

**LOCAL LAW 41 of 2016:  
2025 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 documenting the number Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) in contact with ACS and DYCD or their contracted providers to provide data on youth either at-risk or sexually exploited, description of services provided, and 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 report for 2025 which contains the following information:

- A. *The number of youths in contact with DYCD’s runaway and homeless youth services or ACS who are referred as, self-report as, or are later determined to be sexually exploited.*
- B. *Data disaggregated by age, utilizing the following ranges:*
  - *under 12 years old.*
  - *12-15 years old.*
  - *16-18 years old; and*
  - *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 who received services from DYCD and/or ACS.*
- D. *A description of services provided by DYCD and ACS to meet the targeted population’s needs including number of designated beds designated, 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.*

**2025 DATA SUMMARY**

**In 2025, ACS, DYCD and the Safe Harbour providers served a total of 970 youth referred as, self-reported as, or determined to be sexually exploited, or at-risk for sexual exploitation.**

<b>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 2025: 970</b>	
Safe Harbour Providers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child Trafficking Mailbox - 165</li> <li>• Child Trafficking Database - 39</li> <li>• Children’s Village Counselors at the Children’s Center - 32</li> <li>• Hetrick Martin Institute Internships - 10</li> <li>• Hetrick Martin Institute Groups - 59</li> <li>• Hetrick Martin Individual Services -39</li> <li>• Foster Care Unplugged Groups - 16</li> <li>• Day One Groups - 74</li> <li>• PACT Groups - 5</li> <li>• Emergency Funds - 73</li> </ul>	512

DYCD Runaway and Homeless Youth Services	133
ACS Prevention Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocate Prevention Only (ADVPO) Cases – 157</li> <li>• Family Assessment Program (Advocate) Cases - 135</li> </ul>	292
ACS Placement Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children’s Village Empower House - 14</li> </ul>	14
Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) Confirmed Victims of Human Trafficking	19
<b>Total Newly Identified Exploited or at Risk for Exploitation Youth Served in 2025</b>	<b>970</b>
Note 1: Previously identified youth for whom notifications were received and services provided in 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child Trafficking Mailbox - 223</li> <li>• Children’s Village at the Children’s Center - 27</li> </ul>	250
Note 2: Children’s Village Safe Harbour Program at the Children’s Center’s Safe Harbour counselors worked with 48 additional youth for whom notifications were sent to the Child Trafficking Mailbox. These youth were counted within the Mailbox instead of Children’s Center to avoid duplication.	48
Note 3: OCTPC also received notification of and assessed 250 additional youth who were determined to not be trafficked or at-risk, or not enough information was provided for a determination.	250

It should be noted that the overall number of youths identified as “trafficked or at-risk for trafficking” increased by 127 youth between 2024 (843 youth identified) and 2025 (970 youth identified). This illustrates a continuing upward trend in youth identification and service provision. It's unclear if this reflects a true rise in youth either at risk or being trafficked or simply better detection due to improved staff training. In 2025, the number of youth identified as follows:

- ACS’ Office of Child Trafficking Prevention and Consultation (OCTPC) notifications and service provision reflected 204 newly identified OCTPC youth in 2025 (as compared to 206 youth in 2024):
  - The Child Trafficking Mailbox notifications decreased in 2025 (165 youth) as compared to 2024 (181 youth)
  - The Child Trafficking Database (CTDB) notifications increased (39 in 2025 as compared to 25 in 2024)
- Children/youth identified as trafficked or at-risk in Advocate Prevention Only (ADVPO) cases: 153 at-risk and 4 Federal level in 2025 vs. 71 at-risk and 1 Federal level in 2024. The increase in children identified by ADVPO providers could be due to an increased number of screenings completed in 2025: 11,874 in 2025 vs. 8,705 screenings in 2024. Youth identified within the Family Assessment Program (FAP) cases: 134 at-risk and 1 Federal level in 2025 vs. 136 at-risk and 2 Federal levels in 2024. No significant change in the number of youth identified. However, as FAP completed 2,266 rapid screenings in 2024 versus 1,996 rapid screenings in 2025, this illustrates a higher percentage of children identified (6.7% of youth identified as at-risk or Federal in 2025 vs 6.0 % of youth identified as at-risk or Federal in 2024).

