



Office of the Texas Governor Child Sex Trafficking Team

Dear Partners:

2020 has been an unprecedented year with unprecedented challenges. We are so proud of and so grateful for the way so many of you smartly adjusted your work as you needed to in order to stay safe in the pandemic and then doubled down to do even more to fight trafficking and help survivors heal and thrive.

This month, we want to invite you to join us in several virtual events commemorating Human Trafficking Prevention Month in January, let you know about funding opportunities, and, as always, share some success stories.

During the holiday season, we hope you stay healthy while getting some well-earned rest, relaxation, and re-charging with family and friends and celebrating the reason for the season.

Happy Holidays!

CSTT

Funding Opportunities

CSTT has released two Requests for Applications (RFA):

- 1) Residential and Community-Based Services for Victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children; and
- 2) County Innovations to Prevent Commercial Sexual Exploitation.

New this year, those providing specialized services for adult human trafficking victims must apply under one of these RFAs and may not apply under the General Victims Services RFA.

Applications are due at 5:00 PM on February 11, 2021. These can be found, along with other [funding opportunities](#), and our [guide to creating an application](#), on our [egrants page](#).

Human Trafficking Prevention Month

Please join us in any and all of the following activities to raise awareness and increase the public's engagement in the anti-HT fight!



[GRACE](#) (Governor's Response Against Human Trafficking) [Week of Prayer to End Human Trafficking](#), January 11-17, 2021.

Faith communities and Texans of all faiths are encouraged to unite in prayer, become better educated about human trafficking, and discern opportunities to prevent exploitation and support survivors.

Check out and share the [GRACE website](#) and [Facebook page](#) post about this week long initiative. There, you'll find daily sample prayers for a variety of faiths.

Plan to join First Lady Cecilia Abbott and a variety of faith leaders in the [Facebook Live Launch](#) event on Monday, January 11, 2021 from 6:00 - 6:30 PM.

Texas Human Trafficking Prevention Coordinating Council Events

[Wear Blue on January 11th](#) and join us for the Coordinating Council's Webinar Series on [Texas' Strategic Plan to End Human Trafficking](#). Starting **January 19, each Tuesday from 12:00 - 1:00 PM**. Coordinating Council members will summarize each of the 5 main goals in the Strategic Plan, as well as hear directly from survivor leaders regarding their input into the Plan. To register for the webinar series, send your name, title, organization, and email to humantrafficking@oag.texas.gov

Monthly Webinar Series

Disrupting the Demand for Commercial Sex in Texas - Progress and Lessons Learned So Far: January 14th from 1:00 - 2:00 PM

CEASE (Cities Empowered Against Sexual Exploitation) Texas is the cutting edge of anti-demand work in Texas, focusing on disrupting the market for illegal commercial sex, mobilizing communities, and providing unique buyer data statewide. Please join us as we share what we've learned over the past year of CEASE work including new data on regional buyer disruptions and ad tracking during COVID, as well as a look at what the next year holds for anti-demand. Buyer trends are changing and our tactics are changing as well. Learn more about our new approach to interacting with buyers, our next CEASE expansion cities, and how we are working to ensure maximum sustainability for all CEASE programs.

[Register for this Webinar](#)

Learning Opportunities

Rethinking Representation: Reframing Human Trafficking for Responsible Outreach & Awareness Efforts: December 10, 2020

Leanne McCallum, Strategic Projects Manager, Louisiana Association of Children's Advocacy Centers and Former Task Force Coordinator for the Greater New Orleans Human Trafficking Task Force will help your organization accurately and ethically portray the realities of human trafficking in messages, language, images, and interactions with survivors. Access the recorded webinar [here](#).

For Schools and Child Serving Agencies: PROTECT Texas Prevention Education and Training

3Strands Global Foundation is partnering with the Child Sex Trafficking Team to generously offer Texas schools and youth-serving organizations free access for one year to online training modules to help those working with youth better identify and respond to human trafficking. Participants completing the training will also have access to an age-appropriate, trauma-informed curriculum to teach youth. PROTECT recently launched an additional training for Texas school board members to meet the requirements of HB 403. These resources are available for free through February 2021, and individuals will need a work e-mail account with a school or youth-serving organization to register.

