

**Allegheny County**  
**Department of Human Services**  
**Request for Proposals Q&A**  
RFP for an Inpatient Program for Victims of Childhood Sex Trafficking

**August 18, 2020**

**1. What are your expectations around education for the young people while they are in our care?**

The Successful Proposer must support Participants on their educational path. The Successful Proposer will work with the Participant, their family, their caseworker, DHS's Education Stability Team, and other child welfare partners, providers and team members to discuss education options, address enrollment barriers, explore school choice options and troubleshoot concerns to make a Best Interest Determination (BID) about the Participant's education.

**2. Will the room and board expenses be based on a per diem or program funded?**

It will be program funded for the first one to two years. "Program funded" means that we have a contract with a provider for an annual allocation for services with specified performance standards. Providers then invoice us monthly for reimbursement.

**3. Is there an expectation for the ability to do 24-hour admittance?**

Yes.

**4. What is the expected average length of stay?**

The length of stay will depend on the Participant's treatment plan. We estimate that it will be nine months on average, but it can be shorter or longer for each individual Participant.

**5. Do you have any requirements around genders for the physical space? Should we plan to create some separation for different genders?**

We expect there to be space separation for different genders but do not have specific requirements. We are interested to learn how Proposers plan to do this. Please describe this in your Proposal.

**6. Should we expect to use our current outpatient MH license for the treatment aspects of the funding?**

If your organization's mental health license for treatment applies, you can use it.

**7. Is there an expectation that the space be ADA accessible? If the space is not will that automatically disqualify us?**

Public entities, like DHS, have an ongoing obligation to ensure that individuals with disabilities are not excluded from programs and services because facilities are unusable or inaccessible to them, as described in Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Organizations with whom DHS contracts, such as the Successful Proposer of this RFP, also have this obligation.

DHS expects the Successful Proposer's facility to be accessible; however, Proposers will not automatically be disqualified from consideration under this RFP if the proposed space is not fully ADA accessible. For Proposers who are proposing an existing facility, please use the Inpatient Residential Facility section in the Response Form to note how accessible your facility currently is and what renovations may be needed and could be possible to complete within a reasonable budget. DHS and the Successful Proposer will discuss and agree upon the best way to meet ADA requirements.

For Proposers who are proposing the construction of a new facility, the ADA requires that all new facilities built by public entities such as DHS must be accessible to and usable by people with disabilities.

For more information, see <https://www.ada.gov/> and read an ADA primer for state and local governments at [https://www.ada.gov/regs2010/titleII\\_2010/title\\_ii\\_primer.html](https://www.ada.gov/regs2010/titleII_2010/title_ii_primer.html).

**August 25, 2020**

**8. While certain facility amenities requested in the RFP should be exclusive to this program, i.e., private meeting space, living space, etc., will it be acceptable that certain common space such as the outdoor recreation space, physical activity space or fitness center, dining room, or kitchen for congregate meals could be part of a shared facility for young people, provided that appropriate supervision of participants is maintained?**

Yes.

**August 28, 2020**

All of the questions published today (Questions 9 – 80) were submitted to DHS by a childhood sex trafficking survivor and community advocate on behalf of herself and others. We appreciate all of the time and energy that went into sharing these concerns and questions with DHS and are grateful for the opportunity to respond to them.

In response to this feedback, we have amended the RFP to add a requirement that the Successful Proposer establish an advisory board for the program that includes survivors of commercial sexual exploitation of children who are compensated for their time (see the Amendments section below for more detail).

Additionally, this feedback illustrates that while there is a need for a program like this one to serve victims of child sex trafficking identified through the child welfare system, it only serves one specific population and does not address all issues that survivors face. We recognize the need for additional services for the broader community of sex trafficking survivors, and we

commit to engaging in a community planning process with survivors to inform other initiatives to serve this population.

- 9. The RFP states that the age range for program participants is between 9 and 21 years. How did DHS arrive at that age range? There are special needs and considerations for victims under 12, teenage victims, and sex trafficking victims over 18. Were the needs of these distinct populations taken into account?**

The target population for this Program reflects the ages of most child sex trafficking victims involved with DHS's child welfare office. DHS acknowledges that victims of different ages will have very different needs. The intent of this RFP is not for all ages to be housed together or to receive the same services. In describing their plan for services, Proposers should explain how they plan to deliver tailored services to different age groups, including their plan to house Participants according to age group.

- 10. Is it even legal to house 9 year olds with 21 year olds? I.e., is it legal to house adults with children?**

Please refer to Question 9. Proposers should explain in their Proposal their specific plan to house Participants according to age group.

- 11. Is the decision making team aware of the dynamics of childhood sex trafficking victims where older victims take on mothering role with younger victims? That dynamic can interfere with both victims' healing and recovery. It is irresponsible to house older and younger victims together unless they are siblings or were abused together.**

Please refer to Questions 9 and 10.

- 12. Is there any sort of coercion involved in this program for victims age 18 and up? I.e., will they be threatened with arrest or criminal charges if they don't enroll in this program?**

No. All referrals to this Program will come only through the child welfare system, not through probation, police or any other part of the criminal justice system. Further, DHS cannot obtain any type of court order for anyone over 18 to enroll in this Program.

- 13. For victims 18 and up, is participation 100% voluntary with no strings attached, including no threat of arrest or criminal charges?**

Yes, Participants age 18 and up may leave the Program voluntarily at any time or choose not to enroll in the program with no threat of arrest or criminal charges.

- 14. Is this program court ordered in any way, for victims of any age? Specifically 18 and up? What about 17 and below?**

As stated in Question 12, DHS cannot obtain any type of court order for victims age 18 and up.

For victims age 17 and below, this Program may be court ordered via the family court system, but never the criminal justice system. The Program will not be a secure setting, i.e., Participants under age 18 would be able to run away. However, DHS will attempt to locate participants under age 18, as we would for any child or youth in our care whose location is unknown.

**15. Will the police be able to coerce victims to participate in the program? Will the police be forbidden to arrest or charge, or threaten to arrest or charge, any victims?**

Please see Question 12.

**16. Is it a come and go program where victims don't have any demands on them to have to participate?**

No. This Program incorporates an evidence-based program that requires ongoing participation. It is not a come and go program.

**17. Why specifically was the CHANCE/citrus program selected for this RFP? Are there survivor leaders involved in the program, specifically child sex trafficking survivors?**

The Citrus/CHANCE program is the only evidence-based practice for victims of childhood sex trafficking. Due to state requirements, DHS can only receive funding for this type of program if it utilizes evidence-based practices.

As described on page 10 of the RFP, the CHANCE treatment team includes a “life coach” who is a survivor of commercial sexual exploitation. The life coach will be available 24/7 to provide Participants with support, assistance and advocacy, as appropriate. Additionally, DHS recognizes the importance of having peer support as a focus for service delivery. DHS employs Youth Support Partners with lived experience to support the young people we serve and help connect them to resources.

**18. Does DHS have any child sex trafficking survivors on our decision making team? If not, why not?**

We have not finalized the evaluation committee for this RFP yet, but we are committed to having survivors on the committee. So far, we have identified three potential evaluators who are child sex trafficking survivors.

