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	4. Key Words: Human Trafficking, Foster Care, Child Welfare, Missing,	

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

TO: Administration for Children and Families (ACF) grant recipients; organizations preventing and responding to human trafficking; and state, tribal, and territorial agencies administering and supervising the administration of title IV-E of the Social Security Act

Subject: Responding to Human Trafficking among Children and Youth in Foster Care and Missing from Foster Care

Purpose

The purpose of this joint Information Memorandum (IM) from the Administration on Children, Youth, and Families (ACYF); Children's Bureau (CB); Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB); and the Office on Trafficking in Persons (OTIP) within the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is to elevate resources available to assist states in meeting legal requirements intended to protect children and youth in the child welfare system, from negative outcomes associated with human trafficking. The IM provides an overview of federal statutes related to human trafficking among children and youth in the child welfare system and highlights resources to meet those requirements. Resources include guidance, best practices, recommendations, training, and technical assistance.

Background

Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is a public health issue that impacts individuals, families, and communities. Certain populations are disproportionately at risk including individuals who have experienced, or been exposed to, other forms of violence, such as child abuse and maltreatment, interpersonal violence and sexual assault, community violence, and gang violence. Individuals disconnected from stable support networks (youth who have left home due to family conflict or other crises, youth experiencing homelessness or housing instability, children and youth in foster care, unaccompanied minors, people displaced during natural disasters, etc.) are also at greater risk. The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA), as amended (22 U.S.C. 7102), defines "severe forms of trafficking in persons" as follows:

- **Sex trafficking:** the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act, in which

the commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age; (and)

- **Labor trafficking:** the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.

Any minor in the community, including in foster care, who experiences forced labor or commercial sex (sex act in exchange for something of value) is a victim of a severe form of trafficking in persons. If the youth is 18 or older, there must be force, fraud, or coercion associated with the concerns of commercial sex for that youth to be considered a victim of a severe form of trafficking.

Missing from Foster Care

Children and youth who are missing, or have run away from, foster care have a greater likelihood of experiencing adverse outcomes, including human immunodeficiency virus infection, substance use, academic underperformance, and involvement with the juvenile justice system.¹ Research supports an association between running away from home and increased vulnerability for experiencing sexual exploitation and human trafficking. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) estimates that 19 percent of children and youth who ran away from foster care likely experienced sex trafficking.²

According to reports within ACF from state child welfare agencies, as of September 30, 2020, 4,831 children and youth (approximately one percent of all children and youth in foster care) were considered missing or on runaway status.³ In fiscal year (FY) 2020, according to data reported in the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) by 35 states, 953 children and youth were determined by child welfare agencies to have experienced sex trafficking.⁴ A 2019 study analyzed administrative data on nearly 37,000 youth aged 10 or older with at least one foster care placement in Florida between 2011 and 2017.⁵

¹ Latzman, N. E., Gibbs, D. A., Feinberg, R., Kluckman, M. N., & Aboul-Hosn, S. (October, 2020). Examining the link: Foster care runaway episodes and human trafficking. https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/opre/foster_care_runaway_human_trafficking_october_2020_508.pdf

² NCMEC, Child Sex Trafficking Overview, <https://www.missingkids.org/content/dam/missingkids/pdfs/CST%20Identification%20Resource.pdf>.

³ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) FY2020 data <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/cb/afcarsreport28.pdf>.

⁴ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Child Maltreatment, p. 45 (2020), <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/cb/cm2020.pdf>.

⁵ Latzman, N. E., Gibbs, D. A., Feinberg, R., Kluckman, M. N., & Aboul-Hosn, S. (2019). Human trafficking victimization among youth who run away from foster care. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 98, 113-124. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2018.12.022>.

This study found the following:

- Approximately seven percent of those youth were reported as experiencing human trafficking during a runaway episode.
- Over 37 percent of those youth ran from care more than 10 times before experiencing human trafficking.
- For 70 percent of those youth, the first human trafficking allegation occurred during a foster care runaway episode.

