

**LOCAL LAW 41 of 2016:
2022 ANNUAL REPORT**

**NEW YORK CITY ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN’S SERVICES
DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

A. INTRODUCTION

Local Law 41 of 2016 requires an annual report to the Speaker of the City Council, documenting the number Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) in contact with DYCD or its contracted providers and youth in contact with ACS “who are referred as, self-report as, or who the department (DYCD) or ACS later determines to be sexually exploited children, disaggregated by age, gender and whether the children had contact with either DYCD or ACS or both agencies.” The law also requires DYCD and ACS to provide a “description of the services provided by the department and ACS to meet the needs of youth who are or have been sexually exploited.” Lastly, the law requires DYCD and ACS to document their methods for collecting data regarding this population.

The New York City (NYC) Administration for Children’s Services (ACS) and Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) are jointly submitting this Calendar Year 2022 (“2022”) report, which contains the following information as required:

- A. The number of youth in contact with the department’s (DYCD’s) runaway and homeless youth services or ACS who are referred as, self-report as, or who the department (DYCD) or ACS later determine to be sexually exploited*
- B. Data disaggregated by age, utilizing the following ranges:
 - A. under 12 years old;*
 - B. 12-15 years old;*
 - C. 16-18 years old; and*
 - D. over 18 years old;*and disaggregated by gender, and by whether such children had contact with the department or ACS.*

- C. *The number of sexually exploited children identified as having received services from DYCD and/or ACS.*
- D. *A description of services provided by DYCD and ACS to meet the needs of youth who are or have been sexually exploited children including but not limited to the number of beds designated for such children and the types of mental health and health services provided to such children.*
- E. *The methods DYCD and ACS utilized to collect data regarding the number of sexually exploited children.*

2022 DATA SUMMARY:

In 2022, ACS, DYCD and the Safe Harbour providers served a total of 703 youth referred as, self-reported as, or determined to be sexually exploited, or at-risk for sexual exploitation.

Table 1. Youth referred as, self-reported as, or determined to be sexually exploited or at-risk for sexual exploitation served by ACS and DYCD in 2022:	
Safe Harbour Providers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Trafficking Mailbox - 117 • Child Trafficking Database - 16 • Safe Horizon Counselors at the Children’s Center -91 • Wyckoff Medical Center’s Unity Program - 54 • Hetrick Martin Institute Internships – 8 • Hetrick Martin Institute Groups - 40 • Foster Care Unplugged – 38 • OCTPP Groups - 29 	393
DYCD Runaway and Homeless Youth Services	123
ACS Prevention Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-Advocate Prevention Cases - 0ⁱ • Advocate Prevention Only (ADVPO) Cases – 42ⁱⁱ 	131

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family Assessment Program (Advocate) Cases - 89 	
ACS Placement Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> JCCA Gateways Program – 23 Children’s Village Empower House - 3 	26
Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) Confirmed Victims of Human Trafficking	30 ⁱⁱⁱ
Total Exploited or at Risk for Exploitation Youth Served in 2022	703

It should be noted that the overall number of youths identified as “trafficked or at-risk for trafficking” increased by 90 youth between 2021 (613 youth identified) and 2022 (703 youth identified). However, this increase in 2022 (similar to 2020 and 2021 totals) remains less than pre-COVID service totals, very possibly due to continued safety concerns.^{iv}

Although in 2022, the number of youth identified to the ACS Child Trafficking Mailbox and through the Child Trafficking Database (CTDB) were fewer than in 2021 (Mailbox: 127 in 2021 and 117 in 2022; CTDB: 22 in 2021 and 16 in 2022), more 2022 Mailbox/CTDB youth were identified as At-Risk, than at the Federal Definition of Trafficking level, with 34 of 133 (25.5%) identified at the Federal level in 2022 vs. 117 of 149 (78.5%) youth so identified in 2021. Additionally, a greater number of children were identified as trafficked or at-risk in Advocate Prevention Only (ADVPO)(24 at-risk and 1 Federal level in 2021 vs 40 at-risk and 1 Federal level) and Family Assessment Program (FAP) (64 at-risk in 2021 vs 87 at-risk and 2 Federal level in 2022) cases.

Therefore, although more youth were identified to the Safe Harbour Program overall in 2022, a higher percentage (74.5%) of Child Trafficking Mailbox, as well as ADVPO and FAP youth were identified to the Child Trafficking Mailbox as At-Risk, thereby providing opportunity for intervention to preclude escalation to the Federal level.

It is important to note that the actual determination as to whether some youth are at-risk for exploitation or have been exploited is significantly challenging. Many youth who are considered at-risk for exploitation may have actually been trafficked, but chose not to disclose

that information, or even outright deny exploitation, despite a proliferation of indicators. Therefore, the data in this report captures both exploited youth and youth determined to be at-risk for exploitation and these categories cannot be disaggregated. It should also be noted that there may be overlap between provider data and victim confirmations by the NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA), whose information is confidential. There is no means to determine whether or how frequently this occurred.

Provider Breakdown:

In 2022, programs funded by, or affiliated with the NYC Safe Harbour Program served 393 Youth Exploited or At-Risk of Exploitation:

- Through the State's Safe Harbour funding, ACS contracts with Safe Horizon to provide services at the ACS Nicholas Scoppetta Children's Center. Through this program, Safe Horizon provided services to 91 new youth who were either exploited or at-risk of exploitation, another 25 new youth who were notified to the Child Trafficking Mailbox (not counted towards total for 2022 to avoid duplication) and 27 additional youth who had been previously identified as trafficked or at risk of trafficking (also not counted to avoid duplication). The Safe Horizon Counselors specialize in working with commercially sexually exploited children (CSEC) and youth at risk of trafficking.^v
- An additional 117 newly identified sexually exploited youth, or youth at-risk for exploitation, were brought to the attention of ACS' Child Trafficking Mailbox. Furthermore, 118 previously identified trafficked or at-risk youth also received services (but were not counted to avoid duplication). See Section 1B on Data Capture Methodology for details.^{vi}
- Sixteen (16) newly identified sexually exploited youth were screened through ACS' Child Trafficking Database (CTDB). Data for the Child Trafficking Database only includes screenings at the Federal Definition of Sex Trafficking level, which are automatically notified to OCTPP.
- Another 54 youth were served through Wyckoff Medical Center's ADLP PrEP & Adolescents Unity Program, which provided anti-trafficking counseling and literature during sexual health sessions.

- Eight (8) youth were served through Hetrick Martin Institute's Tau Gamma Internship Program.
- Forty (40) youth were served through Hetrick Martin Institute's Trans Treat Group.
- Thirty-eight (38) youth were served through trafficking awareness and skills focused groupwork by Foster Care Unplugged in partnership with ACS' Office of Child Trafficking Prevention and Policy (OCTPP).
- Twenty-nine (29) youth were served through anti-trafficking groupwork provided by OCTPP.

The NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) Confirmed 30 Exploited Youth from the total of 703:

- 30 youth between the ages 0 and 23 were confirmed as sexually exploited by The NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA).

DYCD Served 123 Exploited and/or At-Risk for Exploitation Youth Through Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) Programs:

- 58 youth received Crisis Services Programs.
- 27 youth received services from Transitional Independent Living Programs (TILS).
- 38 youth received services at Drop-in Centers.
- 23 youth served by DYCD-funded providers disclosed that they also receive some form of service from ACS.
- Gender: 29 males; 75 females; 2 Gender Non-Conforming (GNC) youth and 17 youth who did not disclose their gender. Within those gender categories, 10 transgender youth were served: Drop-in Centers served 1 transgender youth, Crisis Services assisted 7 transgender youth, and TILS served 2 transgender youth.
- Ages: 1 child (ages 12 to 15); 14 children (ages 16 to 18); 108 (youth over age 18).
Details are provided in Section C-1: DYCD Contracted Programs and Services to Meet the Needs of Sexually Exploited Children.

ACS Foster Care Placement and Advocate Providers Services Served 157 Exploited and/or At-Risk for Exploitation Youth:

- ACS Foster Care Placement Services served total of 26:
 - The Jewish Child Care Association’s (JCCA) Gateways Program served 23 Sexually Exploited Youth in 2022.
 - Children’s Village’s Empower Program served 3 Sexually Exploited Youth in 2022.
- Advocate Prevention Only (ADVPO) providers served 42 total -40 youth identified as at-risk and 2 youth identified as trafficked.
- ACS Family Assessment Program (PINS Diversion/Advocate) served 89 total - 87 youth identified as at-risk and 2 youth identified as trafficked.

