



Office of the Governor

## Criminal Justice Division

Funding Announcement:

***Building Capacity to Recover and Restore  
Survivors of Child Sex Trafficking***

November 30, 2016

## Opportunity Snapshot

Below is a high-level overview of many of the elements of this opportunity. Full information is provided in the funding announcement that follows.

### Purpose

The purpose of this funding announcement is to build capacity in the state of Texas to recognize, recover and restore child sex trafficking victims. The Child Sex Trafficking Team (CSTT) seeks to build upon existing collaborative efforts with multi-disciplinary anti-trafficking taskforces and coalitions by funding the development or enhancement of victim services programs in those geographic areas served by the taskforces and coalitions, based on identified best and promising practices, and described in the three project categories on page 7-8.

### Funds Available

It is anticipated that up to \$8 million may be funded under this announcement. No more than one project under each project category will be funded within a taskforce or coalition's geographic service area.

### Budget

The minimum allowed under this program is \$25,000 and there is no limit on the amount of funding an applicant can request. Applicants are strongly cautioned to only apply for the amount of funding they can responsibly expend in the grant period, which is 24 months. CJD will be tracking expenditure rates throughout the life of the grants and may take action to avoid large de-obligations at the end of grant periods. Continuation grants may be made available in future grant cycles for certain applicants that can demonstrate effectiveness. Because future funding cannot be guaranteed, applicants must indicate the number of years of continuation grants that are projected to be needed. Applicants must also develop and submit a plan for self-sustainment beyond the total projected continuation grant periods.

### Match

Grantees must provide matching funds equal to 20% of the total project cost. The match requirement can be met through cash or in-kind contributions (donated goods and/or services used in the project).

### Project Periods

Projects may not exceed a 24-month period. Projects must have an end date no later than May 31, 2019. Continuation grants may be made available in future grant cycles for certain applicants that can demonstrate effectiveness.

### Organizational Eligibility

Applications may be submitted by state agencies, units of local government, hospital districts, nonprofit corporations, federally recognized Native American tribes, universities, colleges, community supervision and corrections departments, appropriate councils of governments, appropriate hospital and emergency medical facilities, and faith-based nonprofit organizations.

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Eligibility is restricted to applicants that:

- demonstrate a proven track record in providing the identical or similar victim services described in the project categories on pages 7-8;
- agree to a third-party evaluation funded by CSTT; and
- collaborate with local taskforces and coalitions that have been in existence for more than a year as of the date of this announcement, as evidenced by a letter of support from a coalition or taskforce.

Additional eligibility requirements are listed under the “Project Specific Requirements” section starting on page 7, the “Project Narrative” section starting on page 11, and the “Required Uploads” section starting on page 15. Applications will be considered incomplete without the required uploaded documents and will not be reviewed.

### Contact Information

If additional information is needed, contact the eGrants help desk at [eGrants@gov.texas.gov](mailto:eGrants@gov.texas.gov) or (512) 463-1919.

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# Building Capacity to Recover and Restore Survivors of Child Sex Trafficking

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The goal of the Criminal Justice Division (CJD) is to provide needed funding to improve public safety and support victims of crime by filling system gaps and promoting innovative solutions to common problems.

## About the Child Sex Trafficking Team

Within CJD, the Child Sex Trafficking Team (CSTT) is leading a collaboration of public and private partners to build a comprehensive approach to combat child sex trafficking. Our approach is based on best and promising practices from around the country, and is child-centered, trauma-informed, collaborative and continuously improving. Our mission is to:

- protect children by building their awareness of and resilience to child exploitation and by curbing demand for child sex trafficking;
- recognize child sex trafficking by raising public awareness to help identify child sex trafficking in all its forms;
- recover and restore survivors and provide them the immediate and long-term services and supports they need to heal and thrive; and
- bring justice to survivors by holding traffickers, buyers, and those who profit from trafficking accountable.

## CSTT's Strategy for Survivor Recovery and Restoration

### 1) Network of Regional Models of Survivor Care

The sheer size of Texas, combined with its regional diversity and regional differences in victim population, services, and resources, necessitates a strategic regional approach to building and coordinating systems of survivor care. Therefore, CSTT will work with stakeholders in various regions of Texas to provide and sustain a continuum of care for survivors of child sex trafficking, from immediate intervention and recovery to long-term restoration. Each regional continuum of care will be child-centered, trauma-informed, based on best and promising practices, and part of a statewide network that seeks to ensure that every survivor of child sex trafficking in Texas gets what they need to heal and thrive.

