

Joe Lombardo
Governor



Richard Whitley
Director

The Children's Justice Act Task Force

Division of Child and Family Services- Family Programs Office

Dylan Nall

January 9, 2024



Department of Health and Human Services

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Welcome

- 1. Call to order**
- 2. Roll call**



Initial Public Comment

3. Initial Public Comment

- Discussion Only: Action may not be taken on any matter brought up under this agenda item until scheduled on an agenda for action at a later meeting.
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Goals of the CJA Task Force

4. Goals of the CJA Task Force

Goal 1: Provide child protection workers and stakeholders “front end” specialty, discipline specific and advanced training. Training should be prioritized, but not limited to, training requirements of CARA and JVTA Program Improvement Plans, child protection model assessments, ICWA, sexual abuse, domestic violence, forensic interviewing, trauma-informed practices, substance use and co-occurring mental health disorders and training needs identified in collaboration with Court Improvement Program. *(ABC)*

Goal 2: Support the implementation of the Commercially Sexually Exploited Child (CSEC) Model Coordinated Response Protocol and provide training and support for the formation of Multidisciplinary Teams (MDT) and Task Forces. *(ABC)*

Goal 3: Support the establishment of new Children’s Advocacy Centers (CACs) or other multidisciplinary team approaches and improve the capacity of existing CACs to provide a multidisciplinary response for victims of child sex abuse and exploitation, physical abuse, and child victims with disabilities. Activities may include the development of a strategic action plan for project implementation, identification of rural health care providers, investigation of funding opportunities for infrastructure and operating costs, and the use of telehealth and telemedicine statewide. *(AB)*

Goal 4: Fund technology requests to improve the investigation, assessment and prosecution of child abuse and neglect through use of latest technology and to support use of new and existing training technologies. *(AB)*

Goal 5: Identify new or needed changes to policy, regulation and/or legislation to meet requirements of federal program improvements plans and other federal and state initiatives. Support training and policy needs related to new or revised policy, regulation, and legislation. *(C)*



Meeting Minutes

5. Approve the last meeting's minutes

- For Possible Action: Consideration, discussion and possible action to approve October 10, 2023 Meeting Minutes

- Motion to approve
- Motion to 2nd
- Vote



Training Funds

6. Approve Training Funds

- For Possible Action: Consideration, discussion and possible action to approve funding for a Statewide Training for Nevada's Child Welfare Staff

- Motion to approve
- Motion to 2nd
- Vote



Training Funding Examples:

- **Nationals Center for Missing and Exploited Children**
- **532 Consulting**
 - Jim is retired law enforcement and brings his experience and voice to MDT trainings that might otherwise not be as attractive to law enforcement, prosecutors and staff and other officers of the Court.
- **Western Regional CAC**
 - Joyce works Western Regional CAC. She is the training specialist dedicated to MDT training. She works with teams, facilitators and leadership to help build cohesive teams that respond most effectively to child abuse.



CRP Annual Recommendations

7. Approve Annual CRP Recommendations

- For Possible Action: Consideration, discussion and possible action to recommendations that were drafted in the CRP subcommittee in November 2023.

- Motion to approve
- Motion to 2nd
- Vote



Draft 2024 CRP Recommendations

- **Recommendation 1:** The Children’s Justice Act Task Force (CJA) recommends the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) continues to prioritize training for all child welfare staff and stakeholders in the State of Nevada to improve the investigation and handling of child abuse, neglect, or cases involving both, particularly child sexual abuse and exploitation. This training recommendation includes, but is not limited to, child protection assessment and system of care models, family and interpersonal violence, mandatory reporting, medical forensic interventions, trauma-informed practices, and cultural responsiveness.
- **Recommendation 2:** The Children’s Justice Act Task Force (CJA) recommends the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) support efforts to translate best practices and support community-specific needs to coordinate the multidisciplinary response to child abuse, neglect, or cases involving both, particularly child sexual abuse and exploitation. This Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) support recommendation includes introducing, maintaining, and establishing Children’s Advocacy Centers (CACs), in conjunction with the Nevada State (CAC) Chapter as appropriate.



Updated 3-year Assessment Goals

8. Approve Annual CRP Recommendations

- For Possible Action: Consideration, discussion and possible action to approve updated CJA 3-year assessment goals that were drafted in the Evaluation Subcommittee in November 2023. The 3-year assessment is due May 2024.

- Motion to approve
- Motion to 2nd
- Vote



Updated CJA Goals

- **Goal 1:** Provide child protection workers and stakeholders “front end” specialty, discipline specific and advanced training. Training should be prioritized, but not limited to, training requirements of CARA and JVTA Program Improvement Plans, child protection model assessments, ICWA, sexual abuse, reduce trauma for victims, **interpersonal** violence, forensic interviewing, trauma- informed practices and training needs identified in collaboration with Court Improvement Program. *(ABC)*
- **Goal 2:** Support the implementation of the Commercially Sexually Exploited Child (CSEC) Model Coordinated Response Protocol and provide training and support for the formation of Multidisciplinary Teams (MDT) and Task Forces. *(ABC)*
- **Goal 3:** Support the establishment of new Children’s Advocacy Centers (CACs) or other multidisciplinary team approaches and improve the capacity of existing CACs to provide a multidisciplinary response for victims of child sex abuse and exploitation, **witnesses to interpersonal violence**, physical abuse and child victims with disabilities. *(AB)*
- **Goal 4:** Fund technology requests to improve the investigation, assessment and prosecution of child abuse and neglect through the through use of latest technology and to support the use of new and existing training technologies. *(B)*
- **Goal 5:** **This task force will monitor policy, regulation and/or legislation regarding child abuse and neglect trends and when appropriate collaborate with other parties and/or entities to support new and/or revised policy, regulation and legislation. (C)**



New Legislations

- 9. Updates from Nevada's 82nd legislative session**
- Presentation regarding the new legislation from Nevada 82nd legislative session.



NOFO Timeframe

10. To Review upcoming NOFO Timeframes

- Review and discuss the NOFO timeframe for the FY 2025

| Event | Date/Time |
|--|-------------------------|
| Grant opportunity announced | January 08, 2024 |
| Deadline for submission | February 16, 2024 |
| Evaluation period (approximate time frame) | March 2024 – April 2024 |
| Announcement of awards | June 2024 |
| Program start date | July 1, 2024 |
| Program end date | June 30, 2025 |



NOFO Subcommittee Reminder

11. NOFO Subcommittee Reminder

- Remind Task Force of the importance of joining the NOFO subcommittee, this subcommittee will meet in March 2024.



Out-of-the-Shadows-Index Document

12. Review and Discuss Out-of-the-Shadows-Index Document

- Review and discuss this document (please see supporting materials)



Grantee Updates for FY 2023

13. Grantee Update

- For information: to review and discuss updates from the grantees. (Please see supporting materials)
 - GBCAC
 - Washoe County
 - Clark County
 - NVIFN
 - NOTO



Announcements

14. Announcements

- Information Only: Member announcements



Final Public Comment

15. Final Public Comment

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Adjournment

16. Adjournment

- Thank you for your time and commitment to improving services for children and youth in Nevada.

MINUTES

Nevada Children's Justice Act (CJA) Task Force

October 10, 2023

9:00am

1. Call to Order – Salli Kerr, Chair

Salli Kerr called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM.

Members Present:

| Name | Organization |
|------------------------|---|
| Angelina Blare | Adult Survivor |
| April Stahl | Division of Child and Family Services |
| Barbara Scofield | |
| Betsey Crumrine | Division of Child and Family Services |
| Cheryl Cooley | Clark County Department of Family Services- CAC |
| Christine Sullivan | Division of Child and Family Services |
| Desiree Mattice | Lieutenant – Dept. of Public Safety |
| Fran Maldonado | Division of Child and Family Services |
| Jamie Wong | Division of Child and Family Services |
| Jane Saint, Vice-Chair | Boys Town Nevada |
| Janice Wolfe | Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada |
| Jennifer Spencer | Deputy Attorney-General |
| Massey Mayo | |
| Melanie McCormick | Nevada CASA |
| Michelle Rodriguez | Family Court Master |
| Rachell Ekroos | |
| Salli Kerr, Chair | Western Regional CAC |
| Tammi Williamson | Washoe County CAC |
| Wendy Maddox | |
| Wonswayla Mackey | Division of Child and Family Services |

Members Absent:

| Name | Organization |
|------------------|------------------------|
| Cory Martin | Great Basin CAC (Elko) |
| Margaret Pickard | |

Guests:

| Name | Organization |
|--------------|--------------|
| Kristy Mills | NOTO |

Staff Support:

| Name | Organization |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Beverly Brown | Division of Child and Family Services |
| Bruce Cole (recorder) | Division of Child and Family Services |
| Dylan Nall | Division of Child and Family Services |

2. For Information: Roll Call – Dylan Nall, DCFS

Dylan Nall called the roll. There was a quorum.

3. Initial Public Comment (Discussion only: Action may not be taken on any matter brought up under this agenda item until scheduled for action at a later meeting) – Salli Kerr, Chair

There was no comment.

4. For Information: Review CJA Task Force Goals – Dylan Nall, DCFS

Dylan Nall said our three-year assessment is due at the end of May and so we will be reviewing our tasks for this upcoming review session. Every three years, the state goes through and makes sure these goals are still something that we want to continue doing. These goals likely may change, and she is sure we will be updating these at the January meeting. Briefly, the five CJA task force goals are: 1. support our CPS workers and stakeholders who are front-and-specialty- discipline-specific with advanced training; this should be prioritized; 2. support the implementation of our Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) Coordinator Response Protocol and provide training and support for the formation of the multidisciplinary teams (MDTs); 3. is to support the establishment of new CACs (the children's advocacy centers), or other multidisciplinary team approaches and improve the capacity of existing CACs to provide a multi-disciplinary response for victims of child sex abuse and exploitation, physical abuse, and child victims with disabilities; 4. is to fund technology requests to improve the investigation, assessment, and prosecution of child abuse and neglect through the use of the latest technology and support the new and existing training technologies; 5. is to identify new or needed changes to policy regulation and or legislation to meet the requirements of federal program improvement plans and other federal and state initiatives, and support training and policy needs related to new and revised policy regulation and legislation. Jane Saint asked if the CJA task force would be doing the review, or an ad hoc committee. Dylan said the task force would do this in January. Betsey Crumrine asked “who” would receive the technology grant this year. In the past, it would go to, say, Washoe one year, Clark County the next. Salli Kerr answered that technology goals now go into considering the funding proposals they review. Jane Saint added that we have found in the last two years at least most of the applications are coming through with providing services as well as technology, so they're using the grant process for technology, as well. Rachell Ekroos asked if it would be helpful, since we have had some new additions and changes and things like that, to send out the original information packet that was sent when she on the task force that has the history, the purpose, all that information. Would that be helpful to send it out to everyone to have it handy for when they're reviewing the goals in advance? Dylan said she could send that along with the attachments a couple of weeks ten days or two weeks before the meeting.

5. For Possible Action: Approve the last meeting's minutes – Salli Kerr, Chair

Jane Saint moved that the minutes be approved as submitted. Rachell Ekroos seconded. The motion was approved, with Massey Mayo and Betsey Crumrine abstaining.

6. For Information: A presentation regarding the CJA conference – Fran Maldonado, DCFS & Jane Saint, Vice-Chair

Fran Maldonado and Jane Saint attended the annual national CJA conference in Baltimore in May. Jane was accidentally in the wrong session to begin with, but did pick up some useful information: for every increase of a dollar in the minimum wage, there is a decrease in reports of maltreatment by almost 10 per cent; also interesting, but not surprising, that 85% of the children in child abuse and neglect cases that are reported come from families who are at 200% of the poverty rate.

Two sessions really hit home for Jane Saint. There was an afternoon session of sharing where they got together with other individuals from task forces from across the country. There seems to be a new trend within law enforcement that they are now hiring social workers so that they have got that expert in their offices they can rely on them. They don't have to reach out to someone and hope they get back. She thought that was very encouraging. Sadly, the other part that was not encouraging is we're not alone in our issues, everyone is facing staff retention issues, staff burnout, and everybody is having issues with getting foster placement homes and placement. But thing that New York City has taken under their wing to help avoid burnout and staffing issues is they have created a Bureau where the individuals who work there, all they handle are evening and weekend cases and activities. So if you work the nine to five job, then you work the 9:00 to 5:00, but there's a group that comes in and they just handle those evening and weekend cases so that you're not on call to take all the calls over the weekend or in the evening, and that seems to be helping them with their eliminating some of the burnout. One of the things that was brought up in Jane's workgroup was with all the challenges that we're having with foster recruiting, why are we continuing as an industry to question the moving away from congregate care? Unfortunately, no one seemed to have an answer, but it was a discussion that was brought up.

One of the highlights of their conversation was Ira Chesnokov; he's an author, a researcher, a lecturer, president of the MTI Upstream, and he's a professor of Clinical Pediatrics at the University of Illinois College of Medicine in Chicago, and his group there at MTI is actually doing some studies on the impact of a mother and father's substance abuse history on how it's influencing the behavior of children (Jane put a link in about this). It really seems to be an interesting study that they're doing and they're finding there's more correlation between that substance abuse and a child's behavior, which again did not surprise us as a group.

The other area that she went to was an open session for the well-being of LGBTQ plus youth in child welfare. Those youth are very under-represented in the welfare system who identify as LGBTQ, are often misunderstood and their needs are not being met. We had a situation with Nevada CASA. A young lady who was transgender was sent to out-of-state placement residential treatment and unfortunately, because she was now identifying as female, the placement of her was, you were a male at birth, and we're going to put you in a male only group home and that literally just almost destroyed this young lady. Fortunately, she spoke up, and fortunately her CASA took that information to the judge and the judge was very appreciative to know that information because they decided they would make some changes in how they were sending the children out of state for residential treatment. So, the kids that you know, if they have somebody that they can talk to and bring this information up, that's very important for that. The gal who was the presenter was Vida Cavar and she's the project director of the Youth Acceptance Project, which is part of the Family Builders in Oakland, an excellent website, they have a lot of resources on there. Jane shared that link as well. She found it interesting that one in three kids in the child welfare system identify as LGBTQ and one in five youth in the juvenile justice system identifies as LGBTQ, plus LGBTQ youth

are three times more likely if they happen to be in foster care to attempt suicide, so this is a group that really needs to be focused on and given the proper attention., The one last thing that Jane Saint had was the SOGIE terms desk aid. She found this interesting and shared this link as well. SOGIE stands for Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression. This is a two-page page document that has all the terms and is an excellent little reference guide that you can use and share it with your staff to help you understand what these terms mean.

Dylan Nall said she would put the links Jane mentioned in the CJA e-mail chain. Jennifer Spencer asked if there is a way this can also be added to the supporting documents to this meeting on the web page and then also if any members of the public would like to get a copy, we can certainly provide it. Dylan said she can remediate it and put it on the supporting documents online and then if anyone from the public would like a copy, she will try to get it to the website by the end of the week.

Fran Maldonado agreed with Jane Saint that it was a great conference and she appreciated being able to attend. On the second day when they broke up into small groups, she had a really good discussion with the CJA coordinator in Virginia and they were talking about how Virginia targets CJA grants so they're not giving to the same entities every time they do the grants or the NOFOs and she had talked about what Virginia does and she had said one of the things they look at is if the Division's needs have changed; they also do a geographic poll of what the needs are throughout the state. Then she said that they also meet with their governor, especially one that has been reelected or a newly elected governor, and they ask for any feedback or priorities that the governor may have that will of affect the needs of the Division. So, they look at those things when they give out the grants, so they're not always repeating them. Fran wanted to bring that up because that's a discussion this group has had before.

7. For Information: To Review the response from the Children's Bureau regarding the CJA's annual report – Dylan Nall, DCFS

Dylan Nall said every year we submit our CJA annual reports to the Fed and then they respond back with some feedback or with some things to consider or they want to see in the future, or even some positive feedback. She wanted to present to everyone our CJA report back from the feds, which is good because then they can see the hard work that we are doing.

At this point in the presentation, there was a glitch and Dylan was muted. The captioning of her words showed but we could not hear her.

This, in bold, was the wording of the response from the Children's Bureau, which was up as a slide:

Overall, the information in NV's submission was clear and easily understood. All activities carried out over the course of the past year, and proposed for the year to come, appear appropriate for the CJA program and aligned with Task Force recommendations.

It was great to see that Task Force membership is currently full, and that quarterly meetings continued as scheduled with the addition of one special meeting to monitor the progress of funded activities.

The NOFO process appears to be going smoothly and allowing for the implementation of efforts to address current areas of need as identified by the Task Force. We appreciated updates on ongoing funded work to support the Children's Justice Coordinators, multidisciplinary trainings, technology needs, and the CSEC database. We were interested to read about proposed plans for the Task Force to support implementation of new legislation and identify needed changes to existing legislation and look forward to reading about related progress in future submissions.

Items for future consideration:

1. We appreciated that each activity included information on evaluation methods, outputs, and outcomes, and we encourage NV CJA to continue to enhance its evaluation-related activities to ensure that chosen methods document outcomes of interest. For example, the report section related to multidisciplinary professional training refers to outcomes such as increased knowledge and skills, but it was not clear how these outcomes were measured or demonstrated.

2. We noted that the Task Force was presented with information regarding the upcoming Round 4 CFSR, as well as NV's activities and progress related to the Round 3 CFSR PIP. As preparation continues for Round 4, we encourage the NV CJA Task Force to explore ways to become actively engaged in related processes, such as the statewide assessment.

After a few minutes, Dylan Nall was able to rejoin the meeting and asked if anyone had any questions about the feedback from the report. Salli Kerr said the response seemed pretty positive. Dylan Nall said that she thought so too and thought that with our evaluation subcommittee we are going to be able to kind of pick up on the things to get them the outcomes that they want us to get.

Salli Kerr said that regarding the #2 above that we're already in the background talking about that Round 4 work. It's probably just a bit premature to bring to this committee right now, but we will be bringing information about what those rounds look like as far as the way that files are pulled and what they are using for audits just so that people are aware of that. Salli has also sent to Dylan a piece of work created by the World Childhood Foundation, and it was a study of 11 states across the country, including Nevada. It's called the Out of the Shadows Index, and they measured a whole lot of pieces of the states to see if the state is child focused. They will also be submitting that to this group and especially to that subcommittee that's looking at writing these kinds of recommendations.

8. For Information: CRP Recommendations Subcommittee Reminder – Salli Kerr, Chair

Salli Kerr gave a reminder about the meeting we will be putting together for that subcommittee in December. This subcommittee is important to be able to start writing that initial annual report to the Children's Bureau. Anybody who is interested in serving on that committee, please email Dylan and she will put together a list of committee members that would come together for that subcommittee meeting. It is not a heavy lift, but it's something we'd like to be able to bring, certainly to the January meeting as a preliminary, we would be voting on it, she thinks in April because it's due to them in May. Dylan Nall said that there is a little bit of a buffer as they are due in June. Both Salli Kerr and Jane Saint recommended that people join one of the CJA subcommittees as this is very enlightening about what is going on in the state.