Table 2. Delineation of Data by Required Local Law 41		
Categories: Total = 703		
By Age:	Under 12 years old:	2
	12 to 15 years old:	161
	16 to 18 years old:	188
	Over 18 years old:	225
	Age unknown ^{vii}	127
By Gender: Note: DYCD RHY served an additional 10 Trans youth who were counted within M/F.	Male:	79
	Female:	431
	Transgender Female:	19
	Transgender Male	11
	Gender Non-Conforming	18
	Gender Undisclosed	145
By Contact With DYCD or ACS:		
ACS only		448
DYCD only		100
Both ACS and DYCD		23
Unknown		132
Advocate Case Youth	ADVPO Prevention	40
Not at the Federal	Services	

Definition Level (age and gender data provided only for Federal level, not for youth at-risk. (See footnote vii.)	Family Assessment Program	87
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B. DATA CAPTURE METHODOLOGY

1. ACS Data Capture Methodology:

In 2022, ACS obtained demographic data of young people served by New York State Safe Harbour-funded programs from the Safe Harbour funded providers. Primarily, ACS obtained data through its Child Trafficking Mailbox, which served as a vehicle for ACS and provider agency staff to send notifications of trafficked children, ask questions, request resources and receive case practice guidance. External stakeholders, including the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), other City agencies and community providers also use the Child Trafficking Mailbox for notifications to, and communication with OCTPP.^{viii} The Child Trafficking Mailbox is monitored by ten professionals^{six} within or affiliated with the ACS Office of Child Trafficking Prevention and Policy, who have extensive experience in child welfare and clinical service provision or law enforcement. OCTPP staff obtain updates on status, services and safety planning and collect demographic data. OCTPP staff also directly respond to every Federal Level screening notification generated by the Child Trafficking Database (CTDB). Every Mailbox and CTDB response consists of a series of emails and telephone contacts to ensure identification of youth, assessment of trafficking indicators and safety planning efforts, provision of guidance, arrangement for conference participation, provision of resources and meeting any other trafficking related need. OCTPP staff also attend and provide guidance at Multi-Disciplinary and Child Safety Conferences and individual case consultations, and to Safe Harbour non-child welfare case assistance requests.

In 2022, the Child Trafficking Mailbox received 2,779 emails, which identified a total of 117 children newly identified as trafficked, or at-risk of trafficking, and also received emails for, and provided support to another 118 youth, all of whom had previously been identified as trafficked or at-risk. OCTPP also received notification of, and assessed 223 additional youth who were determined to not be trafficked or at-risk, or not enough information was provided for a determination. ACS also accumulated data through electronic sex trafficking screenings in its Child Trafficking Database (CTDB), which sends an automatic notification whenever a child screened meets the Federal Definition level of sex trafficking. In 2022, the CTDB electronic sex trafficking screening process identified 16 children at the Federal Definition of Trafficking level^x. Of the total 133 children identified to the Office of Child Trafficking Prevention and Policy (OCTPP) (117 to the Child Trafficking Mailbox and 16 through CTDB screenings), 34 met the Federal Definition level. An additional 39 youth identified to the Mailbox met the High Risk level and 53 youth met the Medium Risk level and 4 youth met the No-Risk level. OCTPP provided guidance for screeners and resources for youth for both the 117 newly identified and also the 118 previously-identified youth, many of whom had met the Federal level. The increased number of at-risk youth identified in 2022 may serve to illustrate the greater awareness of trafficking indicator recognition by ACS and provider agency staff. The decreased number of Federal level youth may indicate appropriate intervention for at-risk youth that prevented escalation to the Federal level.^{xi}

Screening Youth for Trafficking: OCFS Screening Tools and the ACS Child Trafficking Database (CTDB)

In 2022, ACS continued to follow its Policy and Procedure 2020/05: *Identifying Assessing and Safety Planning with Child Sex and Labor Trafficking Victims*, ACS' first agency-wide trafficking policy. This policy, based upon NYS Office of Children and Families (OCFS) Administrative Directive, 15-OCFS-ADM-16: *Requirements to Identify, Document, Report and Provide Services to Child Sex Trafficking Victims* (September 1, 2015; Revised March 30, 2016), with its mandated screening and reporting tools:

- a. OCFS 3921: Rapid Indicator Tool to Identify Children Who May Be Sex Trafficking Victims or At-Risk of Being a Sex Trafficking Victim
- b. OCFS 3920: Child Sex Trafficking Indicators Tool (also known as the “Comprehensive Tool,” a higher level of screening which follows when the Rapid Tool identifies a child as at-risk for trafficking)
- c. OCFS 3922: Law Enforcement Report of a Child Sex Trafficking Victim

mandates the use of the Child Trafficking Database (CTDB) for all sex trafficking screenings (except Advocate Prevention Only and Family Assessment Program cases) and contact with the Office of Child Trafficking for any child that meets the Federal Definition of Sex Trafficking level.^{xii} The cloud-based CTDB permits staff and providers to not only screen electronically, but to also document service referrals relevant to the screening results and to generate two types of reports (Child Screening History Report, Area Compliance Report). Utilizing the CTDB is more beneficial than using paper screening tools, as paper tools cannot aggregate data, nor display a longitudinal history of the evolution of a child’s entry into trafficking. A detailed description of the CTDB is included in Appendix C.

Quantitative data collection from the Mailbox and CTDB notifications occurred through the use of the NYS Office of Children and Family Services’ (OCFS) Safe Harbour Program standardized Excel spreadsheet. This data capture tool helped to gather uniform statistics from providers and thereby facilitated the ability for quarterly and annual aggregation.

Table 3: Summary of 2022 Data Collected by the Office of Child Trafficking Prevention and Policy Through the Child Trafficking Mailbox and the Child Trafficking Database (CTDB):	
# Newly Identified Youth to the Child Trafficking Mailbox in 2022	117
# Newly Identified Youth to the CTDB in 2022	16

# Newly Identified Youth to Both the Mailbox and CTDB in 2022 (documented as CTDB only to avoid duplication)	(16)
Total Number of Newly Identified Youth to OCTPP in 2022 (Child Trafficking Mailbox and CTDB):	133
# New Youth Identified at the Federal Definition of Trafficking in 2022	34
# New Youth Identified as At-Risk for Trafficking in 2022	99
# Previously Identified Youth Involved in 2022 Emails to the Child Trafficking Mailbox	118
# Newly identified youth for whom OCTPP received initial notifications, but upon assessment, were determined to not be at risk, or insufficient information was provided for determination	223
Total Number of Emails to the Child Trafficking Mailbox	2,779^{xiii}

It is important to note that collecting data on trafficked and at-risk youth can be challenging and complex for many reasons, including:

- a. Many youth do not disclose traumatic experiences upon initial engagement. It can take an extended period of time to build trust and establish an environment wherein the youth feels safe to disclose.
- b. Reluctance to provide information to an authority figure who might impact upon their life.
- c. Traumatic reaction due to thinking, and thereby reliving victimization (often diagnosed as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder - PTSD).
- d. Fear of threats or retribution by the trafficker.
- e. Fear of being taken from familiar people or places.
- f. Embarrassed by, or ashamed of the exploitation and the abuse.
- g. Cultural norms that may make talking about traumatic sexually exploitive experiences difficult for children.
- h. Developmental delays that make it difficult to understand what has actually occurred.
- i. Many victims do not recognize they are in an abusive relationship and do not identify as trafficked. They truly believe their exploiter loves them and have become “trauma bonded”^{xiv} to the exploiter. Many victims who leave their exploiter return. Some never disclose or leave at all.

DYCD Data Capture Methodology:

The RHY providers are instructed to complete the Safe Harbour (CSEC) report for each new reported case of CSEC every month. The reports are made by DYCD’s contracted RHY providers in the electronic DYCD Connect, Participant Tracking System.

Table 4. NYC 2022 Safe Harbour Data Table, as Delineated by Agency and Indicator: An expanded view of this table is located in Appendix B.