National Advisory Committee on the Sex Trafficking of Children and Youth in the United States

As required under the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-183), ACF established the [National Advisory Committee on the Sex Trafficking of Children and Youth in the United States](#) (Committee). The Committee advised the Attorney General and the Secretary of Health and Human Services on the nation's response to child and youth sex trafficking. The Committee released the following two reports:

- **Best Practices and Recommendations Report:** The Committee released [Preliminary Recommendations to Strengthen the Nation's Response to the Sex Trafficking of Children and Youth in the United States](#) in January 2019. In September 2020, the Committee released its full report of recommended best practices, [Best Practices and Recommendations for States](#), which contains recommendations across 12 sections making up a comprehensive response. The report has a dedicated section on child welfare with 19 recommendations, supporting resources, and examples that states may consult as they work to improve their response to the sex trafficking of children and youth.
- **State Self-Assessment Survey Report:** In March 2021, the Committee released its [State Self-Assessment Survey](#) for each state to assess their work to address the sex trafficking of children and youth. In January 2022, the Committee released its most recent report, [Preliminary State Self-Assessment Survey Overview](#), which provides a high-level summary and descriptions of state efforts to implement the recommendations of the Committee.

Federal Laws Directing Child Welfare's Response to Human Trafficking

Several federal laws establish requirements for federal, state, local, and tribal governments, agencies, and officials regarding service provision, screening, reporting, training, and data collection related to human trafficking among children and youth in the child welfare system, including those missing from care.

These laws include the following:

- Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 (Public Law 114-22)
- Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-183)
- Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-386) and its reauthorizations
- Family First Prevention Services Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-123)

This IM provides guidance related to these federal statutory requirements regarding human trafficking among children and youth in the child welfare system, as well as resources from ACF to support these efforts.

Service Provision

Child welfare systems and other professionals working with children and youth may be subject to requirements about what and how they provide services to individuals who have experienced trafficking.

Federal Requirements: Service Provision

The following federal requirements for service provision for children and youth in foster care or who have gone missing from foster care may be relevant to some ACF grantees, child welfare agencies, and other organizations.

Federal Statutory Authority	Population of Concern	Requirement
Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act	Children in foster care who are at risk for experiencing trafficking	Child welfare agencies must develop policies and procedures for identifying, documenting, and determining services for children under state child welfare supervision at risk for, or who have experienced, human trafficking.
Family First Prevention Services Act	Children in foster care who have experienced sex trafficking or are at risk for experiencing sex trafficking	Settings providing high-quality residential care and supportive services to children and youth who have been found to be, or are at risk of becoming, sex trafficking victims are exempted from time limits on claiming title IV-E reimbursement applicable to other congregate care settings.

Resources: Service Provision

ACF funds various direct services to assist children and youth. This section includes information on some of ACF's key programs. See Appendix I for additional direct services and resources.

Child Welfare Agency Administrative Cost Reimbursement

Child welfare agencies can claim title IV-E administrative costs for the following:

- Developing and implementing policies and procedures for identifying, documenting, and determining appropriate services for children and youth who have experienced sex trafficking.

- Conducting sex trafficking screenings and documenting children and youth who have experienced sex trafficking in agency files.
- Determining appropriate services for these individuals.
- Completing reports required for law enforcement and ACF of children and youth the agency identifies as having experienced sex trafficking.
- Developing and implementing protocols to locate and assess children missing from foster care, including screening children to identify if they have experienced sex trafficking.

Bulletins for Child Welfare Professionals

The [Bulletin for Professionals: Human Trafficking and Child Welfare-A Guide for Caseworkers](#) explores how caseworkers can identify and support children at risk, for or who have experienced, human trafficking. It provides background information about the issue, identification and support strategies, and tools and resources that can assist caseworkers.

The [Bulletin for Professionals: Human Trafficking and Child Welfare-A Guide for Agencies](#) is intended for child welfare agency leadership and explores how child welfare agencies can support children at risk for, or who have experienced, human trafficking. It provides background information about the issue, including its scope and relevant legislation and initiatives, and strategies that agencies can implement to address the trafficking of children. State and local policy and program examples are also provided

Grants to Assist Individuals who have Experienced Trafficking

OTIP funds community-based organizations and national non-profits with [grants](#) to provide direct assistance to children and youth who have, or may have experienced, human trafficking. Grant recipients provide comprehensive case management and referrals, including assistance with accessing housing, food, health care, mental health services, financial assistance, education, and employment services.