**19. Why did DHS choose to focus on an inpatient facility, especially for teenage victims? Why not a program that can help victims develop life skills such as budgeting and resume development, to help victims pursue other options and learn things they weren't taught? While an inpatient facility might play a role especially for younger victims, there need to be multiple options. There should be an even larger, non-forced facility where people can go if they want to and access whatever services they choose**

DHS issued an RFP in 2017 for a drop-in center as well as an inpatient program. Pittsburgh Action Against Rape (PAAR) was awarded a contract to provide the drop-in center, and a short

description of it can be found on page 6 of the RFP. However, we did not award a contract for an inpatient center at that time. You can view that RFP, as well as PAAR's proposal and other details in our Solicitations Archive, here: <https://www.alleghenycounty.us/Human-Services/Resources/Doing-Business/Solicitations/Awarded-Contracts/Award-Details---024.aspx>

The need for an inpatient center to address the needs of children who have been victimized has been ongoing and developing this Program has been a priority for DHS for a number of years.

Please keep in mind that while they may not be specifically tailored to this population, DHS offers a wide variety of services and supports in the areas of housing, basic needs, behavioral health and other areas that could benefit Participants in this Program.

**20. Why is your RFP for a type of program that people are often coerced to stay in? Child sex trafficking victims should have the same rights as any other victims of crime, like rape victims who are able to choose if and when to report. Will this program include voluntary services for victims to walk in and pick whichever services they wish?**

This Program will not be a locked facility and there will be no involvement with the criminal justice system. Please refer to Question 14, above. As stated in Question 16, CHANCE is an evidence-based program that requires ongoing participation, not a drop-in or come and go program.

**21. Please confirm that this program will not include any way of incentivizing police to "save lives," which leads to terrorizing and brutalizing victims.**

Confirmed, there will be no involvement with police or the criminal justice system. All referrals to the Program will come only through the child welfare system.

**22. Were other minor homes around the country consulted when this RFP was created, such as GEMS Girls?**

This RFP is an extension of our ongoing work in this field, including the RFP we issued in 2017 (see Question 19 for more information). As part of our work in this area, prior to developing the 2017 RFP, we did consult with GEMS and other leaders in the field and reviewed programs in other cities. In order to ensure that no Proposer has an advantage in the RFP process, we do not develop RFPs in consultation with any specific providers of a service.

**23. What connection will this program have to the LEAD program?**

No connection.

**24. Why is the RFP placing 9 year old sex trafficking survivors with 21 year old sex trafficking survivors? There should be at least 3 age groupings 9-12, 13-17, 18+ 4 age groups under 11, 12-14, 15-18, 18+.**

**Mothering is real and no survivor should be placed in a position where they are mothering their survivor siblings. This hinders healing and care for both the survivor who is placed in a mothering position as well as the likely younger survivor who is being mothered.**

Please refer to Questions 9 and 10.

**25. 18+ is this 100% voluntary?**

Please see Question 13.

**26. Come/go as they please. Stay for a day, a week or just participate in stopping in to access resources?**

Please see Question 16. CHANCE is an evidence-based program based on ongoing participation. As stated in the RFP, we know that abuse is often cyclical, meaning victims may return to their abusers multiple times. Therefore, the Successful Proposer must be prepared to welcome Participants back to participate in the Program multiple times, but this is an inpatient program, not a drop-in center.

**27. Will there be any cop coercion of victims into the program? Do this or get arrested is coercion. Victims should NEVER be arrested. 90.8% of victims experience cops, cuffs, criminalization as a part of their "saving". <https://nationalsurvivornetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/VacateSurveyFinal.pdf>**

No, there will be no coercion. Referrals to this program will come exclusively from the child welfare system, not from the police or criminal justice system. See Question 12.

**28. Why is there only an inpatient option?**

Please see Question 19.

**29. Will cops be forbidden from any parts of this? Cops arrest victims. Arrest is traumatizing and victims should not be traumatized by cops to rescue them. I'm not sure the cops understand how to help without punishment.**

We utilize the Child Advocacy Center (CAC) model for interviewing victims. We have two partners for this in Allegheny County, A Child's Place and Children's CAC. There will be some occasions when there is an ongoing local or federal prosecution against the trafficker. In those instances, we would support the Participant through the process if they desired to participate in the prosecution of their trafficker, but their participation in the prosecution would not be coerced. Please also refer to Question 12.

**30. Why is there no voluntary drop in center sort of services requested in this RFP?**

Please see question 19 above.

**31. Why was the Citrus program chosen?**

See Question 16 above.

**32. Was the Citrus program developed with involvement from childhood sex trafficking survivors?**

See Question 17 above.

**33. Does the team at the DHS have childhood sex trafficking survivors on your leadership team for this RFP? If no, why not?**

See Question 18 above.

**34. Why did they pick the Chance/Citrus program?**

See Question 16.

**35. Were there survivor leaders involved in building that curriculum? (CHANCE).**

See Question 17.

**36. Why is it an inpatient facility?**

See Question 19.

**37. Is it voluntary for 18 and over? No arrest, no charges, no threat of arrest, no coercion into services?**

See Questions 12, 13 and 14.

**38. Will there be a drop in center aspect?**

See Question 19.

**39. Will there be funding made available for sex worker led organizations?**

No separate funding is available through this RFP; however, organizations led by sex workers are eligible to submit Proposals through this RFP to provide the services described.

**40. How will this RFP be sure the awardees protect the anonymity and identity of victims and sex workers? What if we want to receive services but do not feel comfortable giving you our name? Can we still get services or will we continue to be denied services?**

Participants will not be able to “self-refer” to enroll in this program. All referrals to this program will come through the child welfare system, so Participants’ identities will be known to DHS and

the Successful Proposer. DHS takes the privacy of the individuals we serve very seriously and requires the same of our provider network. The Successful Proposer will be required to treat all Participant information as confidential.

**41. Is this RFP being conflated with prostitution? Why is harmful language being used? (CSEC)**

No. This RFP is for a program to serve victims of childhood sex trafficking age nine through 21 years old, not adults who are voluntarily engaging in sex work.

While we acknowledge that there are various valid terms, we chose the term “Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC)” to refer to child sex trafficking because it aligns with the child protective services laws and is used nationally in the child welfare field.

**42. Will each of you send letters of support for Amnesty for sex trafficking victims and sex workers so we can report violent crimes? It could eliminate the need for much of this proposal.**

**Will each of you send letters of support to end conflation of prostitution and sex trafficking so we, as victims, are no longer charged with prostitution or related and so sex workers do not get charged with trafficking of themselves? It could eliminate the need for much of this proposal.**

**Will each of you send letters of support for full decrim of sex work and related charges? It could eliminate the need for much of this proposal.**

**Finally, could you stop punishment of 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 & 24 year olds who are targeted via LE to save from prostitution. Prostitution is a moral crime that does not even fit the definition of a crime. This is not helpful. This actually destroys the lives of young prostitutes and creates barriers to careers outside of sex work. You are actually creating life long prostitutes by arresting an 18 year old trying to survive. They're gonna have job problems, house finding problems and more.**

**Thank you for you'r time and don't forget to send letters of support to your state lawmakers for**

- 1. Amnesty for Rights**
- 2. End Conflation for Resources**
- 3. Full Decrim for Protections**

Thank you for this comment. DHS acknowledges that current laws related to trafficking and sex work often contribute to further harm for victims of trafficking. Separately from this RFP, we will consider how we may effectively act as advocates for change in this area. At the same time, we know that there is currently a need for a program like the one we are seeking to serve existing victims of child sex trafficking.