NYC Administration for Children's Services																
2022 NYC Safe Harbour Data: Newly Identified Exploited Children and Children At-Risk of Exploitation																
as reported by ACS, DYCD and Safe Harbour Providers																
Safe Harbour Provider	Total Youth	Cis M	Cis F	Trans F	Trans M	No G Discl	GNC	<12	12-15	16-18	>18	Age unk	ACS only	DYCD only	ACS+DYCD	Unk
Child Trafficking Mailbox* ***	117	14	103	0	0	0	0	0	56	56	5	0	117	0	0	0
Child Trafficking Database****	16	0	16	0	0	0	0	0	7	9	0	0	16	0	0	0
Children's Center Counselors** ****	91	6	84	1	0	0	0	2	63	26	0	0	91	0	0	0
DYCD RHY Programs	123	29	75	0	0	17	2	0	1	14	108	0	0	100	23	0
OTDA Confirmations (0 - 23)	30	1	28	0	0	1	0	0	0	12	18	0	0	0	0	30
JCCA Gateways (Placement)	23	0	23	0	0	0	0	0	13	10	0	0	23	0	0	0
CV Empower House (Placement)	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Preventive Advocate Cases	42	0	2	0	0	40	0	0	1	1	0	40	42	0	0	0
Family Assessment Program	89	0	2	0	0	87	0	0	1	1	0	87	89	0	0	0
Wyckoff Medical's Unity Program	54	28	25	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	54	0	0	0	0	54
Hetrick Martin Institute Internships	8	1	3	1	0	0	3	0	0	1	7	0	0	0	0	8
Hetrick Martin Institute Group	40	0	0	17	11	0	12	0	12	6	22	0	0	0	0	40
Foster Care Unplugged Groups	38	0	38	0	0	0	0	0	0	38	0	0	38	0	0	0
OCTPP Groups	29	0	29	0	0	0	0	0	7	11	11	0	29	0	0	0
Totals:	703	79	431	19	11	145	18	2	161	188	225	127	448	100	23	132
Section Totals:	703				703					703					703	

* 14 additional youth notified to the Child Trafficking Mailbox were also screened through the CTDB. These youth were counted only as CTDB to avoid duplication.
 ** 25 additional youth identified by Children's Center Counselors were notified to the Child Trafficking Mailbox. These youth were counted only as Mailbox to avoid duplication.
 ***ACS' Office of Child Trafficking Prevention and Policy (OCTPP) also assisted 118 previously identified youth and Children's Center Counselors assisted 27 previously identified youth.
 **** Data for the Child Trafficking Database only includes screenings at the Federal Definition of Sex Trafficking level, which are automatically notified to OCTPP, not for High or Medium Risk levels.
 ACS' OCTPP also received notification of, and assessed 223 additional youth who were determined to not be trafficked or at-risk, or not enough information was provided for a determination.
 DYCD RHY Crisis Services and TILs serve ages 16-20. Drop-in Centers serve ages 14-24.
 DYCD RHY served 10 transgender (TG) youth (included within the other gender categories). Drop Ins served 1 TG youth, Crisis Shelters served 7 TG youth, TILs served 2 TG youth. See report for details.
 OTDA collects data on confirmed victims of all ages, but only data from ages 0 to 23 was used as 23 is when all youth would have exited the child welfare system.
 Preventive Advocate Cases: 31 youth screened as Medium Risk and 9 youth screened as High Risk. 2 youth identified at the Federal Level, so demographics provided for the 2.
 Family Assessment Program Advocate Cases: 56 youth screened as Medium Risk and 31 youth screened as High Risk. 2 youth identified at the Federal Level, so demographics provided for the 2.
 Wyckoff Medical Center's ADLP PrEP & Adolescents Unity Program provided anti-trafficking counseling and literature during sexual health sessions.
 Hetrick Martin Institute provided groupwork and internships for LGBTQAI+ youth and young adults.
 Foster Care Unplugged and OCTPP provided Mitigating Trauma Through Drama psychoeducational groups virtually for youth at three foster care agencies. OCTPP also provided additional anti-trafficking groups.

C. SERVICE PROVISION FOR SEXUALLY EXPLOITED YOUTH

1. DYCD Contracted Programs and Services to Meet the Needs of Sexually Exploited Children

The central responsibility of DYCD is to administer City, state, and federal funds to community-based organizations that serve New York City’s youth and families. DYCD funds a range of programs including immigration, afterschool, literacy, jobs and internships, parenting, and runaway and homeless youth programs and services.

DYCD’s funded Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) services are designed to protect young people, and whenever possible, encourage family reunification. In cases

where reunification is not possible, these programs help youth progress from crisis and transitional care to independent living arrangements. Youth who participate in DYCD-funded programs receive comprehensive services geared toward developing independent living skills, and strengthening their problem solving, decision making and communication abilities. This wide range of services includes food and clothing; medical services; substance abuse education; housing assistance; educational services; counseling; independent living skills training; employment counseling and assistance; recreation; legal assistance; and transportation assistance.

Services are provided to at-risk youth through Crisis Services programs (serving youth ages 16-20, as well as young adults ages 21-24^{xv}) which offer emergency, voluntary short-term residential programs. Youth in need of longer-term residential services may obtain a referral through the Crisis Services programs to DYCD-funded Transitional Independent Living (TIL) programs (serving youth ages 16-20, as well as young adults ages 21-24^{xvi}) which assist youth in establishing independence through services such as educational and vocational programming, job placement, and counseling.

DYCD programs offer specialized services for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Questioning (LGBTQ) youth, pregnant and parenting teens, and sexually exploited youth. Over the past few years, the City funded a significant expansion of residential programs, followed by an expansion of Drop-in Center services, and including additional resources for mental health services and LGBTQ supports. DYCD's aggregate data is provided in Appendix A.

- a. **Crisis Services*** – Crisis Services programs offer emergency shelter for runaway and homeless youth age 16 to 20. These voluntary, short-term residential programs provide emergency shelter and crisis intervention services aimed at reuniting youth with their families. If family reunification is not possible, Crisis Services programs help arrange appropriate transitional and long-term placements. The total number of crisis beds is 293.

- b. **Drop-in Centers*** – DYCD also funds emergency intervention services at eight drop-in centers across the five boroughs. Three drop-in centers are located in Manhattan and one each in Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island, and the Bronx. Each borough has one 24/7 drop-in center. These programs serve youth ages 14 through 24^{xvii} with essentials such as food, clothing, and immediate shelter as well as access to counseling, support, and referrals to relevant services.

- c. **Street Outreach Program*** – DYCD also funds street outreach to reach at-risk youth where they are. Currently, the street outreach is conducted by the contracted provider, Safe Horizon’s Streetwork Project, with the use of vans. The Street Outreach’s vehicle-based outreach program focuses on locations where youth are known to congregate. By going directly to where at-risk youth are, such as subway stations and transportation hubs, the Street Outreach Program, with the assistance of street outreach workers, develops rapport with youth and provides contact by disseminating information about RHY services, providing food, clothing and other resources; making referrals to other service providers; and transporting youth back to their homes or relatives, to Crisis Services programs, or to other safe locations.

- d. **Transitional Independent Living (TIL) Programs*** – DYCD contracts with providers to offer a total of 495 Transitional Independent Living support beds for youth 16 to 20 years old plus an additional 25 beds for young adults 21 to 24 years old for a total of 520 beds. In addition to the services that are offered to all youth in the RHY continuum, those who are specifically identified as sexually exploited and in need of specialized services can be referred to Girls Educational and Mentoring Services’ (GEMS) Transitional Independent Living program, when appropriate. The GEMS TIL program specializes in services specifically for young women who have experienced sexual exploitation. All young people residing in any of the DYCD-funded programs will receive ongoing case management and counseling to address individualized needs, including exploitation. As each young person’s experience is different, the service providers make referrals, as appropriate, to outside services. Program staff take care to engage youth in services when the youth is ready to address this sensitive issue.

II. New York State Safe Harbour-Funded Programs to Meet the Needs of Sexually Exploited Children

In 2022, New York State's Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) provided \$88,900 in funding to the Administration for Children's Services, New York City (NYC), so that NYC could continue to develop and implement a child welfare response to sex trafficking. ACS also contributed additional funding and dedicated full-time resources.^{xviii} Following is a summary of Safe Harbour-funded programs:

A. ACS' Office of Child Trafficking Prevention and Policy (OCTPP)

In 2015 ACS launched the Office of Child Trafficking Prevention & Policy (OCTPP), which works to raise awareness of trafficking and helps to identify and provide appropriate services available to help youth at-risk and victims of commercial sexual exploitation and their families^{xix}.

OCTPP coordinates the *Identifying, Assessing, and Safety Planning with Child Sex and Labor Trafficking Victims* policy launched in 2020. This policy articulates guidelines and procedures for ACS and provider agency staff in identifying children and youth, who are in the care, custody, care and custody, maintenance, or supervision of the ACS, who are survivors of, or at risk of, sex and/or labor trafficking. Additionally, this policy mandates the use of the CTDB for sex trafficking screenings and contact with OCTPP for all cases that meet the Federal Definition level, with the option for contact with OCTPP for at-risk cases, and provides guidance and procedures for ACS and provider agency staff in working towards keeping trafficked children and youth or at-risk children and youth safe and supported through safety planning, coordinating with law enforcement, and making referrals for appropriate services.

Training on the policy and the use of the Child Trafficking Database as mandated by the policy for sex trafficking screenings is integral to staff ability to understand, screen and follow up with law enforcement referrals, access and provide resources and ensure other safety-focused aspects of practice. During 2022, OCTPP staff provided fifteen (15) virtual 3-hour trainings on the policy and CTDB screening skills to 1,074 ACS and provider agency staff. OCTPP also provided four shorter overview presentations to

leadership groups and to provider agencies for an additional 154 attendees, for a total of 1,228. The 3-hour Policy-CTDB Skills training will continue on a regular schedule throughout 2023. Additionally, OCTPP's Executive Director has been working closely with the ACS Workforce Institute (WFI) as a Subject Matter Expert (SME) to develop a 1-hour, animated CTDB E-Learning which will be readily accessible through to all child welfare providers and staff. E-Learning launch is scheduled for January 2023.