More youth were identified to the NYC Safe Harbour Program overall in 2025 (970 in 2025 compared to 843 in 2024). There was no significant change in the number of youth identified to the Office of Child Trafficking Prevention and Consultation’s Child Trafficking Mailbox and Child Trafficking Database (204 youth in 2025 vs 206 youth in 2024). There was also no significant change in the percentage of youth that met the Federal Definition of Sex Trafficking level. In 2025, 38% (T = 78) of the 204-youth identified to the Child Trafficking Mailbox and Child Trafficking Database screenings met the Federal Definition of Sex Trafficking as compared to 38% Federal levels identified in 2024.

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

The OCTPC every three (3) months, conducts follow-up on identified youth that are still active within the NYC child welfare system (protective, preventive, foster care, and detention). Each youth is researched within ACS' database of record (Connections) and the recorded services are assessed for trafficking relevant appropriateness. Follow-up is conducted to assess the services provided and if additional support is needed to safety planning input for all identified youth.

**Provider Breakdown:**

**In 2025, programs funded or affiliated with the NYC Safe Harbour Program served 970 Youth Exploited or At-Risk.**

**In 2025, DYCD Served 133 Exploited and/or At-Risk for Exploitation Youth Through Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) Programs:**

- 59 youth received Crisis Services Programs.
- 35 youth received services from Transitional Independent Living Support Programs (TIL).
- 59 youth received services at Drop-in Centers.
- 19 youth served by DYCD-funded providers disclosed that they also receive some form of service from ACS.
- Gender: 30 males; 60 females; 0 Gender Non-Conforming (GNC) youth and 43 youth who did not disclose their gender. Within those gender categories, 9 transgender youth were served: Drop-in Centers served 3 transgender youth, Crisis Services assisted 6 transgender youth, and TILS served 0 transgender youth.
- Ages: 1 child between ages 12 and 15; 5 children between ages 16 and 18; 127 youth over age 18.
- 49 youth received Mental Health referrals.
- 58 youth received Mental Health counseling.

Details are provided in Section C-1: DYCD Contracted Programs and Services to Meet the Needs of Sexually Exploited Children.

<b>Table 2. Delineation of Data by Required Local Law 41 Categories: Total = 970</b>		
<b>By Age:</b>	Under 12 years old:	<b>13</b>
	12 to 15 years old:	<b>191</b>
	16 to 18 years old:	<b>194</b>
	Over 18 years old:	<b>229</b>
	Age unknown	<b>343</b>
<b>By Gender:</b> Note: DYCD RHY served 9 Trans youth who were counted within M/F.	Male:	<b>152</b>
	Female:	<b>403</b>
	Transgender Female:	<b>13</b>
	Transgender Male	<b>9</b>
	Gender Non- Conforming	<b>13</b>
	Gender Undisclosed	<b>380</b>
<b>By Contact With DYCD or ACS:</b>		
ACS only		<b>0</b>
DYCD only		<b>114</b>

Both ACS and DYCD		<b>19</b>
Unknown		<b>837</b>
<b>Breakdown of Advocate Case Youth Not at the Federal Definition Level</b> Preventive Advocate and FAP cases do not disclose data specifics for at-risk levels. Age and gender data provided only for Federal level.	ADVPO Prevention Services – 153  Family Assessment Program - 134	<b>(287)</b> These youth were encompassed in the Age Unknown and Gender Not Disclosed categories

**B. DATA CAPTURE METHODOLOGY**

1. ACS Data Capture Methodology:

In 2025, 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 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 to communicate with the OCTPC team. OCTPC staff obtain updates on status, services and safety planning and collect demographic data. Additionally, they respond to Federal Level screening notification generated by the Child Trafficking Database (CTDB), to support the child/youth and ensure the appropriate safety and service plan is established. OCTPC staff also attend and provide guidance at conferences and individual case consultations, and to Safe Harbour non-child welfare case assistance requests.