**43. Could a drop in center be opened for adult sex trafficking survivors of all ages? We aren't fixed because we reach 21 or 25. There should be an entire drop in center for 18+ to include ALL sex trafficking survivor adults.**



Thank you for this perspective. The current drop-in center, operated by PAAR, is funded through DHS's Office of Children, Youth and Families. As a child welfare agency, CYF's funding dictates that programming is targeted to children and youth. However, we agree that there is also a need for a service like this to serve adults and individuals outside of the child welfare system, and DHS will consider this need in planning for future programs.

**44. Why is there no childhood survivor leadership involved in this RFP? Without survivor leaders, a program is formed by folks opinions. Why has the DHS opted to not include survivor leaders in Pittsburgh?**

As stated in Question 22, this is the second time we have issued an RFP for an inpatient program for this population. When we developed the first RFP, we reviewed residential programs across the country, including learning from participants in those programs about their experiences. Additionally, we are committed to having survivor participation in the evaluation committee.

**45. Will there be an option to access resources without cop involvement?**

Yes, that is the only option. This program will have no involvement with the police. See Question 12.

**46. How will state assisted insurance come into play? Will this program be forcing folks onto public assistance to help them? Isn't this exploiting people while dictating what they need to survive? Have you even bothered to ask what we need?**

This program will be funded by the County, State and Federal government. Participants will not need to apply for public assistance or use their own private insurance to receive support through this program.

**47. The operating budget is too low and will encourage the recipient to make questionable decisions on how to bring in more funding. This is setting up a program that will exploit survivors to further their financial goals.**

Proposers may submit a budget above what is stated in the RFP, as long as the budget narrative provides a clear explanation and justification for all costs. DHS will evaluate all budgets for reasonableness and will negotiate a final program budget with the Successful Proposer.

**48. Will there be a connection to the LEAD diversionary program which seems a lot like coercion of victims, folks with mental health disabilities, folks on the spectrum, the poor, sex workers, the houseless community and more?**

No, there will be no connection to the LEAD program. See Question 23.

**49. What childhood survivor experts were consulted during the DHS process of determining to utilize this RFP/Program? What childhood survivor experts will oversee this process? Will childhood survivor experts be compensated for their time and labor? Or will the trend of**

**exploiting people with lived experiences continue? Isn't this what labor trafficking looks like?**

DHS has worked for some time with a large multi-disciplinary team that includes survivors of sex trafficking and discussed the need for this level of service with that team. Another factor in establishing this service is new legislation at the state and federal level that requests state and county child welfare systems to begin programming specifically for victims of commercial sexual exploitation of children.

Regarding compensation, DHS is unable to compensate evaluators for any RFPs that we release. We have amended the RFP to require the Successful Proposer to establish an advisory board that includes individuals with lived experience, and to pay members of that board for their time. Please also see Question 17 regarding our employment of individuals with lived experience.

**50. Will you create a community review board with full transparency? Many children who are forced into services are abused within those services. There needs to be an oversight committee that makes sure child and adult survivors are protected.**

Please see Question 79, below. At this time, DHS is not able to create an external community review board. We have amended the RFP to require the Successful Proposer to establish an advisory board that includes individuals with lived experience who will be compensated for their time, and the DHS Director's Action Line is equipped to receive complaints and concerns about all DHS programs and services.

**51. How was Voice and Choice used to shape this, if at all?**

As described on page 9 of the RFP, the Successful Proposer should offer a variety of services and supports so they can be individualized and tailored to the unique experiences and needs of Participants. DHS and the CHANCE model recognize that Participants need to be able to choose the specific services and supports they want and that the plan for services and supports needs to be developed in collaboration with the Participant.

**52. The acronym CSEC is harmful to sex trafficking survivors. CSEC = commercial sexual exploitation of children. This is dehumanizing of childhood sex trafficking survivors. Forcing use into an acronym will make it easier for folks to look at is at numbers and funding, ignoring the fact that we are people who are deserving of a voice, care, compassion, protections, rights and resources. Please consider ending the use of dehumanizing language. It is harmful to childhood sex trafficking victims.**

As stated in Question 41, while we acknowledge that there are various valid terms, we chose the term "commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC)" to refer to child sex trafficking because it aligns with the child protective services laws and is used nationally in the child welfare field. Our intention is to use a widely understood term and to minimize confusion, not to cause harm.

**53. Page 5. "Although most victims of tend to be women and girls" paragraph: this is intentionally conflating prostitution with sex trafficking. Please stop erasing sex trafficking victims because you cannot find us. Create safe spaces for us and we will seek out the resources we are in need of. Many survivors currently fear repercussions via law enforcement or NGO abuse/misuse to further their own funding. We are childhood sex trafficking survivors, we don't need our "help" forced by cops or dictated by an NGO. Stop conflating prostitution with sex trafficking. They are not the same thing. Conflation is killing us.**

**Section 1: Why We Are Issuing this RFP**

Human trafficking, and particularly the sexual exploitation of minors, has devastating consequences, including physical and psychological trauma, disease, worsened mental health and addiction, unwanted pregnancies, and social isolation. Children and youth with a history of abuse, trauma, poverty, housing instabilities and poor educational outcomes are at a high risk of trafficking and sexual exploitation and youth involved in the child welfare system are at particular risk. Children and youth who run away, are homeless or in foster care or group home settings are especially vulnerable. Risk factors associated with CSEC include:

- History of trauma, especially sexual abuse
- History of child protective investigations and foster care
- Lack of family/social support
- Inadequate supervision
- Chronic runaway behaviors or homelessness
- Substance use

Each of these risks puts children and youth at heightened risk for trafficking and exploitation and related traumatic victimization.

**"particularly the sexual exploitation of minors"**

**THIS ENTIRE RFP is going to enable organizations and law enforcement to target and criminalize children based on moral opinions.**

**Sex trafficking victims.  
Stop dehumanizing us.**

**Stop using terms like CSEC. It will further allow organizations and law enforcement to look at us as a number and not a person.**

**Sex trafficking is RAPE of children where somebody else benefits, do not put out an RFP that will only enable abuse and exploitation by law enforcement and organizations seeking funding based on our trauma.**

**This entire RFP will also target adults who choose to be prostitutes. 18+ is an adult. You don't get to dictate anyone's victims status. You don't get to dictate who needs saved.**

**This is not what help looks like. This is a request for proposals to KEEP victims in their abuse while commodifying on our resources they gatekeep from victims & survivors.**

**Cancel the entire RFP and center survivors.**

We appreciate your sharing these concerns. As stated in Questions 12 and 41, the program selected through this RFP will have no connection to law enforcement and is not designed to serve adults who choose to engage in sex work. It will serve victims of child sex trafficking and all referrals will come through the child welfare system.

**54. Why has the child welfare team not reached out to sex trafficking survivor leaders or sex worker leaders in Pittsburgh?**

Survivors are a part of the multi-disciplinary team we work with (see Question 49). We are open to hearing more from other leaders who are working to prevent child sex trafficking or support victims.

