

# TRAFFICKING AWARENESS CONTEST FOR YOUTH 2026

Create a Poem, Song, Story, or Artwork on

## WHAT IS CHILD TRAFFICKING?

### RULES FOR PARTICIPATION



#### Goal

To provide youth with an opportunity to think about child trafficking and a voice to discuss how they feel about a topic that has frequently been in the news. This will also provide an opportunity for adults to understand what youth think about trafficking.

#### Open to

All youth in Foster Care ages 12 and up.

#### How to Participate

Provide an original media item (poem/song lyrics, story, drawing,) on the topic of “What is Child Trafficking?”. The youth can focus on sex or labor or both type of trafficking – it is up to them to choose what type of trafficking they want to discuss. The media can consist of a drawing, a poem/song lyrics, or a story.

#### Contest Rules

All youth in care ages 12 and up may participate

All submissions must be original.

Submissions can be in the form of a poem/song lyrics, story or drawing.

Each youth may provide multiple submissions.

If a youth experiences writing challenges, they can tell their poem or story to staff and staff can write out the poem or story for them.

The submissions may NOT include any sexist, racist, homophobic, or transphobic comments or images.

The submission must not have any of the youth’s personal identifying information directly on/in it (e.g., no names, signatures, photos).

#### Due Date

All entries must be received by **December 31, 2025**

All submissions may be reproduced, distributed and/or displayed by ACS.

#### Incentives

Every youth who participates will receive a \$25 gift card. Multiple submissions by a youth will be accepted, but only one \$25 gift card per youth for participation (\$25 per youth, not per submission).

All participating youth will also receive a certificate of participation (in addition to the \$25 gift card) and category winners will receive special certificates noting their achievements (in addition to their prize/gift cards).

#### Judging

Judging will occur using the same age range categories required by City Hall’s

annual Local Law 41 (Safe Harbour) Report: (12 to 15), (16 to 18), (18+). There will be multiple winners selected from each media category (poem/song lyrics, story or drawing):

- 1st prize \$200
- 2nd prize \$100
- 3rd prize \$50
- Honorable Mentions (2) at \$25 for each category and age group

Judges will include interested Youth Leadership Council (YLC) members, ACS’ Office of Child Trafficking Prevention and Policy (OCTPP) team members and other to be determined. Judging will occur virtually through a Teams meeting (or multiple Teams meetings if many entries are received). YLC participants will be compensated for their time with gift cards.

#### ★ Submission Procedure

Submissions will be scanned and emailed to:

[Trafficking.awareness.contest@acs.nyc.gov](mailto:Trafficking.awareness.contest@acs.nyc.gov)

The email will contain the youth’s name, age, agency and case planner and the case planner’s supervisor’ contact information (email and phone number). The email will also include the youth’s email and cell phone number, if applicable.

**All email must include a signed consent/release form that is applicable to the youth’s age and legal status:**

**Under age 18**

**Under age 18 and freed for adoption**

**Age 18 and above**



**Consent/Release Form  
Under age 18**



**Consent/Release Form  
Under age 18 and  
freed for adoption**



**Consent/Release Form  
Age 18 and above**