In 2025, OCTPC social workers provided two hundred fifty-five (255) live case consultations, all of which received follow up actions. In 2025, OCTPC’s Child Trafficking Mailbox received 6,538 emails, which identified a total of 165 children newly identified as trafficked, or at-risk of trafficking. OCTPC also provided support to another 223 youth, all of whom had previously been identified as trafficked or at-risk. OCTPC also received notification of and assessed 250 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 CTDB, which sends an automatic notification whenever a child screened meets the Federal Definition level of sex trafficking. In 2025, the CTDB electronic sex trafficking screening process identified 39 children. OCTPC thereby provided support for a total of 677 children and youth in 2025.

Of the total 204 new children identified to the OCTPC in 2025 (165 Mailbox and 39 CTDB), 78 met the Federal Definition level. An additional 62 youth identified to the Mailbox met the High-Risk level and 63 youth met the Medium Risk level, and 1 youth met the No-Risk level.

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

In 2025, ACS continued to follow its internal policy and OCFS’ Administrative Directive guiding the screening and assessing child sex trafficking victims. 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 four types of reports. Quantitative data is manually inputted from Mailbox and CTDB notifications into the NYS Office of Children and Family Services’ (OCFS) Safe Harbour Program’s standardized Excel spreadsheet. This data capture tool helped to gather uniform statistics from providers and thereby facilitated the ability for quarterly and annual data aggregation.

<b>Table 3: Summary of 2025 Data Collected by the Office of Child Trafficking Prevention and Consultation Through the Child Trafficking Mailbox and the Child Trafficking Database (CTDB):</b>	
# Newly Identified Youth to the Child Trafficking Mailbox in 2025	165
# Newly Identified Youth to the CTDB in 2025	39
# Newly Identified Youth to <u>both</u> the Mailbox and CTDB in 2025 (documented as CTDB <u>only</u> to avoid duplication)	(27)
<b>Total Number of Newly Identified Youth to OCTPC in 2025 (Child Trafficking Mailbox <u>and</u> CTDB):</b>	<b>204</b>
# New Youth Identified at the Federal Definition of Trafficking in 2025	78
# New Youth Identified as At-Risk for Trafficking in 2025	126
<b># Previously Identified Youth Involved in 2025 Emails to the Child Trafficking Mailbox</b>	<b>223</b>
<b># Newly identified youth for whom OCTPC received initial notifications, but upon assessment, were determined to not be at risk, or insufficient information was provided for determination</b>	<b>250</b>
Total Number of Youth for Whom OCTPC Provided Support in 2025:	<b>677</b>
<b>Total Number of Emails to the Child Trafficking Mailbox in 2025</b>	<b>6,538</b>

It is important to note that collecting data on trafficked and at-risk youth can be challenging and complex for many reasons, including the trauma and fear of disclosing, fear of retribution, suspicion of law enforcement, developmental delays, and lack of understanding one is in fact trafficked.

**DYCD Data Capture Methodology:**

The RHY providers are instructed to complete the Safe Harbour (CSEC) report for each new reported case of CSEC as soon as the cases are reported. Every month, providers are asked to confirm no reports. The reports are made by DYCD’s contracted RHY providers in the electronic DYCD Connect, Participant Tracking System.