9. For Information: Evaluation Subcommittee update – Salli Kerr, Chair

Salli Kerr said that the committee will be meeting to do some more additional work on those so that any updates can be completed by the time the NOFO is sent.

10. For Information: Grantee Updates for FY 2023 – Salli Kerr, Chair

Cheryl Cooley said that Clark County CAC did submit their application at the beginning of September for reaccreditation. There are 10 standards that the National Children's Alliance calls you to meet in order for you to maintain your accreditation standard with the National Children's Alliance for children's advocacy centers around the nation. They're looking forward to hearing back from the site reviewers. They will have that meeting with them in March.

Clark had its forensic interview training; not as many people attended as they wanted. As a matter of fact, a chunk of people, between getting sick and work emergencies, kind of dropped off. NCAC had given them a group discounted rate, so it still was less money with these people than if they had to pay the regular rates and amounts. They want to do a deeper dive in that and make sure that they are getting the most bang for their buck for the final February class and then they be looking at the most effective way to keep people trained and make sure that they are doing the best that they can. The greatest news is that the county clerk did purchase a building for a SNCAC expansion. They have purchased a building which is 5 times the size of where they are at now. They are a couple years out with this, but it's exciting to have that happen.

Next week Cheryl is going to Fort Worth and meet with other urban CAC leaders and just see kind of what's going on around the nation. There are over 900 accredited CACs around the nation that have encountered all kinds of situations.

Lastly, she is very excited about the partnership between the four CAC's. They have been meeting to come up with a strategic plan for how we can saturate the state with multidisciplinary responses to child sex abuse. Caitlin Schlesinger has been hired by the chapter as a consultant. She did a deep dive into Nevada statistics. They went through those and are just looking at that and looking how to meet the needs. Salli Kerr thanked Cheryl and added that Nevada is one of those that could really be a model for how well the CACs collaborate and coordinate well within a state. Betsey Crumrine asked if Cheryl might be a good person to talk to about development of CACs another rural area. Cheryl said maybe Betsey would like to attend the next chapter meeting. There are many ways that people across the nation have attacked the rural situations. Some people take a RV, and they make it like a mobile CAC, so it will go to the rural areas and provide services that way. With the advent of technology, doing things from a tele-perspective, although we don't completely have buy-ins from say our district attorneys about tele-forensic interviews, but tele-health is something that is gaining traction. The other thing they have thought about is which cities are hub cities within rural areas? Which cities do those residents often go to for other services, and maybe that's where we need to focus CACs in those kind of hub cities in rural areas. If Betsey wants to shoot Cheryl an email, she will see if she can come and be on the next meeting.

Rachell Ekroos said she can help Betsey Crumrine with that. She has 20 years of experience in working with the multidisciplinary teams and training and education on the multidisciplinary teams about roles, roles overlap, and understanding everyone. She has done a lot of consulting for rural and frontier areas, not just CACs, but for different types of services. Cheryl Cooley mentioned that there were several standards we must meet. So, we had to make sure that they meet the medical standards for the medical exams, both delayed disclosure and recent disclosures. One of the things they're also working on in the background that kind of piggybacks on Cheryl's updates are working on the HIPAA compliant EHR that is specific for patient populations affected by violence. They have set this up so that they can roll it out to providers and other areas and they'll have a secure way to have this, access to it as well as the data for it. By doing that, that would give us the ability, if it was needed for the outlying CACs to have that medical console, but also the external peer reviews, which is one of the requirements for CAC accreditation. They had to put the project on hold through COVID and so are just now reengaging with that project, getting it going again with their development people. Saint noted that one of the things that was brought up at the last Children's Commission meeting is that along with child sex trafficking, is the fact that there are several extremely events coming to Las Vegas. We've got Formula One coming, the Super Bowl, the NCAA tournament. What is the CAC doing to get in front of the potential of what's going to happen with sex trafficking during those events? Cheryl Cooley said she is

part of the Southern Nevada Human Trafficking Task Force. At this juncture for Formula One and especially the Super Bowl, doing a lot of public awareness things. There has been grant money provided for billboards saying prostitution is illegal in Las Vegas. Also, this is now resting with child welfare, not law enforcement. So, if you're a child and you're caught up in a prostitution arrest, you are not a perpetrator of a crime. They recently expanded their At-Risk Youth support team so they are the team that goes out and confirms whether or not children are confirmed as being sex trafficked or not. They also are in partnership with Signs of Hope, which used to be the

Rape Crisis Center, now they're called Signs of Hope, and they have what's called the Rise Program. Rise responds to any human trafficking situation 24/7. They have an on-call situation, so they are trying to communicate and make sure that they are catching the children and adult women as well and men that are caught up in trafficking. They now have a couple of group homes that are now open to take specifically CSEC kids. Substance abuse and mental health are the next things that are that they are trying to tackle to provide more services and resources for because that's how the kids are dealing with their trauma, with self-harm, or suicidal ideations or let me just get high and you know blitz out my brain so that I don't have to think about what I'm caught up in. Salli Kerr said there were written updates from Great Basin and asked about Washoe County. Tammi Williamson said that there was a very thorough report written and then Denise, who sat in for her last time, provided a lot of information about how the grant money was used and how beneficial all that has been, so had nothing further to add.

Kristy Mills from NOTO provided an update. Joyce from Western Regional reached out and offered to come alongside them and assist with hopefully starting the accreditation process again and going to their application process. She has reported a few times the different with Nye County with trying to become accredited and have an MDT that was fully functional and operational. The MDT has become just pretty well case updates, but not much more than that, no case reviews. It's hard to get buy-in from the different agencies that are part of the MDT as to whether they're attending forensic interviews or having any meetings whatsoever. Now they have a new administration who is more than willing to become a part of this task force or that MDT team, but everybody's kind of in the same space to where they're all still hair on fire from the previous administration and things that have gone wrong during that time frame.

They also Cheryl Cooley, who is going to continue to mentor them and help through that process. Thad Rucker is now the Advocate supervisor at Nevada Outreach, and so he was a part of that meeting as well. They came up with a strategic plan to start that process and then also came up with some different ways of reaching out to the MDT members. One of the ways that they had decided to help was to reach out to the other ADAs in Nevada and have them reach out to their District Attorney's office and talk with our DA now about how starting a fully functional MDT will look and how to go about that. She told Cheryl, Lisa, and Joyce to treat her like she's brand new, like she hasn't been here for years because unfortunately, what they've done in the last four years did not work out to having a fully functioning MDT. Cheryl Cooley asked if she could brag on Kristy Mills a little bit? She has been the glue and she's been the lone voice crying out in the wilderness, if you will. She appreciates the way Kristy stuck with our mission and vision for what we can provide kids, because even though you've had the hard times, if you weren't still beating the drum, then where would we be? There was no update from the Nevada Institute for Forensic Training.

11. For Information: Announcements – Salli Kerr, Chair

There were no announcements.

12. Final Public Comment (Discussion only: Action may not be taken on any matter brought up under this agenda item until scheduled for action at a later meeting) – Salli Kerr, Chair

There was no final public comment. Salli Kerr again urged members to service on the various CJA subcommittees.

13. Adjournment – Salli Kerr, Chair

The meeting adjourned at 10:07 AM.

DRAFT



State of Nevada

Department of Health and Human Services

Division of Child and Family Services

Grant Management Unit

Notice of Funding Opportunity

Children's Justice Act

Federal Fiscal Year 2023 Award for State Fiscal Year 2025

NOTE: This document is available online at <http://dcfs.nv.gov/Programs/GMU/GMU/>

Opportunity Summary

Summary

The Children's Justice Act (CJA) provides grants to States to improve the investigation, prosecution, and judicial handling of cases of child abuse and neglect, particularly child sexual abuse and exploitation, in a manner that limits additional trauma to the child victim. CJA grantees are responsible for implementing the requirements of the CJA grant program to reform state processes for responding to child abuse and neglect.

This Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is for competitive applications to be funded through the CJA Federal Fiscal Year 2023 award for State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2025. This NOFO implements a funding process that combines application review with grant allocation and is administered by the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) and the Division's internal Grants Management Unit (GMU). Applications will be reviewed and awarded by the CJA Task Force.

Total Funding Amount: \$100,000.00: Funding will be distributed to support one or multiple projects which further the goals of the CJA. **The CJA Task Force has discretion to restrict amounts awarded based on available funds and the number of applications received. There is no guarantee that any application will be approved or receive funding.**

The CJA Task Force has identified specific goals for the triennial reporting period of 2021-2024. These goals were refined and revised with technical assistance and approval from the Children's Bureau. Review of progress on these goals are reviewed at quarterly meetings and projects funded by CJA should further these goals.

Goal 1: Provide child protection workers and stakeholders "front end" specialty, discipline specific and advanced training. Training should be prioritized, but not limited to, training requirements of CARA and JVTA Program Improvement Plans, child protection model assessments, ICWA, sexual abuse, domestic violence, forensic interviewing, trauma-informed practices, substance use and co-occurring mental health disorders and training needs identified in collaboration with Court Improvement Program. (ABC)

Goal 2: Support the implementation of the Commercially Sexually Exploited Child (CSEC) Model Coordinated Response Protocol and provide training and support for the formation of Multidisciplinary Teams (MDT) and Task Forces. (ABC)

Goal 3: Support the establishment of new Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs) or other multidisciplinary team approaches and improve the capacity of existing CACs to provide a multidisciplinary response for victims of child sex abuse and exploitation, physical abuse, and child victims with disabilities. Activities may include the development of a strategic action plan for project implementation, identification of rural health care providers, investigation of funding opportunities for infrastructure and operating costs, and the use of telehealth and telemedicine statewide. (AB)

Goal 4: Fund technology requests to improve the investigation, assessment and prosecution of child abuse and neglect through use of latest technology and to support use of new and existing training technologies. (AB)

Goal 5: Identify new or needed changes to policy, regulation and/or legislation to meet requirements of federal program improvements plans and other federal and state initiatives. Support training and policy needs related to new or revised policy, regulation, and legislation. (C)

Key: Required categories for use of CJA funds:

*A= Investigative, administrative, and judicial handling of cases of child abuse and neglect.
B= Experimental, model and demonstration programs for testing innovative approaches.
C= Reform of state laws, ordinances, regulations, protocols, and procedures.*

Funding Guidelines

Examples of Types of Activities Supported by CJA Grant Funds Include:

- Regional collaborations to enhance capacity and resource sharing;
- Regional and local multidisciplinary trainings;
- Development of resources, tools or technical assistance to address a specific regional or community need that will improve the investigation and/or prosecution of child abuse and neglect cases.

Activities Supported Will Result In:

- Enhanced community stakeholder collaborations around proactive planning and resource development to meet the needs of child victims and their supportive caregivers;
- Improved investigations and prosecutions of cases of child abuse and neglect;
- Trauma-informed systems;
- Improved community-wide, coordinated, planned response to cases of child abuse and neglect.

Please Note:

CJA funds are to be primarily focused on the front-end, intake, assessment, investigative, and prosecutorial phases of child welfare. CJA Funds must not be used for prevention programs or treatment services. Projects selected by the Task Force should be mindful that funds must be spent to support efforts at the intake and investigative phase of child welfare.

Applications may be funded in whole or in part. Successful applicants may be funded at an amount lower than that requested. The Task Force reserves the right to consider a preference to fund projects aimed at serving emerging, unserved, or underserved populations, and to consider the geographic distributions of CJA funds or distinctive project elements in its funding decisions. CJA grants are not intended to be used as a source of ongoing, continuous funding. **Funding will not be made available for the ordinary, routine operation of any organization or programs.** Applications will be scored, ranked by score, funded in whole or in part, based on scoring of applications until funds are exhausted.

Program Requirements

Applicant Eligibility

This NOFO is open to any Nevada state or local public agency, non-profit organization, educational or faith-based organizations to support programs and projects within the state to improve:

1. The assessment and investigation of suspected child abuse and neglect cases, including cases of suspected child sexual abuse and exploitation, in a manner that limits additional trauma to the child and the child's family;
2. The assessment and investigation of cases of suspected child abuse-related fatalities and suspected child neglect-related fatalities;
3. The investigation and prosecution of cases of child abuse and neglect, including child sexual abuse and exploitation; and
4. The assessment and investigation of cases involving children with disabilities or serious health-related problems who are suspected victims of child abuse or neglect.

Questions?

For technical or application questions, contact DCFS GMU at DCFSGrants@dcfs.nv.gov. For programming questions, contact Dylan Nall at dnall@dcfs.nv.gov

Application Process

Award Time Line

| Event | Date/Time |
|--|-------------------------|
| Grant opportunity announced | January 08, 2024 |
| Deadline for submission | February 16, 2024 |
| Evaluation period (approximate time frame) | March 2024 – April 2024 |
| Announcement of awards | June 2024 |
| Program start date | July 1, 2024 |
| Program end date | June 30, 2025 |

Application Review

The CJA Task Force will review and evaluate each application, see Appendix C: Scoring Matrix. The evaluation of applications received in response to this NOFO will be conducted comprehensively, fairly and impartially. The CJA Task Force will use structural, quantitative scoring techniques to maximize the objectivity of the evaluation. The review process will consist of a technical review of the applicant's information including the project and the budget (justification, cost effectiveness, project sustainability).

Evaluation Process

Applications received by the published deadline of **5:00 pm on February 16, 2024** will be processed as follows:

STEP 1: Application Review Panel

- A. Each application will be evaluated for content and scored by the CJA Task Force NOFO Subcommittee Members and final recommendations will be approved by the CJA Task Force.
- B. As part of the review process, staff will identify strengths and weaknesses and may recommend, as a condition of funding the project, that
 - Specific revisions are made to the budget or Scope of Work, or
 - Special conditions are placed on the award (e.g., certain fiscal controls, more stringent performance requirements, or more frequent reviews).
- C. The review panel will identify specific line-item areas for revision if funding limitations result in a reduction of an overall proposed budget. In the event budget reductions are necessary, an equitable formula based on application ranking and scores will be developed and applied in an impartial manner.
- D. The CJA Task Force will submit review panel recommendations to the Administrator of DCFS or designee for final approval.

STEP 2: Final Decisions

Final funding decisions will be made by the DCFS Administrator or designee based on the following factors:

- Review panel scores;
- Geographic distribution of the proposed grant awards;
- Conflicts or redundancy with other funded programs, or potential for supplanting existing funds.

Funding decisions made by the DCFS Administrator or designee are final. There is no appeals process.

Notification and Award Process

Successful applicants will be notified of their application status with a Letter of Intent after funding decisions have been made in June 2024.

GMU staff will conduct negotiations with applicants regarding the recommendation for funding to address any specific issues identified by the CJA Task Force. All related issues must be resolved before a grant will be awarded. These issues may include, but are not limited to:

- Revisions to the project budget;
- Revisions to the Scope of Work; and/or
- Enactment of Special Conditions (e.g., fiscal controls, performance requirements or frequency of reviews).

Upon successful conclusion of negotiations, GMU staff will complete a written grant agreement in the form of a Notice of Subaward (NOSA). The NOSA documents and Grant Instructions and Requirements (GIRs) will be distributed to the subrecipient upon approval of the subaward, see Appendix D: Notice of Subaward.

Post Award Requirements

Monthly Financial Status and Request for Funds Report

DCFS requires the use of a standardized Excel spreadsheet reimbursement request form that self-populates certain financial information. This form must be used for all reimbursement requests. Monthly reports are required even if no reimbursement is requested for a month. The monthly reports are due on the 15th of the month for the previous month. GMU staff will provide instructions and technical assistance upon the grant award.

Per Code of Federal Regulations [2 C.F.R. § 200.430](#), charges made to Federal awards for salaries, wages, and fringe benefits must be based on records that accurately reflect the work performed and comply with the established policies and practices of the organization.

- Charges must be supported by a system of internal controls that provides reasonable assurance that the charges are accurate, allowable and properly allocated.
- Documentation for charges must be incorporated into the official records of the organization.
- Support must reasonably reflect the total activity for which the employee is compensated by the organization and cover both federally funded and all other activities. The records may include the use of subsidiary records as defined in the organization's written policies.
- Where grant recipients work on multiple grant programs or cost activities, documentation must support a reasonable allocation or distribution of costs among specific activities or cost objectives.
- Examples of items that may support salaries and wages include timesheets, time and effort reports, or activity reports that have been certified by the employee and approved by a supervisor with firsthand knowledge of the work performed. Payroll records will need to reflect either after the fact distribution of actual activities or certifications of employee's actual work performed.

Subrecipient Monitoring

Successful applicants must participate in subrecipient monitoring. Subrecipient monitoring is intended to provide ongoing technical support to subrecipients and to gather information reportable by DCFS to federal or state agencies. To facilitate the review process, materials referred to in the review documents should be gathered prior to the review. The subrecipient's primary contact person and appropriate staff should make themselves available to answer questions and assist the reviewer(s) throughout the process. For non-governmental agencies, at least one board member must also be available during the exit discussion. The subrecipient monitoring reports or action items to be addressed will be sent to the agency within 30 working days following the conclusion of the subrecipient monitoring.

Performance Reports

Subrecipients must complete performance reports on a quarterly basis according to the calendar of the CJA Task Force. The subrecipient may choose to provide the same updates to DCFS GMU and the CJA Coordinator to avoid duplication. CJA Task Force meetings are typically in January, April, July & October with updates due to the CJA Coordinator no later than three weeks prior to the meeting. Subrecipients will be provided a document to complete by the CJA Coordinator. It is highly recommended that each subrecipient have participation at the CJA Task Force meetings to provide updates verbally and to answer any questions the Task Force may have.

The Children's Justice Task Force is required to report out to the Children's Bureau, annually. It is expected that grantees provide information to include outputs, evaluations and outcomes to the CJA coordinator. For example, if the desired project includes a training, the grantee will need to provide the pre and posttest results of the training, an evaluation of the training and/or trainer and the impact this training will have on future and current practice. Also, if possible, any other data information regarding this training is always welcome and helpful.

Compliance with Changes to Federal and State Laws

As federal and state laws change and affect either the DCFS GMU process or the requirements of subrecipients, successful applicants will be required to respond to and adhere to all new regulations and requirements.

Civil Rights Compliance

Recipients of federal financial assistance (FFA) from HHS must administer their programs in compliance with federal civil rights law. This means that recipients of HHS funds must ensure equal access to their programs without regard to a person's race, color, national origin, disability, age and, in some circumstances, sex and religion. This includes ensuring your programs are accessible to persons with limited English proficiency.

Application Instructions and Scoring

Application Instructions

An application packet, which includes this application and the required data sources, is available for download at <http://dcfs.nv.gov/Programs/GMU/GMU/>

Late and/or incomplete applications will not be scored or considered for funding. The total possible score for the entire application is 100.

All pages including attachments must list the applicant's name on the bottom of the page.

Section A – Application Form

Complete the application form. The application form must be signed by the organization's authorized official.

