

Organizations must meet the following minimum eligibility requirements to apply. Applications from organizations not meeting these requirements will not be eligible for this particular opportunity.

Child-Serving Organizations:

1. Organizations must be providing emergency, short, or long-term residential intervention services (General Residential Operation or Child-Placing Agency) to youth who are CSE survivors, or to youth who are at risk of CSE. Youth in the child welfare system who have experienced any form of abuse or neglect are considered to be youth-at-risk. Current services offered do not need to be specialized CSEY services. Preference will be given to organizations that contract with the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS), Single Source Continuum Contractors, or are a recipient of grant support from the Office of the Governor.
2. Agencies must have a current Texas residential childcare license that is in good standing (i.e.: not on probation or in process of revocation). Heightened Monitoring is an acceptable status for application.

Awardees will be selected based on how well the applicant completes the application. Preference will be given to organizations who can demonstrate how the project contributes to the expansion of high-quality services and supports for survivors of CSE and/or youth at risk.



Timeline

- Request for Applications Release Date: November 14th, 2022
- Q&A Forums for Interested Applicants // Application Assistance//Scoring Rubrics
 - November 18th, 2022, 1-3pm Central Time (12-2pm Mountain Time.)
 - Register [here](#).
 - December 6th, 2022 1-3pm Central Time (12-2pm Mountain Time)
 - Register [here](#).
- **Applications Due: December 20th, 2022 by COB. Must be submitted online [here](#).**
- Review Conducted: December 21st, 2022 - January 15th, 2023.
- Decisions made by January 16th, 2023
- Organizations notified by January 20th, 2023
- MOU Signed by January 30th, 2023

Applications must include these required sections:

1. Please describe your organization: history, programs/services offered, the structure of your leadership team, annual budget, and any relevant background for the organization's leadership (500 words or fewer).
2. How does your organization demonstrate a commitment to equitable practices, including how you address issues associated with diversity, inclusion, and disproportionality (500 words or fewer)?
3. What are the biggest indicators that your organization needs access to this opportunity? (1200 words or fewer).
4. Identify which leaders and staff within your organization will be responsible for engaging in the proposed work (350 words or fewer).
5. How do you see this project promoting the success of your organization and contributing to the growth of quality capacity of CSEY services? (350 words or fewer).

Within these sections, applicants must clearly outline a vision of your organization's goals relating to this project, articulate how the Center's expertise can support the identified goals, as well as your leadership's commitment to engagement and accountability throughout the life of the project. Whether this includes your board members, directors, or donors, it is critical that all have a voice and have pledged commitment to the identified goals. The Center will create MOUs for services with awardees and jointly determine the project timeline.

When considering if your organization should apply, here are some critical questions to ask:



- Is our project clearly defined and have we outlined what it will require from our staff?
- Does our project link to larger goals or priorities we are aiming to achieve or compliance requirements of some kind?
- Is our leadership in agreement of this need and willing to sustain the outcomes after the project is completed?
- Will solving this problem advance a priority or goal that the organization is currently pursuing?
- What additional work needs to be done to fully define this problem and solve it?

Point of Contact

Please submit all questions and inquiries to info@tacfs.org.