



Office of the Governor, Public Safety Office  
Child Sex Trafficking Team  
Funding Announcement:  
***Residential and Community-Based Services for  
Victims of the Commercial Sexual Exploitation  
of Youth***

## **Purpose**

The purpose of this funding is to **recover** victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Youth (CSEY) through collaborative efforts spanning multiple systems and to support the **healing of** survivors of CSEY through immediate and long-term services and supports they need to heal and thrive. Specialized services for this CSEY population may include the following:

- 1) placement capacity for emergency residential placement;
- 2) placement capacity for long-term residential placement;
- 3) CSEY advocates;
- 4) drop-in center/non-residential assessment services; and
- 5) innovative services that advance recovery and restoration efforts in the State of Texas.

Projects seeking to prevent, investigate or prosecute child sexual exploitation should refer to the funding announcement designed for those projects.

## **Available Funding**

Federal funding is authorized for these projects under the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (VOCA) as amended and codified in 34 U.S.C. §20103. All awards are subject to the availability of appropriated federal funds and any modifications or additional requirements that may be imposed by law.

## **Eligible Organizations**

Applications may be submitted by state agencies, public and private non-profit institutions of higher education, independent school districts, Native American tribes, councils of governments, non-profit corporations (including hospitals and faith-based organizations) and units of local government, which are defined as a non-statewide governmental body with the authority to establish a budget and impose taxes (includes hospital districts). Other local governmental agencies should apply through an associated unit of local government.

Additionally, per 28 CFR §94.112 (b), organizations applying to receive VOCA fund must 1) have a demonstrated record of effective direct services and 2) substantial financial support from sources other than the Crime Victims Fund.

Organizations that have received a 24-month project starting in FY2020 may not apply for continuation or expansion funding.

Additional eligibility requirements for grant applicants for all service types include: A) A track record of successful operations of the same or similar services for which funding is being pursued and, B) No negative history with, or a successful history of, OOG grants performance management. See below for additional organizational requirements applicable to each service.

## Application Process

Applicants must access the Public Safety Office (PSO) eGrants grant management website at <https://eGrants.gov.texas.gov> to register and apply for funding. For more instructions and information, see *Developing a Good Project Narrative Guide*, available [here](#).

## Key Dates

Action	Date
Funding Announcement Release	12/13/2019
Online System Opening Date	12/13/2019
Final Date to Submit and Certify an Application	02/27/2020 at 5:00pm CST
Projected Grant Funding Availability Date	10/1/2020

## Project Period

Projects selected for funding must begin on or after 10/1/2020 and expire on or before 9/30/2021. Due to the availability of funding, PSO can no longer support 24 month project periods. Projects may not exceed a 12 month project period.

## Funding Levels

Minimum: \$25,000

Maximum: None

Match Requirement: 20% of total project costs (Total project cost is the aggregate of OOG grant funds, cash match, and in-kind match. See Guide to Grants, available at <http://gov.texas.gov/cjd/resources> for more information)

Note: Applicants are strongly cautioned to only apply for the amount of funding they can responsibly expend in the grant period. PSO will be tracking expenditure rates throughout the life of the grants and may take action to avoid large de-obligations at the end of grant periods.

## Standards

Grantees must comply with standards applicable to this fund source cited in the State Uniform Grant Management Standards ([UGMS](#)), [Federal Uniform Grant Guidance](#), and all statutes, requirements, and guidelines applicable to this funding.

## Eligible Activities and Costs

**Established Program Types.** Applications should address one of the following program types. If an applicant chooses to apply for more than one, they must submit a separate application for each program.

1. **EMERGENCY RESIDENTIAL/SPECIALIZED SHELTER:** Development, expansion or enhancement of a program that provides emergency placement 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year

to victims of CSEY. The program must provide physical safety, safety planning, individualized and immediate trauma-responsive case management (including connecting the child to needed medical and behavioral health care, legal and other resources to meet basic needs), community and relationship building opportunities in a non-judgmental environment, and re-engagement after runaway episodes or other disruptions in placement. Programs must identify strategies to promote victim's safety and may be staff secure. Strategies employed in clinical, behavioral, milieu, and all other service planning should follow trauma- and survivor-informed residential CSEY benchmarks and maintain fidelity to recognized promising practices or evidence-based programs.