Section B – Narrative/ Scope of Work (80 points)

The application narrative should be formatted in Arial 11-point font on single-spaced pages with one-inch margins. See page 16 for a for a template. Complete Appendix B: Descriptions of Services, Scope of Work and Deliverables.

| Field Name | Scoring Points | Instructions |
|--|-----------------------|---|
| 1. Organization Information | 10 | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Give a brief description of your organization.2. Describe the organization's mission and desired goals and outcomes.3. Provide up to three (3) brief examples of the organization's successes. |
| 2. Project Summary/ Abstract | 10 | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Give a brief summary of the proposed project and its purpose.2. Describe anticipated outcome(s) of the proposed project. |
| 3. Target Population and Statement of Need | 15 | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Describe the target population and the geographic area served by your project/program (including demographic characteristics, risk factors, geographic location, etc.)2. Identify the need that the project seeks to address.3. Detail how your region or community will benefit from this project and include documented statistics and research whenever possible. |

| | | |
|--|----|--|
| 4. Goals, Objectives and Timelines | 20 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe the goals of the proposed project, including any desired change or impact you would like to achieve through this project. 2. Identify the CJA Goal(s) the proposed project addresses and how the proposed project will help CJA achieve its goals. 3. List the projected number of services that will be provided, either in clients served or services provided with these grant funds, or number of trainings/activities with the anticipated number of participants/activities/trainings that will be provided with these grant funds. Include anticipated dates for completion. These projections must match the Scope of Work and Budget Narrative. 4. Complete SOW as detailed in Appendix B: Descriptions of Services, Scope of Work and Deliverables. |
| 5. Methods of Accomplishment | 15 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe the plan to achieve the outlined goals and objectives. Include how, who, where, and when these goals and objectives will be achieved. 2. What are the measurable expected outputs and outcomes for the project? 3. Explain what measurements will be used to report on the proposed project's success. This includes any evaluation tools your organization will use to measure your outputs and outcomes and what data will be tracked. <p>Note: Grantees will be required to track activities and evaluations on the sheet provided by the CJA Coordinator quarterly.</p> |
| 6. Community Coordination/ Collaboration | 10 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify existing or proposed collaborators for the project and the level of participation of all agencies included in the collaboration. 2. For non-child welfare agencies that intend to provide service or training to child welfare agency: describe how your organization will collaborate with the child welfare agency on the proposed project. Include a letter of support from the child welfare agency for the proposed project. |

| | | | |
|---------------------|----|--|--|
| Total for Narrative | 80 | | |
|---------------------|----|--|--|

Section C – Budget (20 points)

Use Arial 11-point font on single-spaced pages with one-inch margins. See Appendix A: Budget Narrative Instructions and Template.

| Field Name | Scoring Points | Instructions |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| Proposed Project Budget | 5 | Use the provided table and designate a whole dollar amount for the seven budget categories; or use a zero (0) to indicate that no funds are being requested. Add these numbers to get the sum of the total amount of funding requested for a one-year project period. |

| | | |
|------------------|----|---|
| Budget Narrative | 15 | Include a detailed description of the project budget for the grant funding requested. The budget should be an accurate representation of the funds <u>necessary</u> to carry out the proposed Scope of Work and achieve the projected outcomes. The Budget Narrative should align with the Narrative's Goals, Objectives and Outcomes to be achieved. |
| Total for Budget | 20 | |

Overview of Assurances and Certifications

By signing the Application Form of the Division of Child and Family Services, the applicant certifies:

1. The project described in this application meets all the CJA program requirements.
2. All information contained in the application is current and correct;
3. The applicant will gain an understanding and comply with all provisions of the governing legislation and all other applicable federal and state laws, current or future rules, and regulations; and
4. The applicant understands and agrees that any award received as a result of this application is subject to the grant conditions set forth in the Notice of Subaward and Assurances and Certifications.

Submission Instructions

- **The grant application deadline is 5:00 pm on Friday February 16, 2024.**
- Signed application must be submitted online by emailing all required documents and attachments in a single email to dcfsgrants@dcfs.nv.gov. In the subject line of the email place the NOFO title, "CJA Program NOFO Response from [name of applicant]."
If a single email is too large to be accepted for transmittal or delivery by an email system used in the transmittal, more than one email may be sent by indicating in the email subject line that the application has been emailed in parts (e.g., "Part 1 of 3").
- Once the application is submitted, no corrections or adjustments may be made prior to the negotiation period.
- The GMU will reply to emails to acknowledge the receipt of applications. If an email is not received within 1 business days of submitting the application, please contact Shawna Halverson at shalverson@dcfs.nv.gov or 775-684-4426.

Application Checklist

Complete this checklist prior to submission. The application checklist is for the benefit of applicants and does not have to be included in the submission packet.

Section A: Application Form

- All boxes checked to indicate current and accurate responses
- All fields completed according to instructions
- Application and Certification signed by organization's authorized official

Section B: Narrative

- Organization Information
- Project Summary and Abstract
- Target Population and Statement of Need
- Goals, Objectives and Timelines. Include copy of completed Scope of Work and Deliverables
- Page limits are not exceeded; Arial 11-point font and one-inch margins are retained

Section C: Budget

- Proposed Project Budget completed for each line item
- Budget Narrative (must match the proposed budget) completed

Application Attachments

- Résumés for key personnel listed on the Application
- A copy of the negotiated indirect agreement (if applicable)

- A PDF emailed to DCFSGRANTS@DCFS.NV.GOV with all required documentation no later than February 16, 2024.

Application Form: Section A

Please complete each item. Add extra rows if more space is needed to provide complete responses.

A. Applicant Organization

| | | |
|------------------|--|---------------|
| Name | | |
| Mailing Address | | |
| Physical Address | | |
| City & State | | Zip (9-digit) |
| Federal Tax ID # | | |
| DUNS # | | |

B. Organization Type Government Agency 501(c)(3) Nonprofit

C. Geographic Area of Services Delivery. Check applicable boxes and provide a brief narrative of the service area

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> City | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> County | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Region | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Statewide | |

E. Program Point of Contact

| | |
|-------|--|
| Name | |
| Title | |
| Phone | |
| Email | |

F. Fiscal Officer

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Name & Title | |
| Phone & Email | |

G. Subcontracts

| | | |
|---|--------------|---------------|
| Does your organization subcontract its services? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes, complete information below. | | |
| Subcontractor | | |
| Mailing Address | | |
| Physical Address | | |
| City | | Zip (9-digit) |
| Federal Tax ID # | (xx-xxxxxxx) | |

H. Key Personnel

| Name | Title | Resume included? |
|------|-------|--|
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |

I. Current Funding List. List all revenue for the agency/organization.

| Funding Source | Pending/Secured | Time Period | Amount (\$) |
|----------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

J. Funding Request. List funding requested for the one-year award period.

| Funding | SFY 21 Request |
|------------------------|----------------|
| Children's Justice Act | |

K. Certification by Authorized Official

As the authorized official for the applying agency, I certify that the proposed project and activities described in this application meet all requirements of the Children’s Justice Act governing the grant as indicated by DCFS and the certifications included in the application packet; that all the information contained in the application is correct; that the appropriate coordination with affected agencies and organizations, including subcontractors, took place; and that this agency agrees to comply with all provisions of the applicable grant program and all other applicable federal and state laws, current or future rules, and regulations. I understand and agree that any award received as a result of this application is subject to the conditions set forth in the Notice of Subaward and accompanying documents.

| | |
|-------------------|-------|
| Name (type/print) | Phone |
| _____ | _____ |
| Title | Email |
| _____ | _____ |
| Signature | Date |
| _____ | _____ |

Application Narrative: Section B

Application Narrative (80 points)

Begin typing below each field header.

1. **Organization Information** (1/2 page)

2. **Project Summary/Abstract** (1 page)

3. **Target Population and Statement of Need** (1 page)

4. **Goals, Objectives and Timelines** (1 page)

5. **Methods of Accomplishment** (1 page)
 - *Please describe your outputs, evaluation methods and outcomes for your desired project.*
 - *Your agency may attach a logic model as well.*

Budget: Section C

Budget (20 points)

1. Proposed Project Budget

| Category | Amount Requested (\$) |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Personnel | |
| Travel/Training | |
| Operating | |
| Equipment | |
| Contractual/Consultant | |
| Other | |
| Indirect | |
| Total Funding Requested (\$) | |

Budget Narrative (1-2 pages). For each service category, provide a line item budget justification. See Appendix A: Budget Narrative Instructions and Template.

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|----------------------|--------------------|------------------|---------------|------------------|-------------------------|---------------|----|---|
| Applicant Name: | | | | | | | | | |
| BUDGET NARRATIVE-SFYXX | | | | | | | | | |
| Total Personnel Costs | | | | | including fringe | Total: | \$ | - | |
| List staff, positions, percent of time to be spent on the project, rate of pay, fringe rate, and total cost to this grant. | | | | | | | | | |
| | <u>Annual Salary</u> | <u>Fringe Rate</u> | <u>% of Time</u> | <u>Months</u> | | <u>Amount Requested</u> | | | |
| <u>Name of Employee (if known, otherwise state new position).</u> | | | | | | \$0 | | | |
| <u>Title of position & Position Control Number</u> | | | | | | | | | |
| *Insert details to describe position duties as it relates to the funding (specific program objectives) | | | | | | | | | |
| | <u>Annual Salary</u> | <u>Fringe Rate</u> | <u>Time</u> | <u>Months</u> | | <u>Amount Requested</u> | | | |
| <u>Name of Employee (if known, otherwise state new position).</u> | | | | | | \$0 | | | |
| <u>Title of position & Position Control Number</u> | | | | | | | | | |
| *Insert details to describe position duties as it relates to the funding (specific program objectives) | | | | | | | | | |
| | <u>Annual Salary</u> | <u>Fringe Rate</u> | <u>Time</u> | <u>Months</u> | | <u>Amount Requested</u> | | | |
| <u>Name of Employee (if known, otherwise state new position).</u> | | | | | | \$0 | | | |
| <u>Title of position & Position Control Number</u> | | | | | | | | | |
| *Insert details to describe position duties as it relates to the funding (specific program objectives) | | | | | | | | | |
| | <u>Annual Salary</u> | <u>Fringe Rate</u> | <u>Time</u> | <u>Months</u> | | <u>Amount Requested</u> | | | |
| <u>Name of Employee (if known, otherwise state new position).</u> | | | | | | \$0 | | | |
| <u>Title of position & Position Control Number</u> | | | | | | | | | |
| *Insert details to describe position duties as it relates to the funding (specific program objectives) | | | | | | | | | |
| *Insert new row for each position funded or delete this row. | | | | | | | | | |
| Total Fringe Cost | | | | | \$ | - | Total: | \$ | - |

APPENDIX A: BUDGET NARRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS

Budget Narrative Instructions

All applications must include a detailed project budget for the one-year funding cycle. The budget needs to accurately represent the funds necessary to carry out the proposed Scope of Work and to achieve the projected outcomes for the award funding period.

Note: If the proposed project does not receive the full amount requested, the GMU will work with the applicant to modify the budget, the Scope of Work and the projected outcomes.

Applicants **must** use the budget template form (Excel file) provided for downloading in the Budget Section of the online application and use the budget definitions provided in the “Categorized Budgets” section below to complete the narrative budget (spreadsheet tab labeled Budget Narrative). Complete a detailed budget for each line item. This spreadsheet contains formulas to automatically calculate totals and links to the budget summary spreadsheet (tab labeled Budget Summary) to automatically complete budget totals in Column B. **Do not override formulas.**

For all budget categories, provide total amount requested, item details, and line item justification.

Personnel:

Charges made for salaries, wages, and fringe benefits must be based on records that accurately reflect the work performed and comply with the established policies and practices of the organization. See [2 C.F.R. § 200.430](#).

Identify employees who provide direct services. The following criterion is useful in distinguishing employees from contract staff.

| CONTRACTOR | EMPLOYEE |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Delivers product | The applicant organization is responsible for product |
| Furnishes tools and/or equipment | The applicant organization furnishes work space & tools |
| Determines means and methods | The applicant organization determines means and methods |

In the narrative section, list each position and employee name, if known. Provide a breakdown of the wages or salary and the fringe benefit rate (e.g., health insurance, FICA, worker's compensation). For example:

Program Director: $(\$28/\text{hour} \times 2,080/\text{year} + 22\% \text{ fringe}) \times 25\% \text{ of time} = \$17,763$

Intake Specialist: $(\$20/\text{hour} \times 40 \text{ hours/week} + 15\% \text{ fringe}) \times 52 \text{ weeks} = \$47,840$

Only those staff whose time can be traced directly back to the grant project should be included in this budget category, including those who spend only part of their time on grant activities.

Administrative/Executive Staff salaries that are not readily assignable to a particular project are not allowed.

Travel/Training: Travel costs must provide direct benefit to this project. Identify staff that will travel, the purpose, frequency, and projected costs. U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) rates for per Diem and lodging, and the state rate for mileage (currently \$.58), should be used **unless** the organization's policies specify lower rates for these expenses. Local travel (i.e., within the program's service area) should be listed separately from out-of-area travel. Out-of-state travel and nonstandard fares/rates require special justification. GSA rates can be found online at <https://www.gsa.gov/portal/category/26429>.

Identify and justify any training costs specifically associated with the project, including type of training, location, # of staff attending, benefit to subrecipient and Scope of Work implementation.

Operating: For agencies with multiple funding sources, costs must be consistently allocated as described in the organization's cost allocation plan.

Occupancy: Detail costs associated with maintaining a facility including rent, utilities, basic maintenance, etc. Mortgage, construction, remodeling, and repairs to current structures are not allowed.

Communications: List the costs of telephones, fax, postage, etc.

Supplies: Describe the cost of all consumable items needed for the project such as office supplies, client supplies, etc. Generally, supplies do not need to be priced individually, but a list of typical program supplies is necessary.

Other operating costs: This could include insurance, dues, subscriptions, program costs, and costs not covered in the other categories. Only consumer/service delivery activities are reimbursable.

Equipment:

List and justify equipment to be purchased for this grant project (all non-consumable items). Equipment under \$5,000 should be included under Operating Costs, Supplies. All equipment costing \$5,000 and over must be listed separately and itemized. List any computer hardware to be purchased regardless of the cost. Equipment purchased for this project must be labeled, inventoried, and tracked and remains the property of the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS). Equipment that does not directly facilitate the purpose of the project, as an integral component, is not allowed.

Contractual/Consultant Services:

Identify project workers who are not employees of the applicant organization. Any costs associated with these workers, such as travel or per diem, should also be identified in this budget category. Explain the need and/or purpose for the contractual/consultant service and justify these costs. Describe each consultant's scope of work, list rate, hours, and cost. DCFS approval is required prior to the use of subcontractors. Written sub-agreements must be maintained and the applicant is responsible for administering sub-agreements in accordance with all requirements identified for grants administered under CJA. A copy of written agreements must be provided to GMU.

Other Expenses:

This category includes any relevant expenditure associated with the project not covered by the above. Wraparound funds are allowable for such items as rental assistance, transportation, utilities, children's clothing, etc. Programs requesting these funds must adhere to the following

requirements: 1) Maximum per family per year = \$2,000; 2) Subgrantees must document that there was an attempt to access all other possible resources prior to use of wraparound funds; 3) Detailed documentation of where these funds were used is required.

Indirect Costs:

Indirect costs may be included in the budget and represent the expenses of doing business that are not readily identified with or allocable to a specific grant, contract, project function or activity, but are necessary for the general operation of the organization and the conduct of activities it performs. Indirect costs include but are not limited to: depreciation and use allowances, facility operation and maintenance, memberships, and general administrative expenses such as management/administration, accounting, payroll, legal and data processing expenses that cannot be traced directly back to the grant project.

Subrecipients without a negotiated indirect rate with their cognizant federal agency may use a 10% *de minimis* rate of "modified total direct costs" (MTDC). The *de minimis* rate is only an option for subrecipients that have **never** received an approved federally-negotiated indirect cost rate. The MTDC base includes all direct salaries and wages, applicable fringe benefits, materials and supplies, services, travel, and subawards up to the first \$25,000 of each subaward. MTDC excludes equipment, capital expenditures, charges for patient care, rental costs, tuition remission, scholarships and fellowships, participant support costs, and the portion of each subaward in excess of \$25,000. [2 C.F.R. § 200.68](#)

When the *de minimis* rate is used, costs must be consistently charged as either indirect or direct costs. Double-charging is not permitted. Transferring funds into or out of the indirect cost category is not allowable without prior approval and a budget modification is required.

Subrecipients that have a current federally-approved indirect cost rate with their federal cognizant agency for indirect costs may include the negotiated percentage rate in their budgets. A copy of the negotiated indirect agreement must be attached to the application.

Budget Summary Form 2

After completing Budget Narrative Form 1, turn to Budget Summary Form 2. Column B of Form 2 ("DCFS") should automatically update with the category totals from Budget Narrative Form 1. Column B should reflect only the amount requested in this application.

Complete Columns C through G of the form for all other funding sources that are either secured or pending for this project (not for the organization as a whole). Use a separate column for each separate source, including in-kind, volunteer, or cash donations. Replace the words "Other Funding" in the cell(s) in Row 6 with the name of the funding source. Enter either "Secured" or "Pending" in the cell(s) in Row 7. If the funding is pending, note the estimated date of the funding decision in Section B below the table, along with any other explanation deemed important to include.

Enter the "Total Agency Budget" in Cell I-26 labeled for this purpose. **This should include all funding available to the agency for all projects including the proposed project.** Cell I-27 directly below, labeled "Percent of Total Budget," will automatically calculate the percentage that the funding requested from the DCFS for the proposed project will represent.

APPENDIX B: DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES, SCOPE OF WORK AND DELIVERABLES

SECTION B

Description of Services, Scope of Work and Deliverables

**In some instances, it may be helpful / useful to provide a brief summary of the project or its intent. This is at the discretion of the author of the subaward. This section should be written in complete sentences.*

Subrecipient's name, hereinafter referred to as Subrecipient, agrees to provide the following services and reports according to the identified timeframes:

****Include projected service numbers*

Scope of Work for Subrecipient

Goal 1: Describe the primary goal the program wishes to accomplish with this subaward.

| <u>Objective</u> | <u>Activities</u> | <u>Due Date</u> | <u>Documentation Needed</u> |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. | 1. | XX/XX/XX | 1. |
| 2. Add more lines if necessary | 2. | XX/XX/XX | 2. |

Goal 2: Describe the most important secondary goal the program wishes to accomplish with this subaward.

| <u>Objective</u> | <u>Activities</u> | <u>Due Date</u> | <u>Documentation Needed</u> |
|------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. | 1. | XX/XX/XX | 1. |

**Note to preparer: Add lines to the table as applicable to accomplish all that goals of the subaward. Line up activities, due dates and documentation as best as possible for easier analysis.*

Note: This document should not contain any red text when completed.

APPENDIX C: SCORING MATRIX

Accepted proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- A. All parts of each section are included and addressed.
- B. Descriptions and details are clear, organized and understandable.
- C. Descriptions are responsive to the intent of the NOFO objectives.
- D. Overall ability of the applicant, as determined by the evaluation committee, to successfully provide services in accordance CJA program guidelines.