### 2) Statewide Capacity Building

In addition to developing regional continua of care, CSTT is working to develop programs, both in and out of developing regions, that are based on best and promising practices and will become part of regional models and the larger statewide network of services available to victims. This initial funding announcement seeks to begin building capacity by advancing the existing work being done in multi-disciplinary anti-trafficking taskforces and coalitions by investing in:

- 1) **COMMUNITY-BASED DROP-IN PROGRAMS.** Community-based drop-in projects for child sex trafficking victims that provide physical safety, services, opportunities to build healthy relationships, and case management.
- 2) **SPECIALIZED FOSTER CARE PROGRAMS.** Specialized foster care projects that can provide trauma-informed placements and services for child sex trafficking victims.
- 3) **ADVOCACY PROGRAMS.** Advocates for survivors that provide immediate intervention and ongoing advocacy, case management, and the emotional support survivors need to heal.

Additional opportunities for funding to address gaps in protecting, recognizing, recovering, restoring, and bringing justice to victims will be made available in future funding announcements.

If you are interested in applying for a grant under this current funding announcement, follow the four-step process outlined below.

- **Step One - Review the Process:** Get familiar with the funding announcement and the process used for this particular funding opportunity.
- **Step Two - Consider the Requirements:** Consider the eligibility requirements, as well as what will be required of successful applicants.
- **Step Three - Apply in eGrants.** Compile and submit your grant application. To understand how to apply online or to register for the system go to <https://egrants.gov.texas.gov>.
- **Step Four – Funding Decisions and Grant Acceptance.** Await the funding decision, which is provided through a grant award or other notice from CJD. If you receive an award, complete the acceptance process to access funds.

## Step 1: Review the Process

### Timeline

Action	Date
Funding Announcement Release	12/5/2016
Online System Opening Date	12/19/2016
Final Date to Submit an Application	02/20/2017 at 5:00PM CST
Earliest Start Date	05/01/2017
Latest Start Date	06/01/2017

### Submission Method

Applicants must submit applications via eGrants (<https://eGrants.gov.texas.gov>) by the deadline listed above.

## Step 2: Consider the Requirements

### Organizational Eligibility

Applications may be submitted by state agencies; units of local government; hospital districts; nonprofit corporations with an active charter number from the Texas Secretary of State; federally recognized Native American tribes; universities; colleges; community supervision and corrections departments; councils of governments that offer direct services to victims of crime; hospital and emergency medical facilities that offer crisis counseling, support groups; or other types of victims services; and faith-based organizations that provide direct services to victims of crime. Faith-based organizations must be tax-exempt, nonprofit entities as certified by the Internal Revenue Service. Additionally, applicants must also:

- have a demonstrated track record in the identical or similar services described in the applicable project and preferably, a demonstrated track record in providing the services for child sex trafficking victims. If the applicant does not have the latter, the applicant must include with the application a cooperative working agreement with an entity that does; and
- submit a letter of support from at least one of their local pre-existing anti-trafficking taskforces or coalitions, stating support for the applicant's grant application.

Lastly, in keeping with CJD's commitment to continuous quality improvement, each of the projects selected for funding will be required to fully participate in a third-party evaluation funded by CJD. Applicants will be required to make good faith efforts to follow the evaluator's to be considered for continuation funding in the next grant cycle.

### Funding and Project Period Limits

**Funding Limits.** The minimum funding amount is \$25,000 and there is no maximum funding level in this funding opportunity. Cost-effectiveness and sustainability will be a primary factors in selection.

**Project Period.** Projects must have a start date of May 1, 2017 and end date of April 30, 2019 or a start date of June 1, 2017 and an end date of May 31, 2019. Continuation grants may be made available in future grant cycles for certain applicants that can demonstrate effectiveness. Because future funding cannot be guaranteed, applicants must indicate the number of years of continuation grants that are projected to be needed. Applicants must also develop and submit a plan for self-sustainment beyond the total projected continuation grant periods.

**Available Funding.** It is anticipated that up to \$8 million may be funded under this announcement. The number of awards will depend upon the number of eligible applicants and the availability of funding.