2. **LONG-TERM RESIDENTIAL/RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT:** Development, expansion or enhancement of a program that provides long-term residential treatment for CSEY survivors, including specialized foster care. The program must provide access to intensive case management and wraparound facilitation and must include therapeutic respite and 24-hour clinical and behavioral crisis services for the youth and foster families/staff. Strategies employed in clinical, behavioral, milieu, and all other service planning should follow trauma- and survivor-informed residential CSEY benchmarks and maintain fidelity to recognized promising practices or evidence-based programs. CSEY Benchmarks identify discreet survivor needs and both survivor and program staff activities to address these needs, along with metrics to gauge progress. OOG will provide training on this to applicants that receive funding awards. Projects must identify protocols that support the re-engagement of the youth after their withdrawal from therapeutic relationships, a runaway episode or other disruption in service.
3. **ADVOCATE PROGRAMS.** Development of a program that recruits, screens, trains, engages, and supervises employed advocates, to provide individualized 24/7 crisis response and ongoing trust-based relational support to youth and young adult survivors. Advocates will engage upon immediate identification or recovery by law enforcement or DFPS investigators and continue in relationship with survivor through treatment and into restoration. Services must include: case management to help meet the child's residential placement, medical and behavioral health needs; hospital, law enforcement, and judicial/court accompaniment; emotional support; and, as appropriate, support to maintain the child's safe return to their home. Applicants must meet minimum standards for abuse risk management and service quality that have been developed specifically for CSEY advocate programs. OOG will provide training on these to applicants that receive funding awards. Applicants must demonstrate plans to keep caseloads low enough to provide meaningful interaction and services to each survivor over the long term. Applicants will work collaboratively in support of the victim-centered goals for survivor, law enforcement and other partners, including contributing to investigative and service planning multi-disciplinary team activities of local care coordination.
4. **COMMUNITY BASED DROP-IN CENTER.** Development, expansion or enhancement of a drop-in program for CSEY victims and youth who are victims of crimes that put them at high risk for CSEY victimization. Services must be targeted at serving youth, not adult victims. The project must provide physical safety, safety planning, individualized and immediate trauma-responsive assessment and case management (including connecting the child to needed medical and behavioral health care, legal and other resources to meet basic needs) and counseling, support groups, relationship building opportunities in a non-judgmental environment, and assistance with securing emergency and long-term residential services. Center access must reflect days and times

when survivors would be most vulnerable to trafficking recruitment or exploitation, and when law enforcement would refer recovered youth to the center for services. Applicant must identify if the center will accept survivor self-referrals and/or receive victims recovered by DFPS or law enforcement investigators.

5. **INNOVATIVE SERVICES FOR CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING VICTIMS.** Consideration will be given to a limited number of innovative victim services for CSEY victims that do not fit into one of the four program types above. Applicants are strongly encouraged to identify and collaborate with one of these four programs. Applicants must designate the organization(s) and program(s) that will benefit directly from this innovative service, the target population that will benefit, the victim outcomes that will be different as a result of this innovation, and any research that supports the effectiveness of the service for CSEY or other similar forms of victimization.

## Program-Specific Requirements

All projects under this funding announcement must meet these requirements:

### **Cultural competency:**

Applicants must be culturally competent when providing services to victims. Victim service providers must have the ability to blend cultural knowledge and sensitivity with victim restoration skills for a more effective and culturally appropriate recovery process. Cultural competency occurs when: (1) cultural knowledge, awareness and sensitivity are integrated into action and policy; (2) the service is relevant to the needs of the community and provided by trained staff, board members, and management; and (3) an advocate or organization recognizes each client is different with different needs, feelings, ideas and barriers.

### **Victim services assessment survey:**

All recipients of funding under this announcement may be required to participate in a victim services assessment during their grant period, as directed by PSO.

### **Special requirements for vehicle purchases:**

Only non-profits will be eligible to purchase vehicles under this funding announcement. The vehicles must be for the purpose of transporting victims to receive various services. Applicants must explain in their eGrants application how the vehicles will be utilized and how that strengthens their delivery of victim services.

## Eligibility Requirements

1. Projects must demonstrate a record of effective services to victims of crime and support from sources other than the Crime Victims Fund.
  - a. A program has demonstrated a record of effective direct services and support when, for example, it demonstrates the support and approval of its direct services by the community,

its history of providing direct services in a cost-effective manner, and the breadth or depth of its financial support from sources other than the Crime Victims Fund.