Runaway and Homeless Youth Settings

[Human Trafficking in Youth-serving Programs: A Blueprint for Organizations Working with Street Youth, Homeless Youth, and Youth at Risk](#) is an introduction to important information for any youth-serving organization considering providing services to youth who are homeless and at risk for, or have experienced, human trafficking.

Reporting and Screening

Federal Requirements: Reporting and Screening

Federal anti-trafficking laws contain specific screening and reporting requirements for child welfare agencies; mandated reporters; federal, state, and local officials; and certain federal grant recipients to assess whether children and youth have experienced human trafficking and respond to those concerns. Requirements vary depending on the reporter and population of concern.

Federal Statutory Authority	Population of Concern	Requirement
Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act	All children and youth	Mandated reporters must report concerns of sex trafficking in the same way as concerns of abuse and neglect, in accordance with state and local child

		welfare reporting requirements and using the definition of sex trafficking from the TVPA, as amended (which includes non-caregiver perpetrators).
Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act	Children in foster care who are at risk for experiencing trafficking	Child welfare agencies must develop policies and procedures for identifying, documenting, and determining services for children under state child welfare supervision at risk for, or who have experienced, human trafficking.
	Children and youth missing from foster care	Child welfare agencies must create protocols to determine a child's experiences while missing from care, including screening to determine if they experienced sex trafficking.
	Children and youth in foster care missing or abducted	Child welfare agencies must notify law enforcement within 24 hours of receiving information about missing or abducted children. Information is then entered into the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) National Crime Information Center (NCIC) database.
	Children and youth in foster care missing or abducted	Child welfare agencies must notify NCMEC within 24 hours of receiving information about missing or abducted children.
Trafficking Victims Protection Act	Foreign national minors (non-U.S. citizens or non-lawful permanent residents) present in the U.S. who may have experienced labor and/or sex trafficking at any point in their life and in any country.	Federal, state, and local officials with information about foreign national minors who <i>may have</i> experienced human trafficking must refer all cases of potential trafficking among foreign national minors to OTIP for assessment within 24 hours.

Resources: Reporting

There are various resources available to support child welfare workers in complying with reporting and screening requirements under federal law. While some of these resources are highlighted below, see the appendices for additional resources related to screening and reporting.

Reporting to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children

Child welfare agencies can report a child missing from care directly to NCMEC at <https://www.missingkids.org/theissues/missingfromcare>. A [Case Worker Quick Reference Guide: Missing Child Reports to NCMEC](#) further explains what information is needed when reporting a missing child to NCMEC to assist states in meeting the title IV-E foster care state plan requirements for reporting a missing child.

National Human Trafficking Hotline

The [National Human Trafficking Hotline](#) is a 24/7, confidential, multilingual hotline for individuals who have experienced trafficking and witnesses of human trafficking. Hotline staff are trained to listen to survivors of all forms of human trafficking, provide immediate safety planning for people in crisis, field tips of suspected trafficking, and help survivors understand their options for support without judgment. The hotline can be reached:

By phone: 1-888-373-7888

By email: help@humantraffickinghotline.org

By text: text HELP to 233733 (BEFREE)

Through online chat: www.humantraffickinghotline.org

Foreign National Minors

Foreign national minors in the United States, including unaccompanied children, who have experienced a severe form of trafficking in persons (forced labor or commercial sex) are eligible for benefits and services under the TVPA through the issuance of an Eligibility or Interim Assistance Letter from OTIP. Visit the [Child Eligibility Letter](#) page of the OTIP website for resources on the Child Eligibility process and the [Trafficking Prevention and Protection Resources for Working with Unaccompanied Children](#) page for trainings, fact sheets, and screening tips.