OCTPP's training provision is not limited to policy awareness and CTDB skills. In 2022, the Office of Child Trafficking Prevention and Policy (OCTPP) worked diligently and continually to provide the highest quality of training, alone or in partnership with other trafficking related professionals, filling and/or facilitating a total of 3,928 trafficking awareness and skills related training seats, targeting a wide audience that included ACS, foster care, prevention and juvenile justice staff, plus other City agencies, State agencies and community and faith-based agencies, as well as anti-trafficking professionals from across the United States. OCTPP provided a wide variety of unique, self-developed trainings, the expertise for which was also featured at professional conferences. Additionally, ACS' Division of Youth and Family Justice (DYFJ) Juvenile Justice trainers filled 189 training seats with newly hired Youth Development Specialists, bringing ACS' 2022 trafficking awareness and skills training seat total to 4,117. ^{xx}

OCTPP also manages the NYC Safe Harbour Program, provides consultation on cases, produces trainings and events, analyzes data, provides a variety of trafficking prevention group work models (some self-designed), and maintains six e-mailboxes for communication with staff and external professionals on a variety of topics: Trafficking/At-Risk Cases, CTDB Issues, Training Requests, Tattoo Removal Referrals, Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting Case Reporting and Credible Messenger Program requests. OCTPP has an additional e-mailbox which receives auto-generated notification from the CTDB anytime a child is screened at the Federal Definition of sex trafficking level. OCTPP team members use this email to promptly reach out to the screener to provide support.

In 2018, OCTPP developed “Movin’ On”: The NYC Child Tattoo Eradication Project and Network to assist trafficking victims and former gang members in positively moving forward with their lives through the provision of trauma informed tattoo removal and the provision of relevant support. In 2019, ACS developed youth focused palm cards advertising the tattoo removal service, translated them into twelve (12) languages, and posted a program descriptive video on YouTube.^{xxi} During 2022, OCTPP received 10 tattoo removal inquiries, provided referrals for eight of the inquiries and signed on two additional providers. Additional information on “Movin’ On” is available in section IV (C).

In 2022, OCTPP continued its direct service groupwork initiative. OCTPP again partnered with Foster Care Unplugged to provide the 8-session “Mitigating Trauma Through Drama” psychodrama therapeutic/trafficking awareness groupwork model for a total of thirty-eight (38) youth: Twenty-four (24) youth at a group home, nine (9) youth at a Mother-Child Residential Program and five (5) youth at a Residential Treatment Facility.

OCTPP also provided a new 4-session group model focusing on Substance Abuse and Trafficking Awareness for a total of nineteen (19) youth: Five (5) youth at a Mother-Child Residential Program, and two sequential cohorts (nine youth and five youth) at a Residential Treatment Center.

In 2022, OCTPP continued its Credible Messenger Program which specifically addresses safety and behavioral aspects of youth in care, using the video produced in 2021 to develop recruitment awareness and support recognition. All of these projects will be described in detail in section in section IV: Community Support and Awareness Building.

B. Safe Horizon

Safe Horizon, a leading service provider in the field of commercial sexual exploitation, provided expert service through the provision of Licensed Master Social Workers (LMSW) who worked as Commercially Sexually Exploited Child (CSEC) Consultants at the Nicholas Scoppetta Children’s Center. The social workers, who are employed through Safe Horizon’s Streetwork Project, screened and assessed youth for trafficking indicators, assisted staff in identifying exploited youth, engaged with and

advocated for youth, and provided trafficking relevant service recommendations and referrals. In addition to their work with exploited children and other vulnerable populations, the consultants provided safe sex awareness groups and healthy relationships workshops for all youth and technical support for staff. During 2022, the social workers served 91 new youth referred as, self-reported as, or determined to be sexually exploited or at risk for exploitation. They also served an additional 27 youth who had been previously referred to them and 25 youth whose information was forwarded to the Child Trafficking Mailbox and aggregated within that data set, for a total of 143 youth served during 2022.

C. Wyckoff Medical Center's ADLP PrEP & Adolescents Unity Program

The ADLP PrEP & Adolescents Unity Program at Wyckoff Medical Center focuses primarily upon LGBTQ adolescents aged 13-24 with sexual health services, with an emphasis on Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP). The program utilizes a combination of outreach strategies to achieve this goal, including outreach through dating and hookup apps to recruit potential clients who are young men who have sex with men (YMSM) and targeted outreach in different community sites. Adolescent clients served by this program receive sexual health counseling before and after HIV, STI and Hepatitis testing. All clients receive education on PrEP and PEP services, and those who need it, are clinically assessed by the medical provider. The medical provider conducts HIV/STI/Hepatitis testing, PrEP/PEP clinical assessments, PrEP/PEP, clinical follow-ups, linkage to HIV medical care and provision of contraceptives. All clients who are interested in PrEP or PEP receive insurance and benefit navigation services to gain access to them as soon as possible. Through linkage with ACS' Office of Child Trafficking Prevention and Policy, the ADLP PrEP & Adolescents Unity Program added a trafficking awareness counseling and resource provision component to its sexual health counseling. This partnership assisted in developing psychoeducational awareness for 54 clients within the LGBTQIA+ population (specifically, YMSM) which is known to correlate with commercial sexual exploitation for youth under age 18 and also for ages 18+ who may be forced, defrauded or coerced by a trafficker.

D. Hetrick Martin Institute's Tau Gamma Internships and Trans Treat Group

“Common Voices: Together on Shared Ground Surviving the Elements” is the Hetrick Martin Institute’s (HMI) support group for youth engaged in sex work/survival sex, and/or with a history of doing sex work. The group was developed at HMI in 2014 by a group of transgender women from HMI’s Counseling and Outreach teams, and in partnership with a group of peer youth leaders, with support from Safe Harbor funding provided to HMI through the NYC Administration for Children’s Services. In the fall of 2022, rather than run a single cycle of Common Voice groups, HMI ran two concurrent groups for transgender and gender non-binary youth this fall, and integrated Common Voices curriculum and discussions into those two groups with an aim to engage trafficked and at-risk youth, which in HMI’s experience are “typically transgender women of color”.

Eight (8) youth attended the Tau Gamma internship, which focused on job readiness and career exploration, meeting multiple afternoons per week with the Coordinator of Job Readiness Programs and with a Counselor for additional support. As part of the internship, the participants complete a job experience activity with one of HMI’s corporate or foundation partner organizations. Group participants also attend a group “field trip” day to go shopping for interview clothing. Staff bring youth to HMI’s clothing pantry to select interview clothing, and then take them shopping at a store to round out their interview wardrobe. Participants engage in interview practice sessions and refined their resumes and LinkedIn profiles.

The “Trans Treats” group provided weekly psychoeducational support group for forty (40) Transgender and Gender Non-Binary youth. Led by a transgender member of HMI’s counseling team and co-facilitated by a graduate student intern from a school of social work, a total of 40 unduplicated youth attended the group, all self-identifying as transgender or gender non-conforming. Three youth identified as trafficked, but most of the youth are vulnerable to trafficking due to housing instability and transgender identity.

During Common Voices sessions held within the Job Readiness/Tau Gamma group and Trans Treats support group, staff facilitated conversations around trafficking, including safety, income, autonomy, and systemic inequality. Staff facilitators report that, “the young people showed such care for each other.” Bringing in harm reduction language and practices to frame the conversations, the youth were able to share their vulnerabilities in their stories, their questions, and their concerns.

E. Foster Care Unplugged

Foster Care Unplugged (FCUP), a 501(c)(3) is an agency founded in 2016 by Melody Centeno, LMSW, to focus on enriching the lives of youth in foster care and youth at risk of being placed in the child welfare system by promoting positive spiritual, emotional and physical outcomes for disadvantaged individuals. The organization’s mission is to identify foster care youth, meet them where they are in their life journey, and help develop their emotional-social skills as they build resiliency into adulthood. In 2022, FCUP continued its partnership with the Office of Child Trafficking Prevention and Policy and New Yorkers for Children for the Mitigating Trauma through Drama groupwork model through its second year of funding from the New York Community Trust and the 2022 NYC Safe Harbour grant. Ms. Centeno and OCTPP Executive Director Selina Higgins, who together co-wrote the curriculum, completed the initial three grant-funded cohorts in 2021. They continued with the fourth cohort during February to April of 2022 at an ACS contracted group home, then provided two additional (virtual) cohorts, one for youth at a Mother-Child Residential Program and one for a NYS Office of Mental Health Residential Treatment Facility (RTF). The model utilizes psychodrama, a performance-based approach, to provide a trauma-informed mechanism to identify and express feelings and learn positive strategies to heal from past experiences. Cohort 4 (group home) provided these universally applicable skills coupled with a focus on trafficking awareness and prevention to 24 young women. Cohort 5 (Mother-Child Residential) reached 9 young women and Cohort 6 (RTF) reached 5 young women. All groups were provided virtually as per the agency preference.