**Source of Funding.** Federal funding is authorized for these projects under the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (VOCA) as amended, 42 U.S.C. 10601). All awards are subject to the availability of appropriated federal funds and any modifications or additional requirements that may be imposed by law.

## Match Requirement

Grantees must provide matching funds equal to 20% of the total project cost. The match requirement can be met through cash or in-kind contributions (donated goods and/or services used in the project).

## Eligible and Ineligible Costs and Activities

To determine eligible and ineligible costs, applicants should consult the CJD Guide to Grants (found at <http://gov.texas.gov/cjd>) as well as the new VOCA funding guidelines (<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2016/07/08/2016-16085/victims-of-crime-act-victim-assistance-program>).

## Reporting Requirements

**Financial and Progress Reports.** At the end of each quarter of state fiscal year during the two-year grant period, grantees will be required to submit a financial status report via eGrants and quarterly progress reports in the format required by CJD.

## Project-Specific Requirements

**Projects.** Applications must address one of the following projects. If an applicant chooses to apply for more than one project, they must submit a separate application for each project.

- 1. COMMUNITY-BASED DROP-IN PROGRAMS.** Expansion or enhancement of an existing community-based drop-in program for homeless or other vulnerable youth or young adults to provide services to child sex trafficking victims. The project must provide physical safety, safety planning, individualized case management (including connecting the child to needed medical and behavioral health care, legal and other resources meeting the child's basic needs), survivor support groups, community and relationship building opportunities, and referral to out of home placements as warranted.
- 2. SPECIALIZED FOSTER CARE PROJECTS FOR TRAFFICKED YOUTH.** Development of a project that recruits, screens, engages and provides needed supports and resources to specialized foster homes for victims of child sex trafficking. The project must provide evidence-based trauma-informed and responsive clinical and behavioral services in a family-based setting. Proposals should identify how foster parents will be recruited, supported and retained for this challenging population. Projects must have protocols that support the re-engagement of the youth after their withdrawal from therapeutic relationships, a runaway episode or other disruption in service. Case management and wraparound facilitation will include therapeutic respite and 24-hour clinical and behavioral crisis services for the youth and foster families. Strategies employed in counseling activities, in behavioral interventions and in the foster home milieu should maintain fidelity to recognized, promising practices or evidence-based programs.

Specific eligibility requirements:

- a current Child-Placing Agency license and DFPS contract in good standing for foster care with the State of Texas, serving foster youth at the Intense or Specialized Level of Care and/or;
  - substantial positive operational experience providing specialized foster care for trafficked youth and successful outcomes outside of the State of Texas.
- 3. ADVOCACY PROGRAMS.** Development of a program that recruits, screens, trains, engages, and supervises advocates, including but not limited to survivors of sex trafficking, to provide individualized 24/7 crisis response and ongoing trust-based advocacy to child survivors. Advocates will engage upon immediate identification or recovery by law enforcement and continue in relationship with survivor through treatment and into restoration. Services must include: case management to help meet the child’s medical and behavioral health needs; hospital, law enforcement, and judicial/court accompaniment; emotional support; and, as appropriate, support to the child’s non-offending family. Applicants must demonstrate plans to keep caseloads low enough to provide meaningful interaction and advocacy to each survivor over the long term.

**Required Certifications.** Applicants must certify that they will comply with the following requirements:

- **Evaluation.** In keeping with our commitment to continuous quality improvement, each of the projects selected for funding will be required to fully participate in a third-party evaluation funded by CJD. Applicants will be required to make good faith efforts to follow the evaluator’s recommendations in order to be considered for continuation funding in the next grant cycle. In addition, CJD program staff will engage in quality improvement reviews. The grantee is expected to work with CJD program staff to respond to any recommended project modifications as part of the quality improvement efforts.
- **Volunteers.** Applicant agrees to use volunteers to support either the project or agency-wide services, unless CJD determines that a reason exists to waive this requirement.
- **Community Efforts.** Applicant agrees to promote community efforts to aid child sex trafficking victims. Applicants should promote, within the community, coordinated public and private efforts to aid victims.
- **Crime Victims' Compensation.** Applicant agrees to assist crime victims in applying for crime victims’ compensation benefits or refer them to organizations that can assist.
- **Cultural Competency.** Applicant must be culturally competent when providing services to victims. Victim service providers must have the ability to blend cultural knowledge and sensitivity with victim restoration skills for a more effective and culturally appropriate recovery process. Cultural competency occurs when: a) cultural knowledge, awareness and sensitivity are integrated into action and policy; b) the service is relevant to the needs of the community and provided by trained staff, board members, and management; and c) an

advocate or organization recognizes each client is different with different needs, feelings, ideas and barriers.