Points will be assigned for each item listed below. Proposals with an average score lower than 60 may be excluded from further consideration.

80% - 100% of Maximum Points: Applicant’s proposal or capability is superior and exceeds expectations for this criterion.

60% - 79% of Maximum Points: Applicant’s proposal or capability is satisfactory and meets expectations for this criterion.

40% - 59% of Maximum Points: Applicant’s proposal or capability is unsatisfactory and contains numerous deficiencies.

0 - 39% of Maximum Points: Applicant’s proposal or capability is not acceptable or applicable for the CJA grant project.

The maximum points to be awarded for each proposal section are as follows:

| Proposal Component | Potential Maximum Score |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| A. Project Narrative | 80 |
| B. Budget | 20 |
| Total | 100 |

APPENDIX D: NOTICE OF SUBAWARD (NOSA)



State of Nevada
 Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Child & Family Services
 (hereinafter referred to as the Department)

Agency Ref. #: _____
 Budget Account: _____
 Category: _____
 GL: _____
 Job Number: _____

NOTICE OF SUBAWARD

| | | | |
|--|------------------------|---|--|
| Program Name: The Children's Justice Act DCFS Grants Management Unit | | Subrecipient's Name: | |
| Address: 4126 Technology Way, 3 rd Floor Carson City, NV 89706-2009 | | Address: | |
| Subaward Period: July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2019 | | Subrecipient's: EIN: _____ Vendor #: _____ Dun & Bradstreet: _____ | |
| Purpose of Award: Increase and improve services and outreach to outlying counties | | | |
| Region(s) to be served: <input type="checkbox"/> Statewide <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Specific county or counties: | | | |
| Approved Budget Categories: | | FEDERAL AWARD COMPUTATION: | |
| 1. Personnel | \$0.00 | Total Obligated by this Action: | \$ 0.00 |
| 2. Travel/Training | \$0.00 | Cumulative Prior Awards this Budget Period: | \$ |
| 3. Operating | \$0.00 | Total Federal Funds Awarded to Date: | \$ |
| 4. Equipment | \$0.00 | Match Required <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N | 0.00 |
| 5. Contractual/Consultant | \$0.00 | Amount Required this Action: | \$ |
| 6. Other | \$0.00 | Amount Required Prior Awards: | \$ |
| TOTAL DIRECT COSTS | \$0.00 | Total Match Amount Required: | \$ |
| 7. Indirect Costs | \$0.00 | Research and Development (R&D) <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N | |
| TOTAL APPROVED BUDGET | \$0.00 | Federal Budget Period: October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2021 | |
| | | Federal Project Period: October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2021 | |
| FOR AGENCY USE, ONLY | | | |
| Source of Funds Administration for Children & Families Children's Justice Act Sec 107 a-f CAPTA | % Funds: 100 | CFDA: 93.643 | FAIN: 1801NVCJA1 |
| | | Federal Grant #: 1801NVCJA1 | Federal Grant Award Date by Federal Agency: 08/17/2018 |
| Agency Approved Indirect Rate: 0.00% | | Subrecipient Approved Indirect Rate: N/A | |
| Terms and Conditions: In accepting these grant funds, it is understood that: 1. This award is subject to the availability of appropriate funds. 2. Expenditures must comply with any statutory guidelines, the DHHS Grant Instructions and Requirements, and the State Administrative Manual. 3. Expenditures must be consistent with the narrative, goals and objectives, and budget as approved and documented. 4. Subrecipient must comply with all applicable Federal regulations. 5. Quarterly progress reports are due by the 15 th of each month following the end of the quarter, unless specific exceptions are provided in writing by the grant administrator. 6. Financial Status Reports and Requests for Funds must be submitted monthly, unless specific exceptions are provided in writing by the grant administrator. | | | |
| Incorporated Documents: Section A: Grant Conditions and Assurances; Section B: Description of Services, Scope of Work and Deliverables; Section C: Budget and Financial Reporting Requirements; Section D: Request for Reimbursement; | | Section E: Audit Information Request; Section F: Current/Former State Employee Disclaimer; and Section G: DHHS Confidentiality Addendum | |
| Authorized Subrecipient Official's Name and Title | | Signature | Date |
| Jean Booth Grants & Project Analyst II | | | |
| For Ross E. Armstrong Administrator, Division of Child & Family Services | | | |

CHILDHOOD

WORLD CHILDHOOD FOUNDATION
FOUNDED BY H.M. QUEEN SILVIA OF SWEDEN



OUT OF THE SHADOWS INDEX:

**SHINING A LIGHT ON
PREVENTION OF AND
RESPONSE TO CHILD
SEXUAL EXPLOITATION
AND ABUSE IN THE
UNITED STATES**

RESEARCHED AND
DEVELOPED BY

**ECONOMIST
IMPACT**

Contents

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- 38** Conclusion
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Acknowledgments

Economist Impact convened a panel of experts in July 2021 to discuss the World Childhood Foundation USA's (Childhood USA) United States Pilot Out of the Shadows Index (the US pilot index) framework and project goals. We would like to extend our thanks to the experts who participated in the panel and the additional experts consulted for their insights and advice throughout the project (listed alphabetically by surname):

- **Nina Agrawal**, Child Advocacy Pediatrician
- **Katie Albright**, Safe & Sound
- **Karen Angelici**, The Annie E. Casey Foundation
- **Trinidad Ariztia**, Kids in Need of Defense (KIND)
- **Ramatu Bangura**, Children's Rights Innovation Fund (CRIF)
- **Nicole G. Epps**, fmr. Executive Director, World Childhood Foundation USA
- **Robert Farley**, Independent Consultant
- **Michelle Fingerman**, Childhelp
- **Holly Fleming**, Children's Advocacy Centers of California
- **John Fluke**, University of Colorado Denver
- **Arnie Graff**, Mayo Clinic
- **Eli Green**, Transgender Training Institute
- **Michelle Grier**, Girls for Gender Equity
- **Zach Hiner**, Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests (SNAP)
- **Linda Johnson**, Prevent Child Abuse Vermont
- **Greg Kasowski**, Children's Advocacy Centers of North Dakota

- **Elizabeth Letourneau**, Moore Center for the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse
- **Tonya Long**, Minnesota Ombudsperson Board for American Indian Families
- **Kim Mangiaracino**, Children's Advocacy Centers of Illinois
- **Lauren Martin**, University of Minnesota
- **Stephanie Miedema**, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- **Nicole Pittman**, Just Beginnings
- **Krystal Rich**, Connecticut Children's Alliance
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- **Seth Stewart**, Just Beginnings
- **Melissa Stroebel**, Thorn
- **Joan Tabachnick**, Independent Consultant & MASOC
- **Julian Ward**, The Ahimsa Collective

We would also like to thank the experts who supported the development of the global Out of the Shadows Index (OOSI). The second edition of the global OOSI will be released in September 2022.

Please send any questions about this study to the Economist Impact team:

[Katherine Stewart](#) , Project Director

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Introduction

Child sexual exploitation and abuse (CSEA) is a complex, multifaceted, and constantly evolving issue, especially as the internet becomes an increasingly large part of children and adolescents' lives and relationships. States' radically different approaches to sex education, the foster care system, and provision of social services further complicate the issue. This can make it challenging to understand how the United States (US) is addressing what the American Medical Association called a "silent epidemic".¹

Although estimates of the percentage of child sexual abuse cases that go unreported vary, the Department of Justice's National Crime Victimization Survey indicates that fewer than one-in-three sexual assaults in the US against people of all ages are reported.² According to Linda Johnson, Executive Director of Prevent Child Abuse Vermont, "the average age for revealing experiences of child sexual abuse is 52."³ And the reason children do not tell during childhood is because often those who offend

them tell them they caused the abuse to happen and children are generally dependent on the individuals who sexually abuse them. It is a very large hurdle to overcome. Telling is not simple."

Over the past decade, this issue has been getting more attention. In 2015, the movie *Spotlight* won best picture at the Oscars. It tells the story of how *The Boston Globe* uncovered widespread child molestation in a Massachusetts Catholic Archdiocese. Following the 2016 Beijing Olympics, over 250 women and girls—including two US Olympic gold medalists—accused physician Larry Nassar of child sexual abuse in one of the most publicized court cases of the past five years.^{4,5} Yet the issue persists: the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released reports indicating that nearly 5,000 complaints of sexual abuse of migrant children in US custody were filed between 2015 and 2019.⁶ And the Archdiocese of Chicago paid out over \$8 million in settlements to victims⁷ of child sexual abuse from 2017 to 2020.⁸

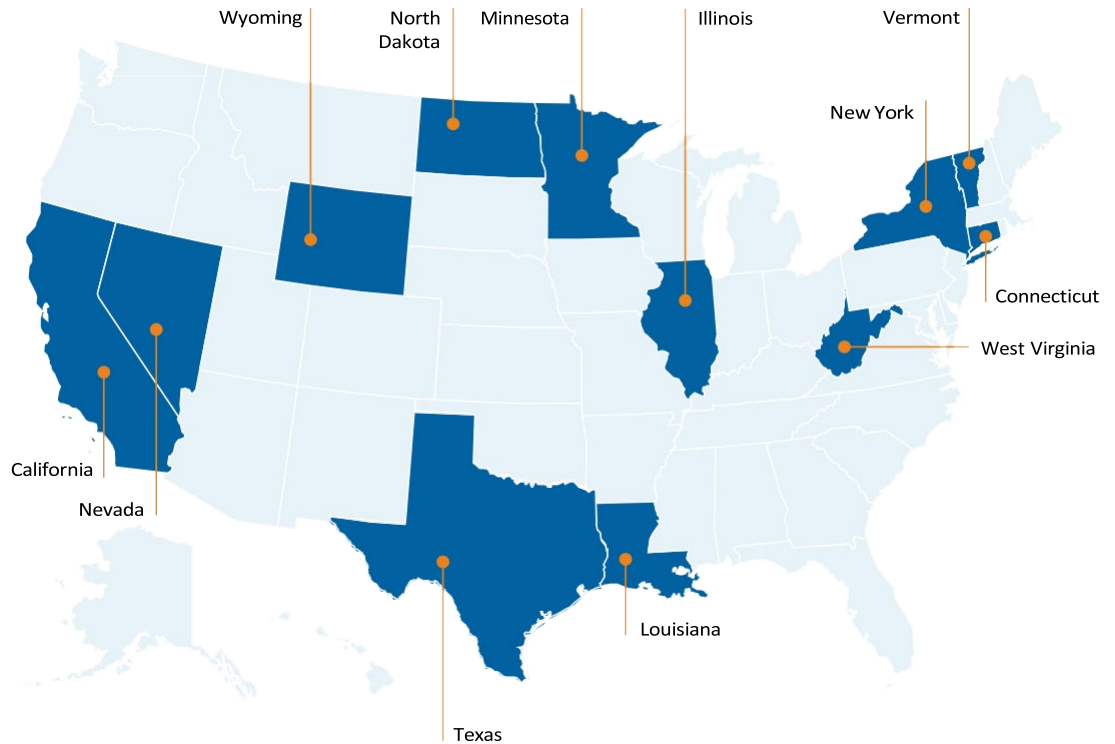


The World Childhood Foundation USA's (Childhood USA) *United States Pilot Out of the Shadows Index* (the US pilot index), developed by Economist Impact, is designed to help uncover how states are tackling CSEA both in person and online. The study builds on the Global Out of the Shadows Index that was first released in 2019 by benchmarking the prevention of and response to CSEA in 12 US states⁹. Using 182 individual

metrics aggregated into 22 indicators and four pillars, the US pilot index assesses states' legal frameworks; policies and programs to protect and educate children and key stakeholders; provision of support services for victims and offenders; and the justice process for victims.

Visit the [United States Pilot Out of the Shadows Index website](#).

Figure 1: 12 pilot states across regions, income levels and sizes to provide an overarching picture of what is happening in the US



Source: Economist Impact

Key findings

The US does not have a holistic, consistent, child-centered vision for how to prevent and respond to CSEA (see Figure 2). Every state in the pilot study has substantial gaps in its system to protect children from CSEA. These gaps differ from state to state, but there is a common thread: the prevention and response system does not consistently place the interests and needs of the child at its core.

Three-quarters of the states in the pilot study (pilot states) do not consult children when developing plans to prevent child maltreatment—Louisiana, New York, and Texas are the exceptions. Illinois, Texas, and Vermont are the only states that have consulted CSEA victims on their experiences of the response system.

In this study, the word children refers to all persons under the age of 18 (i.e., the legal definition of a minor in the US).

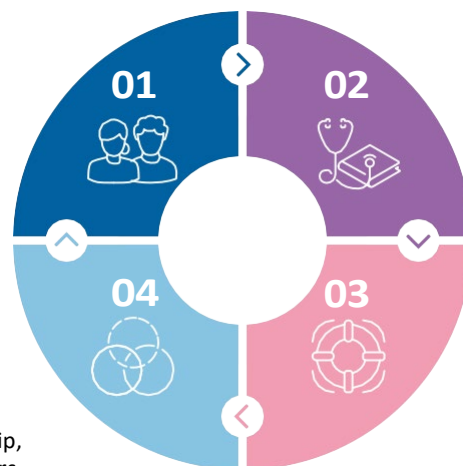
Figure 2: A holistic approach to preventing and responding to CSEA

Centered on the child

Recognizes the interests of the child and promotes the child's decision-making throughout the system

Considers the broader social environment

Sensitive to the interplay between individual, relationship, community, and societal factors in which violence is embedded



Responsive to public health needs

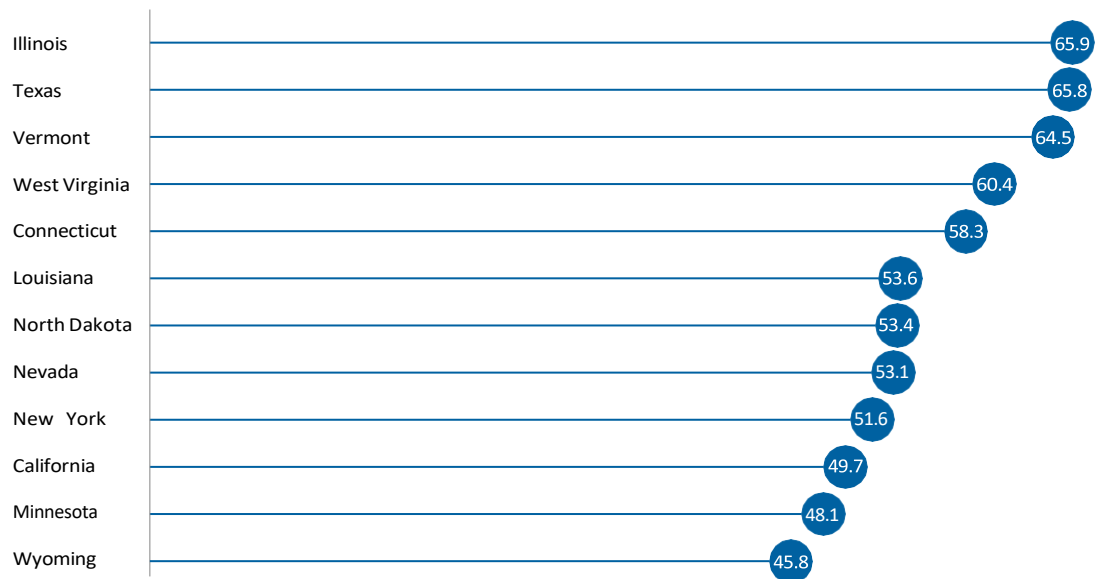
Recognizes sexual violence is preventable and that individual and community education must be promoted

Ensures response preparedness & support

Prepares and empowers frontline workers and communities to lead effective and trauma-informed response efforts

Figure 3: Overall score by state

Scored 0-100 where 100 = best



Source: Economist Impact

Note: States that have been in the firing line recently around issues related to CSEA, like Texas and West Virginia, are making changes to their prevention and response systems; however, anecdotal evidence indicates that implementation is still weak and improvements in access to and quality of provision need to be emphasized.^{10,11}

While states encourage policies and programs that are critical to preventing CSEA, many do not require that such policies and programs be implemented. Almost half of the pilot states do not mandate that students receive instruction on CSEA awareness and allow parents to opt-out of their children

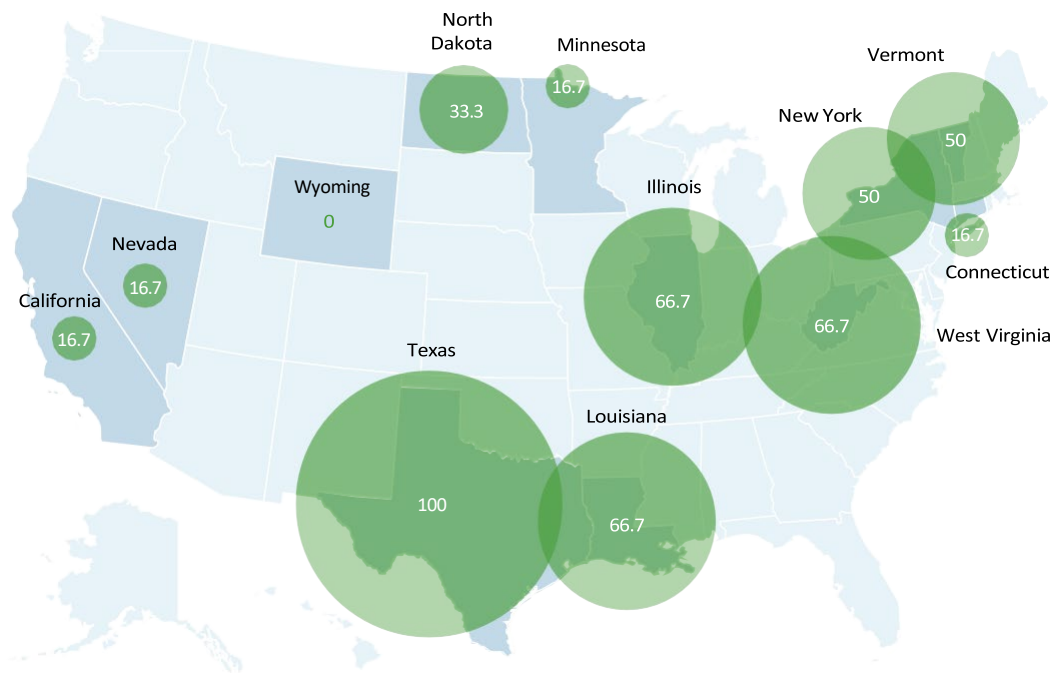
receiving CSEA awareness instruction. This lack of requirement means that counties and/or school districts decide which parts of prevention education are provided in schools, leaving children unaware of how to protect themselves both in consensual sexual encounters with other children and nonconsensual sexual encounters.