F. Additional Anti-Trafficking Groups provided by OCTPP

OCTPP provided additional anti-trafficking groups for youth in group homes and residential placements. Three cohorts of a four-module Substance Abuse and Trafficking Awareness group was provided to a total of 29 youth (Cohort 1 at a Mother-Child Facility for 5 youth, Cohort 2 at a Residential Treatment Center for 9 youth and Cohort 3 at a Residential Treatment Center for 10 youth. The youth from Cohort 1 plus 2 additional youth and the youth from Cohort 2 plus 3 additional youth also participated in a Credible Messenger video viewings and trafficking discussion groups. All groups were provided virtually as per the agency preference.

III. ACS Contracted Prevention and Placement Programs to Meet the Needs of Sexually Exploited Children

In addition to services funded by the NYS Safe Harbour grant, ACS also contracts for specialized prevention and placement programs as part of its continuum of services for at-risk youth and victims of sexual exploitation.

A. Preventive and Family Assessment Program Advocate Cases:

The ACS Division of Prevention Services obtained redacted sex trafficking screening data for Advocate Prevention Only (ADVPO) cases from its contracted preventive agencies. Similarly, ACS' Family Assessment Program (FAP), a Persons in Need of Supervision (PINS) diversion program obtained redacted Advocate data from its contracted service providers.

Advocate cases provide voluntarily requested prevention services (ADVPO) or PINS diversion services (FAP) for cases not involving a child in foster care or being referred to foster care, and not under investigation or having an open indicated child protective services report. ACS' contracted prevention and PINS diversion agencies do not transmit a breakdown of data on these confidential cases beyond a total number of children and their screened risk levels. Children screened at the Federal Definition of Trafficking level are identified to OCTPP, but only by age, gender and borough. Advocate case sex

trafficking screenings are not captured within the CTDB but are completed with paper templates. 2022 data provided by the Advocate agencies identified:

- Preventive ADVPO Screenings:
 - 3,373 total Rapid Indicator screenings, of which 42 youth screened as at-risk and thereby received further screening with the Comprehensive tool:
 - 9 youth screened at High-Risk
 - 31 youth screened at Medium-Risk for trafficking
 - 2 youth screened at the Federal level
- Family Assessment Program Advocate Screenings:
 - 2,169 total Rapid Indicator screenings, of which 89 youth screened as at-risk and thereby received further screening with the Comprehensive tool:
 - 56 youth screened as Medium-Risk for trafficking
 - 31 youth screened as High Risk for trafficking
 - 2 youth screened at the Federal level

Note: these are cases where parents pro-actively reached out to seek services to strengthen their family prior to full crisis escalation, which may account for a higher percentage of youth being assessed as at-risk for trafficking rather than meeting the Federal Definition level.

B. Placement:

1. The Jewish Child Care Association's Gateways Program:

The Jewish Child Care Association (JCCA) is an ACS contractor that provides foster home, residential, community, mental health and prevention services. Since 2011, ACS has contracted with JCCA for services provided at the Gateways Program, an intensive, specialized residential program for female trafficking victims ages 12 to 16. In 2022, Gateways served a total of 23 girls. JCCA currently supports these young people by using the Sanctuary trauma-informed care model, as well as a four-phase system of treatment that involves assessment, individual and

family therapy, and peer counseling. Gateways maintains 12 child welfare beds specifically for sexually exploited girls who have indicated that they are willing to leave “the life.”

2. The Children’s Village Empower House

The Children’s Village is an ACS contractor that provides foster home, residential, community, mental health and prevention services. Since 2022, ACS has placed children at Children’s Village’s Empower House, a currently non-contracted Agency Operated Boarding Home (AOBH), which provides an intensely clinical, safety oriented program for 5 sexually exploited girls. In 2022, Empower House served a total of 3 girls referred by ACS.

IV. Community Support and Awareness Building

A. Virtual Conference, Virtual Human Trafficking Prevention Resource Fair and Trafficked Youth Web Pages with Downloadable Resources

In recognition of January as National Human Trafficking Prevention Month, OCTPP traditionally held a Human Trafficking Awareness Exposition on “Human Trafficking Awareness Day.” Due to continued COVID related safety concerns in January 2022 and to the remarkable ability to reach professionals and community members across and beyond the United States, OCTPP again produced a large-scale virtual conference - The 2022 NYC Child Trafficking Prevention Conference: An 18-Workshop Virtual Event, which provided awareness and skills focused workshops on a variety of trafficking related topics. Over 1,950 people participated in this conference, whose workshops, facilitated by national and local experts, were attended by child welfare professionals, community members, other City agencies, parents, foster parents, and external attendees from across the nation and Canada.

OCTPP also worked with ACS’ Webmaster to update the four Preventing Trafficked Youth webpages to provide information and downloadable resources, including OCTPP’s “Children are NOT for \$ale” awareness campaign posters (4

versions), “Understanding Child Trafficking and What YOU Can Do” brochure and the tattoo removal palm cards, all available in 12 languages.

ACS Preventing Youth Trafficking webpages with downloadable resources:

- Preventing Youth Trafficking Main Page:
<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/acs/youth/traffickedyouth.page>
- Trafficked Youth Resources for Professionals Page:
<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/acs/about/child-trafficking/resources.page>
- What to Do and Who To Contact When Identifying a Trafficked Youth:
<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/acs/youth/identify.page>
- NYC ACS - Human Trafficking Virtual Resource Fair - provider information and links: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/acs/youth/virtualresourcefair.page>

B. Launch of the NYC Trafficking Prevention App to provide the electronic version of “Child Trafficking and What YOU Can Do About It: A Guide for NYC Child Welfare Professionals” and other resources.

In 2019, ACS released a 40 page, spiral bound, pocket sized “toolkit” entitled: “Child Trafficking and What YOU Can Do About It: Tools for NYC Child Welfare Professionals.” Five thousand (5,000) copies were printed and distributed to ACS and contract agency staff and to other trafficking related professionals to assist in improved identification of trafficking indicators and dynamics, skills enhancement, resource identification and service provision to trafficked and at-risk children. In 2020, OCTPP updated the toolkit to include information about the new policy and additional guidance and resources, with printing of 5,000 additional copies through Safe Harbour grant funding. In 2021, development began on a free, downloadable app to provide an electronic version of Child Trafficking and What YOU Can Do About It: A Toolkit for NYC Child Welfare Professionals.

The NYC Trafficking Prevention app, launched in January 2022, features a training calendar, ACS’ awareness materials (brochures, training handouts, posters, tattoo removal palm cards), tattoo removal and other videos, ACS’ trafficking policy

and other relevant materials. The app is available for free from the Google and Apple Play Stores and download is encouraged at all OCTPP trainings.

C. Continuation of Tattoo Removals Referrals Through “Movin’ On”: The NYC Child Tattoo Eradication Network and Project

Exploiter brandings such as tattoos inhibit emotional healing, affect physical safety and employment opportunities, and impede the ability to “move on” with life. For this reason, in 2018, the Office of Child Trafficking Prevention and Policy developed a network of doctors and tattoo artists to help youth remove or alter exploiter tattoos, along with a trauma-informed counseling component to provide the support needed for life changing decisions by trafficked and gang-involved youth. During 2022, OCTPP received 10 initial tattoo removal requests:

- 8 returned the waiver and received referral information
- 1 did not follow up with requested information after initial contact
- 1 was a provider inquiry about the program who did not follow up with a specific child request

D. Expansion of Trafficking Prevention Group Work

In 2018, OCTPP initiated direct service provision to trafficked and at-risk youth through facilitation of a variety of trafficking awareness and empowerment groupwork models. In 2019, OCTPP expanded its groupwork initiative, providing direct trafficking awareness groups to vulnerable youth at the Nicholas Scoppetta Children’s Center and at Residential facilities. In 2020 and 2021, OCTPP continued its expansion, through the development of new groupwork models and a Credible Messenger Program to specifically address safety and behavioral aspects of youth in care, including increased virtual exposure to predators due to COVID-19 isolation. In 2022, OCTPP continued facilitating the “Mitigating Trauma Through Drama” model and launched a new Substance Abuse/Trafficking Awareness model, and also presented the results of its work at professional conferences.

a. Mitigating Trauma through Drama: Developing Positive Pathways for Lives Through Expressive Arts

An eight-session psychodrama model for 8 to 10 youth created by OCTPP Executive Director Selina Higgins and Melody Centeno, Founder and CEO of Foster Care Unplugged. This model, funded for its second year by the New York Community Trust and the 2022 NYC Safe Harbour grant, utilizes psychodrama, a performance-based approach, to provide a trauma-informed mechanism to identify and express feelings and learn positive strategies to heal from past experiences. Each session provides trafficking awareness and guides youth in applying the psychodrama exercises to trafficking related scenarios to provide opportunity for expression and disclosure in a safe milieu. Two-hour virtual sessions were held weekly, co-facilitated by Ms. Centeno and Ms. Higgins. Monetary and food gift cards are provided to all group members as reinforcement for attendance and participation.

b. Substance Abuse/Trafficking Awareness

A four-session model for 5 to 7 youth developed as a student project by an MSW Intern (January to June 2022) under the supervision of Executive Director/Field Instructor Selina Higgins. Each session provided information on how substance abuse and addiction can correlate with trafficking vulnerability. One-hour virtual sessions were held weekly, with gift cards are provided to all group members as incentive for attendance and participation.