**Table 4. NYC 2025 Safe Harbour Data Table, as Delineated by Agency and Indicator:**

NYC Administration for Children’s Services																
2025 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 Disc	GNC	<12	12-15	16-18	>18	Age unk	ACS only	DYCD only	ACS+DYCD	Unk
Child Trafficking Mailbox* ***	165	16	147	0	0	1	1	4	85	71	5	0	0	0	0	165
Child Trafficking Database****	39	5	34	0	0	0	0	0	20	19	0	0	0	0	0	39
Children’s Village at Children’s Center	32	6	26	0	0	0	0	2	17	13	0	0	0	0	0	32
DYCD RHY Programs	133	30	60	0	0	43	0	0	1	5	127	0	0	114	19	0
OTDA Confirmations (0 - 23)	19	1	17	0	0	1	0	0	2	3	14	0	0	0	0	19
CV Empower House (Placement)	14	0	14	0	0	0	0	0	7	7	0	0	0	0	0	14
Preventive Advocate Cases	157	0	4	0	0	153	0	0	3	1	0	153	0	0	0	157
Family Assessment Program (Advocate)	135	0	1	0	0	134	0	0	1	0	0	134	0	0	0	135
HMI Internships (Tau Gamma)	10	0	2	3	2	1	2	0	0	2	8	0	0	0	0	10
HMI Groups	59	4	2	2	2	45	4	0	0	2	12	45	0	0	0	59
HMI Individual Services	39	9	11	6	5	2	6	0	0	6	33	0	0	0	0	39
Foster Care Unplugged Groups	16	5	11	0	0	0	0	0	2	14	0	0	0	0	0	16
PACT Groups	5	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	5
Day One Groups	74	36	38	0	0	0	0	7	42	25	0	0	0	0	0	74
Emergency Fund Provision	73	40	32	1	0	0	0	0	11	26	30	6	0	0	0	73
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>970</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>837</b>
<b>Section Totals:</b>	<b>970</b>	<b>970</b>					<b>970</b>					<b>970</b>				

\* 27 additional youth notified to the Child Trafficking Mailbox were also screened through the CTDB. These youth were counted only as CTDB to avoid duplication.

\*\* 49 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 Consultation (OCTPC) additionally assisted 223 previously identified youth and Children’ Village 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 OCTPC, not for High or Medium Risk levels.

ACS’ OCTPC also received notification of and assessed 250 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 9 transgender (TG) youth (included within the other gender categories). Drop Ins served 3 TG youth, Crisis Shelters served 6 TG youth, TILs served 0 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: 139 youth screened as Medium Risk and 14 youth screened as High Risk for trafficking. 4 youth identified at the Federal Level, so demographics provided for the 4 Federal level youth.

Family Assessment Program Advocate Cases: 54 youth screened at High Risk and 80 youth screened as Medium Risk for trafficking. 1 youth identified at the Federal Level, so demographics provided for the 1 youth.

Herrick Martin Institute provided groupwork, internships and individual services for LGBTQAI+ youth and young adults.

PACT provided groupwork for youth in secure detention.

Day One provided groupwork for youth in foster care group homes and non-secure detention.

Foster Care Unplugged and OCTPC provided Mitigating Trauma Through Drama psychoeducational groups virtually for youth at foster care group homes and therapeutic placements.

**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) 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 Support Programs (TIL) (serving youth ages 16-20, as well as young adults ages 21-24) 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 youth and young adults, 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 Programs** - DYCD contracts with providers for Crisis Services programs, or emergency shelter. Currently the capacity is 258 beds for youth 16 to 20 years old plus an additional 60 beds for young adults 21 -24 years old for a total of 318 beds. 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.
- 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, Staten Island, and the Bronx and two in Queens. Each borough has one 24/7 drop-in center. These programs serve youth ages 14 through 24 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) Support Programs** - DYCD contracts with providers to offer 495 Transitional Independent Living support beds for youth 16 - 20 years old plus an additional 50 beds for young adults 21 - 24 years old for a total of 545 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 Support Program, when appropriate. The GEMS TIL program specializes in services specifically for female identifying youth 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 2025, New York State's Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) provided \$50,000 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. Following is a summary of Safe Harbour-funded programs:

### **The Children's Village Safe Harbor Program at the Nicholas Scoppetta Children's Center**

The Children's Village, a leading service provider in the field of commercial sexual exploitation, provide expert service through the provision of astute professionals working as Commercially Sexually Exploited Child (CSEC) Consultants at the Nicholas Scoppetta Children's Center. The Children's Village Empower House social workers 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. During 2025, the social workers served 80 new youth, 48 of which were notified to the Child Trafficking Mailbox (therefore aggregated within that data set and not counted towards the Children's Center total for 2025 to avoid duplication). They also served an additional 27 youth who had been previously referred to them, for a total of 107 assessments and engagements during 2025. The consultants provided a total of 143 Safe Harbour groups for youth and also provided technical support for staff.