- **Records.** Applicant agrees to maintain daily time and attendance records specifying the time devoted to allowable victim services.
- **Civil Rights Information.** Applicant agrees to maintain statutorily required civil rights statistics on victims served by race, national origin, sex, age, and disability of victims served, within the timeframe established by CJD. This requirement is waived when providing services, such as telephone counseling, where soliciting the information may be inappropriate or offensive to the crime victim.
- **Victims of Federal Crime.** Applicant agrees to provide equal services to victims of federal crime. (Note: A victim of a federal crime is a victim of an offense that violates a federal criminal statute or regulation. Federal crimes also include crimes that occur in an area where the federal government has jurisdiction, such as Indian reservations, some national parks, some federal buildings, and military installations.)
- **No Charge.** Applicant agrees to provide grant-funded services at no charge to victims of crime.
- **Confidentiality.** Applicant agrees to maintain the confidentiality of client-counselor information and research data, as required by state and federal law.
- **Discrimination.** Applicant agrees not to discriminate against victims because they disagree with the State's prosecution of the criminal case.
- **Nondisclosure of Confidential or Private Information.** Personally identifying information or individual information collected in connection with services requested, utilized, or denied may not be disclosed; or, individual client information may not be revealed without informed, written, reasonably time-limited consent of the person about whom information is sought. If release of information is compelled by statutory or court mandate, reasonable attempts to provide notice to victims affected by the disclosure of information will be made and steps necessary will be taken to protect the privacy and safety of the persons affected by the release of information.
- **Project income.** Applicant must agree to comply with all federal and state rules and regulations for project income and agrees to report all project income that is generated as a result of the project's activities. Applicant must also agree to report project income to CJD through a formal grant adjustment, to secure CJD approval prior to use of the project income, to use project income only for allowable costs, and to expend project income immediately after CJD's approval of a grant adjustment and prior to requesting reimbursement of CJD funds. For the purposes of this project, the deduction method applies unless prior approval is given by CJD for a different method. Project income from asset seizures and forfeitures is considered earned when the property has been adjudicated to the benefit of the plaintiff (e.g., law enforcement entity).

## Standard CJD Requirements

**CJD Regulations.** Grantees must comply with the standards applicable to this funding source cited in the Texas Administrative Code (1 TAC Chapter 3), and all statutes, requirements, and guidelines applicable to this funding.

**Uniform Crime Reports.** Eligible applicants operating a law enforcement agency must be current on reporting Part I violent crime data to the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) for inclusion in the annual Uniform Crime Report (UCR). To be considered eligible for funding, applicants must have submitted a full twelve months of accurate data to DPS for the most recent calendar year.

**Criminal History Reporting.** The county (or counties) in which the applicant is located must have a 90% average on both adult and juvenile criminal history dispositions reported to the Texas Department of Public Safety for calendar years 2010 through 2014.

**Immigration and Customs Enforcement Requests.** An application requirement pertaining to full compliance with Department of Homeland Security detainer requests applies to all municipal or county governments that operates a subdivision or department that detains individuals after arrest for a criminal violation. Full text of this certification can be found on the Narrative tab of each application or at [http://gov.texas.gov/cjd/dhs\\_detainerrequest](http://gov.texas.gov/cjd/dhs_detainerrequest). All applicants must select one of four options in their eGrants application to be considered for funding under this announcement.

## Step 3: Apply via eGrants

### Basics

To apply to CJD for these grants, you must complete or make sure you have already completed some standard requirements. All of the following are needed to apply within eGrants:

Applicants must have a DUNS (Data Universal Numbering System) number assigned to its agency (to request a DUNS number, go to <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform/displayHomePage.do>).

Applicants must be registered in the federal System for Award Management (SAM) database located at <https://www.sam.gov/> and maintain an active registration throughout the grant period.

Applicants must have or register for an account in <https://eGrants.gov.texas.gov>.