- 55. Why are you aiming to target and arrest prostitutes aged 18-21? I didn't need saved at 18. My arrest is what destroyed my life. Instead of doing more harm, consider supporting full decriminalization of prostitution to help end abuse against both sex workers and sex trafficking victims.**

Please see Questions 12 and 41 above. This program will not be connected to the criminal justice system.

- 56. Victims should never be forced into any sort of services. You don't know what's for our own good and this proposal shows it. Dept of human services is going to enable cops to continue to abuse us. This will take away our housing and food and other things we need to make it in life. Why don't you just give the resources to sex trafficking survivor leaders instead? They are taking care of us with no resources.**

We see a demonstrated need for an inpatient program for victims of child sex trafficking. While this program will not meet the needs of every survivor, an inpatient program for this population is a priority at this time. DHS offers other resources and assistance for housing and other needs – please contact [the Allegheny Link](#) or 2-1-1 if you need help accessing these resources.

- 57. 10-12 beds? Can you clarify the suggested housing arrangements from the DHS? Do you understand that each childhood sex trafficking survivor needs their own room with a lock on the inside only of the door? A room with space where they can relax and feel safe? Programs are harmful to children, from my personal experience.**

Proposers should describe their proposed housing arrangements in their Proposal. The evaluation committee, which will include survivors of child sex trafficking, will evaluate all proposed plans for the service, including housing plans.

- 58. Will survivor leaders be present during the oral presentation to note problematic areas as well as note areas that are beneficial?**

Yes, the evaluation committee, which will include survivors of child sex trafficking, will be present during the oral presentations to evaluate plans for the Program.

- 59. CSEC erases both sex trafficking victims and sex workers. Sex workers keep saying we don't want saved. We want organizations to give us access to our resources.**

As stated in Question 41, this program is not designed to serve adults who voluntarily engage in sex work.

- 60. Who is advocating for the children? Under 18 should have a survivor peer network to ensure survivors receive the services they want. For too many years organizations,**

**including yours, have failed to protect children from sex trafficking. As a survivor, I can say we don't want resources that aren't overseen by child sex trafficking survivors.**

Yes, we agree that peer support is critically important. DHS employs Youth Support Partners with lived experience to support and advocate for the children and youth we serve (see also Question 17).

- 61. CHANCE - Citrus Helping Adolescents Negatively Impacted by Commercial Exploitation. This is survivor erasing language. Using survivor erasing language is abusive to survivors. A program built on problematic language should never exist. Cancel this program before you start it. When I was a runaway teen I ran from my "uncle" that was raping me. I needed a apartment and financial education. I needed food and therapy that didn't judge me because I was a 16 year old prostitute. There is no such thing as a child prostitute as prostitution requires consent and children cannot consent to commodifying sex. I was a child unable to get the resources I needed without being sent to juvi or back to my abusive "uncle". Get a hot meal go to another abusive group home. Get condoms and I get lectured that being a prostitute was not a career. Yes it is, for adults. Give resources to children. Listen to street kids. Listen to former street kids. We will tell you how to help us. Stop abusing us and calling it help. Over 20 years since I was a street kid and the system is still abusing street kids. Thank you for your time.**

**Sincerely,  
Abused by my "Uncle" then by our broken system**

Thank you for sharing this perspective. We agree that young people need these resources in order to be successful. One avenue DHS uses to hear the perspectives of youth with lived experience is an advisory body called [System Improvement Through Youth \(SITY\)](#).

- 62. "Trauma informed, victim centered approach". The RFP itself is not trauma informed or victim centered. Just because you say the words doesn't make them reality. This RFP is problematic and reeks of the privileged Allegheny good old boys that likes to punish instead of asking how to help kids. End this abuse against our children.**

We want to work actively with all partners to end this abuse against our children.

- 63. I once traded a sexual act for a pizza when I was 17. I was on my own and I was not able to get my own food stamps because they wanted me to go to Auberly so they can give me food stamps. I needed foodstamps, not policed and punished.  
Anon Survivor**

Thank you for this perspective. Too many young people have survival sex in order to get their basic needs met. The 412 Youth Zone is available to connect young people who are in foster care or who are homeless to all resources from food, therapy and housing to employment and training.

**64. Please stop using CSEC. I am a prostitute and this makes me want to puke. It seems like you are guessing about what abused kids need. You didn't know when I was on the street at 17 and you still don't know 7 f\*cking years later. I had to trade sex as a 17 year old because I couldn't go to the shelter without being sent to juvi. WTH kind of help is that? What are you even doing over there? Do you think you are helping anyone but the programs who abuse us? Let me jump off of here before I really go off. Your getting it wrong.**

The children this program will serve are not prostitutes. We are sorry the system was not better equipped to serve you, and we are working to change that.

**65. Are sex trafficking survivor leaders being consulted? Anonymous survivors are often times used as a means to go after funding. All anonymous survivor stories in Pittsburgh I've heard are actually missing the 6 year old victims stories. Why is this? Why aren't you including us young prepubescent survivors? What are we still "too crazy" for you?**

Survivors are being consulted. See Questions 17 and 54.

**66. 5 months before my 18th birthday my parent got arrested. The cops took them and left me in the apartment. They didn't offer me any resources. I was homeless my senior year of high school, just before Thanksgiving and I had to argue with the school to give me a city bus pass so i can get to school. It took them over two weeks to get me a bus pass. A gross old man got me a bus pass and McDonald's after I did things with him. I just needed a f\*\*\*\*\* bus pass. I cried the entire day on a bench on Thanksgiving with no turkey n gravy. I had nothing to be thankful for. I wanted to die. This was in 2016. I still struggle today without any help. Pittsburgh hates Black women. Give all kids access to free busing. All kids. 18 and under, you get to ride for free. The school is responsible for the abuse that happened to me because it shouldn't take two weeks to get a student a bus pass. Just wanted a bus pass to get to school as a homeless senior. I'm also a Black Woman. I graduated, top 10% of my class because f\*\*\* you.**

Yes, our system failed you. This RFP is part of our efforts to change that. We have also made strides with our 412 Youth Zone (see Question 63) where young people can get a bus pass in addition to a multitude of other resources.

**67. Physical layout fails to mention bedding/rooming procedures. Will survivors each have their own room?**

Please see Questions 9, 10 and 57.

**68. Are accommodations made within the proposal to meet the needs of victims on the spectrum? Oftentimes women/girls are misdiagnosed and this creates additional barriers. How will the staff be expertly trained on how to meet the needs of survivors on the spectrum?**

You are exactly right. We believe that we will not have full disclosure from youth survivors who are on the spectrum. The CHANCE model is designed to meet these barriers, and we also have a

CSEC screening and assessment that helps determine if a child in the child welfare system is at risk.

- 69. There is data collection, of what? Sex trafficking survivors should not have to provide their personal information to receive services. Privacy and security are important to us survivors. My birth name is none of your business.**

Please see Question 40. This Program will only serve children and youth who are already in the child welfare system, whose information we already have.