Sex education is not responsive to public health needs. Although sex education and HIV/sexually-transmitted infection (STI) instruction is mandated in most states, there are few requirements that such instruction be evidence based or medically accurate. Only Illinois requires sex education to be evidence based and just three pilot states require sex education to be medically accurate. This gap is exacerbated by a lack of access to holistic sex education, which encompasses both healthy sexuality and relationships and social-emotional learning.

The training and education gap is not only impacting children. Texas is the only pilot state that provides comprehensive education to key staff in schools and youth-serving organizations on preventing and responding to sexual abuse (see Figure 4). Three-quarters of the pilot states do not provide funding to youth-serving organizations for training on preventing child sexual abuse or peer-facilitated sexual abuse.

Figure 4: States' performance on indicator 2.2. Educating providers

Scored 0-100 where 100 = best



Source: Economist Impact

Note: Composite score of 2.2.1 Child sexual abuse prevention training (school personnel); 2.2.2 Child sexual abuse prevention training (youth-serving organizations); and 2.2.3 School staff training on trauma and mental health

Across states, facilities and personnel involved in the response to CSEA are often undertrained and unsupported... Only two pilot states require that child welfare agencies be trained on child sexual abuse at specific intervals and just three require personnel trained in the examination of sexual abuse victims to be employed or on call at hospitals/ emergency rooms. The average mean wage for child, family, and school social workers is lower than the overall state mean wage in every state except North Dakota. Just two pilot states— Connecticut and Texas—have assessed the workload of child welfare workers in the past two years and developed caseload standards.

...and Children’s Advocacy Centers (CACs)¹² bear the brunt of the response without being guaranteed financial support. Although there is widespread access to CAC services across states, just under half of the pilot states do not have a line item for CAC funding in their state budget. Many CACs rely on fundraising, which can put pressure on critical response providers and coordinators in the CSEA response system. According to Holly Fleming, Program Director at the Children’s Advocacy Centers of California, “We are not written into the state budget... many CACs have to do their own fundraising, which is a reason a lot of counties decided to place the centers in child protective services, law enforcement or hospital because it’s a larger entity that already has pretty stable funding.”



The remainder of this report explores the US pilot index findings, shining a light on how effective states’ prevention and response systems are. It pinpoints areas that states should be prioritizing to tackle the problem and highlights good practices and innovative solutions that states and stakeholders across education, civil society, and others are taking to address the challenge. It aims to help stakeholders across the US end this “silent epidemic”.

An effective system for prevention and response

The US does not have a holistic, child-centered system in place to prevent and respond to CSEA. During the US pilot index development process, Economist Impact conducted interviews with government, academic, and civil society stakeholders to understand how the US is approaching CSEA prevention and response. Stakeholders across the board had one very clear message: the current prevention and response system is blind to the needs of the child and the child's broader environment. It requires a coordinated approach or roadmap to both address and, ultimately, end this issue.

The US pilot index is a first attempt to develop this holistic, coordinated approach. Our framework is designed to answer the questions “*what does a holistic approach to protect children from CSEA and empower children to protect themselves look like?*” and “*are states developing systems, policies and programs that are aligned with this holistic approach?*” Through our framework, we have defined what a holistic approach looks like. It is a prevention and response system sensitive to the broader socio-ecological environment that gives priority to the interests and needs of the child.

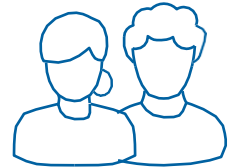
This report goes through each pillar of a child-centered holistic approach to combating CSEA, highlighting how existing prevention and response systems are falling behind.

A **holistic approach** is a prevention and response system sensitive to the broader socio-ecological environment that gives priority to the interests and needs of the child.



(See Figure 1 for detail)

Pillar 1: The child comes first



There is an international recognition that children have the fundamental right to be protected from sexual exploitation and abuse. The 1990 Convention on the Rights of the Child sets out that states will “protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse”.¹³ The benefits of ensuring that children are protected against CSEA are clear: adverse experiences during childhood can “affect how a person thinks, acts, and feels over a lifetime, resulting in short- and long-term physical and mental/emotional health consequences.”¹⁴ Consequences of CSEA also include increased risk of sexual victimization in adulthood and a potential risk of future perpetration of child maltreatment.¹⁵ A 2018 study estimates that the total economic burden of child sexual abuse in the US was approximately \$9.3 billion in 2015.¹⁶

Ensuring children are protected from sexual exploitation and abuse necessitates building prevention and response systems that focus on children first. This involves asking questions

including “is this policy or program in the best interests of the child?”, “is this policy or program accessible to, and responsive to, the needs of children?” and “have children had the opportunity to participate in the development of this policy or program?” The US pilot index shows that across the country, states have a long way to go.



Prevention

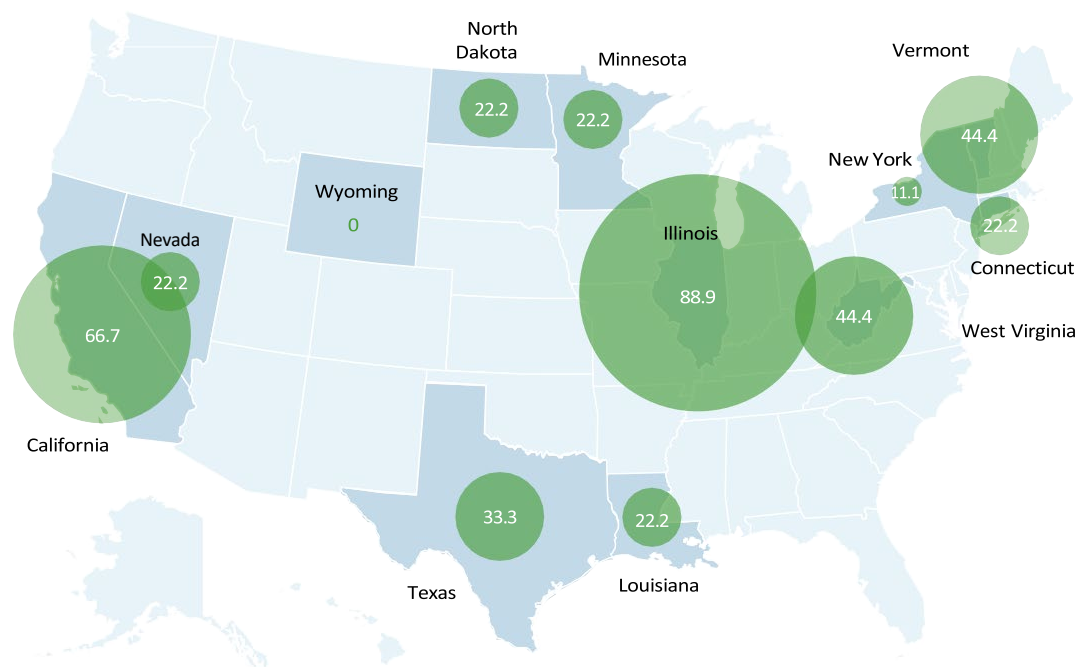
Sex education and education on child sexual abuse awareness and online safety across the US are often insensitive to the needs of the child, failing to give them the tools they need to make informed decisions and protect themselves. Although most pilot states require sex education and education on STIs, fewer than half require that such education cover contraception and just three—California, Illinois, and Louisiana—require this education to be medically accurate. Illinois is the only pilot state that requires sex education to be evidence based. Further, only Vermont and West Virginia have fully excluded parental “opt-out” and “opt-in” provisions for sex education (see Figure 5).

Children in the US are not given the tools needed to ensure their own safety and autonomy.

According to Dr. Nina Agrawal, a pediatrician with a specialization in child abuse pediatrics and trauma-informed medical care for child maltreatment victims, “What is needed is a holistic approach to sexual health and sex education. And that doesn’t just mean preventing pregnancy and STIs. We’ve made progress there. It’s body safety—talking about private parts, beginning at age four or five. We need to start giving children names for their body parts so they have control over their bodies. Not discussing these body parts and not giving a child this information makes them more vulnerable to getting abused.”

Figure 5: Indicator 2.1 Mandatory sex education

Scored 0-100 where 100 = best



Source: Economist Impact

Note: This is a composite score of 2.1.1.a) State mandated sex education; 2.1.1.b) State mandated HIV/STI education; 2.1.1 c) Sex education: contraception; 2.1.1.d) Sex education: medically accurate; 2.1.1.e) Sex education: evidence based; 2.1.1 f) Sex education: culturally responsive; and 2.1.1.g) Sex education: exclusion of parental “opt-in” and “opt-out.”

This gap in comprehensive education extends to risks of sexual exploitation and abuse online. Despite the fact that 95% of 3 to 18 year olds in the US had home internet access in 2019¹⁷ and that, in a survey of 18 to 20 year olds,¹⁸ almost 45% of respondents said that they had been asked to do something sexually explicit online that made them uncomfortable by a peer, an adult they knew or someone they did not know, just three states—Connecticut, Louisiana, and West Virginia—mandate that children receive online safety education that covers the risks of sexual exploitation and abuse.

It is possible that children’s exclusion from agenda setting and policy development have contributed to gaps in states’ education systems. Only three pilot states include the voices and/or experiences of youth in the drafting of state plans to prevent child maltreatment, including Texas, whose Department of Family and Protective Services published its “Prevention and Intervention, Five-year Strategic Plan on child sexual abuse and exploitation prevention” in September 2021. This plan includes insights from focus groups with both parents and youth to determine if the plan is addressing their needs.¹⁹

How states did it: good practice for online safety education

- LA RS § 17:280 establishes that Louisiana requires public schools to provide in-classroom instruction regarding internet and cell phone safety and the potential risks of online CSEA.
- West Virginia’s House Bill 4402 mandates that students K-12 receive instruction on child sexual abuse awareness and prevention including social media usage and content.

“The law is currently set up to prevent children from marrying before their parents want, but does not offer protection for children whose parents are making them marry. But we also cannot just ban the issue and call it done. More often than not child marriage is happening outside of the system’. What we need are better tools for helping folks more effectively identify this harmful practice while acknowledging the pressures that these young people are facing.”

Ramatu Bangura, lead of the Children’s Rights Innovation Fund

Although states’ legislation criminalizing specific acts of CSEA are generally strong, a holistic legal approach to preventing the issue that targets a wide range of evidenced risk factors while remaining responsive to children’s needs is still missing. New York and Minnesota are the only states that have eliminated all exceptions to child marriage for those under the age of 18.



Response

While the voices of children and victims are seldom included in agenda setting, they are also excluded from reviews and assessments of the response system.

Nearly half of the pilot states have undertaken reviews of the response system that include the voices of service providers, community-based stakeholders, and law enforcement, but just one-quarter include victims.

How states did it: victim-informed assessments of the response system

- The Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority’s 2016 Victim Needs Assessment included in-depth interviews with 60 victims of violent crimes and their family members (including child sexual abuse victims) around their experiences with the justice system and other support services.

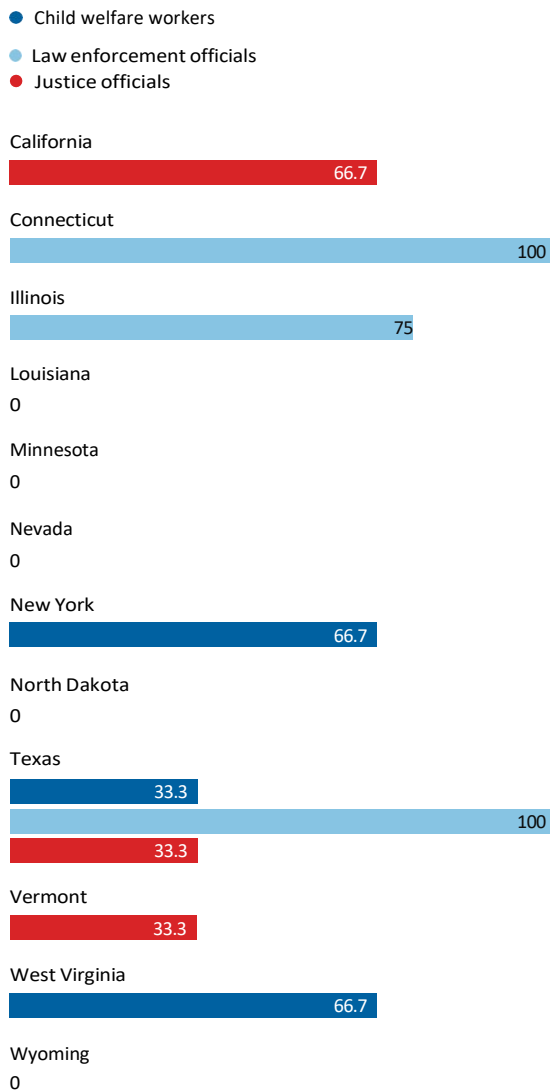
This lack of feedback is particularly concerning because, in many cases, law enforcement and judicial processes lack child-friendly and trauma-responsive tools.

Just three pilot states—Connecticut, Illinois, and Texas—require that law enforcement personnel receive child-friendly, trauma-informed, and child sexual abuse-specific training at defined intervals. Texas is the only pilot state that requires prosecutors, judges, and other judicial officials to receive trauma-informed training at specific intervals, while California is the only pilot state that requires such officials receive training on cases of child sexual abuse at specific intervals (see Figure 6). And while all pilot states have enacted some legislation to ensure that a child does not have to testify in front of a defendant in cases of child sexual abuse, fewer than half have legislation that restricts the number of times a child can testify in a child sexual abuse case.



Figure 6: Training for relevant authorities

Scored 0-100 where 100 = best



Source: Economist Impact

Note: Child welfare workers were assessed on mandatory child sexual abuse training, mandatory training on culturally sensitive practices, and mandatory training on the impacts of trauma. Law enforcement officials were assessed on mandatory child-friendly training, mandatory child sexual abuse training, mandatory training on the impacts of trauma, and mandatory training on working with those with mental and/or developmental disabilities. Justice officials were assessed on mandatory child sexual abuse training, mandatory training on the impacts of trauma, and mandatory training on working with those with mental and/or developmental disabilities.

Child-centered judicial processes go beyond ensuring officials in the justice system are trained to be responsive to children and that court processes are child-friendly. When possible and appropriate, **judicial processes should take into consideration the child’s wishes** in making a decision that will affect the child, which is a practice that almost every pilot state mandates. Moving beyond the traditional justice process, states are using restorative justice to bring the victim and offender together in a process that focuses on the victim’s need to move toward recovery and the offender’s responsibility for repairing the harm.²⁰ **Despite the comparative nascence of restorative justice, three-quarters of the pilot states facilitated victim-offender dialogues through either programs or statutes.**

“In its current form, the criminal justice system is not positioned to promote justice, healing, or accountability; its central aim is to punish, engaging those who experienced harm only as a means to ensure a conviction. Putting someone in prison may stop the abuse of the child but it does not inherently support the healing of the child. On the other hand, restorative justice starts with the needs and desires of the people who have been harmed, including the family of those who’ve been abused.”

Julian Ward, Facilitator, The Ahimsa Collective

Pillar 2: Child sexual exploitation and abuse is a public health problem



In 2019, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) wrote, “CSA [child sexual abuse] is a serious public health problem”.²¹ Public health problems are medical issues with high prevalence that have large-scale impacts on individuals that trickle down into society, but are largely preventable. The CDC notes that self-reported data from 2013-14 suggests that 3.7 million children in the US are exposed to child sexual abuse each year.²²

It is crucial to provide comprehensive support and response systems for those who experience CSEA, but focusing on preventing CSEA from ever occurring is key to ending the epidemic. A recent study estimates that up to three-quarters of sexual offenses against children under 18 are by other children. Sexual offenses where children are the perpetrators are seldom the result of deviant sexual arousal and often have unrelated root causes.²³ This is particularly true for children under 12 who experience “problematic sexual behaviors”. In most cases, problematic sexual behaviors are manageable: according to the Moore Center for the Prevention of Child



Sexual Abuse, “problematic sexual behaviors can be controlled and managed, and therefore... initial first-time sex crimes might be avoided.”²⁴ Even among adults convicted of sex crimes, recidivism rates tend to be low: 80% of convicted adults never commit another sex crime.²⁵



Interrupting cycles of harm

Violence does not often occur in isolation: those who experience maltreatment in childhood are often exposed to multiple forms of abuse, such as sexual abuse, emotional abuse, and exposure to family abuse.^{1,2} Other forms of victimization, such as bullying or exposure to community violence, have also been highlighted as commonly occurring in tandem with child maltreatment.³

Experiencing or witnessing violence as a child can also contribute to intergenerational cycles of abuse, as children may learn that interpersonal conflict can be resolved through violence.^{4,5} Evidence suggests that adults who were abused or neglected as children are at increased risk of engaging in abusive or neglectful parenting themselves,⁶ although most survivors of child maltreatment do not go on to perpetuate abuse against their own children.⁷ In some cases, children may also attempt to re-enact or emulate the actions of their abusers. Children who have been sexually abused are more likely to exhibit highly sexual behavior and/or engage in problematic sexual behavior (PSB).^{8,9,10} Prior victimization, however, is not an explanatory factor for all cases of PSB; a range or combination of other factors, including familial, social, developmental, economic, and exposure to sexually explicit media, have also been spotlighted.¹¹

Such evidence underscores the need for prevention and response systems built to simultaneously address a range of risk factors, maltreatment types, and historical experiences of violence for both the victim and the perpetrator. As Julian Ward from the Ahimsa Collective highlighted, “those who cause harm have often been harmed. You have to engage with them to understand what led them to commit a violent act in the first place. We have a responsibility to break the cycle of harm.”

1 <https://aifs.gov.au/cfca/publications/rarely-isolated-incident-acknowledging-interrelatedness-child-maltrea>

2 <http://theannainstitute.org/ACE%20folder%20for%20website/30TIND.pdf>

3 <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/20171535/>

4 <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/14562454/>

5 https://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/98783/E90619.pdf

6 <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0145213499000277>

7 <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/8352342/>

8 <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0145213488900300?via%3Dihub>

9 <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/19550260/>

10 <https://www.semanticscholar.org/paper/Sexually-Abused-Children-Who-Exhibit-Sexual-Chromy/76e0d4df3a4f3140f84fbcf44db222890b77f2c1>

11 https://tce.researchinpractice.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/children_and_young_people_with_harmful_sexual_behaviours_research_review_2014.pdf

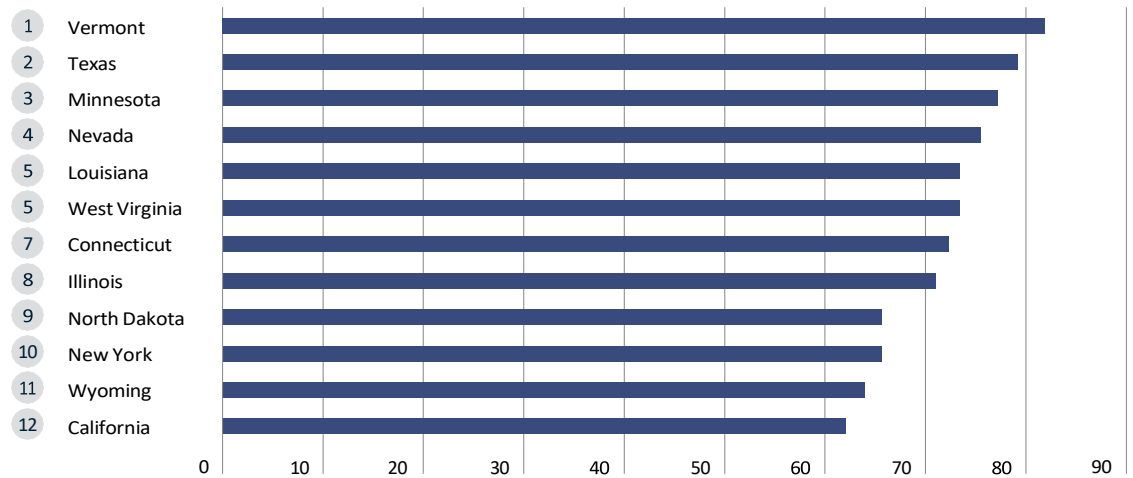
Traditionally, stakeholders have placed much more emphasis on responding to CSEA than on preventing it. Where prevention has been emphasized, the focus has primarily been on passing legislation that criminalizes acts of CSEA rather than developing comprehensive services to support potential child and adult offenders (see Figure 7).