The models were successfully presented as workshops at NYC conferences:

- NASW-NYC's 7th Annual Social Work in the City Conference for the Profession (Mitigating Trauma Through Drama, June 2, 2022)
- 2022 Lehman College Substance Misuse Conference (Substance Abuse/Trafficking Awareness, April 8, 2022)

E. “Here for You” The Trafficked Youth Credible Messenger Program:

Credible Messengers are individuals who are able to connect with and motivate youth to successfully challenge and transform destructive thinking, attitudes and actions. As the Office of Child Trafficking Prevention and Policy focuses upon helping prevent sexual and labor exploitation of youth under age 18, or over age 18 while in foster care, a former foster youth/trafficking survivor Credible Messenger who shares their story with youth who are reluctant to leave the life or a risky environment and benefit from a stable, supportive trafficking interventive placement can be highly influential. “Here for You” was developed to provide trafficked youth within the NYC child welfare system with trauma informed support by adult survivor leaders with prior child welfare history. Empathetic engagement by one who has faced and overcome similar challenges to live a healthy and safe life will help youth recognize that no matter what situation they are currently involved in, there is hope and many other possibilities available if they are willing to try. In 2022, to better reach vulnerable youth, the “Here for You” program continued with two Messengers and presentations of its video featuring the Messengers and their stories to help youth recognize that others have had the same difficult experiences and to model that it is okay to reach out for help.

The Credible Messenger Program and its video was successfully presented as a panel presentation at the NYS Office of Children and Family Services’ 2022 Anti-Trafficking Summit, and also as a groupwork model for youth in placement.

Conclusion

Over the past ten years, through the Safe Harbour affiliation, ACS and DYCD have worked together to systemically recognize and address the needs of sexually exploited young people. The Safe Harbour Act with state and local agency resources have allowed us to strengthen our work in this area by enhancing existing services and developing increased specialized services for this population, training staff, and evaluating mechanisms to improve our efforts to identify and document sexually exploited youth.

For ten years (2013 to 2022), NYC has been the recipient of Safe Harbour grant funding from NYS OCFS as follows:

Year	Funding
2013	\$622,220
2014	\$550,000
2015	\$550,000
2016	\$448,000
2017	\$374,000
2018	\$88,900
2019	\$88,900
2020	\$88,900
2021	\$66,000
2022	\$88,900

The original 5-year Safe Harbour grant funding to New York City was drastically reduced by the State to a baseline amount in 2018, and further reduced in 2021, although it increased back to the mean baseline in 2022. ACS has asked the State to continue and hopefully increase this critical funding as this reduction places key services and interventions at risk.

We acknowledge the COVID-19 crisis and the enormous impact it still continues to have on our youth, staff, and communities during 2022. ACS' OCTPP has been fully operational and available for response to all inquiries, and for the provision of guidance, technical assistance, groupwork provision, resource referrals and tattoo removal requests seamlessly throughout the year. Case consultation is available through a variety of virtual platforms and by telephone, and multi-disciplinary consultations are often provided. Although in-person trainings are currently on hold, OCTPP has been fully available to provide training through available web-based environments. DYCD Residential programs remained open to serve youth in need, while making adjustments to ensure space for social distancing and isolation as needed. Drop-in Centers continued to offer in person services including: referrals to housing and health care; providing on-line supports such as counseling and support for coping during the pandemic, clinical support for anxiety or depression; as well as recreational activities to maintain social connections during this time.

ACS, DYCD, and our partner agencies remain committed to helping ensure youth are as safe and stable as possible as the unprecedented challenges related to the crisis have continued to unfold. We greatly appreciate the Council's attention to this vulnerable population of children and look forward to discussing how the Council can provide additional support for ongoing work to help the trafficked and sexually exploited children of NYC.

Appendix A: NYC DYCD 2022 Safe Harbour Data

DYCD Safe Harbor Data for New York City: 2020: Exploited Children and Children At-Risk of Exploitation																		
DYCD Program	Total Youth	Cis M	Cis F	Trans F	Trans M	No G Disc	GNC	<12	12 to 15	16 to 18	>18	Age Unk	ACS only	DYCD only	ACS & DYCD	Unk	MH Referrals	MH Counseling
DYCD Drop Ins	38	9	19	-	-	9	1	0	1	4	33	0	0	34	4	0	15	13
DYCD Crisis	58	16	34	-	-	7	1	0	0	8	50	0	0	54	4	0	47	47
DYCD TILS	27	4	22	-	-	1	0	0	0	2	25	0	0	12	15	0	20	20
Total	123	29	75	-	-	17	2	0	1	14	108	0	0	100	23	0	82	80

DYCD Served 123 Exploited and/or At-Risk for Exploitation Youth Through Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) Programs:

- 58 youth received Crisis Services Programs.
- 27 youth received services from Transitional Independent Living Programs (TILS).
- 38 youth received services at Drop-in Centers.
- 23 youth served by DYCD-funded providers disclosed that they also receive some form of service from ACS.
- Gender: 29 males; 75 females; 2 Gender Non-Conforming (GNC) youth and 17 youth who did not disclose their gender. Within those gender categories, 10 transgender youth were served: Drop-in Centers served 1 transgender youth, Crisis Services assisted 7 transgender youth, and TILS served 2 transgender youth.
- Ages: 1 child between ages 12 and 15; 14 children between ages 16 and 18; 108 youth over age 18.
- Details are provided in Section C-1: DYCD Contracted Programs and Services to Meet the Needs of Sexually Exploited Children.
- 82 youth received Mental Health referrals.
- 80 youth received Mental Health counseling.

Appendix B: All NYC 2022 Safe Harbour Provider Data

NYC Administration for Children's Services																
2022 NYC Safe Harbour Data: Newly Identified Exploited Children and Children At-Risk of Exploitation																
as reported by ACS, DYCD and Safe Harbour Providers																
Safe Harbour Provider	Total Youth	Cis M	Cis F	Trans F	Trans M	No G Discl	GNC	<12	12-15	16-18	>18	Age unk	ACS only	DYCD only	ACS+DYCD	Unk
Child Trafficking Mailbox* ***	117	14	103	0	0	0	0	0	56	56	5	0	117	0	0	0
Child Trafficking Database****	16	0	16	0	0	0	0	0	7	9	0	0	16	0	0	0
Children's Center Counselors** ***	91	6	84	1	0	0	0	2	63	26	0	0	91	0	0	0
DYCD RHY Programs	123	29	75	0	0	17	2	0	1	14	108	0	0	100	23	0
OTDA Confirmations (0 - 23)	30	1	28	0	0	1	0	0	0	12	18	0	0	0	0	30
JCCA Gateways (Placement)	23	0	23	0	0	0	0	0	13	10	0	0	23	0	0	0
CV Empower House (Placement)	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Preventive Advocate Cases	42	0	2	0	0	40	0	0	1	1	0	40	42	0	0	0
Family Assessment Program	89	0	2	0	0	87	0	0	1	1	0	87	89	0	0	0
Wyckoff Medical's Unity Program	54	28	25	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	54	0	0	0	0	54
Hetrick Martin Institute Internships	8	1	3	1	0	0	3	0	0	1	7	0	0	0	0	8
Hetrick Martin Institute Group	40	0	0	17	11	0	12	0	12	6	22	0	0	0	0	40
Foster Care Unplugged Groups	38	0	38	0	0	0	0	0	0	38	0	0	38	0	0	0
OCTPP Groups	29	0	29	0	0	0	0	0	7	11	11	0	29	0	0	0
Totals:	703	79	431	19	11	145	18	2	161	188	225	127	448	100	23	132
Section Totals:	703	703					703					703				

* 14 additional youth notified to the Child Trafficking Mailbox were also screened through the CTDB. These youth were counted only as CTDB to avoid duplication.

** 25 additional youth identified by Children's Center Counselors were notified to the Child Trafficking Mailbox. These youth were counted only as Mailbox to avoid duplication.