- 70. "Annual operating budget will not exceed \$429,000." No, simply no. Do you want another foster system that abuses children? Furthermore, remove all 18 - 21 yr old folks from forced treatment. I didn't need help when I was 19, I needed LE to leave me alone. (LE = law enforcement)**

Please refer to Question 47 (re: budget) and Question 12 (re: no involvement with law enforcement).

- 71. There should be sex workers and sex trafficking survivors on the decision making board for this RFP. The more voices the quicker we can end child sex trafficking.**

Please see Question 18. The evaluation committee will include survivors of child sex trafficking.

- 72. How many millions went into the park in the sky and this proposal suggests starving the program with less than enough to survive?**

Please see Question 47.

- 73. There should not be so many requirements for one proposal. This is setting up organizations to fail or resort to exploitative techniques to meet the demands. The only organizations who are able to take on this level of care are the same ones who have been abusing us for years. I was in the PRIDE program and all it taught me is there are truly evil women who want to destroy others they are jealous of. It's really sad that these dehumanizing and abusive programs keep rebranding and opening up shop to abuse more people. They call it help. We call it abuse. This proposal will only provide funding for the already privileged. Why aren't you reaching out to the smaller organizations that are doing the work with little to no funding? They are helping more folks than the current models you are funding. Please end the abuse. Stop planning now, reorganize and center survivors and sex workers when moving forward.**

**Are you here to award money or are you here to promote change and protect children from organizational abuse?**

We recognize that RFPs can be a barrier to entry for community-based organizations. We try to balance that concern with the need to identify a Successful Proposer who can provide an effective program and meet Allegheny County's contracting requirements. We always encourage smaller providers who may not be able to meet all of the requirements on their own to partner

with another agency on a proposal, and this RFP specifically states that joint proposals are encouraged.

**74. Could you provide a simple step-by-step guide to detail the process of how to file a Rights-To-Know? I'm not sure how to do this and I would like to request ALL proposals submitted for this RFP as I am a childhood survivor who you failed 10 years ago and want to make sure you get it right. How do I get this information?**

Yes, you can simply send an email to [OpenRecords@alleghenycounty.us](mailto:OpenRecords@alleghenycounty.us) and request all proposals submitted in response to this RFP. For all RFPs we issue, we post the Successful Proposal online in our Solicitations Archive once a contract is fully executed. Given the community interest in this program, once a contract is executed we will publish all proposals on our website.

**75. We want childhood sex trafficking survivor leaders on the Evaluation Committee. We want full service sex workers on the Evaluation Committee. How do we go about submitting names of leaders for this committee? This committee needs to include the community they are looking to help. Many doctors and academics have abused us, don't you think it's time to end that abuse?**

Please see Question 18 above. We have already identified three potential evaluators who are survivors of child sex trafficking. We are happy to take suggestions for additional evaluators into consideration – please submit them to [DHSProposals@alleghenycounty.us](mailto:DHSProposals@alleghenycounty.us).

**76. Do the housing recipients have to leave during daytime hours? (Lots of behavioral health housing requires other daytime programming in order to qualify for the actual bed....)**

No, Participants in the Program will not be required to leave the premises during the day. Please note that this is not just a housing program, it is an inpatient program that depends on active participation from Participants.

**77. I'd wonder if dpw or some other group would do the on site inspections....might be information important to have down the road**

As a licensed facility, there will be some regulated oversight from the state Office of Children, Youth and Families to ensure compliance with applicable regulations.

**78. And licensing....and other audits...and will there be medical staff on site and on call?**

See Question 77 above.

**79. Will there be a community review board for survivors to report program misuse/abuse to?**

We would support advocates setting something like this up, but it is not something DHS is able to establish at this time. [DHS's Director's Action Line](#) is equipped to receive complaints and concerns about all of the services we provide.



**80. Can this review board have access to the technology to make reporting possible?**

If a review board external to DHS is established, we would be open to discussing the possibility of DHS providing technology or other resources.

**September 9, 2020 – follow-up questions from childhood sex trafficking survivor and community advocate who submitted prior questions**

**81. pg. 2 questions 9-80, "community advocate" - please change to childhood sex trafficking survivor & community advocate.**

Change made.

**82. #24 and other questions failed to communicate the DHS's knowledge and concern for survivors "mothering" other survivors. How this will be addressed and avoided to ensure all survivors get the services and support they want?**

The evaluation committee, which will include subject matter experts as well as survivors of child sex trafficking, will be assessing proposers' understanding of all aspects of child sex trafficking and survivor support. Proposers should demonstrate an understanding of and sensitivity to this dynamic and other potentially harmful dynamics that could occur among Program Participants.

**83. #39 - is the DHS conflating prostitution with sex trafficking? This is deadly to both sex workers and sex trafficking victims. End conflation.**

No, we recognize that prostitution and sex trafficking are not the same. We may have misunderstood this question. To clarify, the only funding available through this RFP is to provide the services described in the RFP.

**84. #40 - Why is there no self referral aspect? If this program aims to provide support to childhood sex trafficking survivors, why can't they self refer? What if they want to self refer to escape from their daddy trading them to their "uncles"? Why can't children self refer to end their sex trafficking abuse, themselves?**

In general, children and youth cannot enroll directly with providers and programs that contract with CYF. There are community resources that work to get a child or family connected with CYF and to determine what specific services are appropriate. A child in a trafficking or other abusive situation can seek help by calling the child abuse reporting hotline at 1-800-932-0313.

**85. ☆ #41 - age 18+ usually are exited from services on their 18th birthday. How, exactly, will the child welfare system refer 18-21 when they close their case on their 18th birthday? Will they monitor 18+ adults as a way to coerce them into medical treatment?**

Some individuals who have been involved with child welfare choose to continue receiving services through CYF's Transition Age Youth programs after they turn 18. If an individual who is continuing to receive services wants to participate in this program the program will accommodate them, but as stated above there will be no coercion.

**86. ☆ #55 - how will 18-21 year olds be referred? Aren't 18-21 year olds exited from CYF on their 18th birthday?**

See Question 85, above.

**87. #56 - does Allegheny Link have resources specifically for folks who have prostitution related arrests? 90.8% of victims are arrested as a way to save them. Does Allegheny Link have information on resources available to folks who have been arrested for prostitution? Or are these victims, that were traumatized by arrest, unable to access resources because of their arrest record?**

The Allegheny Link offers referrals to a wide variety of human services without discrimination. No one is barred from accessing services through the Link due to an arrest record.

**88. ☆ #60 - Could you clarify, are youth support partners childhood sex trafficking survivors?(Abuse occurred under age 18). If not, what is the plan to replace these folks with youth support partners who are childhood sex trafficking survivors?**

YSPs work with youth in a variety of CYF programs; they are not limited to working with child sex trafficking survivors. Our YSPs have a diverse range of lived experiences, including some who have experienced childhood sex trafficking.

**89. ☆ #69 - why are youth who are not involved in CFS allowed to have access to childhood sex trafficking medical care. This program looks like a medical program to support survivors as they heal. Why can't children who are not in CFS have access to this important care?**

**Not allowing children who are not involved in CFS to be eligible is actually DENYING sex trafficking victims a path to end their abuse, on their own terms. When will the DHS and other orgs stop gatekeeping resources? If DHS excludes child sex trafficking victims who are not involved with CFS, the DHS is actually KEEPING CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING VICTIMS IN THEIR ABUSE. What steps will you take with this RFP to ensure ALL children can have access to resources to exit their abuse?**

Please refer to Question 84, above.