A 2010 review of public health agencies in all 50 states and the District of Columbia found that over 70% of offered programs target intimate partner violence, but only one-fifth offered child sexual abuse prevention programs, highlighting the limited focus placed on prevention of child sexual abuse.²⁶

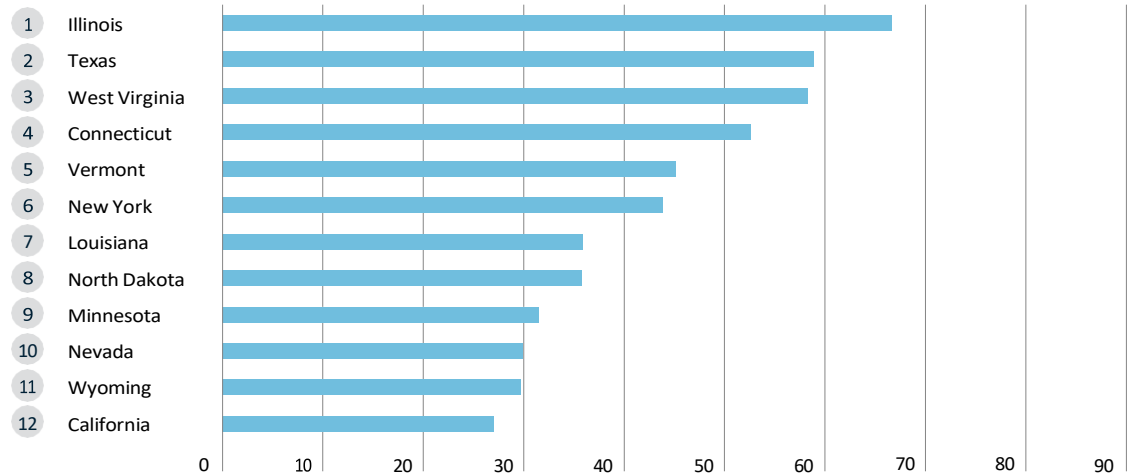
Figure 7: State performance in Legal Framework & State Capacity and Policies & Programs

Scored 0-100 where 100 = best

Legal Framework & State Capacity



Policies & Programs



Source: Economist Impact

This lack of focus on prevention has resulted in gaps around education for children.

According to Dr. Agrawal, “Child sexual exploitation and abuse is a public health issue, and sex education is not responsive to public health needs.” However, **these gaps extend to adults and professionals who work and engage regularly with children.** As such, when they encounter cases of CSEA, they often do not have the knowledge and/or tools to engage effectively.

Texas is the only pilot state that has comprehensive training and education for providers working with children (see Figure 8). This training and education includes mandatory training on child sexual abuse and peer-facilitated sexual abuse for school personnel; training and state funding for training on peer-facilitated sexual abuse for employees of youth-serving organizations; and training on trauma and mental health for school staff. Training for employees of youth-serving organizations on peer-facilitated sexual abuse is a particular area of weakness for almost every state, which is particularly concerning given the large percentage of CSEA cases that are perpetrated by those under 18.

“Child sexual exploitation and abuse is a public health issue, and sex education is not responsive to public health needs.”

Dr. Nina Agrawal, Child Abuse Pediatrics Specialist



Figure 8: Existence of training/education for providers

● Yes ● No or information not publicly available

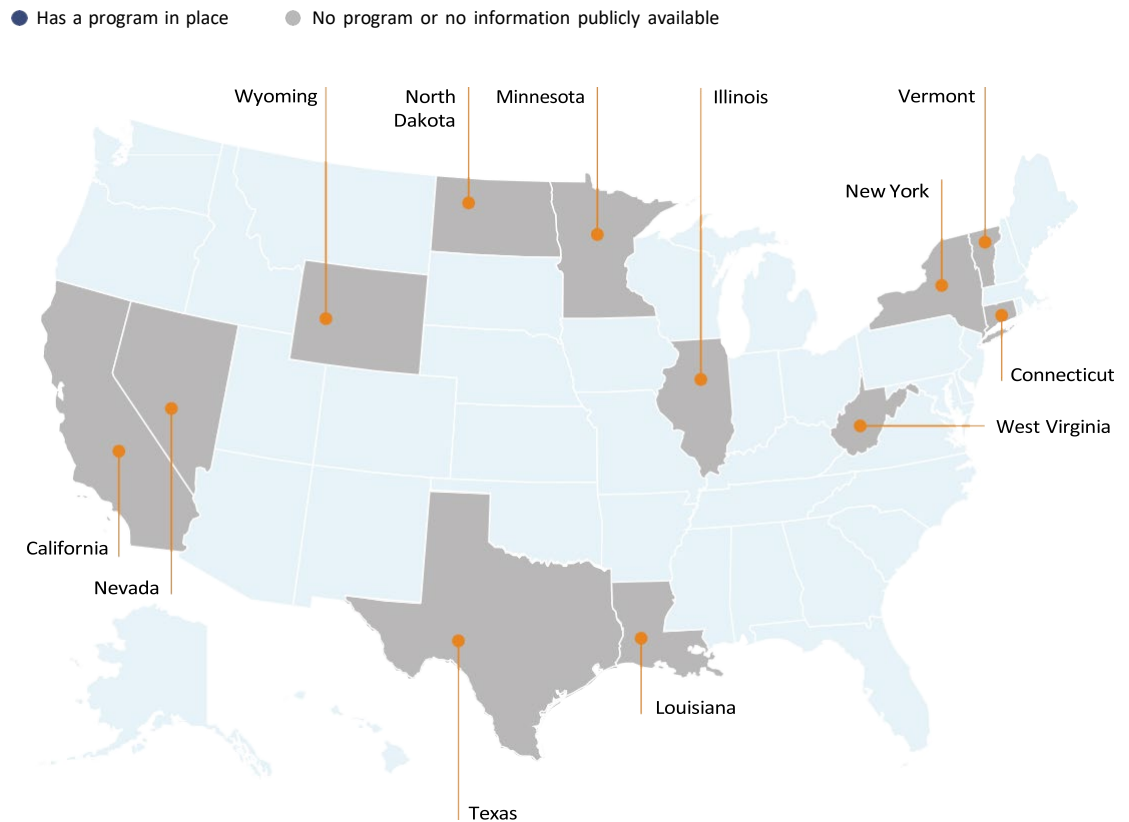
| | California | Connecticut | Illinois | Louisiana | Minnesota | Nevada | New York | North Dakota | Texas | Vermont | West Virginia | Wyoming |
|---|------------|-------------|----------|-----------|-----------|--------|----------|--------------|-------|---------|---------------|---------|
| Does the state require that teachers and other school personnel receive training on child sexual abuse before they can work with minors (e.g., on the prevention, identification, and reporting of child sexual abuse)? | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Does the state require that teachers and other school personnel receive training on peer-facilitated sexual abuse? | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Does the state require employees of all youth-serving organizations receiving state funding to undergo training on child sexual abuse before they can work with minors? | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Does the state require that employees of all youth-serving organizations receive training on peer-facilitated sexual abuse? | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Has the state passed legislation requiring school staff to have training on the impacts of trauma on students? | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Has the state passed legislation requiring school staff to have training on mental health issues? | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |

Source: National Board of Educators; Economist Impact

Perhaps the biggest gap in states' prevention efforts is that no pilot state has government-supported services available for people who might be at risk of offending (see Figure 9). Support systems for potential offenders are almost entirely provided through civil society and non-profit organizations, and, in almost all cases, these programs focus on

those who have been convicted of a CSEA crime rather than those who might be at risk of committing one. For example, North Dakota's "Sex Offender Treatment and Assessment" is a non-profit organization that provides evidence-based treatment and support for individuals convicted or adjudicated of sexual crimes.²⁷

Figure 9: Does the state have a government and/or government-affiliated program to provide information and help-seeking services to support people who are concerned they may be at risk of sexually abusing children?



Source: Economist Impact



Pillar 3: Ensuring response preparedness & support



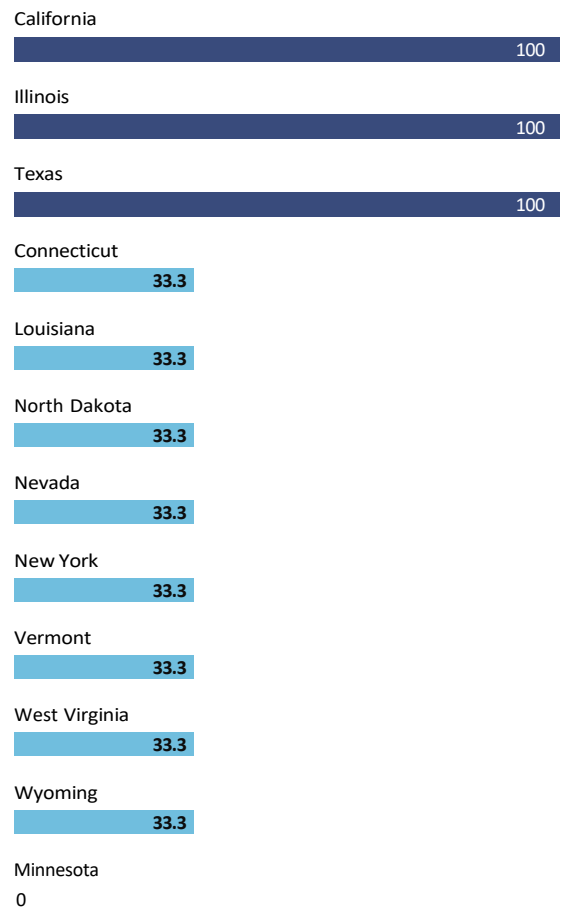
Prevention efforts must focus on providing education, training, and support services to prevent CSEA crimes from occurring, but **response services must also be adjusted to deal with the immediate and long-term consequences of exposure to CSEA in a way that is aligned with responding to a public health problem.** This shift requires adjusting medical response services and clinical evaluations to make them free of charge and trauma informed, and **ensuring that comprehensive long-term medical, emotional/psychological, and financial support is available to minimize individual and society impacts.**

Medical response

Most emergency medical-response facilities do not have staff trained in providing medical care to child and adolescent victims of sexual assault (see Figure 10). Only three pilot states require personnel trained in the examination of sexual abuse victims to be employed or on call at hospitals/emergency rooms, and just one-third have established a protocol for the examination of sexual assault victims that includes specific guidance for adolescent and child victims. In the three pilot states where key medical-response personnel are available and receive training, there are almost no requirements that such training be ongoing or provided at defined intervals.

Figure 10: Medical response for child sexual abuse victims

Scored 0-100 where 100 = best



Source: Economist Impact

No pilot state provides comprehensive medical support free of charge to CSEA victims outside of reimbursement through victim compensation programs (see Figure 11). This includes provision of pregnancy testing, emergency contraception, STI testing,

medications, treatment for injuries sustained during the assault, and counseling. Just three pilot states prohibit hospitals and medical professionals from billing CSEA victims for emergency contraception and two for treatment of injuries sustained during the assault.

Figure 11: Medical support provided free of charge by state

● Yes ● No or information not publicly available

| | California | Connecticut | Illinois | Louisiana | Minnesota | Nevada | New York | North Dakota | Texas | Vermont | West Virginia | Wyoming |
|---|------------|-------------|----------|-----------|-----------|--------|----------|--------------|-------|---------|---------------|---------|
| Pregnancy test | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Emergency contraception | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| STI testing | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Medications | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Treatment for injuries sustained during the assault | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Counseling | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |

Source: Economist Impact

How states did it: providing free-of-charge medical support

- The Illinois Sexual Assault Survivors Emergency Treatment Act establishes that hospitals and other healthcare providers shall not bill a sexual assault survivor directly for “medical forensic services”, including evaluation for STIs, medication, pregnancy risk evaluation, and emergency contraception.
- Connecticut’s Office of Victim Services (OVS) contracts with non-profit and public agencies to provide free therapy services to crime victims, including sexual assault victims.

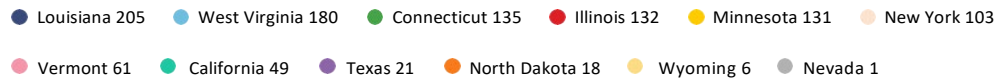
Financial compensation

Financial support and reimbursement for medical and legal costs is mainly provided to CSEA victims through victim compensation programs. However, many states have age and time restrictions or requirements to report CSEA crimes to law enforcement that limit access to compensation. Fewer than half the pilot states have either eliminated all reporting requirements for CSEA victims to be able to apply for compensation or have established more flexible reporting standards that allow victims to report a CSEA crime to sexual assault advocates or child protective services. Average wait times for compensation are over three months in half the pilot states (see Figure 12).



Figure 12: Average wait time/backlog for victim compensation

Number of days



Source: Everytown Research & Policy

Child welfare

At the core of the emergency and long-term response are CACs, Child Protective Services, and child welfare workers. Across states, child welfare workers and agencies are often undertrained, underpaid, and underfunded. In every pilot state except North Dakota, the average mean wage for child, family, and school social workers is lower than the overall state mean wage. In addition, just two states—Connecticut and Texas—have assessed the workload of child welfare workers in the past two years and developed caseload standards.

“Those responsible for children with the greatest needs are paid minimum wage, receive minimal or no training and have access to the fewest resources. The system is broken and too many kids are falling through the cracks.”

Ramatu Bangura, lead of the Children’s Rights Innovation Fund

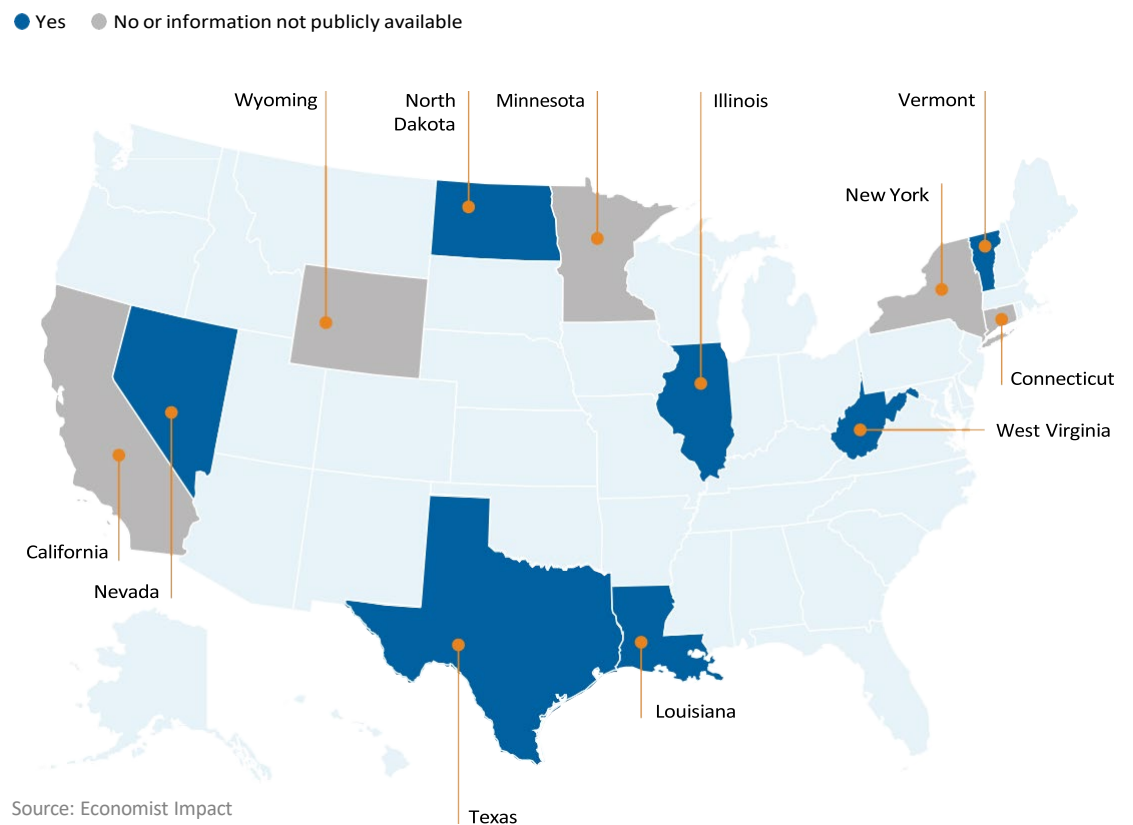
In many cases, **child welfare workers lack ongoing training on cases of child sexual abuse, culturally sensitive practices, and the impacts of trauma.** Just three pilot states provide at least one of these types of training to child welfare workers at defined intervals (see Figure 8), and just half the pilot states’ governments have produced guidelines to provide child welfare agency staff with best practice standards for assessment, intervention, and planning throughout child sexual abuse cases.

Children’s Advocacy Centers

These gaps have placed much of the burden on CACs to provide holistic, trauma-informed support to victims throughout the investigation, recovery, and compensation process. There is widespread access to CAC services across states: nearly 75% of counties across the pilot

states are served by National Children’s Alliance (NCA) member CACs. That figure rises to nearly 85% when CACs that are not NCA members are included. However, rural areas often lack support services. Krystal Rich, Director of the Connecticut Children’s Alliance, says, **“There are clear gaps in critical services for our children and families including trauma-informed mental health care, specialized services for children with disabilities, and a need for more of an intentional focus on ensuring all a family’s basic needs are met when trying to identify trauma services.** We also need to look at the fact that just because a resource is available does not always mean it is accessible. While we have these barriers, we are lucky in that the Children’s Advocacy Center network has the ability to share resources and collaborate to fill in gaps whenever possible.” However, in many cases, CACs rely on fundraising to ensure continued service provision (see Figure 13).