- b. A program has substantial financial support from sources other than the Crime Victims Fund when at least twenty-five percent of the program's funding in the year of, or the year preceding the award comes from such sources.
2. Entities receiving funds from PSO must be located in a county that has an average of 90% or above on both adult and juvenile dispositions entered into the computerized criminal history database maintained by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) as directed in the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, Chapter 66. This disposition completeness percentage is defined as the percentage of arrest charges a county reports to DPS for which a disposition has been subsequently reported and entered into the computerized criminal history system.
3. Beginning January 1, 2020, counties applying for grant awards from the Office of the Governor must commit that the county will report at least 90 percent of convictions within seven business days to the Criminal Justice Information System at the Department of Public Safety. By January 1, 2021, such reporting must take place within five business days.
4. Eligible applicants operating a law enforcement agency must be current on reporting Part I violent crime data to the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) for inclusion in the annual Uniform Crime Report (UCR). To be considered eligible for funding, applicants must have submitted a full twelve months of accurate data to DPS for the most recent calendar year.
5. The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) has established a goal set by the Texas Legislature for all local law enforcement agencies to implement and report crime statistics data by using the requirements of the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). . Additionally, the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) will collect required crime statistics solely through the NIBRS starting January 1, 2021. Due to the upcoming federal deadlines, grantees are advised that eligibility for future grant funding may be tied to compliance with NIBRS. Financial grant assistance for transitioning to NIBRS may be available for your jurisdiction from the Public Safety Office.
6. Local units of government, including cities, counties and other general purpose political subdivisions, as appropriate, and institutions of higher education that operate a law enforcement agency, must comply with all aspects of the programs and procedures utilized by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security ("DHS") to: (1) notify DHS of all information requested by DHS related to illegal aliens in Agency's custody; and (2) detain such illegal aliens in accordance with requests by DHS. Additionally, counties and municipalities may NOT have in effect, purport to have in effect, or make themselves subject to or bound by, any law, rule, policy, or practice (written or unwritten) that would: (1) require or authorize the public disclosure of federal law enforcement information in order to conceal, harbor, or shield from detection fugitives from justice or aliens illegally in the United States; or (2) impede federal officers from exercising authority under 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a), § 1226(c), § 1231(a), § 1357(a), § 1366(1), or § 1366(3). Lastly, eligible applicants must comply with all provisions, policies, and penalties found in Chapter 752, Subchapter C of the Texas Government Code.

Each local unit of government, and institution of higher education that operates a law enforcement agency, must download, complete and then upload into eGrants the [CEO/Law Enforcement Certifications and Assurances Form](#) certifying compliance with federal and state immigration

enforcement requirements. This Form is required for each application submitted to OOG and is active until August 31, 2021 or the end of the grant period, whichever is later.

7. Eligible applicants must have a DUNS (Data Universal Numbering System) number assigned to its agency (to request a DUNS number, go to <https://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>).
8. Eligible applicants must be registered in the federal System for Award Management (SAM) database located at <https://www.sam.gov/>.
9. Eligible applicants will be required to provide regular reports reflecting the financial status of the grant, performance measures for services delivered, victims assisted and other selected metrics, and engagement with activities of care coordination where applicable.
10. Eligible applicants will be required to adhere to relevant Guiding Principles for the Child Sex Trafficking Team and its partners, where applicable. CSTT's Guiding Principles are:
  - a. We treat exploited youth as victims and survivors, not perpetrators.
  - b. We are collaborative.
  - c. We are survivor informed.
  - d. Our systems and programs prioritize the needs of exploited youth and strive to give equal access to services regardless of system involvement.
  - e. We seek to prevent exploitation by educating the public, supporting protective factors for all youth, and by building the resiliency of our most vulnerable youth.
  - f. Our approaches, systems and services are trauma informed and responsive, and include trust-based relationships.
  - g. We develop and support community-based, sustainable resources and services.
  - h. We are committed to long-term individualized services, including planning for and re-engaging with youth after relapse.
  - i. We research the causes of and effective responses to exploitation and we evaluate and continuously improve our activities.
  - j. We work to prevent and reduce demand for exploitation and to hold all exploiters, including facilitators and those who benefit from exploitation, accountable.
11. Eligible participants will be required to implement the [CSE-IT \(Commercial Sexual Exploitation Identification Tool\)](#) screening tool, where applicable.
12. Eligible applicants must identify how staff will be recruited, trained, supported and retained for this challenging population under the "Project Approach & Activities" section of the eGrants application.
13. Eligible applicants for emergency and/or long-term residential services must have:
  - a. A current Residential Child Care License to operate a Child-Placing Agency or General Residential Operation providing emergency care and/or treatment services, and
  - b. DFPS contract in good standing for residential services with the State of Texas, serving foster youth at the Intense Plus, Intense or Specialized Level of Care, or a contract in good standing for residential services with county juvenile probation departments in closest proximity to the residential operations proposed for this service, or