If you are working with a foreign national minor and have concerns that they may have experienced forced labor or commercial sex at any point in their life and in any location, submit a Request for Assistance (RFA) through [Shepherd](#) for OTIP to connect the minor to benefits and services as determined through the issuance of an Eligibility Letter. OTIP will accept case referrals even after the initial 24-hour period. If you want to discuss the case with an OTIP Child Protection Specialist before submitting the RFA, you can call 202-205-4582 or email ChildTrafficking@acf.hhs.gov.

National Runaway Safeline

The [National Runaway Safeline \(NRS\)](#) operates the National Communication System for Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) program, providing 24/7 confidential supportive services to youth at risk for homelessness or who are homeless, as well as youth considering leaving home, through a hotline and digital platforms (chat, text, email, and online forum). The Safeline can be reached:

By phone: 1-800-RUNAWAY (1-800-786-2929)

By email: info@1800runaway.org

Through online chat: www.1800runaway.org

Resources: Screening

Validated Screening Tools

The screening tools in the chart below help professionals apply trauma-informed principles to identify children and youth who have experienced trafficking and provide appropriate referrals to supportive and culturally competent services.

Tool Identifier ⁶	In-Depth	Short/Rapid	Demographic	Environment
<u>Commercial Sexual Exploitation-Identification Tool</u>		X	Ages 10+; sex trafficking only	Multiple settings, including child welfare and juvenile justice systems, schools, homeless youth shelters, health care and mental health settings
<u>Human Trafficking Interview and Assessment Measure</u>		X	Youth who are homeless; sex trafficking and labor trafficking	Service provider setting
<u>Human Trafficking Screening Tool</u>	X	X	Ages 18–24; sex trafficking only	Runaway and Homeless Youth system settings
<u>Quick Youth Indicators for Trafficking</u>		X	Youth who are homeless; sex trafficking and labor trafficking	Service provider setting
<u>Rapid Appraisal for Trafficking</u>		X	Ages 18+; sex trafficking and labor trafficking	Health care setting
<u>Short Screen for Child Sex Trafficking</u>		X	Ages 12–18; sex trafficking only	Health care setting
<u>Vera Institute's Trafficking Victim Identification Tool</u>	X	X	Ages 13+; sex trafficking and labor trafficking	Not specified

⁶ National Advisory Committee on the Sex Trafficking of Children and Youth in the United States, Best Practices and Recommendations for States, p. 42 (2020), https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/otip/nac_report_2020.pdf.

Training

Federal Requirements: Training

There are federal training requirements for how to identify and respond to human trafficking, specifically for the child welfare workforce.

Federal Statutory Authority	Population of Concern	Requirement
Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act	Children who have experienced sex trafficking	States must provide an assurance in their Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) state plan that the state has provisions and procedures for training child protective services workers about identifying, assessing, and providing comprehensive services for children who have experienced sex trafficking.

Resources: Training

This section highlights some training and technical assistance resources available for child welfare workers responding to trafficking concerns and children missing from foster care. See Appendix II for additional resources.

Webinar on State Implementation of Anti-Trafficking Provisions

[The recorded webinar on Resources for State Implementation of the Anti-Trafficking Provisions of Public Law 113-183: The Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act of 2014](#) explores different resources available to state child welfare agencies to help prevent sex trafficking, including a training curriculum with customizable modules, web-based resources on state and local anti-trafficking initiatives (including court-related efforts), peer networking and constituency groups, and information about technical assistance.

Stop, Observe, Ask, and Respond (SOAR) to Health and Wellness Trainings

OTIP's National Human Trafficking Training and Technical Assistance Center (NHTTAC) is launching Responding to Human Trafficking through the Child Welfare System, a new [SOAR Online](#) module designed for providers who serve children and youth at risk for or who have experienced trafficking. This training will provide information on addressing human trafficking in child welfare settings.

Data Collection

An agency's anti-trafficking response should be data-driven to be effective. Rigorous data collection and evaluation of state and federal efforts to address the sex trafficking of children and youth should be used to inform training, prevention, service provision, and criminal justice responses to the issue.⁷

⁷ National Advisory Committee on the Sex Trafficking of Children and Youth in the United States, Best Practices and Recommendations for States, p. 78 (2020), https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/otip/nac_report_2020.pdf.