### Project-Specific Questions

The eGrants system will provide additional information about the requirements of applying and contents of the application. Answer these questions in Section 1, "Project-Specific Questions" under the "Narrative" tab. The following are some key aspects:

**Focus Area.** Applicants must indicate the percentage (%) of the project that benefits victim services, law enforcement, prosecution, court, or other areas that indirectly affect victims.

**Culturally Specific and Underserved Population.** Applicants must indicate whether or not there is a primary focus on serving a culturally specific population.

**Sustainment.** Continuation grants will be made available in future grant cycles for certain applicants that can demonstrate effectiveness and a good faith effort to follow recommendations for improvement by the third-party evaluator funded by CSTT. Because future funding cannot be guaranteed, applicants should indicate the number of years of continuation grants that are anticipated as necessary and should also develop and submit a plan for self-sustainment beyond the continuation funding expected to be required.

## Project Narrative

Within eGrants, applicants will complete several narrative fields. Below is each area, along with specific instructions on the minimum requirements.

**Project Abstract.** Provide a brief summary of the proposed project. Do not share new information here that you do not include in the questions below. This abstract is a description of your project and intended for the public and policy makers. Be sure that the summary is easy to understand by a person not familiar with your project. (Limit to 1500 characters.)

**Problem Statement.** Provide a description of the nature and scope of the gaps in services in child sex trafficking that this project will address. This must be a statement of the core, underlying problem as well as the description of the particular need this project will address. A lack of resources is not, in and of itself, a problem.

**Supporting Data.** Provide supporting data, including baseline statistics and the sources of your data, to provide evidence that the problem exists within a defined geographic area, its size and scope, and its effects on the target population. Do not use statewide data for a local problem or national data for a statewide problem.

**Project Approach & Activities.** Provide the core information needed to understand the methodologies, approaches, and activities to be employed by the project. A reader should be able to understand how the project is tied to solving the stated problem. Include a description of the strategy to engage youth in trauma-informed safety plans regarding runaways and other relapse behaviors and a protocol and commitment to re-engage youth in services upon return from runaway or after other disruption in services. Including and uploading a logic model is preferred, but not required.

In addition to the above described information, please provide the specific information required below.

For Community-Based Drop-In Programs:

- Describe hours of access, staffing plans, facility location and layout, if available.
- Describe how victims will be identified from among the other populations served.
- Describe the services, if any, that will be available after operating hours and away from the program's address.

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- Describe partnerships with community resources for services. Upload memoranda of understanding or contracts where available.

### For Specialized Foster Care Programs:

- Describe a plan for identifying the screening and assessment process that will illustrate: A) survivor's readiness for placement into the program, B) identification by role, of the persons responsible for making admission decisions, C) how survivors will be matched to foster homes, D) from whom and on what timeframe referrals for admission will be accepted, E) what assistance will/will not be provided to find alternate placement when survivors are not admitted into applicant agency's care.
- Describe discharge criteria and processes.
- Identify the psycho-educational curriculums and models for clinical, behavioral and milieu care including, but not limited to, recognized trauma-informed models and evidence-based programs or promising practices. Describe existing experience or certifications related to the application of those curriculums or therapeutic models. Explain how fidelity to models will be maintained.
- Delineate plans for the provision of therapeutic support during crisis episodes including, but not limited to, wraparound clinical and behavioral services and respite for youth and foster families.

### For Advocacy Programs:

- Describe the plan for the: A) selection criteria for advocates, B) procedures to match advocates with survivors, and C) supervision of those relationships.
- Describe the documentation requirements for advocates, including the type of information required to be recorded and how it will be shared with the supervising agency.
- Describe the approach and supporting protocols on sharing information with law enforcement, child protective services, juvenile justice services, court-appointed advocates, direct caregivers including residential care staff or foster parents, and the victim's legal guardian.
- Describe the commitments required of advocates to their survivor relationships: Is there a minimum length of time; a maximum? Are they permitted to maintain contact if the survivor disengages from DFPS or juvenile justice placement, or from law enforcement investigations? Under what circumstances is the advocate prohibited from maintaining engagement? Does the survivor "age out" of eligibility for continued advocate services? What are the expectations (time to respond, phone, face to face) for the advocate to respond to survivor contact after hours and on weekends? What is the minimum and maximum frequency of each type of planned contact? Will funding be provided to support activities during that contact?

