



## Office of the Texas Governor Child Sex Trafficking Team

Greetings and Happy Holidays!

As another busy and impactful year comes to an end and we enter the holiday season, we want to express our gratitude and thanks for your tireless work throughout 2025 on behalf of children and youth impacted by exploitation.

This edition of the Child Sex Trafficking Team newsletter contains useful information on upcoming funding opportunities through the Office of the Governor, several training and learning opportunities from valued partners, and three community spotlights featuring two new Care Coordination teams and one deeply moving success story from Unbound Now that showcases the power of persistence and collaboration.

We hope you all have a peaceful and blessed holiday season.

Warmest regards,

The Child Sex Trafficking Team

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## Funding Opportunities

The Office of the Governor's Child Sex Trafficking Team is pleased to share the below funding opportunities for Fiscal Year 2027, released December 15, 2025. Interested applicants should read these carefully. Applicants must access the [Public Safety Office \(PSO\) eGrants](#) grant management website to register and apply for funding. The final date to submit and certify an application is **February 12, 2026**, at **5:00 PM CST**.



### **General Victim Assistance Grant Program, FY 2027**

This grant is administered by Victim Services within the Public Safety Office. The purpose of this solicitation is to provide services and assistance directly to victims of crime to speed their recovery and aid them through the criminal justice process. This solicitation is for programs seeking to provide general victim services to broad categories of victim populations that may include victims of commercial sexual exploitation or trafficking, including emergency and long-term residential placements, drop-in centers, and innovative direct services for children and transition-age youth. [View Funding Opportunity](#)

### **Specialized Advocacy for Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth, FY 2027**

The purpose of this funding opportunity is to support Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth (CSEY) Advocacy programs. CSEY Advocacy programs provide individualized 24/7 crisis response, ongoing trust-based relational support, and case management for children and transition-age youth who have experienced commercial sexual exploitation. For this solicitation, children are considered individuals 0–17 years of age and transition-age youth are individuals 18–24 years of age. [View Funding Opportunity](#)

*This solicitation is specific to CSEY Advocacy programs.*

### **The Texas Model for Care Coordination, FY 2027**

The purpose of this funding opportunity is to support programs to implement the Texas Model for Care Coordination for Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth (CSEY). The Care Coordination Model is a consensus-driven, collaborative approach to identify and recover CSEY, and to facilitate tailored, accessible, trauma-informed, and holistic resources through a coordinated network of providers. The target population is youth (0-17) with an option to serve transition-age youth (18-24), capacity permitting. [View Funding Opportunity](#)

### **County Solutions to Address Commercial Sexual Exploitation, FY 2027**

The purpose of this funding opportunity is to support solution-driven projects from county governments to prevent, investigate, and prosecute commercial sexual exploitation in Texas. [View Funding Opportunity](#)

*This solicitation is specific to county projects that are not specialty court programs.*

## **Specialty Courts Program, FY 2027**

This grant is administered by State Justice Programs within the Public Safety Office. The purpose of this announcement is to solicit applications for specialty court programs as defined in Chapters 121 through 130 of the Texas Government Code as well as the continuation of a training and technical assistance resource center. Commercially Sexually Exploited Persons (CSEP) Specialty Courts are eligible for funding under this grant program. [View Funding Opportunity](#)

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## **CSTT Monthly Webinar Series**

### **Mind the Gap: Using Civil Remedies as a Creative Approach to Combatting Crime**

January 21, 2026 | Virtual

Join Shantal Ortega, Assistant County Attorney with the El Paso County Attorney's Office as she discusses using the Texas Civil Practice and Remedies code to address common nuisance properties in El Paso communities including those where suspected human trafficking is occurring. This webinar will address how this tool can aid in bridging the gap between criminal prosecution and addressing the crimes occurring on a particular property. This webinar will also include a discussion on working with different law enforcement and regulatory agencies in Texas to build a case and how prosecutors can bring different agencies to the table who share in the same goal of addressing criminal activity.

[\*\*Register for this Event\*\*](#)

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## **Commercial Sexual Exploitation-Identification Tool (CSE-IT) Training Opportunities**

### **Texas Alliance of Child and Family Studies (TACFS)**

January 15, 2026 | Virtual | [Register for this Training](#)

January 29, 2026 | Virtual | [Register for this Training](#)

This 4-hour training introduces participants to the foundational knowledge about the exploitation of youth that they will need in order to be able to identify youth at high risk or who may have already experienced exploitation.

*If you have any questions, please contact [csey@tacfs.org](mailto:csey@tacfs.org)*

## **Texas Network of Youth Services (TNOYS)**

January 15, 2026 | Virtual

TNOYS' CSE-IT training series occurs monthly at no cost and consists of a three-hour virtual training session that requires active participation and engagement. Throughout the training, participants will learn how to use the CSE-IT and embed the tool within their existing processes, dive deep into understanding complex trauma and potential indicators of CSEY, and discuss the importance of collecting and tracking consistent data on CSEY in Texas. Participants will receive a certificate of completion verifying that they are certified users of the tool and earn three continuing education credit hours.