Federal Requirements: Data Collection

Stakeholders should be aware of the following required data collection systems and efforts.

Federal Statutory Authority	Population of Concern	Requirement
Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act	Children in foster care who have experienced sex trafficking	States must report, to the maximum extent practicable, the number of children who have experienced sex trafficking to NCANDS.
Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act	Children in foster care who have experienced sex trafficking	States must include sex trafficking data in the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS).
	Children missing from foster care; children who have experienced sex trafficking; all children in foster care	The Secretary of HHS must report to Congress on information about (1) children who run away from foster care and their risk for experiencing sex trafficking; (2) state efforts to provide specialized services, foster family homes, child care institutions, or other forms of placement for children who have experienced sex trafficking; and (3) state efforts to ensure children in foster care form and maintain long-lasting connections to caring adults, even when a child in foster care must move to another foster family home or when the child is placed under the supervision of a new caseworker. Therefore, states must ensure they provide appropriate information to HHS, as directed.

Resources: Data Collection

ACF facilitates data collection from state and tribal child welfare agencies through several tools and platforms. This section features two of the primary platforms. See Appendix III for more information on these and other data collection tools.

AFCARS

ACF CB implements and manages AFCARS. State and Tribal Title IV-E agencies must report demographic, case-related, and service information on all children in foster care and children who have been adopted with title IV-E agency involvement (per § 479 of the Social Security Act). The Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act requires agencies to include sex trafficking-related data in submissions to AFCARS.

The [AFCARS 2020 rule](#) requires states to report every placement setting, not only the most current, and distinguishes between children on runaway status from those whose whereabouts are unknown. This allows AFCARS to track repeated runaway and/or missing episodes that may occur while a child is in state care and custody. AFCARS 2020 also requires states to report whether a child experienced sex trafficking before entering state care, whether states reported the incident to law enforcement, and the date of that report. States must also report if a child experiences sex trafficking while in foster care, as well as whether and when they reported the case to law enforcement. This will result in identifying risk for sex trafficking at placement, incidents that may occur while a child is in state care, and whether states made timely reports to law enforcement. States will collect revised AFCARS 2020 data as of October 1, 2022. The first submission of that data will be due May 15, 2023.

NCANDS

NCANDS is a voluntary data collection system that gathers information from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico about reports of child abuse and neglect. ACF CB collects and analyzes the data to develop the [Child Maltreatment](#) report series. FY 2018 was the first year that states began reporting sex trafficking data in their NCANDS submissions.

Multidisciplinary Response

Cross-sector collaboration is a key component of responding to trafficking among children and youth in the child welfare system. Input from various stakeholders will help ensure child welfare agencies take a trauma-informed approach when meeting the diverse needs of children and youth at risk for or who have experienced human trafficking. As described by the National Advisory Committee on the Sex Trafficking of Children and Youth in the United States, “an effective multidisciplinary system of care uses all available resources and facilitates coordination between service providers and partners while being community-based, family-driven (when safe), youth-guided, survivor-informed, and culturally and linguistically competent. An effective system will achieve outcomes at three levels, with an observable causality between outcomes at all three levels: 1) state, Tribal, or territorial systems; 2) local systems; and 3) service delivery.”⁸

The child welfare system can partner with local task forces and child advocacy centers, among other entities, to effectively respond to the trafficking of children and youth in foster care and those missing from care.

The RHY regulations require that RHY programs “perform outreach to locate runaway and homeless youth and to coordinate activities with other organizations serving the same or similar client populations, such as child welfare agencies [...]” (45 C.F.R. § 1351.23(d)). RHY recipients must foster and sustain partnerships with their local child welfare agencies to ensure youth who leave foster care for whatever reason and seek RHY services through shelter or street outreach are supported and reconnected to the child welfare agency, as appropriate. Additionally, the RHY Regulation requires that RHY programs “take steps to ensure that youth who are or should be under the legal jurisdiction of the [...] child welfare systems obtain and receive services from those systems until such time as they are released from the jurisdiction” of the child welfare system (45 C.F.R. § 1351.23(f)). It is important that child welfare agencies and RHY programs continue to strengthen partnerships to ensure young people missing from care are safe and supported.