[Registration for School Board Members](#)

[Registration for Schools](#)

[Registration for Youth-Serving Organizations](#)

Virtual Resource Fair - January 7, 2021 from 12:00 - 1:00 PM

This event is hosted by the Department of Homeland Security's Blue Campaign and will feature brief presentations from a variety of federal agencies to showcase resources available to support anti-trafficking efforts. State, local, tribal, and territorial government personnel are the target audience for this event. If you are interested in attending the Virtual Resource Fair, please visit usgresourcefair.eventbrite.com.

World Without Exploitation's Now & Next [Online Speaker Series](#)

Features movement leaders and opinion shapers sharing best practices, presenting new research, and exploring innovative solutions to end human trafficking.

Success Stories



Protect:

CSTT worked with the [Texas Education Agency](#) (TEA) to require age-appropriate, research-based prevention education designed to promote self-protection and prevent

sexual abuse and trafficking for all students in public and charter schools, effective November 6, 2019. Additionally, training updates for staff, school board members, and superintendents were created in the 86th Legislative Session. On December 17, 2020, TEA [issued a letter](#) to school administrators to provide an update on these requirements. TEA recently partnered with the Title IV, Part A School Safety Initiative, to create a [checklist](#) to assist school leaders in understanding these requirements and identifying resources. TEA has partnered with CSTT, Educational Services Centers, and other agencies to provide schools with information and resources related to this issue, including: a webinar series for schools; a Texas Gateway [training module](#) on trafficking; and a child abuse [toolkit](#) for educators developed with CACTX. For questions regarding human trafficking prevention and awareness requirements, TEA may be contacted at: PreventingHumanTrafficking@tea.texas.gov

Recognize:

A 12-year-old girl was involved in a car accident and police responding to the scene became suspicious of abuse when they found out that men in the car with the girl were not related to her. After further investigation, they determined she was a victim of trafficking and referred her to the local [CSEY advocacy](#) agency, who is helping her heal from her trauma, while law enforcement builds their case against the traffickers.

Recover:

A [CSEY advocate](#) received a call about a teenage girl being flown to Las Vegas to be trafficked by her male relatives. The advocate reported this to law enforcement who recovered the girl at an airport and reunited her with her mother. The advocate continues to provide support to the youth and help her access needed services.

Support Healing:

One of our [Drop-In Centers](#) recently added a caregiver support group in both English and Spanish for relatives and caregivers of young survivors to better empower families to support the survivors and cope with secondary trauma.

Bring Justice:

The State of Texas became the first state to engage an anti-HT artificial intelligence expert and tool in the fight against trafficking. Grantee, Collective Liberty, with CSTT's support, [launched the Human Trafficking Fusion Center](#). The [Fusion Center](#) provides innovative tools that streamline and enhance investigations and prosecutions, including:

- Intelligence analysis to put actionable intel into the hands of investigators,
- Curated proprietary data focused specifically on information necessary to identify sex and labor traffickers,
- Shared data from law enforcement agencies across the country, including thousands of known traffickers,
- Artificial intelligence to collect and analyze large amounts of data quickly and accurately,
- Networks of like-minded investigators and prosecutors, and
- Expert and hands-on training and technical assistance.

The HT Fusion Center empowers investigators to plan proactive operations and investigations and build cases against traffickers while being truly trauma-responsive to potential victims, without having to rely on victim cooperation and testimony. In its first year, the HT Fusion Center has already resulted in 124 cases referred for prosecution for trafficking arrests, including felony buyer arrests, and 87 victims connected to services.

This email furnished by Child Sex Trafficking Team,
a division of the Office of the Texas Governor.
Visit us online at gov.texas.gov/cstt.