Figure 13: State budgeting for Children’s Advocacy Centers



Pillar 4: Child sexual exploitation and abuse does not exist in a vacuum



Ending the silent epidemic necessitates stopping child sexual exploitation and abuse either before it begins or in its tracks. To do this, prevention and response systems need to be sensitive to the range of factors that put children at risk of experiencing or perpetrating CSEA and the broader cycles of violence in which CSEA is embedded.²⁸ A socio-ecological model looks at how individual, relationship, community, and societal factors interact to affect violence prevention.²⁹

Economist Impact has integrated this model into our framework's assessment of states' policies and programs to prevent CSEA. We have considered a range of effective prevention activities targeting various risk factors and levels of intervention.³⁰

Minnesota is the only state that has made substantial progress toward implementing Early Head Start programs, and nine states have made little to no progress.

Protective plans and policies

Among the most common societal factors that put children at higher risk of maltreatment are poverty and lack of access to economic opportunities, while access to, and quality of, healthcare and education can act as protective factors (see Figure 14).³¹ In addition to considering the Annie E. Casey Foundation's KIDS COUNT Data Book's³² assessment of economic well-being and health well-being of children in each state, the US pilot index includes an assessment of each state's progress toward implementing Early Head Start programs, which provide child development and family support services to low-income pregnant women, and infants and toddlers and their families.³³

The findings are sobering: Minnesota is the only state that has made substantial progress toward implementing Early Head Start programs. Nine states (excluding Connecticut and Vermont) have made little to no progress.³⁴ Although some states have made more progress toward implementing evidence-based home visiting programs to improve the parenting skills of expectant parents,³⁵ one-third of the pilot states have still made little to no progress.

Issue spotlight: access to safe abortion

On June 24, 2022, the US Supreme Court overturned almost 50 years of judicial precedent under *Roe v Wade*, declaring that the constitutional right to abortion no longer exists and returning regulation of abortion to the states.¹ In anticipation of this decision, a number of state legislatures—including Louisiana, Texas, and Wyoming—enacted “trigger” bans, laws set to take effect automatically or by quick state action if *Roe v Wade* was overturned.² The most severe of these bans prohibits abortion in all, or most, circumstances, even in cases that involve rape, abuse or incest (although some of these bans have been blocked by court order).³

Laws and policies ensuring abortion services are safe and accessible are critical to the larger efforts to combat sexual exploitation and abuse against women and girls. Such laws and policies can determine the ability of victims to terminate pregnancies following sexual abuse or rape.⁴ More broadly, they can also help break cycles of violence, including dependence on violent partners,⁵ and ameliorate gender inequities⁶—an important societal-level risk factor for sexual violence.⁷ Greater restrictions on abortion, meanwhile, can force women and girls to travel long-distances to obtain abortion services⁸ or pursue unsafe methods.⁹

Although Economist Impact finalized the research for the US pilot index in February 2022, we made some adjustments to the framework to account for the June 24 decision. We added an indicator on state abortion policy based on the Guttmacher Institute’s assessment of state policy post *Roe v Wade*.¹⁰ We also rescored the existing indicator on parental involvement in minors’ abortions to reflect the most recent policy action on this issue.¹¹

1 https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/21pdf/19-1392_6j37.pdf

2 <https://www.guttmacher.org/article/2022/06/13-states-have-abortion-trigger-bans-heres-what-happens-when-roe-overturned>

3 <https://www.guttmacher.org/article/2022/06/13-states-have-abortion-trigger-bans-heres-what-happens-when-roe-overturned>.

4 <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6926844/>

5 <https://bmcmecicine.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12916-014-0144-z>

6 <https://reproductiverights.org/supreme-court-case-mississippi-abortion-ban-gender-equality/>

7 <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7810166/>

8 https://www.guttmacher.org/sites/default/files/report_pdf/parentalinvolvementlaws.pdf

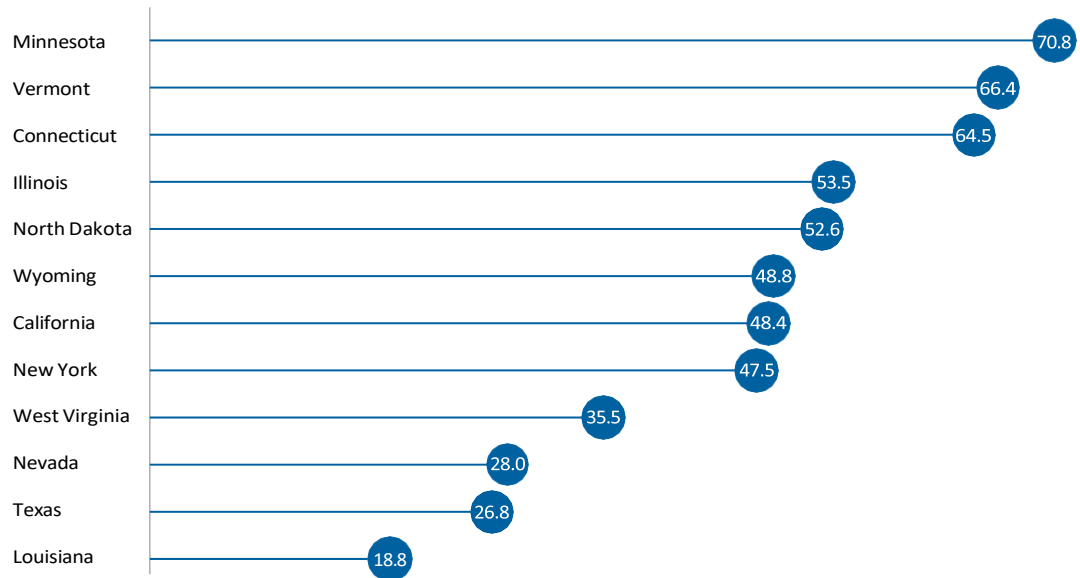
9 <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/abortion>

10 This indicator reflects state policies in effect as of July 7, 2022. For the most up-to-date information on this issue, visit Guttmacher Institute’s state legislation tracker: <https://www.guttmacher.org/state-policy>

11 While most states require parental involvement in a minors’ abortion, such as requiring the notification or consent of one or both parents, many have also set out certain exceptions or procedures for bypassing parental involvement. The Out of the Shadows Index considers whether the state has provided an exception to parental involvement requirements in cases of rape, abuse, or incest.

Figure 14: Scores for influencing policy & legislation

Scored 0-100 where 100 = best



Source: Economist Impact

Note: Composite measure, scored as the weighted average score of the following indicator scores: 2.6.1 Family First Prevention Services Act Plan; 2.6.2 Funding of prevention efforts; 2.6.3 State investment in Early Head Start; 2.6.4 Home visiting programs; 2.6.5 Abortion access in cases of rape and sexual abuse; 2.6.6 Sexual health services for minors; 2.6.7 Contraceptive services for minors; 2.6.8 Kids Count Data Book: Economic Well-Being Domain; 2.6.9 Kids Count Data Book: Health Domain; 2.6.10 Kids Count Data Book: Family and Community Domain; 2.6.11 State Index on Youth Homelessness; 2.6.12 Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs); and 2.6.13 Unaccompanied homeless youth.

Beyond policies and programs targeting poverty and lack of access to healthcare and education, broader government support for prevention efforts is also key. The US has implemented some innovative child- and family-focused prevention policies: in 2018, it enacted the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA). The FFPSA aims to shift the child welfare system toward keeping children at home with their families by providing increased access to mental health services, substance use treatment, and improving parenting skills.³⁶ States are required

to submit their FFPSA plan to the Department of Health and Human Services Children’s Bureau for review.³⁷ Three-quarters of the pilot states have submitted their FFPSA plans, but only four of those plans have been approved. Louisiana, Minnesota, and Wyoming have not yet submitted their plans (see Figure 15). **While many states have taken action on the FFPSA, fewer than half of the pilot states have a current child abuse or child maltreatment prevention plan that includes preventing CSEA.**



Figure 15: Existence of child- and family-focused prevention policies

- Yes, the state has an approved FFPSA Plan
 - Yes, the state has submitted their FFPSA plan to the Children’s Bureau for review
 - No FFPSA plan
 - No or information not publicly available
-
- Little to no progress
 - Some progress
 - Substantial progress

| | California | Connecticut | Illinois | Louisiana | Minnesota | Nevada | New York | North Dakota | Texas | Vermont | West Virginia | Wyoming |
|--|------------|-------------|----------|-----------|-----------|--------|----------|--------------|-------|---------|---------------|---------|
| Family First Prevention Services Act Plan | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| State budget line item for child sexual abuse education/training programs in youth-serving organizations | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Progress toward implementing Early Head Start | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Progress toward implementing home visiting programs | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |

Source: Economist Impact; The Prenatal-to-3 Policy Impact Center

Changing organizational practice

At the core of community-level prevention are schools and youth-serving organizations where children’s social relationships are built. In Pillar 2, we focused on substantial gaps across states in training and awareness-building for teachers and other school personnel and those working in youth-serving organizations. These gaps in capacity-building to prevent CSEA in schools and youth-serving organizations are highlighted by the lack of state-level funding available for such programs: **none of the pilot states have a line item in their state budget for child sexual abuse education/training programs and other prevention programs in youth-serving organizations.**

Accountability of school personnel and school boards around issues related to child safety, maltreatment and sexual abuse is one way to drive prevention efforts. **Just three states require schools to contact former employers as part of their process to screen out individuals who might be sexual safety risks for children.** States have made more progress on developing professional standards or codes of conduct for school personnel that include information on appropriate boundaries and sharing information on educator sexual misconduct with relevant authorities, including the NASDTEC Clearinghouse.

It is possible that some of these gaps stem from **the exclusion of civil society and non-profit organizations from much of the agenda setting**. Fewer than half of the pilot states engage civil society organizations and other non-governmental stakeholders in the drafting and development of state plans to prevent child maltreatment.

Building individual knowledge and skills

Much of the prevention education that exists across states is targeted at teaching children to identify, avoid, and disclose CSEA.³⁸ However, there is evidence that **targeting awareness-building and prevention education efforts at parents and caregivers is critical**.³⁹ In the first part of this section, we highlighted some of the gaps in broader parenting support programs offered across the pilot states and in Pillar 2 we showcased the number of states that provide parents with “opt-out” provisions for their children in sex education and HIV/STI prevention education. The US pilot index also assesses the extent to which parents and other trusted adults were available to children who might have felt at risk of experiencing CSEA.

For example, our survey of 1,200 18 to 20 years olds in the US’s experiences of online sexual harms during childhood found that **fewer than three-in-five respondents agreed or strongly agreed that a responsible adult had an awareness of what they were doing online when they were under 18**, although 70% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they had a trusted adult they could go to if they received a message or saw content that was potentially linked to a dangerous source.



This data means that over 40% and 30% of respondents, respectively, did not have adult support systems to turn to when they faced potential online sexual harm.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that the gap in trusted adult support systems for in-person CSEA is much higher. The CDC estimates that over 90% of child sexual abuse is perpetrated by someone known and trusted by the child or the child’s family members.⁴⁰

Targeting prevention programs at parents, guardians, other family members, and peers is a core component in ending CSEA, but **stronger policies and processes to screen potential foster parents, adoptive parents and kinship caregivers are also needed.** Every pilot state has a statute, regulation or policy in place for guardianship with kin as a permanency option for children in out-of-home care and 11 of the pilot states—Connecticut is the exception—require background checks for prospective kinship caregivers. However, background checks for prospective foster and adoptive caregivers have room for improvement in a number of states (see Figure 15).



Figure 16: Background checks for prospective foster and adoptive caregivers

● Yes ● No

| | California | Connecticut | Illinois | Louisiana | Minnesota | Nevada | New York | North Dakota | Texas | Vermont | West Virginia | Wyoming |
|---|------------|-------------|----------|-----------|-----------|--------|----------|--------------|-------|---------|---------------|---------|
| State sex offender registry | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| National sex offender registry | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| State central registry for child abuse and/or neglect | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Other states' central registries for child abuse and/or neglect | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |

Source: Economist Impact



Protecting vulnerable populations

The US pilot index considers states' efforts to prevent and respond to CSEA against all children. Pillar 1 focuses on how to build a system that puts the needs of the child at the center. But, in many cases, children who are marginalized and vulnerable are

more at risk, including those in the foster care system (see Figure 17), who are homeless, who have a disability or who identify as LGBTQ+. **A child-centered, holistic system needs to be sensitive to, and aware of, the needs of these more at-risk groups.**

Figure 17: Standards for foster home and maltreatment in foster care

● Yes ● No ● Worse than the national performance ● Same as the national performance ● Better than the national performance

| | California | Connecticut | Illinois | Louisiana | Minnesota | Nevada | New York | North Dakota | Texas | Vermont | West Virginia | Wyoming |
|---|------------|-------------|----------|-----------|-----------|--------|----------|--------------|-------|---------|---------------|---------|
| Limits on number of children per bedroom in a foster home | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Rules that children older than 5 do not share a room with the opposite sex in a foster home | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Rules that children older than infants do not sleep in a room with an adult in a foster home | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Maltreatment in foster care: performance relative to national average | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Recurrence of maltreatment in foster care: performance relative to the national average | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Permanency in 12 months for children entering foster care: performance relative to the national average | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |

Source: Economist Impact; Children's Bureau

Homeless children

Over 270,000 public school students in California alone experienced homelessness at some point during the 2018-19 school year.⁴¹ Over 11,000 of them were unaccompanied, according to the 2019 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress.⁴² Among the pilot states, California and Nevada have the highest numbers of unaccompanied homeless youth per 10,000 homeless youth and also the highest rates of unsheltered youth, those living on the streets,⁴³ which is particularly concerning in a state like Nevada, which is among the lowest scoring pilot states on the State Index on Youth Homelessness.^{44,45}

Homeless youth and those who have been in the foster care system are particularly vulnerable to CSEA, especially to child sexual exploitation through sex trafficking.⁴⁶ In a study of 17 to 25 year olds in 10 youth homeless shelters across the US, almost one-in-five respondents reported experiencing human trafficking. Of those who had experienced trafficking, over three-quarters had experienced sex trafficking.⁴⁷

“When we talk about sexuality education, we’re not just talking about the act of sex, we also need to talk about gender, gender identity, and gender expression. And that creates a safer environment for young people, if they’re learning this, because I think we have a huge population of gender non-conforming, gender-fluid folks who experienced these things and really don’t have anywhere to talk about it or to get any kind of resources or help.”

Ignacio Rivera, Founder & Director, The HEAL Project

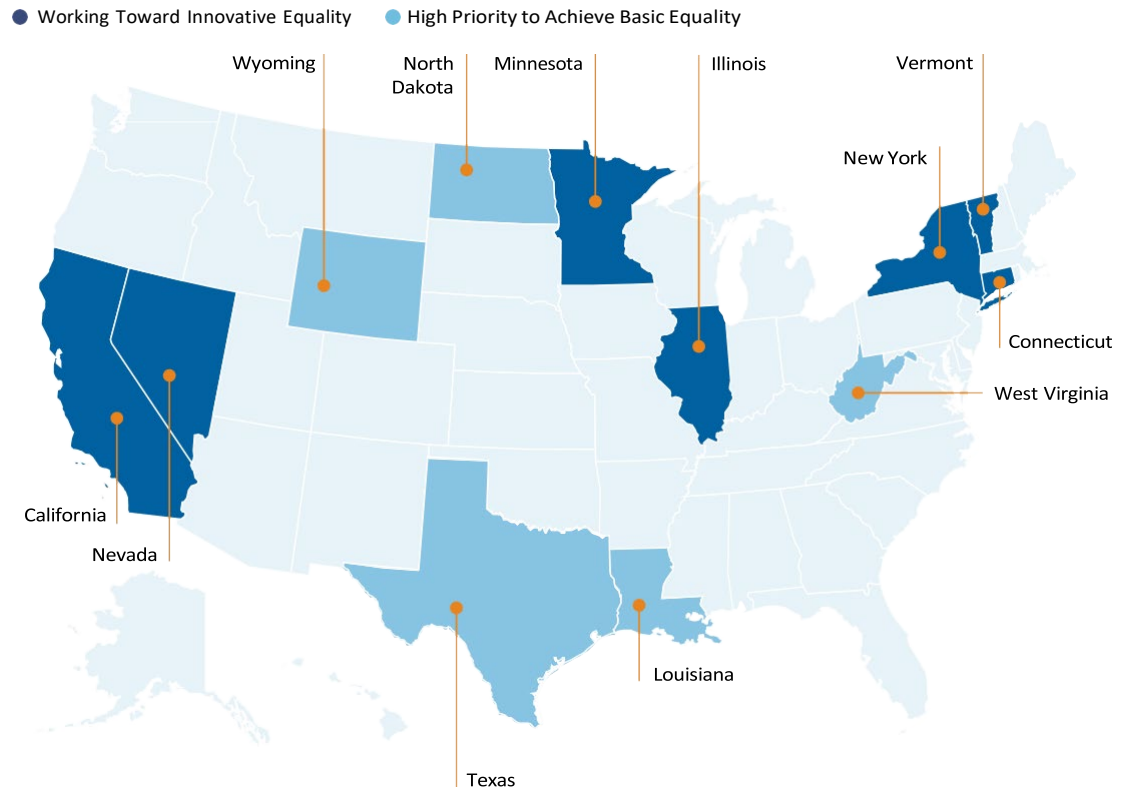


LGBTQ+ children

Among the children most vulnerable to both sexual exploitation and abuse are LGBTQ+ youth. The same study of 17 to 25 year olds in youth homeless shelters found that LGBTQ+ youth were two times more likely to have experienced sex trafficking.⁴⁸ And our survey on 18 to 20 year olds’ experiences of sexual harms online during childhood found that **72% of respondents who self-identified as LBQ had experienced at least one type of online sexual harm⁴⁹ when they were under 18 compared with 52% of respondents who did not self-identify as LBQ.** Just under two-thirds (66%) of respondents who self-identified as transgender had experienced at least one type of online sexual harm during childhood compared with 57% of those who self-identified as cisgender.

Risks for LGBTQ+ children are further compounded by weak laws, policies, and programs to support LGBTQ+ rights across many of the pilot states especially, those in the South (see Figure 18).

Figure 18: State Equality Index



S

Source: Human Rights Campaign

Children with disabilities

It is estimated that children with disabilities are at least three times more likely than other children to be abused or neglected.⁵⁰ The abuse or neglect of children with disabilities is often more severe, happens more frequently, and continues longer.⁵¹ Our survey of 18 to 20 year olds' experiences of sexual harms online during childhood found that 68% of respondents who self-identified as having a mental and/or physical disability had experienced at least one type of online sexual harm when they were under 18 compared with 56% of those who did not self-identify as such.

Children with disabilities are also vulnerable during sexual interactions with peers and in situations where they have reached the legal age of consent in their state. While all pilot states have laws stating that a developmental and/or mental disability impacts an individual's ability to consent, the nuances around this issue and some children with developmental and/or mental disabilities' ability to recognize potentially abusive situations make this population particularly at risk.