⁸ Best Practices and Recommendations for States, National Advisory Committee on the Sex Trafficking of Children and Youth in the United States, https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/otip/nac_report_2020.pdf

Multidisciplinary teams and task forces should strive to maintain a survivor-informed and youth-centered focus in all consultations. State statutes may require or allow youth and/or family members to participate in child protection multidisciplinary teams. Even when the youth does not participate, it is critical to actively center the youth and their family's perspective when assessing needs and build upon their specific strengths in all decision-making.

Resources: Multidisciplinary Response

Collaborative Community Efforts

The U.S. Department of Justice funds [Enhanced Collaborative Model Task Forces to Combat Human Trafficking](#). These multidisciplinary human trafficking task forces comprise federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement, prosecutors, service providers, and other stakeholders. [Human Trafficking for RHY Serving Agencies: A Resource Guide](#) is a comprehensive introduction to various topics overlapping RHY and human trafficking, including strategies to establish collaborative community efforts to prevent and address trafficking.

Trauma-Informed Approaches

[Human Trafficking Prevention: Strategies for Runaway and Homeless Youth Settings](#) addresses the role that RHY programs can play in preventing sex and labor trafficking among youth who have run away or are homeless. This Issue Brief highlights the importance of integrating public health, trauma-informed, and positive youth development principles into human trafficking interventions.

[SOAR to Health and Wellness Trauma-Informed Care Module](#) discusses how to recognize signs of trauma and deliver trauma-informed care to individuals who have experienced trafficking.

Survivor-Informed Strategies

[Survivor-Informed Services Among Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs](#) provides practical strategies for integrating survivor-informed practices in youth-serving organizations.

[Toolkit for Building Survivor-Informed Organizations](#) provides resources to build organizational capacity to collaborate with and support staff, volunteers, and consultants who have experienced human trafficking.

ACF is committed to providing ongoing support and partnering with grantees and organizations in their work to prevent and respond to the unique needs of children and youth in the child welfare system who have experienced trafficking, are missing from care, and/or are at risk for experiencing trafficking. ACF encourages all grant recipients and entities to utilize resources throughout this IM and in the appendices to actively plan and partner together to address human trafficking among children and youth.



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Appendix I: ACF Programs Assisting Children and Youth Who Have or May Have Experienced Human Trafficking

Program	ACF Office
Direct Assistance	
The CB's Regional Program Managers are available to assist child welfare agencies with meeting title IV-E and CAPTA plan requirements, including reporting and locating children missing from foster care, identifying and serving children who have experienced sex trafficking, and identifying and assessing child abuse and neglect reports involving this population, among other requirements. In addition, Program Managers can connect states and Tribes with resources to build their capacity and expertise to meet these requirements and address children missing from care and those at risk for or who have experienced sex trafficking.	CB
Through the RHY Program , FYSB supports street outreach, emergency shelters, and longer-term transitional living and maternity group home programs to serve and protect youth.	FYSB
The Aspire: Child Trafficking Victim Assistance Demonstration Program provides national coverage of comprehensive case management and other supportive services to foreign national children who have experienced severe forms of human trafficking and are not currently receiving or eligible to receive similar trafficking-specific services from another federally funded program. Prior to FY 2023, OTIP served foreign national children through the Trafficking Victim Assistance Program (TVAP).	OTIP
The TVAP provides national coverage of comprehensive case management and other supportive services to foreign national adults (including youth 18 and older) who have experienced severe forms of human trafficking and are seeking or have received HHS certification. Prior to FY 2023, OTIP also served foreign national children through TVAP.	OTIP
The Domestic Victims of Human Trafficking Services and Outreach Program provides comprehensive case management, direct services, and referrals to services to child, youth, and adult U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents at risk for, or who have experienced trafficking, including short- and long-term housing options, substance use treatment, mental health counseling, educational opportunities, job training and skills development, legal advocacy, and financial advocacy and counseling.	OTIP
The Victims of Human Trafficking in Native Communities Demonstration Program funds organizations that build, expand, and deliver services to Native American (American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders) children, youth, and adults who have experienced severe human trafficking.	OTIP