[Register for this Training](#)

## **CSE-IT Training for Law Enforcement & Criminal Justice Personnel**

This CSE-IT training will enable law enforcement and criminal justice personnel to accurately identify indicators of child sexual exploitation, without relying solely on youth self-disclosure, alerting the need for investigation. This training will also provide a framework of language and understanding that will improve law enforcement's communication with service providers and other partners doing collaborative work in human trafficking prevention and identification. This training is eligible for TCOLE credit hours.

\*Please note this training is for law enforcement and criminal justice personnel only

**January 5, 2026 | Huntsville, Texas**

[Register for this Training](#)

**February 5, 2026 | Richmond, Texas**

[Register for this Training](#)

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## **Training and Learning Opportunities**

### **Creating a Community Action Plan for the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse**

National Criminal Justice Training Center

January 21-22, 2026 | Virtual

Join other child-serving professionals to create a plan of action for preventing child sexual abuse of youth in your care. Learn the signs and symptoms of child sexual abuse, mandated reporter and stakeholder responsibilities. Identify strengths and weaknesses of current prevention practices, and develop an action plan, using the Strategic Prevention Dashboard, for your organization. This course is open to all members of child serving organizations such as preschool,

after-school care, summer camps, church groups, athletic associations or others responsible for the care of minors.

[Register for this Training](#)

### **Exploring Texas DPS' Limited-Consent DNA Testing Program** Office of the Governor's Sexual Assault Survivors' Task Force

January 29, 2026 | Virtual

Join the Office of the Governor's Sexual Assault Survivors' Task Force for an important and informative webinar that delves into the Texas Department of Public Safety's (DPS) newly established Limited-Consent DNA Testing Program in Texas. This initiative, created under House Bill 1422 of the 89th Texas Legislature, provides survivors of sexual assault the option to have forensic evidence collected and tested for foreign DNA material without having to formally report the offense to law enforcement. This webinar will offer a general overview of the purpose of the program, the legislative changes behind it, and the role of the DPS Crime Laboratory in implementing this program. Participants will gain a broad understanding of how this option supports survivor choice, how evidence is handled and retained, and what the program may mean for professionals who work with survivors.

[Register for this Training](#)

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## **Community Spotlight**



*BCFS HHS Care Coordination Launch (Left: Kendall County | Right: Hidalgo County)*

## Care Coordination in Kendall and Hidalgo Counties

We're thrilled to celebrate the launch of Care Coordination in Kendall and Hidalgo Counties! With BCFS Building Bridges Against Trafficking (B-BAT) serving as Care Coordinator in both counties, local partners are coming together to ensure youth at risk of or impacted by commercial sexual exploitation receive the support, protection, and care they deserve. These launches reflect each community's commitment to collaboration, compassion, and action in creating safer, more supportive environments for children and youth.

Care Coordination brings together advocates, law enforcement, child welfare professionals, and service providers to deliver trauma-informed, robust, individualized support to youth who are at risk of or who have experienced commercial sexual exploitation. By connecting resources and fostering collaboration, Care Coordination strengthens communities' ability to respond effectively and ensure that no child falls through the cracks.

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### UNBOUND NOW | Travis County

*This Care Coordination success story, shared by Unbound Now's Care Coordinators in Travis County, highlights the collaborative efforts of the Travis County Care Coordination Team.*

The youth was initially referred to Care Coordination after concerns arose on the CSE-IT screening. In early August, the youth went missing for two days and later outcried that she had been kidnapped, drugged, and sexually assaulted. The Care Coordinator and CSEY Advocate responded to the hospital, where the youth ultimately declined the SANE exam and testing before returning to placement. Following this, the placement issued a discharge notice, and the youth went missing twice more. During these incidents, the Care Coordinator worked with multiple agencies, including the U.S. Marshals Missing Children Unit, to track the youth's whereabouts and ensure coordination between CPS, law enforcement, and advocates.

Three weeks later, the U.S. Marshals detected the youth in Houston and then in Austin, where she was safely recovered from a motel with the support of local law enforcement and CSEY advocates. The Care Coordinator arranged for follow-up care, where the youth again declined medical exams but reported feeling safe and supported. CPS then secured an emergency placement, with advocacy and medical connections arranged through the Care Coordination Team. Law enforcement expressed ongoing safety concerns, believing the youth was being trafficked or groomed. With continued coordination, the youth has since been placed in a residential treatment center (RTC) and is being connected with a local CSEY Advocate for continued support.

*\*This case highlights the strength and impact of Care Coordination in action. Despite multiple crises and complex system involvement, the Care Coordinator ensured consistent communication, rapid information-sharing, and collaboration across CPS, law enforcement, advocacy, and medical partners. Because of this coordination, the youth was safely recovered, connected to trauma-informed support, and transitioned to a stable placement. The case demonstrates how Care Coordination bridges critical gaps between agencies, prioritizing the youth's safety, well-being, and long-term recovery.*

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## Report Human Trafficking

If you believe a someone is in immediate danger, call 911.

[iWatch Texas](#) – Tips made to iWatch are investigated by the Texas Department of Public Safety.

[National Human Trafficking Hotline](#) – Call the toll-free hotline at 1-888-373- 7888. Tips made to the hotline are reviewed and routed to local law enforcement. This hotline also offers 24/7 confidential support for survivors.

[Texas Child Abuse Hotline](#) – Report child neglect and abuse, including sexual exploitation of a child, to the Texas Abuse Hotline at 1-800-252-5400.