- c. Substantial positive operational experience providing specialized residential care for trafficked youth AND successful outcomes outside of the State of Texas. Documentation of both of must be uploaded into eGrants, or
  - d. A written contract to develop and operate this program under the direct oversight of an agency that satisfies Texas licensure and contractual eligibility requirements in item 10. Documentation illustrating this oversight relationship including that it will be in force for the entire term of this grant must be uploaded into eGrants.
14. Eligible applicants for CSEY advocate services must have:
- a. Experience providing identical or similar crisis support services for young adult and/or youth victims of trafficking, sexual assault or exploitation, and
  - b. Experience providing 24/7 crisis victim services in the community or at organizations other than their own (e.g. law enforcement, hospitals, emergency youth shelters) upon direct notification by law enforcement or emergency medical personnel, and
  - c. Endorsement by the local trafficking coalition or task force, if this group is active in that county, for the role of specialized child sex trafficking advocate. Coalition or task force must include representation from law enforcement organizations operating in the county in which services are proposed. Letters of endorsement must be uploaded into eGrants, signed by law enforcement organizations and/or District Attorney's Office for each county in which services are proposed.
15. Eligible applicants for drop-in center services must have:
- a. Experience providing identical or similar services, including, but not limited to emergency shelter for runaway and homeless youth (RHY), or
  - b. Experience providing professional assessment or crisis services (e.g. licensed mental health or medical care) on a walk-in basis to marginalized populations (e.g. LGBT youth), or
  - c. Federal- or state-funded experience operating a street outreach or trafficking outreach program for youth.
16. Eligible applicants for funding of innovative services must have:
- a. experience providing identical or similar services for young adult or youth victims of trafficking, sexual assault or exploitation in the same county in which innovative services are proposed, or
  - b. endorsement in writing by local trafficking coalition, task force, or care coordination team that includes law enforcement, for the innovative service proposed, and
  - c. Letters of endorsement and MOU or other agreement(s) with benefiting organization(s), describing the innovative services to be provided, the outputs and outcomes projected, and the organizational commitments established under this agreement. These documents should be uploaded into eGrants.

Substantial failure to comply with program eligibility requirements may cause funds to be withheld and/or for the suspension or termination of grant funding.

## Prohibitions

Grant funds may not be used to support the unallowable costs listed in the [Guide to Grants](#) or any of the following unallowable costs:

1. Lobbying or advocacy activities with respect to legislation or to administrative changes to regulations or administrative policy (cf. 18 U.S.C. 1913), whether conducted directly or indirectly;
2. The active investigation and prosecution of criminal activity, except for the provision of victim assistance services (e.g., emotional support, advocacy, and legal services) to crime victims, under 28 CFR § 94.119, during such investigation and prosecution;
3. Any activities related to fundraising;
4. Capital improvements; property losses and expenses; real estate purchases; mortgage payments; remodeling; and construction;
5. Reimbursement of crime victims for expenses incurred as a result of a crime;
6. Salaries, benefits, fees, furniture, equipment, and other expenses of executive directors, board members, and other administrators (except as specifically allowed);
7. Counseling or treatment for substance abuse (general counseling that includes a component addressing substance abuse is eligible);
8. Victim-offender meetings that serve to replace (or as a part of) criminal justice proceedings;
9. Services to incarcerated individuals;
10. Medical training;
11. Medical care or expenses (except as specifically allowed);
12. Forensic medical evidence collection to include the salary or overtime cost of SANE Nurses;
13. Cash payments to victims, gift cards, or fuel vouchers;
14. Creation of a voucher program where victims are directly given vouchers for such services as housing or counseling;
15. Transportation, lodging, per diem or any related costs for third-party participants to attend a training, when grant funds are used to develop and conduct training;
16. Leasing of vehicles;
17. Transitional housing - Travel, rental assistance, security deposits, utilities, and other costs incidental to the relocation to such housing, as well as voluntary support services such as childcare and counseling; and
18. Research and studies, except for project evaluations under 28 CFR § 94.121(j);
19. Activities that may compromise victim safety;
20. Entertainment, including amusement, diversion, social activities, and any associated costs (i.e. tickets to shows or sports events, meals, lodging, rentals, transportation, and gratuities) unless there is a clear programmatic purpose and the costs are approved in advance by PSO; and

21. Any other prohibition imposed by federal, state or local law or regulation.

## **Selection Process**

1. For eligible local and regional projects:
  - a. Applications will be forwarded by CJD to the appropriate regional council of governments (COG).
  - b. The COG's criminal justice advisory committee will prioritize all eligible applications based on State priorities, identified community priorities, cost and program effectiveness.
  - c. CJD will accept priority listings that are approved by the COG's executive committee.
  - d. CJD will make all final funding decisions based upon eligibility, approved COG priorities, reasonableness of the project, availability of funding, and cost-effectiveness.
2. For state discretionary projects, applications will be reviewed by CJD staff members or a review group selected by the executive director. CJD will make all final funding decisions based on eligibility, reasonableness, availability of funding, and cost-effectiveness.

## **Contact Information**

For more information, contact the eGrants help desk at [eGrants@gov.texas.gov](mailto:eGrants@gov.texas.gov) or (512) 463-1919.