### **Hetrick Martin Institute's Tau Gamma Internships, Trans Treats Groups, S.W.E.A.R Groups and Individual Level Services**

In 2025, the Hetrick-Martin Institute (HMI) served 108 LGBTQIA+ youth vulnerable to sex work and trafficking through comprehensive, identity-affirming support. Key initiatives included:

- S.W.E.A.R. Group: 14 youth completed an updated curriculum covering sexual health, financial literacy, and legal rights, reporting increased self-advocacy and risk-reduction skills.
- Trans-Treats: This weekly psychoeducational support group, led by trans clinical staff, reached 45 transgender and non-binary youth.
- Tau Gamma Internship: 10 participants gained career experience, professional attire, and job-readiness training (resumes/interviews) in partnership with corporate sponsors.

- Individual Services: 49 youth accessed essential "wrap-around" care, including case management, counseling, and HMI's pantry (meals, laundry, and gender-affirming items).

These programs highlight HMI's commitment to providing culturally responsive resources that strengthen the agency and safety of diverse LGBTQIA+ youth.

Service Type	Timeframe	Total Youth	Cis M	Cis F	Trans F	Trans M	No G Disc	GNC	16-18	>18
<b>Tau Gamma Internship</b>	<b>One cycle</b>	<b>10</b>	0	2	3	2	1	2	2	8
<b>S.W.E.A.R. Group</b>	<b>One cycle</b>	<b>14</b>	4	2	2	2	0	4	2	12
<b>Ind. Services</b>	<b>Varied</b>	<b>39</b>	9	11	6	5	2	6	6	33
<b>Trans-Treats Group</b>	<b>Continuous group</b>	<b>45</b>	<i>**Not collected for this report</i>							

Additionally, 49 unique youth members received Individual Level Services at HMI including case management, pantry (clothing, showers, laundry, food, gender-affirming items), dinner/nightly meal, job readiness training services, counseling, and other youth-based wraparound groups.

In 2025, the Office of Child Trafficking Prevention and Consultation (OCTPC) and its partners delivered the following impact:

- Day One: Provided 12 workshops on healthy relationships and consent to 74 youth in foster care and detention settings.
- PACT: Delivered trauma-informed trafficking prevention workshops to 5 youth in secure detention.
- Foster Care Unplugged: Completed three "Mitigating Trauma through Drama" cohorts for 16 youth in group homes.
- Emergency Funds: Distributed \$25 gift cards for essential needs (diapers, formula, interview attire) to 73 youth.
- Training & Education: Trained 3,117 individuals on anti-trafficking policy and screening tools through workshops, e-learning, and specialized modules for Child Protective Specialists.

In 2025, the OCTPC worked diligently and continually to provide the highest quality of training, alone or in partnership with other trafficking related professionals, by providing ninety (90) high quality trainings which filled 16, 417 training seats (mostly virtually, some in-person), through either direct provision by OCTPC (including the Foster Care, Preventive and Child Protective "Roadshows"), or through trainings produced and/or provided by the Executive Director for the 3 virtual conferences.

In 2025, four (4) of the OCTPC social workers provided live case conference consultation for 255 children/cases. Additionally, OCTPC's Executive Director participates weekly as a member of the Manhattan Family Court's Wraparound Part Case Conferencing Team. The Wraparound Part is a pilot which applies a strategic, coordinated model to better serve litigants who are survivors of, or at heightened risk for, human trafficking.