**90. Is it the expectation or understanding of DHS that the cost of the CHANCE Treatment Team will be funded through behavioral health billing such as MA or insurance? Or do you anticipate that the \$429,000 will need to cover all costs of the program?**

To cover treatment, we expect the Successful Proposer must become certified by the Pennsylvania Office of Children, Youth and Families (OCYF) as a Specialized Setting providing services to “Youth Who Are, or At Risk of Becoming, Sex Trafficking Victims” in response to Families First legislation. The \$429,000 covers program expenses.

**91. What are the expectations regarding education for these youth?**

See Question 1.

**92. Based on our available space, it would not be appropriate to have both males and females together – would a model that can only include female and female identifying youth prohibit us from being considered?**

We don’t have an answer to this at this time. We will respond in a future Q&A as soon as possible. (Answered in question 114).

**93. What type of zoning and licensure is needed for this type of program?**

Please refer to Section 2.2 of the RFP: “The Program’s facility must satisfy all licensing requirements under applicable laws and meet Chapter 3800 regulations for a child residential and day treatment center.” 55 Pa. Code Ch. 3800: <https://www.dhs.pa.gov/providers/Clearances-and-Licensing/Pages/Children-and-Youth-Residential-Licensing.aspx>

**94. What does County collaboration look like in this program – is there more involvement than once per month required visitation?**

Yes, we will fully service these cases out of the regional offices, including visiting more often than once per month in some cases. CYF caseworkers will complete court work with child and family, visitation where necessary, conferencing and teaming, and additional supportive referrals where needed.

**95. Is there a per diem for each youth associated with this program to support operations?**

We’ll respond in a future Q&A as soon as possible. (Answered in question 115).

**96. The staffing model required to run a program like this with high quality and safety standards will be very costly and take a large percentage of the proposed budget - would a higher budget be considered if the model and expenses were explained?**

See question 47.

**97. What will be the expectation regarding psychiatric staffing? Will we be able to charge psych time to this contract?**

Proposers may include a psychiatrist in their proposed program design. Psychiatric time may be billable through Community Care Behavioral Health Organization based on their licensing and other requirements, and the specific program plan.

**98. What types of disorders, such as treatment related to Autism Spectrum Disorder or severe co-occurring drug and alcohol disorders, will make a referral for this program inappropriate if any?**

No single diagnosis would preclude referral to this program, categorically. Each individual referred to this program will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

**99. Working with family, natural supports and people that the young person identifies as important in their life is often a central component of treatment planning. We are concerned that we may not receive the whole picture about the young person's experience with exploitation and trafficking including all of the people that were involved. From our experience this information, especially as to family dynamics related to trafficking, is difficult to obtain. What is the plan for providing comprehensive information of this kind?**

We will use our Conferencing and Teaming model to ensure all of the information we have is shared with those providing services.

**September 14, 2020**

**100. Will DHS consider reallocating the facility/renovation budget to the program budget if the facility/renovation budget is not needed?**

The RFP was amended on September 14, 2020 to remove the budget cap of \$429,000. Proposers should submit a detailed budget including all costs of operating the Program on an annual basis. Funding for development and renovation will be available separately, and the exact amount will be negotiated with the Successful Proposer, but will not be an ongoing source of funding for the program.

**101. Will DHS pay for the CHANCE training for the service provider(s) awarded the RFP? Is there a "train the trainer" in order to address staff turnover?**

DHS will pay for the CHANCE training. CHANCE does include a train-the-trainer program. Up to 20 Successful Proposer staff can be trained to provide training to new staff on an ongoing basis; however, the staff that they train cannot become trainers.

**102. Are the anticipated 10-12 beds expected to be in a separate, designated unit or integrated among other residential units in the program?**

We expect this Program to be separate from any other existing residential program.

**103. Can you provide additional information regarding the CHANCE training? How is this training provided on an ongoing basis? Is a train the trainer program available through CHANCE?**

See Question 101.

**104. Is other CSEC specific training for staff being required?**

There is no required staff training for the Program other than CHANCE, equity training and any training Pennsylvania may require for the certification to be a Qualified Residential Treatment Program providing services to “Youth Who Are, or At Risk of Becoming, Sex Trafficking Victims.” Proposers should describe required staff training in their staffing plan in Question 16.

**105. What screening and assessment tools will be recommended or required? Will that be done by the county or provider?**

DHS already has a childhood sex trafficking screening and assessment and will develop a more detailed process with our placement stability unit to funnel referrals into this Program.

**106. What is the funding source for the post-discharge after-care services?**

Proposers may include these services in their proposed budget.

**107. What are the requirements for the Certified Behavioral Analyst – who provides that certification?**

The certified behavioral specialist is someone trained in Applied Behavioral Analysis. They are certified through the state licensing boards as Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA). A Registered Behavior Technician (RBT) and Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst (BCaBA) may also work in conjunction with the BCBA.

**108. Is there a referral source for the position of Life Coach in the county. Are there requirements/credentials for this position over than survivor. Also, is 24-hour support simply an “on-call” status?**

The only required credentials for the Life Coach is to be a survivor of childhood sex trafficking. DHS will work with the Successful Proposer for the referrals as well as the 24-hour support.

**109. Can you please explain the funding amount? If ten beds are occupied for the year, this equals a per diem of \$117.53. Our title IVE approved rates for Specialized Settings, as well**

as our contract rates for 2020-2021 for this program, are well above that rate. We want to ensure that we can provide the proper service for the funding that is being stated.

Please see Question 100

**110. We are concerned with the budget ceiling of \$429,000. With 12 residents, this comes to a \$97.95 per diem. We are not aware of any CYF resident program with a per diem that low. We understand that the first two years would be program funded but that impacts how the funding can be drawn down and doesn't change the level of funding available to the care of the residents. Can you explain the process to arrive at that funding level? Is there an anticipation that a substantial portion of the operating cost will be borne by another source such as CCBH, fee for service, etc.?**

Please see Question 100.

**111. What County or other resources will be available to support the educational components of the programming?**

Please include these components in your detailed program budget.

**112. We understand, comply and fully support that young people in care should have access to internet and mobile devices like any other young person. Do you see the need for or any flexibility around putting in place some restrictions on phone and internet on this program as a safety precaution for the young people?**

We anticipate that restrictions may be a possibility; however, they should be individualized for the Participants.

**113. What is the flow and volume of referrals that you imagine for this program? Do you anticipate a great enough need that the program will be at full capacity the majority of the time?**

Yes, we anticipate the Program will be at full capacity the majority of the time. During the first year while the Program is being program funded, we will be able to more accurately see the flow and volume of referrals.

**114. (Duplicate of #92) Based on our available space, it would not be appropriate to have both males and females together – would a model that can only include female and female identifying youth prohibit us from being considered?**

We will review such a proposal, but a Program that does not serve Participants of all gender identities and expressions is not consistent with our vision for this service.

**115. (Duplicate of #95) Is there a per diem for each youth associated with this program to support operations?**

Yes, there will be a per diem for each youth. The amount is to be determined.