One study, published through the American Bar Association, explores how to prosecute cases where the plaintiff has a developmental and/or mental disability. It states, “With older children with intellectual impairments, their disabilities often make their cases harder to prosecute because their tendency to comply and acquiesce in social situations can be viewed as consent.”⁵² **Children with disabilities need prevention and response programs designed to fit their unique needs.**



The New Frontier: Child sexual exploitation and abuse online

The internet and social media are integral parts of daily life as a child and adolescent—including for natural exploration of identity, sexuality, and relationships. Yet, online sexual harms against children are occurring everywhere, and both girls and boys are impacted. In a recent Economist Impact-led survey, more than half (54%) of respondents in 54 countries around the world had experienced sexual harms online.¹ New devices, platforms, and applications leave frontline workers, who are aiming to prevent and respond to CSEA, on the back foot.

States lack evidence-based education around online CSEA, enhancing children’s vulnerability and limiting their preparedness to handle such risks. Connecticut, Louisiana, and West Virginia are the only pilot states that mandate that students receive instruction on online safety in schools, including education on the risks of CSEA online. This gap in education is impacting children across the country.

Although children feel confident in their abilities to stay safe online—in an Economist Impact survey of 1,200 18 to 20 years olds across the pilot states, 76% agreed or strongly agreed that they could identify harmful online content—over one-third of respondents had an adult they knew or someone they did not know send them sexually-explicit content when they were under 18 and, of those who did receive such content, over 20% took no action (e.g., telling a trusted adult or peer, reporting such activity to the platform or blocking the sender).

This online facet has fundamentally altered how CSEA is experienced and perpetrated. Traditionally, sexual exploitation was much more prevalent among vulnerable populations (e.g., children living in poverty or homelessness), but CSEA online has put the majority of children and adolescents at risk through the mainstreaming of technology to engage in and share sexually explicit, and sometimes “self-generated” content with partners, peers, and even strangers. Even if a child or adolescent does not intend for their sexually-explicit content to be shared outside of its intended recipient or, if a child has unwillingly been a victim of CSEA and that child has been identified and removed from harm, the documentation of their abuse can spread through images, videos, and other types of child sexual abuse material, which can trigger further re-traumatization.

Response and prevention efforts will, therefore, need to be attuned to this new reality. It is critical to note that many of the same interventions that form the base of a holistic, child-centered approach to ending CSEA in person are also at the core of addressing CSEA online.

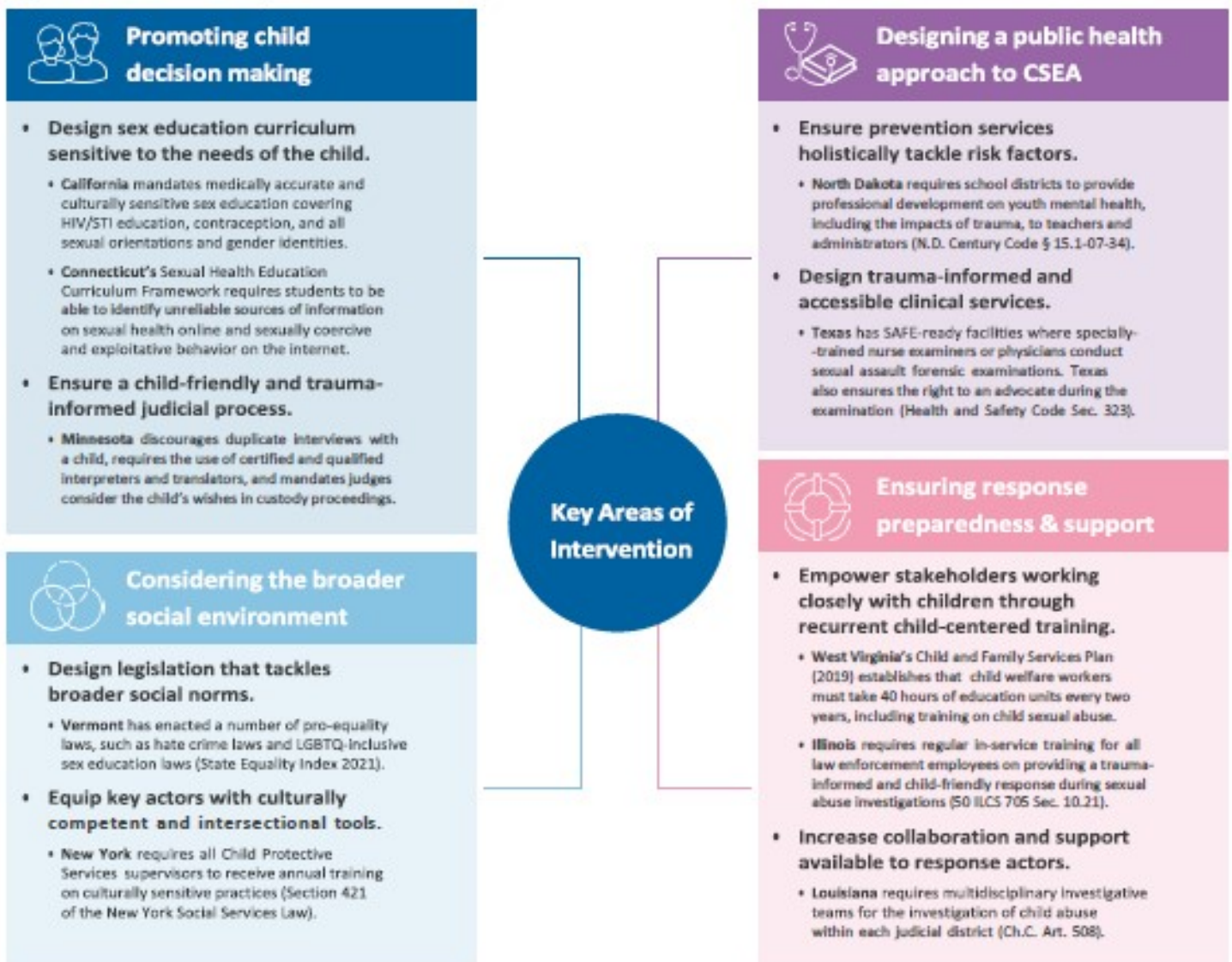
¹ Four harms were considered: (1) being sent sexually explicit content from an adult they knew or someone they did not know before they were 18; (2) having sexually explicit images of themselves shared without consent (by a peer, an adult they knew, or someone they did not know before); (3) being asked to keep part of their sexually explicit online relationship with an adult they knew or someone they did not know before a secret; (4) being asked to do something sexually explicit online they were uncomfortable with (by a peer, an adult they knew, or someone they did not know before). Available at: <https://www.weprotect.org/economist-impact-global-survey/#report>

Conclusion

Child sexual exploitation and abuse can be solved; but it will require a holistic approach that puts the needs of children at the center. This approach must consider CSEA as a public health problem, both in terms of prevention and response efforts and the broader socio-ecological environment in which such exploitation and abuse is occurring.

The pilot index shows the US has a long way to go to build the system needed to eradicate the silent epidemic. However, stakeholders have taken the first steps and developed innovative policies, programs, and interventions that could be the start of a conscious effort to prioritize a holistic, effective, and long-term solution.

Figure 19: States' first steps toward a holistic approach



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<https://www.enoughabuse.org/the-campaign/training-tools.html>
2. <https://www.rainn.org/statistics/criminal-justice-system>
3. <https://childusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Delayed-Disclosure-Factsheet-2020.pdf>
4. <https://www.michiganradio.org/news/2018-01-24/timeline-a-long-history-of-abuse-by-dr-larry-nassar>
5. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-42894833>
6. <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2019/feb/27/migrant-children-sexual-abuse-complaints-filed-documents-hhs>
7. This report uses the term ‘victim’ throughout for uniformity. However, it is important to recognize that individuals may prefer or better identify with another term, including ‘survivor’ or ‘victim-survivor’.
8. <https://www.abuselawsuit.com/church-sex-abuse/illinois/>
9. To select these 12 states, Economist Impact used the Bureau of Economic Analysis’s Gross domestic product (GDP) by state: All industry total (Millions of current dollars) data to identify the state with the highest and lowest GDP in each of the four census regions. Economist Impact also selected a state in each region whose GDP was in line with the region’s median GDP.
10. <https://www.texastribune.org/2019/05/13/Texas-considers-bill-to-allow-sexual-abuse-survivors-to-sue-entities/>
11. <https://losangeles.legalexaminer.com/legal/west-virginia-enacts-modest-child-sex-abuse-reform/>
12. States that have been in the firing line recently around issues related to CSEA, like Texas and West Virginia, are making changes to their prevention and response systems (see Figure 3); however, anecdotal evidence indicates that implementation is still weak and improvements in access to and quality of provision need to be emphasized.
<https://www.texastribune.org/2019/05/13/Texas-considers-bill-to-allow-sexual-abuse-survivors-to-sue-entities/>
<https://losangeles.legalexaminer.com/legal/west-virginia-enacts-modest-child-sex-abuse-reform/>
13. Children’s advocacy centers (CACs) are community-based, child-friendly, and trauma-informed organizations that coordinate a multidisciplinary response to child maltreatment allegations.
<https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/responding/ia/investigation/advocacy/>
14. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-rights-child>
15. <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/childsexualabuse/fastfact.html>
<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/13552600.2021.2000651>
16. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7476782/>
17. <https://publichealth.jhu.edu/2018/one-years-losses-for-child-sexual-abuse-in-us-top-9-billion>
18. <https://nces.ed.gov/fastfacts/display.asp?id=46>
19. Based on data gathered through an online survey of 1,200 18 to 20 year olds who had regular access to the internet as children. This closed online questionnaire conducted from September to December 2021 asked respondents about experiences of sexual harms and their risk factors online when under the age of 18; exposure to sexually-explicit content online when under the age of 18 and the platforms and devices where that content was encountered; reactions and responses to sexually-explicit content experienced online before the age of 18; and access to and familiarity with actions and behaviors to mitigate risks of sexual harms online before the age of 18.
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21. <https://law.wisc.edu/fjr/rjp/justice.html>
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30. <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/about/social-ecologicalmodel.html>
31. Economist Impact drew from the Spectrum of Prevention framework, developed by Larry Cohen, in the development of our research framework. Please see: <https://www.preventioninstitute.org/tools/spectrum-prevention-0>
32. <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/childabuseandneglect/riskprotectivefactors.html>
33. <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/>
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40. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/319893760_Child_Sexual_Abuse_Prevention_Opportunities_Parenting_Programs_and_the_Reduction_of_Risk
41. <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/childsexualabuse/fastfact.html>
42. <https://www.usich.gov/homelessness-statistics/ca/>
43. <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sites/default/files/pdf/2019-AHAR-Part-1.pdf>
44. <https://homeleslaw.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/2019-State-Index.pdf>
45. The State Index on Youth Homelessness assesses states across 13 issue areas, including laws and policies, systems, and environment.
46. Shared Hope International’s Report Cards on Child & Youth Sex Trafficking provide in-depth analysis of criminal provisions, identification of and response to victims, continuum of care, access to justice for trafficking survivors, tools for a victim-centered criminal justice response, and prevention and training. Economist Impact focused its assessment on child sexual abuse and forms of child sexual exploitation outside of trafficking, but has integrated Shared Hope International’s assessment into our index framework.
47. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6388175/#B4-ijerph-16-00363>
48. <https://www.covenanthouse.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/Loyola%20Multi-City%20Executive%20Summary%20FINAL.pdf>
49. Being sent sexually-explicit content from an adult or someone they did not know before they were 18; being asked to keep part of their sexually-explicit online relationship with an adult/or someone they did not know before a secret; having sexually-explicit images of them shared without consent (by a peer, adult, or someone they did not know before); being asked to do something sexually explicit online they were uncomfortable with (by a peer, adult, or someone they did not know before).
50. <https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubpdfs/focus.pdf>
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52. https://www.americanbar.org/groups/public_interest/child_law/resources/child_law_practiceonline/child_law_practice/vol_32/july-2013/legal-consent-in-sexual-assault-cases-involving-teens-with-intel/

While every effort has been taken to verify the accuracy of this information, Economist Impact cannot accept any responsibility or liability for reliance by any person on this report or any of the information, opinions or conclusions set out in this report. The findings and views expressed in the report do not necessarily reflect the views of the sponsor.



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CJA Grantee Quarterly Update

As a CJA Grant funds recipient, it is mandatory that a thorough and complete report be provided to the CJA coordinator each quarter during the grant fund year. Failure to provide these reports may result in a withdrawal of grant funds. If you have any questions about the reporting requirements, please contact the CJA Coordinator.

Grantee Information

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Name: Cheryl Cooley | Date: 12/12/2023 |
| Agency: Southern Nevada Children's Advocacy Center | |
| FFY2020 Grant Funds Received: | |
| Funds expended: | |

Activities Funded and Evaluation Work

| |
|--|
| Describe the activity funded: |
| As stated at the last meeting, we have had 2 of our 3 scheduled trainings. The final training is set for February 2024. The copier for Metro has been ordered. We have one more virtual training scheduled and the copier for Metro has been ordered. |
| Describe any evaluation work related to this activity including evaluation methods, outputs, and outcomes of the activity. (Please include or attach supporting data, statistics or other relevant documentation when available): |
| The virtual trainings were evaluated by an evaluation given to the students through NCAC. Both of those eval results have been submitted to Dylan. This training has been able to increase the number of professionals who are knowledgeable in the field of forensic interviewing. The NCAC does a great job of engaging the audience and giving the best practice standards in real time. We will evaluate the possibility of offering advanced Forensic Interview training in the upcoming fiscal year. |

CJA Grantee Quarterly Update

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CJA Grantee Quarterly Update

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Grantee Information

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Name: Ida Peeks | Date: 12/15/2023 |
| Agency: Washoe County Health and Human Services | |
| FFY2023 Grant Funds Received: \$40,684 | |
| Funds expended to date: \$20,261.12 | |

Part One: Activities Funded and Evaluation Work

Per Grant Application, funded activities:

1. WCHSA requested travel/training to provide a range of specialized trainings for workers and partners of the Child Advocacy Center (CAC).
2. WCHSA requested operating to equip caseworkers at the Child Advocacy Center (CAC) with enhanced technology to improve the investigation and assessment of child abuse and neglect.

Describe all work related to the funded activities above. This includes objectives, activities completed, results of the activities and any barriers your agency incurred during this quarter:

1. WCHSA will provide a range of discipline specific and advanced trainings for the CAC team to enhance services and stay current with emerging trends and best practices.

The trainings requested under this grant are specific to forensic interviewing for five (5) CAC child protection workers, Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) Advocacy Course for ten (10) child welfare staff, Child Welfare League Annual Conference for five (5) assessment staff, and Shared Hope Juvenile Sex Trafficking Annual Conference for three (3) assessment staff.

Objectives:

Two (2) child welfare staff will attend Cornerhouse Forensic Interview training.

Five (5) child welfare staff will attend CSEC Shared Hope training.

Fifteen (15) MDT staff will attend a "Bridges Out of Poverty" training.

Activities Planned:

CJA Grantee Quarterly Update

Assessment workers attendance of the Cornerhouse Forensic Interviewer Training in November 2023, January 2024, and two assessment workers attendance online virtual for the training. Due to offset of costs for virtual attendees, 6 people will attend Forensic interview training with the award total.

Moving into Q3, there is exploration and planning occurring regarding the trauma training, Child Welfare League Annual Conference, and CSEC advocacy course.

Activity Completed:

- A) CSEC Shared Hope training conference was attended by 5 individuals who handle CSEC focused cases and work with victims and families of victims who are at risk of or experiencing sex trafficking. These individuals included 3 caseworkers and 2 supervisors who attended the conference. The conference occurred 11/1/23 to 11/3/23. Attendees discussed the benefits of the conference's wide-lens approach to CSEC casework including seminars directly targeted towards child welfare professionals.
- B) Two Child Advocacy caseworkers attended the Cornerhouse Forensic Interview training from 11/13/23 to 11/17/23. Both attendees passed the final interview exam and are certified in forensic interviewing as a result of this training. This knowledge has already been utilized in field work during fact finding, interview consultation with other MDT members, and investigating child abuse injury cases.
- C) WCHSA hosted a "Bridges Out of Poverty" training for the MDT wherein 15 members of the MDT were able to attend this training for no cost. All attendees were provided with a book that correlated to the training for further and ongoing learning. Feedback from this training included MDT members expanding knowledge of poverty as a culture and exploration of how to further incorporate these known values when engaging with folks living in poverty.

Results of Activities:

Five (5) persons have completed the CSEC Shared Hope training conference was attended by 5 individuals who handle CSEC focused cases and work with victims and families of victims who are at risk of or experiencing sex trafficking.

Two Child Advocacy caseworkers attended the Cornerhouse Forensic Interview training from 11/13/23 to 11/17/23. Both attendees passed the final interview exam and are certified in forensic interviewing as a result of this training.

Fifteen (15) MDT members were able to attend "Bridges Out of Poverty".

Any Barriers: None

2. WCHSA will purchase of two multi-function printers needed for the medical unit office and the assessment workers' office within the CAC to increase efficiency and accessibility and seven large monitors for intake/assessment workers to increase intake efficiency.

Objectives:

Equip the Child Advocacy Center (CAC) with enhanced technology.

CJA Grantee Quarterly Update

Activities Planned:

A budget modification was completed moving travel funds to equipment funds as a result of reduced staff costs were due to virtual attendance. As such we were able to purchase Remarkable2 Tablets to equip the Child Advocacy Center (CAC) with additional enhanced technology.

Activity Completed:

WCHSA has purchased 4 Remarkable2 Tablets for the CAC caseworkers.

Results of Activities:

The purchase of the Remarkable2 Tablets has yielded excellent results in helping with documentation, field documentation, and overall accessibility of case files. The tablets are utilized each day for every case and create a paperless way to complete forms in the field and document notes in the field.

Any Barriers:

None

PART TWO: NARRATIVE

Please provide complete answers to the following questions.

1. If any materials were produced with grant funds, please provide a copy (copies) electronically with this report.
2. Please provide a brief success story with the use of this CJA funding during the current quarter.

The CJA funding has provided a significant increase this quarter in training and knowledge amongst its recipients. This quarter has successfully increased our field staff's knowledge and understanding of dynamics of sex trafficking, forensic interviewing, and dynamics of people living in poverty. WCHSA takes pride in the training benefits not only to the child welfare agency, but to the entirety of the MDT. The training of individuals in forensic interviewing adds to the MDT's resources for forensic interviewing and provides a field resource for forensic interviewing in cases of child abuse that are usually handled with patrol, such as physical injuries. The CJA funding providing the tablets has significantly increased efficiency in documentation and fieldwork as evidenced by employee feedback.

If assistance is needed regarding your grant, please email, **Dylan Nall**, dnall@dcs.nv.gov.

The Quarterly Updates are due to the CJA Coordinator, Dylan Nall, **3 weeks** before the quarterly CJA Meeting. If your agency does not have any current updates, please email Dylan Nall stating, "No quarterly update."

CJA Grantee Quarterly Update

2023/2024 Meeting Dates:

October 10, 2023

January 9, 2024

April 2, 2024

July 2, 2024