***ACS' Office of Child Trafficking Prevention and Policy (OCTPP) also assisted 118 previously identified youth and Children's Center Counselors assisted 27 previously identified youth.

**** Data for the Child Trafficking Database only includes screenings at the Federal Definition of Sex Trafficking level, which are automatically notified to OCTPP, not for High or Medium Risk levels.

ACS' OCTPP also received notification of, and assessed 223 additional youth who were determined to not be trafficked or at-risk, or not enough information was provided for a determination.

DYCD RHY Crisis Services and TILs serve ages 16-20. Drop-in Centers serve ages 14-24.

DYCD RHY served 10 transgender (TG) youth (included within the other gender categories). Drop Ins served 1 TG youth, Crisis Shelters served 7 TG youth, TILs served 2 TG youth. See report for details.

OTDA collects data on confirmed victims of all ages, but only data from ages 0 to 23 was used as 23 is when all youth would have exited the child welfare system.

Preventive Advocate Cases: 31 youth screened as Medium Risk and 9 youth screened as High Risk. 2 youth identified at the Federal Level, so demographics provided for the 2.

Family Assessment Program Advocate Cases: 56 youth screened as Medium Risk and 31 youth screened as High Risk. 2 youth identified at the Federal Level, so demographics provided for the 2.

Wyckoff Medical Center's ADLP PrEP & Adolescents Unity Program provided anti-trafficking counseling and literature during sexual health sessions.

Hetrick Martin Institute provided groupwork and internships for LGBTQAI+ youth and young adults.

Foster Care Unplugged and OCTPP provided Mitigating Trauma Through Drama psychoeducational groups virtually for youth at three foster care agencies. OCTPP also provided additional anti-trafficking groups.

Appendix C:

NYC Administration for Children's Services' Child Trafficking Database (CTDB)

Administered by ACS' Office of Child Trafficking Prevention and Policy (OCTPP), and platformed in Microsoft Dynamics, the Child Trafficking Database (CTDB) allows assigned staff to electronically complete the mandated OCFS sex trafficking screening tools, thereby alleviating the use of paper tools. As per ACS' 2022 policy: *Assessing Identifying and Service Planning for Child Sex and Labor Trafficking Victims*, all children under investigation, in the care of ACS contracted foster care agencies, and receiving services from preventive service agencies and juvenile detention providers are required to be screened using the CTDB. The only exception to use of the CTDB for sex trafficking screening is for Advocates Prevention Only (ADVPO) cases and Family Assessment Program (FAP) cases, which require the use of paper screening tools to maintain the confidentiality required by the Advocate's Agreement.

The CTDB allows staff to view child trafficking screening histories of children on their caseload, input screenings and view caseload demographics relevant to screenings assigned, enter service referrals and generate two types of reports (Child Screening History Report and Area Compliance Report). The CTDB permits every screening to be recorded and saved in the system for future access by a worker assigned to a child (and only when a worker is assigned to a child), and for administrative research and reporting needs, as required by Federal and State legislation.

The development of the CTDB had been divided into two phases - Phase 1: Child Trafficking Screening Tool and Phase 2: Demographic and Service Data and Reports. Phase I, launched on February 15, 2017, provided a mechanism for data input in relation to NYS child sex trafficking screening mandates. CTDB Phase II launched on March 12, 2020, encompasses expanded abilities, including a new window which permits the viewing and recording of services, and auto-generated report capability as described below:

- The ability for authorized users to record information related to referring, receiving and/or providing services for every child identified as trafficked or at-risk for trafficking in a comprehensive screening
- The ability to run a ‘Child Screening History Report’ to view information on every screening ever done on a child, all indicators selected for each screening and any services referred/provided
- The ability to run a CTDB Area Compliance report that displays a comparison of all completed screenings by the screener versus screenings closed by the CTDB if not completed within the required 30 days based upon a specific ACS Division, provider, or program area
- The ability for users with “Screener” and “Supervisor” assigned roles to deactivate a screening for a specifically provided reason
- The ability for a Supervisor to re-assign a case within their unit

OCTPP regularly conducts trainings on how to use the CTDB and is in process with ACS’ Workforce Institute (WFI) to develop a 1-hour E-Learn which will be continually available to all ACS and provider agency staff. The E-Learn is expected to launch in January 2023. An electronic mailbox, available at CTDB@acs.nyc.gov provides access to technical support. The [CTDB Phase I & II Reference Guide](#), updated in August 2020 to include Phase II skills, provides walk through text and screen shots for user guidance.

END NOTES

ⁱ Mt. Sinai-St. Luke’s New Beginnings Preventive Program’s intake closed on December 3, 2019 as the program ramped down and the program closed on March 31, 2020, with the last case closed on 4/6/20. In the newly awarded prevention services continuum, ACS did not fund programs that exclusively serve sexually exploited youth. Instead, ACS has ensured a range of therapeutic models are available in every borough and neighborhood across New York City, including those that are equipped to serve sexually exploited youth. All prevention services programs are required to screen all children for history or risk of trafficking in persons. Therefore, there is no data for a program that only serves sexually abused/sexually trafficked youth.

ⁱⁱ OCTPP receives redacted sex trafficking screening data for Advocate (ADVPO) cases, which totaled 25 children determined to be at-risk of exploitation in Calendar Year 2022. Preventive Services Advocate Cases identified 40 children at-risk for exploitation and 2 children at the Federal Definition level, and Family Assessment Program Advocate Cases identified 87 children to be at-risk of sexual exploitation and 2 children at the Federal Definition level. For children deemed at-risk for trafficking, ACS’ contracted Preventive and Family Assessment Program agencies do not transmit a breakdown of data on ADVPO

cases beyond a total number of children and their risk levels. For children determined to be exploited, only age, gender and borough are provided.

iii As documented in 17-OCFS-INF-03: New York State Processes Related to Notifications of Victims of Human Trafficking (March 17, 2017), the NYS Anti-Trafficking Law (2007) requires the New York State (NYS) Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) and the NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) to accept referrals of potential victims from local law enforcement agencies or local district attorneys' offices. In 2015, the ability to refer potential victims of human trafficking expanded to include established legal and social services provider. OTDA and DCJS are charged with confirming or denying referrals of victims made to their agencies to allow access to services. Additionally, OTDA manages the New York State Response to Human Trafficking Program (RHTP). DCJS, in consultation with OTDA, must determine whether to confirm the referred person as a human trafficking victim (HTV) under statutory and regulatory guidelines. Once confirmed, victims are directed to either the LDSS or the RHTP service provider network. OTDA confirmation is confidential, and OTDA will only provide the number of confirmed victims, their age and gender. Some of the victims may be duplicative of reporting by other providers, but this is impossible to actually ascertain due to the confidentiality requirement. While OTDA collects data for victims of all ages, only data from ages 0 through 23 was utilized, as age 23 is when all youth are required to exit the child welfare system and receive adult services.

iv DYCD Drop-in Centers did not close during the continued pandemic. Services programs continue to offer vital support. Residential programs remained open to serve youth in need, while making adjustments to ensure space for social distancing and isolation as needed. Drop-in Centers continue to offer in person services including: referrals to housing and health care; providing on-line supports such as counseling and support for coping during the pandemic, clinical support for anxiety or depression; as well as recreational activities to maintain social connections during this time. While services remain available, the number of youth served during calendar year 2022 (123 in 2022 compared to 236 in 2021) was reduced, likely due to continued pandemic concerns. Additionally, the contracted preventive program (New Beginnings) closed. ACS no longer receives data about trafficked and at-risk youth from previous Safe Harbour providers, but has received data from current program affiliations.

DYCD RHY	2020	2021	2022
Total	534	236	123
Crisis Service	350	171	58
TILS	98	19	27
Drop Ins	86	46	38
Male	98	47	29
Female	178	120	75
GNC	24	13	2
G Non Discl	234	56	17
Trans Youth	159	26	10
MH Ref	152	83	82
MH Counsl	275	72	80
OTDA	2020	2021	2022
Total	20	20	30

ACS	2020	2021	2022
Total	434	357	550
CT Mailbox	123	127	117
CTDB	23	22	16
CC Counselors	56	77	91
FCUP Group	9	20	38
Preventive ADVPO	15	25	42
FAP	76	64	89
New Beginnings	67	Program Closed	Program Closed
Gateways	14	19	23
Empower	N/A	3	3
Day One Groups	51	N/A	N/A
OCTPP Groups	N/A	N/A	29
HMI Group	N/A	N/A	40
HMI Internship	N/A	N/A	8
Wyckoff Unity	N/A	N/A	54

^v Many of the youth worked with by the CSEC Counselors at the ACS Children’s Center received multiple and/or extended sessions. Some youth received individual sessions, and also participated in groups. Some youth had been previously referred and met again with the counselors upon return to the Children’s Center. Some youth at the Children’s Center who screened at the Federal Definition of sex trafficking level were referred to the Child Trafficking Mailbox (but only counted as Mailbox to avoid duplication).