**116. The RFP uses the title Certified Behavioral Analyst, however there are four certifications levels that the Behavior Analyst Certification Board certifies, with significantly different levels of education, training, expertise, and cost for service based on the level. Can you please specify? Registered Behavior Technician™ (RBT®); Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst® (BCaBA®); Board Certified Behavior Analyst® (BCBA®); Board Certified Behavior Analyst-Doctoral™ (BCBA-D®).**

See Question 107.

<b>September 22, 2020</b>
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**117. Can you elaborate on your vision of how you perceive the educational component of the program? The RFP clearly indicates via Best Interest Determination (BID). Will decisions be individualized for the participant – online and/or in an actual school setting? Or, is the expectation in-house only?**

Decisions will be individualized for each Participant via CYF’s Best Interest Determination process. There is not an expectation for in-house only education.

When a youth enters CYF care or changes placement, a Best Interest Determination (BID) should be completed to determine where the youth should attend school. This should take place even if the youth is placed in the same district in which they are already attending. No school changes should occur without a BID.

BIDs take place, initially, via email. Should the case be complex, or an agreement cannot be reached a phone meeting can occur which the Education Stability Team will typically facilitate. BIDs can also occur during Teaming Meetings, Inter Agency Teaming Meetings, or other meetings. All members of the team included on the email should provide input on where the youth should attend school by answering the questions posed in the email or providing their opinion on where the youth should attend based on the best interest of the youth.

**118. Is a financial audit mandatory?**

If your organization does not have audited financial statements, you may submit alternative documentation that attests to the financial health of your organization. Tax returns are the preferred alternative to audited financial statements.

**119. In respect to the MWDBE documents, since certification is intended for, "For profit" entities, will non profits be required to fill out the waiver? Please clarify this process.**

Allegheny County has a goal of 13% minority-owned business participation and 2% women-owned business participation on all contracts. This goal is passed on to all entities who contract with Allegheny County, whether they are for- or non-profit. Non-profit entities are required to demonstrate a good faith effort to meet this goal via suppliers and/or subcontractors. If the

Successful Proposer is unable to meet the 13% and 2% goals despite a good faith effort, a waiver may be granted.

A for-profit entity who is certified as an MBE and/or WBE may use that certification to meet one or the other of the goals (but not both). I.e., a certified MBE would still have to demonstrate a good faith effort to meet the 2% WBE goal via suppliers or subcontractors.

Please review the additional MWDBE guidance documents on our Solicitations website (under Required Documents), especially the “MWDBE Presentation for Proposers.”

**120. Can the Chance Team be formed by two different organizations?**

Yes. Multiple organizations may collaborate on a joint Proposal; the Proposal should clearly explain how the organizations will collaborate, partner, and structure service delivery.

**121. Does this rfp call for cis male survivors to be in the home/facility as well?**

Yes. The Program should have the ability to serve youth of all gender identities and expressions, and Proposers should describe their plan to appropriately house youth of different genders. Please also see Question 114 above.

**122. What are the guidelines for pregnant minors in keeping the newborn in the home?**

This Program is not designed as a parenting program. However, we acknowledge the importance of keeping teen parents with their babies and will work together with the Successful Proposer to determine how best to accommodate parenting teens and their babies.

**123. Please expound on data collection through KIDS. How does that affect reporting of immigration status? Will this be reported to ICE/Dhomelandsecurity?**

This data is outcome-based only and is exclusively used internally to determine the effectiveness of the program. It is never reported to ICE or Homeland Security.

**124. How much time is recommended for initial implementation of housing? Is there a limit?**

Please see Question 4, above. There is not a set limit on the length of stay in the Program.

**125. Can survivors of adult sex trafficking be on the paid advisory board, as an addition to child sex trafficking survivors?**

Yes, Proposers should describe and explain their desired advisory board composition.



**126. Can you please share the following data for the last (3) years for OCYF youth?**

- **Number of absences past 3 yrs by location of absence.**

**All Absences**

	2017	2018	2019	2020**	Total
In-Home	82	107	100	63	352
Congregate Care	187	143	351	75	756
Foster Care	25	17	22	15	79
Independent Living	145	138	123	34	440
Kinship Care	43	38	53	22	156
Other	1	2	2		5
RTF	9	22	5	1	37
<b>Total</b>	<b>492</b>	<b>467</b>	<b>656</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>1825</b>

**First Absences**

	2017	2018	2019	2020**	Total
In-Home	55	70	75	38	238
Congregate Care	47	36	46	14	143
Foster Care	10	7	11	5	33
Independent Living	33	12	10	1	56
Kinship Care	26	17	20	7	70
Other		1			1
RTF	3		3		6
<b>Total</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>547</b>

- **Number of CSEC screenings and assessments.**

From February 2017 through July 2020, there were:

- 985 screenings for 306 clients
- 739 assessments for 236 clients

- **Demographics is absences and individuals who received CSEC screening.**

**All Absences**

Sex & Race	2017	2018	2019	2020**	Total
<b>Female</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>463</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>1218</b>
Black	181	191	306	89	767
White	28	47	78	27	180
Two or More Races	32	32	56	30	150
Other Race	2	2	1	2	7
Unknown	49	40	22	3	114
<b>Male</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>607</b>
Black	144	106	112	36	398

White	27	33	47	15	122
Two or More Races	20	8	29	6	63
Unknown	9	8	5	2	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>492</b>	<b>467</b>	<b>656</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>1825</b>

### First Abscondences

Sex & Race	2017	2018	2019	2020**	Total
<b>Female</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>295</b>
Black	52	46	55	30	183
White	10	22	22	6	60
Two or More Races	10	8	11	1	30
Other Race	1		1	1	3
Unknown	13	3	2	1	19
<b>Male</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>252</b>
Black	63	36	41	19	159
White	12	23	17	6	58
Two or More Races	8	1	12		21
Unknown	5	4	4	1	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>547</b>

### CSEC Screenings

Sex & Race	2017*	2018	2019	2020**	Total
<b>Female</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>222</b>
Black	38	37	40	19	134
White	7	11	19	8	45
2 or More Races	4	3	11	7	25
Other Single Race	1	1	1	2	5
(blank)	7	3	1	2	13
<b>Male</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>84</b>
Black	12	8	22	8	50
White	2	4	8	4	18
2 or More Races	2	1	4	1	8
Other Single Race		1			1
(blank)	2	3	2		7
<b>Total</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>306</b>

- **Number of children who absconded with behavioral health services.**

From 2017 through July 2020, there were:

- 805 of the 1825 abscondence episodes occurred when the client was receiving behavioral health services (284 of the 547 clients)

- 713 of the 1825 abscondence episodes occurred when the client was receiving mental health services (262 of the 547 clients)
- 139 of the 1825 abscondence episodes occurred when the client was receiving drug & alcohol services (61 of the 547 clients)

- **Incidences of children arrested for charges under safe haven law.**

	2017	2018	2019	2020**
CRIMINAL TRESPASS	185	143	169	96
FALSE ID	24	19	29	5
DISORDERLY CONDUCT	2111	1923	1795	633
POSSESSION DRUG	273	231	188	94
LOITERING PROWLING	15	11	11	4
ANY OF THESE	2608	2327	2192	832

\* starting Feb 2017    \*\* through July 2020

Please also see the Childhood Sex Trafficking Multi-Disciplinary Team slideshow available in the RFP announcement at [www.allegHENYcounty.us/dhs/solicitations](http://www.allegHENYcounty.us/dhs/solicitations).