**Capacity & Capabilities.** Describe the applicant organization's background as well as organizational and staff capabilities and qualifications to carry out this specific project using the methods provided above.

Describe any cooperative working agreements or contracts connected to the grant application that enhance capacity and capabilities.

For All Programs:

- If included in the project model, describe the engagement of survivor leaders in the oversight, management and/or delivery of services.
- Describe identical or similar services currently delivered by the applicant. Identify similarities and differences between the targeted populations served.
- Describe how the applicant will ensure that services provided will be responsive to the cultural needs of the survivor population identified including, but not limited to, race, ethnicity, religious identity, sexual orientation, and preferred language.
- Describe collaborative relationship(s) with at least one local anti-trafficking taskforce or coalition that has been in existence for more than a year as of the date of this announcement.

Additional Requirements for Community-Based Drop-In and Advocacy Programs:

- Describe any collaborative relationships between applicant and other stakeholder agencies in child sex trafficking or a related field such as law enforcement or child welfare.

Additional Requirements for Specialized Foster Care Programs for Sex Trafficked Youth:

- Identify current agency memberships in all local, state or national child welfare, juvenile justice, mental health or trafficking coalitions or alliance organizations and the applicant's staff active in those organizations.
- Delineate services for which accreditation has been achieved by the applicant organization. Identify the accrediting body and accreditation term.
- Identify professional licenses and accreditations held by employees planned to provide therapeutic services to survivors and/or training and support to foster parents or staff.

**Performance Management.** Provide an understanding of how the applicant organization will measure success for this project, including the organization's goals, objectives and measures to evaluate effectiveness. For each goal, state the goal, indicate the objectives within that goal and specify the measures within that goal and objective. Measures include outputs (e.g., number of persons served) and outcomes (e.g., number of advocates successfully connected to survivors for a minimum length of time). Specify the methodology and data sources (internal, external) that you think you can use to track the measures. Note that CJD staff or a third party evaluator may work with grantees to modify the initially proposed measures and to verify that protocols are in place for the accurate reporting of this information.

**Goals** are broad statements that indicate the general intentions of the project to achieve some outcome. The goals need to be measurable in and of themselves (e.g., increase the number of specialized foster home placements for victims of child sex trafficking) and should not be abstract in nature (e.g., improve the foster care system for victims of child sex trafficking).

**Objectives** are clear, tangible, and specific statements of what the project is trying to achieve. Objectives should be expressed in the following form: To [reduce/increase/enhance/etc.] [something], by [x amount], by [dd/mm/yyyy]. A project can have multiple objectives. (e.g., to increase the capacity of a drop-in center from 8 hours a day to 12 hours a day and to increase the capacity for individualized case management from 15 children per month to 30 children per month.)

**Measures** use data to provide verifiable, numeric information that tie to one or more objectives and indicate progress toward its achievement. Measures might include volume, time savings, cost savings, resource savings, success rates, conformance rates, timeliness, perception shifts, or other factors. (The most relevant and impactful project-specific measures must be included under the “Measures” tab in eGrants. These will be considered the key measures for the project.) Measures are to be clearly divided into outputs (e.g., number of children placed in specialized foster homes) and outcomes (e.g. number of children who are successfully transitioned to permanency).

**Data Management.** Provide an understanding of how the applicant organization plans to track, maintain and report the data needed to determine whether the project is meeting the goals, objectives, and measures stated above. In the application, please identify if you have a computerized case management system that you are going to use to collect individual case information on the persons participating in your project and what that system is. Indicate the name of the client information system that captures aggregate data regarding clients served and/or services delivered, if that is different from the case management system.

**Target Group.** Describe the population that this project plans to help or support. For direct service projects, describing the numbers and demographics for the people served. Be specific and use supporting data. Explain whether victims will be accepted regardless of whether they are in the child protection or juvenile justice systems, or under the guardianship of parents or conservatorship of other caregivers. Describe how service delivery will differ for each type of youth.

**Evidence-Based Practices.** Describe the research or evidence that led the applicant organization to select the methods described above. Wherever possible, provide at least one citation or link to a supportive evaluation or research study. If the project approach and activities described above are not based on existing evidence, describe why the applicant organization believes the method to be innovative and promising. Explain how fidelity to identified models or methods will be maintained. Describe any continuous quality improvement and internal evaluation processes that will be applied.