^{vi} 117 newly identified sexually exploited youth, or youth at-risk for exploitation were brought to the attention of ACS’ Child Trafficking Mailbox. However, the Child Trafficking Mailbox also received notification of 118 additional youth who had been previously identified as exploited or at-risk for exploitation prior to 2022. The total number of youth addressed through the Child Trafficking Mailbox is documented in Section B: Data Capture Methodology.

^{vii} Forty (40) age non-disclosures were from the Advocate Prevention Only (ADVPO) screenings, which only provide age if the child meets the Federal Definition level, but not for the at-risk level. Eighty-seven (87) age non-disclosures were from the Family Assessment Program (FAP) screenings, which only provide age if the child meets the Federal Definition level, but not for the at-risk level. ADVPO and FAP cases do not provide any identifying information unless the youth is identified as trafficked and then only age, gender and borough.

^{viii} In 2022, ACS continued its partnership with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), which notifies the Office of Child Trafficking Prevention and Policy when NYC youth (both in care and not in care) are identified by sharing relevant intelligence through the Child Trafficking Mailbox. This information sharing has provided an additional opportunity to offer services to trafficked youth both affiliated and not affiliated with the child welfare system. ACS and NCMEC attendees participate in a virtual bi-monthly meeting to discuss cases, policies, procedures and provided cross trainings across 2022.

^{ix} The Child Trafficking Mailbox provides access to and/or auto forwards emails to:

- Selina Higgins, Executive Director, OCTPP
- Shereene McDermott-Green, Supervisor II, OCTPP
- Clifton Robertson, Residential Social Worker, OCTPP
- Carmen Sanchez, Social Worker, OCTPP
- Zarde Paddyfote, Child Protective Specialist, OCTPP
- Sabine Chery, Assistant Commissioner, Office of Older Youth Services
- James Fey, Senior Advisor for Investigations to the Commissioner
- James Ciccotelli, Operations Manager, ACS Investigative Consultation Program
- James Maloy, Supervisor, ACS AWOC Recovery Team
- Peter Alexander, ACS Criminal Justice Coordinator

^x The CTDB only automatically notifies OCTPP for Federal level screenings. Many more youth are screened within the CTDB at the High Risk and Medium Risk levels, but guidance for work and services for the at-risk level youth are elucidated in 16-OCFS-ADM 15 and ACS’ trafficking policy. These youth are not captured on the 2022 data table due to the enormity of resources that would be needed to extract the data from thousands of screenings.

^{xi} The overall number of youth identified as “trafficked or at-risk for trafficking” increased by 42 youth between 2021 (613 youth identified) and 2022 (703 youth identified). 2022 also demonstrated a significant increase in the number of At-Risk youth identified to the ACS Child Trafficking Mailbox and CTDB (96 of 133 youth). The increased number of At-Risk youth identified in 2022 may serve to illustrate the greater awareness of trafficking indicator recognition by ACS and provider agency staff. The decreased number of Federal level youth may indicate appropriate intervention for at-risk youth that prevented escalation to the Federal level.

^{xiii} Identifying Assessing and Safety Planning with Child Sex and Labor Trafficking Victims. ACS Policy and Procedure 2022/05 released September 18, 2022.

^{xiii} The number of emails sent to the Child Trafficking Mailbox does not include additional trafficked or at-risk youth emails sent directly to the Executive Director of OCTPP or to other OCTPP team members (not copied to the Mailbox), nor does it include the emails sent to the CTDB Mailbox, the Training Mailbox, the Tattoo Removal Mailbox, the FGM/C Mailbox or the Credible Messenger Program Mailbox.

^{xiv} Trauma bonding occurs due to an ongoing cycle of abuse during which intermittent punishment and reward develop a powerful emotional bond which is highly resistant to change. The lessons and punishments become more severe over time, and the victim's compliance increases to maintain the affection of the abuser.

^{xv} DYCD Crisis Services provide services to youth ages 16 – 20, as well as young adults ages 21-24.

^{xvi} DYCD Transitional Independent Living (TIL) programs provide services to youth ages 16 – 20, as well as young adults ages 21-24.

^{xvii} DYCD Drop-in Centers serve young people ages 14 to 24.

^{xviii} ACS contributed the cost of maintaining the two Safe Horizon consultants at the Children's Center. In 2022, ACS is planning expanded the staff of its Office of Child Trafficking Prevention and Policy (OCTPP) and plans to continue expansion to increase its ability to reach young people who are at-risk or victims of sexual exploitation.

^{xix} In December 2017, ACS moved OCTPP from the ACS Investigations Unit to the Division of Family Permanency Services' Office of Older Youth Services (OYS), to enhance linkage and communication with the foster care agencies, who often help identify trafficked youth via screening and casework. One example of the benefits of the move of OCTPP to OYS is that OCTPP is now leveraging resources by working closely and in coordination with other OYS programs that work with children and staff in residential foster care programs: the Intensive Preventive Aftercare Services for Child Welfare (IPAS-CW) Unit, and the Missing Children's Outreach unit (MCOU). OCTPP and IPAS-CW continue to work together to increase outreach and communication with trafficked youth and their case planners in residential programs and to provide trainings to planners on how to use the Child Trafficking Database to screen youth. The Missing Children's Outreach Unit (MCOU) works with foster care agencies to help locate youth who leave their placements without consent ("AWOC") towards mitigating the risks of trafficking. OCTPP also works with the ACS Investigative Consultation (IC) Program (comprised of former law enforcement personnel) and its AWOC Team who locate and return these vulnerable youth.

^{xx} In 2022, the Office of Child Trafficking Prevention and Policy (OCTPP) worked diligently and continually to provide the highest quality of training, alone or in partnership with other trafficking related professionals, filling and/or facilitating a total of 3,928 trafficking awareness and skills related training seats, targeting a wide audience that included ACS, foster care, prevention and juvenile justice staff, plus other City agencies, State agencies and community and faith-based agencies. To maximize safety for large training audiences, OCTPP continued virtual training in 2022, utilizing a variety of platforms to reach widely across NYC and beyond.

Of the total 3,928 training seats OCTPP provided in 2022:

- 1,967 seats were filled through during the Office of Child Trafficking Prevention and Policy's 2022 Child Trafficking Prevention Conference (virtual)
- 590 seats were filled during OCTPP's Child Trafficking Prevention Spring Training Series (virtual)
- 1,371 training seats were filled through additional trainings provided by the Office of Child Trafficking Prevention and Policy

An additional 189 training seats were filled through trainings facilitated by graduates of the NYS Office of Children and Families Services (OCFS) Train the Trainer course facilitated by the Executive Director in

January 2020. These trainers work within ACS' Division of Youth and Family Justice (DYFJ), training the Youth Development Specialists (YDS) who work in the secure detention facilities.

In 2022, OCTPP continued to develop, update and provide a variety of original and specialized trainings, including:

- Understanding Child Trafficking Dynamics: A Bio-Psycho-Social Perspective
- Safety Planning WITH Trafficked Youth
- Endorsing Exploitation: The Influence of Media on the Developing Vulnerable Adolescent
- ACS 2020 Trafficking Policy and Child Trafficking Database (CTDB) Screenings
- Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C): Overview, Engagement Strategies and Resources
- Law Enforcement and Legal Perspectives on Human Trafficking
- Human Trafficking Through a Medical Lens: Expert Physician Panel
- Human Trafficking Expert Resource Service Panel
- Exploring Trauma Through the Creative Arts
- Survivor Voices: The ACS Credible Messenger Program

Additionally, OCTPP's Executive Director, a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW-R), and other members of OCTPP presented/co-presented professionally at virtual conferences and other venues which provided for the sharing of subject expertise and lessons learned in NYC with other jurisdictions, including:

- NYS Anti-Trafficking Summit (workshop presentation)
- NYC-NASW Social Work in the City Conference (workshop presentation)
- NY Foundling William Randolph Hearst Program in the Prevention of Child Maltreatment for Social Workers, Nurses and Other Social Service and Health Care Professionals Program (workshop presentation)
- Lehman College Substance Misuse Conference (workshop presentation)
- Human Trafficking Panel for Physicians Against the Trafficking of Humans (PATH)'s Learn to Identify & Fight Trafficking (LIFT) training (panelist)
- NYC Department of Youth and Community Development's "Barbershop" session on What Men are Saying and Doing About Human Trafficking (panelist)
- NYC Department of Education Human Trafficking Roundtable (panelist)

^{xxi} The tattoo removal palm cards are available in Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, English, French, Haitian Creole, Korean, Polish, Russian, Spanish, Urdu, Yiddish. The YouTube video is available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NGUMtzplo48>