**September 25, 2020**

**127. Would this facility and program be limited to housing referrals through DHS only or can it be used for participants referred to us by other sources? (ie partner organizations, fbi etc...)**

Referrals to this Program will come only through DHS. This is an inpatient residential program and all referred Participants must receive all components of the Program – housing in the facility, intervention, therapeutic services, non-treatment supports, and CHANCE. A referral to this Program cannot be only for housing in the facility, for example.

**128. Clarification for question 124. "How much time is recommended for initial implementation of housing? Is there a limit?" If the facility needs to be built from the ground up, is there a limit to how long this implementation process can take?**

DHS will discuss and agree upon an implementation timeline with the Successful Proposer. We have some flexibility on the exact date the Program accepts its first referral; however, we hope the Program can be operational by the spring 2021.

**129. Where it says, "Proposers will propose a space (either to rent, purchase or create within its existing facilities) to develop into a welcoming, youth-friendly inpatient residential facility for the Program.", are proposers allowed to propose building a facility from the ground up?**

Yes.

**130. The RFP requests location and address as well as facility pictures. How do we protect the site location in the submitted RFP from a public record request?**

In the Response Form under the Certification section, Proposers have the option to choose whether or not their Proposal contains “information that is either a trade secret or confidential proprietary information.” If you would like the proposed site location and pictures redacted for a public record request and for the RFP Archive, please choose the first option saying that your Proposal contains information that is either a trade secret or confidential proprietary information. Then, include a written statement explaining which information about the site you would like to be kept confidential.

**September 29, 2020**

**131. Clarification for question 127 that states, "Would this facility and program be limited to housing referrals through DHS only or can it be used for participants referred to us by other sources? (ie partner organizations, fbi etc...)," meaning if the proposer gets a referral through a member of the community or through community outreach efforts, they will not be able to use the facility and/or services? That all referrals have to come directly from DHS and nowhere else, is that correct?**

At least at first, all referrals into the inpatient CHANCE Program described in the RFP must come only from DHS and not from outside sources. If the Successful Proposer serves other clients in the same facility via other programs, the housing for this Program must be separate (for example on designated floors or wings), and clients of other programs may not be part of this Program’s milieu.

**October 8, 2020**

**132. Does the facility need to be in Allegheny County?**

No. However, if a Proposer proposes a facility location outside Allegheny County, they must have a well-devised plan for visitation and therapy to connect to permanency and they should describe this plan in their Proposals.

**133. Will adults be referred to by DHS or is the 18-21 reserved for kiddos who choose to stay in the program past their 18th birthday?**

Participants age 18-21 will be referred if they are still involved in DHS’s child welfare system. No other adults will be referred. See also question 85.

**October 9, 2020**

**134. Can you share data on confirmed CSEC youth and their demographics?**

The tables below show race and age for the 295 children who are the subjects of 265 child exploitation referrals from January 2017 – June 2020 (43 of these children had substantiated allegations).

Age	Children in Child Exploitation Referrals	Substantiated Allegations	
		Count	Percent
0	2		0%
1	2		0%
2	3		0%
3	4		0%
4	10		0%
5	11	1	9%
6	11	3	27%
7	15	3	20%
8	16	1	6%
9	17	1	6%
10	19	5	26%
11	9	1	11%
12	18	1	6%
13	21	4	19%
14	28	6	21%
15	36	4	11%
16	26	3	12%
17	36	8	22%
18	4		0%
19	2	2	100%
Unknown	5		0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>15%</b>

Race	Children on Child Exp. Referrals	Substantiated	
		Count	Percent
White	153	21	14%
Black	88	12	14%
Bi/Multiracial	23	5	22%
Other/Unknown	31	5	16%
<b>Total</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>15%</b>

<b>Amendments</b>
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**July 30, 2020**

We amended the RFP to use more inclusive language about the gender identity and expression of Participants, including correcting the use of the word "transgendered" instead of "transgender." We apologize for any pain the prior language may have caused. DHS strives to makes all its services welcoming, affirming and supportive of all individuals. We deleted the following sentence on page seven:

~~DHS expects that Participants will primarily be female, but the Program must be designed to have the ability to serve males as well as transgendered youth and youth of all genders.~~

and replaced it with the following sentence:

Because of the specific focus of this service, DHS expects that Participants will be primarily femme and female identified. However, the Program must have the ability to competently serve youth of all gender identities and expressions, including but not limited to agender, nonbinary and transgender youth.

**August 28, 2020**

We amended the RFP to add a requirement that the Successful Proposer establish an advisory board for the program that includes survivors of commercial sexual exploitation of children who are compensated for their time. On page seven of the RFP, we added the text:

The Successful Proposer must establish an advisory board for the Program that includes survivors of commercial sexual exploitation of children who are compensated for their time.

On page 12 of the RFP, we added the Proposal requirement:

- Plan for the Program advisory board that includes survivors of commercial sexual exploitation with a description of the desired board composition and perspectives; meeting schedule; and responsibilities of board members (5 points)

With the addition of the five points for this new requirement, the Approach section is now worth 25 possible points and the maximum score that a Proposal can receive is 95 points.

In the Response Form, we added question a new question five:

5. Describe your plan for the Program advisory board that includes survivors of commercial sexual exploitation. Please include: your desired board composition and the perspectives you would seek to include; how often you plan to meet; and examples of the responsibilities of board members.

With the addition of this new question, we reordered the remaining questions, added one more page to the page limit, and changed the Approach section to be 25 possible points and the maximum score that a Proposal can receive to be 95 points.

Additionally, we amended the RFP and website to reflect a new Proposal submission deadline of 3 p.m. Eastern time on Wednesday, September 30, 2020 (previously September 16, 2020). Correspondingly, we updated the deadline to submit questions to Wednesday, September 23, 2020 (previously September 9, 2020).

## **September 14, 2020**

We are grateful for the feedback we received from Proposers for this RFP and from the community, including survivors of childhood sex trafficking. To address some of the concerns that were raised, we changed the title of the RFP from “RFP for an Inpatient Program for Victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children” to “RFP for an Inpatient Program for Victims of Childhood Sex Trafficking,” and changed all references to “commercial sexual exploitation of children” or “CSEC” in the RFP and Response Form to “childhood sex trafficking.”

Additionally, we took another look at the funding amount for this RFP and agree with the comments that \$429,000 is not enough to provide an inpatient program as described in the RFP. We removed this cap from the RFP. Proposers should propose a budget that includes all the costs of operating this program on an annual basis, and the evaluation committee will review all proposed budgets for reasonableness. Separate funding will be available for facility development and renovation; DHS will negotiate the amount of that funding with the Successful Proposer.

Finally, we amended the RFP and website to reflect a new Proposal submission deadline of 3 p.m. Eastern time on Wednesday, October 14, 2020 (previously September 30, 2020). We updated the deadline to submit questions to Wednesday, October 7, 2020 (previously September 23, 2020).