



Request for Letters of Interest

2026 CSE Youth Quality Improvement Cohort

December 17, 2025

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 provider organizations, nonprofits, Care Coordinators, and teams engaging in cross-sector collaboration to serve either youth survivors of commercial sexual exploitation (CSE) or children/youth at risk of CSE through a CSE Youth Quality Improvement Cohort. Youth in the child welfare system who have experienced any form of abuse or neglect are considered to be youth-at-risk for CSE.

Direct service provider organizations serve and support the most vulnerable Texans, including children and youth who have been commercially sexually exploited or who are at risk of human trafficking. Providers of all types tell us they have limited resources available to meet the needs of this population. 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, via this **free** opportunity, made possible through grant funding.

Who We Are

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 equip agencies with the knowledge and skills needed to provide high-quality support and services to children, youth, and families in their communities. For more information, please visit <https://tacfs.org/about/the-center/>. <http://www.tacfs.org/thecenter>

TACFS is a network of mission-driven organizations that have embraced the call to serve vulnerable children, youth, and families. Our mission is to work collectively to support and strengthen children, youth, and families in communities across Texas. Please visit www.tacfs.org for more information.

The Center's work to support organizations responding to CSE is survivor-led, evidence-based, and grounded in emerging best practices in the field. The Center strives to form strong relationships with provider organizations to help develop and refine approaches to serving youth through a trauma-informed lens, balancing innovation with evidence-informed methods to improve outcomes at all levels.

Request for Letters of Interest: CSE Youth Quality Improvement Cohort

The Center seeks Letters of Interest from direct service provider organizations that want to be a part of our 2026 CSE Youth Quality Improvement Cohort. The Center encourages letters 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.

Organizations eligible for this opportunity can consist of, but are not limited to, the following types: community-based residential organizations, General Residential Operations, Child Placing Agencies, youth mentorship, CSEY Advocacy, Care Coordination, medical or counseling services, Multi-Disciplinary Teams, Coalitions, and others. State Agencies and Law Enforcement organizations are not eligible for this opportunity. If you have questions about your program or organization type and eligibility, please contact csey@tacfs.org for assistance.



The current services your organization offers do **not** need to be specialized CSE services.

Agencies providing residential care to minors 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.

While project timelines may differ from organization to organization, we anticipate engagements to begin in February 2026 and end in September 2026.

To be considered for the CSE Youth Quality Improvement Cohort, organizations must be willing to:

1. Receive priority access to register for a variety of high-quality **CSE Youth Trainings**, ranging from basic to advanced, at no cost, offered throughout 2026. This includes the CSE-IT User Training, if applicable to your organization. Trainings are developed and facilitated by national, state, and local experts, including Center staff, subject matter experts and those with lived experience.
2. Receive priority access to register for the one-day, in-person **2026 CSE Youth Services Symposium** (date and location TBD), where providers and subject matter experts gather to learn additional advanced skillsets and engage in cross-sector collaboration to increase organizational capacity for meeting youth needs.
3. Participate in an **Introductory Site-Visit** with Center staff to kick off the project in February/March 2026, at which time organization and Center staff will collaboratively determine CSE quality improvement goals, objectives, and timelines. (Organizations and Center staff may collaboratively opt to schedule more site visits throughout 2026 to meet goals and objectives).
4. Identify a **Focus Project** to sustain best practices in supporting this population, develop or sustain program-level improvements, or help plan for growth, expansion, and sustainability. Examples of focus areas may include development of customized training via the Center, screening, developing CSE youth programming or program-level improvements, CSE youth best practice recommendations for clinicians and staff, individual and program outcome evaluation, stakeholder engagement to facilitate funding to expand and/or sustain CSE youth capacity, navigating CSE youth regulatory issues, vocational and life skills services development, risk management, and effectively building survivor-leadership into your organization.
5. Receive individualized training and **on the ground coaching** on a variety of topics (including, but not limited to): specialized populations within CSEY, supporting survivors on staff, Motivational Interviewing, outcome evaluations, customized informational videos/toolkits, T3C readiness, navigating regulatory barriers, and authentically engaging experts with lived experience.
6. Participate in **Collaborative Peer-to-Peer Sharing, Learning, and Networking** within the cohort of organizations chosen for this opportunity. Share best practices, learn what is working well for your peers, and form robust connections with other providers in the field.
7. Participate in **Outcomes for Human Trafficking Survivors (OHTS)** Instrument training and technical support with instrument developers/experts. The OHTS Instrument is designed to help organizations track youth recovery and development across 14 different life domains. With high reliability and validity, this tool tracks both individual and aggregate outcomes over time for survivors of CSE. This training and technical assistance will outline 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 to analyze outcome trends.

8. Deliver feedback and reflection to The Center at the end of the engagement period via an anonymous focus group.

This opportunity is open to any organization meeting the criteria. The Center does not discriminate. Awardees will be decided based on qualifications, merit, and need.

Cost

This opportunity is made available at **no cost** to organizations.

Timeline

- Request for Letters of Interest announced: December 17th, 2025
- **Letters of Interest due: Monday, January 26th, by COB. Must be submitted via email to csey@tacfs.org**
- Internal reviews conducted from: January 27-February 10, 2026
- Organizations notified by: February 11, 2026
- Agreement signed by: February 16, 2026

Please submit a 2–4-page Letter of Interest that includes and addresses the following:

1. Name of your organization.
2. Name and title of person submitting the letter.
3. Description of your organization (history, mission, programs offered, structure of your leadership team, how you support a culture of belonging for all types of diversity, etc.)
4. Names and titles of core staff who will be involved in this project.
5. One word you would use to describe your organization.
6. How your organization will benefit from having access to this opportunity, including what needs this would meet.
7. How participation will contribute to the growth of quality services at your organization to youth-at-risk of CSE or survivors of CSE.
8. Confirmation that your organization can meet the participation requirements (see pg. 2).
9. Identify one to three CSE training topics of most interest to your organization.
10. Identify one to three initial ideas for a Focus Project (adjustments can be made if selected).

Point of Contact

Please submit all questions, inquiries, and Letters of Interest to csey@tacfs.org