## Required Uploads

There are specific eligibility requirements for each project that require the uploading of certain documents with the application. *If the required documents are not uploaded with the application, the application will be considered incomplete and will not be reviewed.*

For All Programs:

- Applicants without a demonstrated track record of providing this activity specifically for child sex trafficking victims must upload a written cooperative working agreement for the provision of related direct survivor services, on-going consultation and/or training and technical assistance with an entity that has that experience.
- Upload policies and procedures for recruiting, screening, training and supervising staff and volunteers to ensure safety for victims and personnel. Policies and procedures may be submitted in draft form, subject to further refinement and/or approval by the applicant's Board of Directors.
- Upload risk management policies and procedures. Policies and procedures may be submitted in draft form, subject to further refinement and/or approval by the applicant's Board of Directors.
- Upload a letter of support for the applicant from the applicable pre-existing anti-trafficking coalition(s) or taskforce(s).

Additional Requirements for Community-Based Drop-In and Advocacy Programs:

- Upload cooperative working agreements with TDFPS, juvenile justice services, law enforcement and other agencies with custody or control of child sex trafficking victims and/or who can authorize the program's access to survivors and share confidential information between them.

## Step 4: Funding Decisions and Grant Acceptance

### Selection Criteria

**Merit Review.** The CJD executive director will assign a merit-review panel to review all applications for quality, capability, sustainability, and reasonableness of budget and to assign scores to applications. These scores will largely determine funding decisions and will be based upon factors including:

- Acuity of need for the program in the relevant geographical area;
- Extent of organizational experience in the activities described;
- Strength of the specific trauma-informed model employed;
- Extent of reliance upon identified best and promising practices showing good outcomes for survivors and collaboration with programs that already employ these practices;
- Level of community support and collaboration as evidenced in project narrative, working agreements, and letters of support; and
- Sustainability of the program independent of long term CJD funding.

**Final decisions.** CJD will review all applications for the factors listed above and also quality, capability, and past performance. CJD may also consider other factors such as geographic distribution, fairness among different sizes of population areas, need based on crime rate or other similar factors, including economic factors. CJD may not fund all applications or may only award part of the amount requested. All decisions of the CJD executive director are final and are not subject to appeal.

### Announcements

After CJD makes final funding decisions, each applicant will receive either an unfunded notice or a preliminary decision notification or final grant award. The award will provide all of the conditions and requirements of the grant. Release of final grant awards are always contingent on CJD's receipt of the funds under which the project is funded and CJD cannot release or guarantee funding to any applicant until that funding is received and acceptance is processed and a determination is made that adequate funding is available. Communication from CJD related to questions about a requested change to an application should never be taken as an indication that CJD intends to fund the application.

## About CJD

Our mission at the Criminal Justice Division is to direct much needed resources to those who are committed to making Texas a safer place and those who help victims of crime to recover and feel safe again. In carrying out this mission, we are committed to helping our partners by actively finding ways for them to accomplish their goals and by making sure that we always have our eye to identifying the approaches that work best. We envision positive and beneficial working relationships with our stakeholders where we provide as much assistance as is needed and where we are always ready with support or answers, not burdensome restrictions or requirements.

CJD is providing over \$250 million in funding to hundreds of organizations during state fiscal year 2016 for juvenile justice, delinquency prevention, victims services, law enforcement, prosecution, courts, specialty courts, combatting of child sex trafficking, and other types of projects to benefit Texans.

## About CSTT

The Child Sex Trafficking Team (CSTT) at the Texas Governor's Office is leading a collaboration of public and private partners to build a comprehensive approach to combat child sex trafficking in Texas.

The child-centered approach will:

- protect children by building their awareness of and resilience to child exploitation and by curbing demand for child sex trafficking;
- recognize child sex trafficking by raising public awareness to help identify child sex trafficking in all its forms;
- recover survivors and provide them the immediate and long-term services and supports they need to heal and thrive; and
- bring justice to survivors by holding traffickers, buyers, and those who profit from trafficking accountable.

CSTT works with law enforcement, the child protection and juvenile justice systems, and other stakeholders combatting child sex trafficking to identify gaps, promote best practices and build the capacity of our state to eradicate the exploitation of our children.