Additionally, OCTPC continues to offer the following programming:

- The "Children are NOT for \$ale" campaign and a professional toolkit were expanded, providing brochures and digital resources in 12 languages.

- Tattoo Eradication: The "Movin' On" project provided trauma-informed tattoo removal for nine youth victims of trafficking or gang involvement.
- Therapeutic Groupwork: Partnering with *Foster Care Unplugged*, the "Mitigating Trauma Through Drama" program used psychodrama to support 16 youth.
- Credible Messenger Program: Individuals with lived experience mentored youth to transform destructive behaviors. The program's recruitment video was featured at the 2025 NYC Child Trafficking Prevention Conference.

### III. ACS Contracted Placement Programs and Preventive Advocate Screenings to Meet the Needs of Sexually Exploited Children

In addition to services funded by the NYS Safe Harbour grant, ACS also contracts for a specialized placement program as part of its continuum of services for at-risk youth and victims of sexual exploitation. Additionally, OCTPC works with contracted prevention programs concerning Advocates Preventive-Only (ADVPO) cases and with the PINS diversion Family Assessment Program (FAP) to provide requested referrals without violating the confidentiality of the Advocate's Agreement.

#### A. Preventive and Family Assessment Program Advocate Cases:

ACS' Family Services Division (FSD), formerly known as the Division of Prevention Services (DPS) and ACS' Family Assessment Program (FAP), a Persons in Need of Supervision (PINS) diversion programs obtained redacted Advocate data from its contracted service providers. Due to the voluntary nature of advocate cases, 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. Additionally, these cases are not captured in the CTDB but collected on paper templates. Children screened at the Federal Definition of Trafficking level are identified to OCTPC, but only by age, gender, and borough. 2025 data provided by the Advocate agencies identified:

- Preventive ADVPO Screenings:
  - 11,874 total Rapid Indicator screenings, of which 157 youth screened as at-risk and thereby received further screening with the Comprehensive tool:
    - 14 youth screened at High-Risk for trafficking.
    - 139 youth screened at Medium-Risk for trafficking.
    - 4 youth screened at the Federal level.
- Family Assessment Program Advocate Screenings:
  - 1,996 total Rapid Indicator screenings, of which 135 youth screened as at-risk and thereby received further screening with the Comprehensive tool:
    - 80 youth screened as Medium-Risk for trafficking.
    - 54 youth screened as High Risk for trafficking.
    - 1 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:

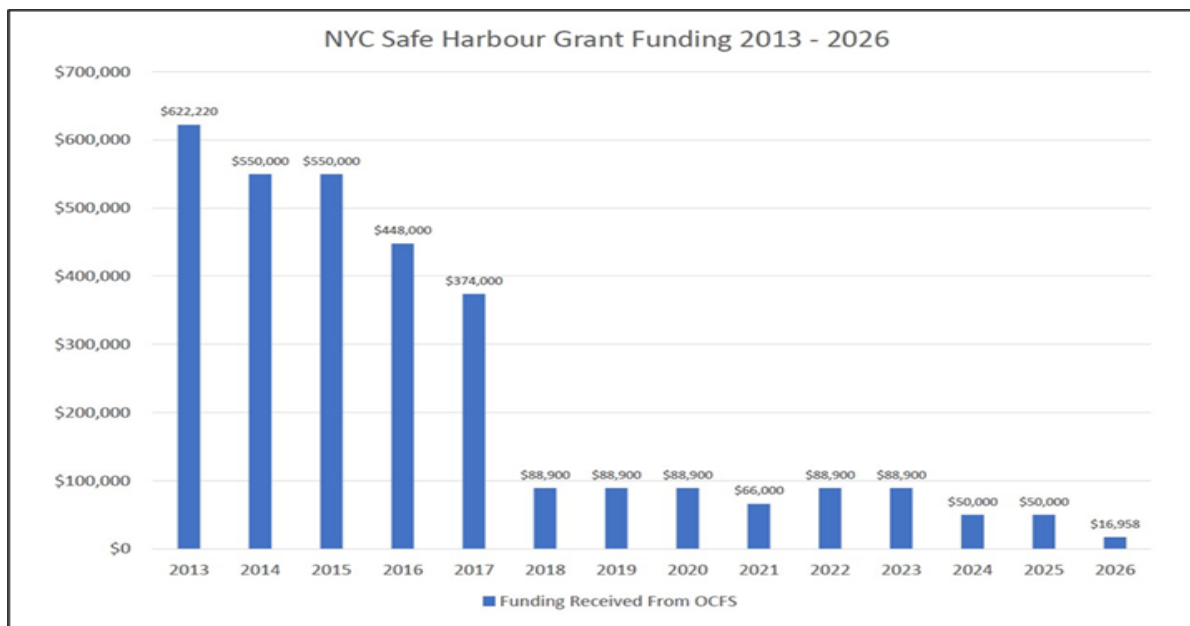
##### The Children's Village Empower House

The Children's Village is an ACS contractor that provides foster home, residential, community, mental health, and prevention services. Empower House serves all genders and sexual orientations. All Empower Programs are required to serve youth without discrimination. Empower House provides an intensely clinical, safety-oriented program, often utilizing Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT) for youth to develop an understanding and acceptance of difficult feelings resulting from trauma experienced, along with

coping skills. They also use Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT). It should be noted that other youth who have experienced trafficking received placement with additional foster care agencies, not specifically dedicated to trafficked youth. These agencies received guidance and support from ACS' Office of Child Trafficking Prevention and Consultation. In 2025, Empower House Queens served a total of fourteen (14) girls.

**Conclusion**

Over the past thirteen years, through 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. Inclusive of 2026 funding, for fourteen years (2013 to 2026), NYC has been the recipient of Safe Harbour grant funding from NYS OCFS as follows:



The above chart indicates the decrease in Safe Harbour funding since 2013. ACS is committed to serving this population and, while appreciative of the funds received, is open to discussing with OCFS opportunities to increase Safe Harbor funding or identify other funding streams.

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 2025 Safe Harbour Data

DYCD 2025 Safe Harbor Data for New York City: Exploited Children and Children At-Risk of Exploitation																	
DYCD Program	Total Youth	Cis M	Cis F	Trans F	Trans M	No G Discl	GNC	<12	12 to 15	16 to 18	>18	Age Unk	ACS only	DYCD only	ACS & DYCD	Unk	MH Referrals
DYCD Drop Ins	39	4	21	N/A	N/A	14	0	N/A	1	3	35	0	N/A	35	4	0	5
DYCD Crisis	59	22	24	N/A	N/A	13	0	N/A	N/A	2	57	0	N/A	57	2	0	24
DYCD TILS	35	4	15	N/A	N/A	16	0	N/A	N/A	0	35	0	N/A	22	13	0	20
Total	133	30	60	N/A	N/A	43	0	0	1	5	127	0	N/A	114	19	0	49

### In 2025, DYCD Served 133 Exploited and/or At-Risk for Exploitation Youth Through Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) Programs:

- 59 youth received Crisis Services Programs.
- 35 youth received services from Transitional Independent Living Support Programs (TIL).
- 59 youth received services at Drop-in Centers.
- 19 youth served by DYCD-funded providers disclosed that they also receive some form of service from ACS.
- Gender: 30 males; 60 females; 0 Gender Non-Conforming (GNC) youth and 43 youth who did not disclose their gender. Within those gender categories, 9 transgender youth were served: Drop-in Centers served 3 transgender youth, Crisis Services assisted 6 transgender youth, and TILS served 0 transgender youth.
- Ages: 1 child between ages 12 and 15; 5 children between ages 16 and 18; 127 youth over age 18.
- 49 youth received Mental Health referrals.
- 58 youth received Mental Health counseling.
- Details are provided in Section C-1: DYCD Contracted Programs and Services to Meet the Needs of Sexually Exploited Children.