OTIP provides Child Eligibility and Adult Certification Letters to foreign national children, youth, and adults who have experienced human trafficking, making them eligible to apply for benefits and services to the same extent as refugees, including mental health services, health care, and housing assistance.	OTIP
Hotlines	
The National Human Trafficking Hotline is a 24/7, confidential, multilingual hotline for individuals currently experiencing or who have experienced human trafficking, as well as witnesses. The hotline provides help with safety planning, urgent needs, and connecting individuals to services in the community like case management, medical services, and separation from unsafe individuals. The hotline can be reached: • By phone: 1-888-373-7888 • By email: help@humantraffickinghotline.org • By text: text HELP to 233733 (BEFREE) • Through online chat: www.humantraffickinghotline.org	OTIP
The National Runaway Safeline (NRS) operates the National Communication System for Runaway and Homeless Youth Program, providing 24/7 confidential supportive services to youth contemplating running away, youth who are on the run, and youth experiencing homelessness. The Safeline can be reached: • By phone: 1-800-RUNAWAY (1-800-786-2929) • By Email: info@1800runaway.org • Through online chat: www.1800runaway.org	FYSB
Public Awareness & Education	
The Human Trafficking Youth Prevention Education (HTYPE) Demonstration Program funds local educational agencies to develop and implement programs to prevent trafficking through training and skills-based education. HTYPE prepares educators and other staff to identify and respond to signs that students may be experiencing human trafficking as well as deliver prevention education.	OTIP
The Look Beneath the Surface Campaign provides digital and print materials to raise awareness of human trafficking, including information about risk factors, indicators of trafficking, dispelling myths and misconceptions, and how to connect with services.	OTIP

Appendix II: ACF Training and Technical Assistance

Training and Technical Assistance	ACF Office
Technical Assistance Centers	
Through the National Human Trafficking Training and Technical Assistance Center (NHTTAC) , OTIP delivers training and technical assistance to build the capacity of individuals, professional organizations, communities, and local, Tribal, and state-level government systems to prevent and respond to human trafficking. Available services include online SOAR to Health and Wellness Trainings on human trafficking and technical assistance on topics, including prevention, identification, improving access to trauma-informed services, and strengthening outcomes for trafficking survivors.	OTIP
The Child Welfare Capacity Building Center for States (CBCS) provides individualized technical assistance to states, including: • Tailored technical assistance to agencies to improve outcomes and overall system functioning • Direct technical assistance • On-site training • The multi-part Child Welfare Response to Child and Youth Sex Trafficking and other learning experiences, available online through the CapLEARN platform • Peer group facilitation through a variety of peer groups	CB
Training Related to Foreign National Minors	
The Responding to Foreign National Minor Victims of Trafficking Webinar (approximately 1 hour) overviews the child eligibility process, including screening and identification, reporting, benefits and services, and case trends.	OTIP
The Three-Minute Video on the Child Eligibility Process overviews the child eligibility process, including reporting, benefits and services, and human trafficking determination letters.	OTIP
Monthly Child Eligibility Webinars , which occur the first Wednesday of every month from 2:00-4:00 p.m. ET on Zoom, help participants understand the resources available to assist foreign national minors who have experienced sex and labor trafficking as well as reporting requirements.	OTIP
Instructions: Request for Assistance for Child Victims of Human Trafficking	OTIP
Other	
Webinar: Resources for State Implementation of the Anti-Trafficking Provisions of P.L. 113-183: The Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act of 2014 explores different resources available to state agencies to help prevent sex trafficking, including a training curriculum with customizable modules, web-based resources on state and local anti-trafficking initiatives (including court-related efforts), peer networking and constituency groups, and information about technical assistance.	CB

AFCARS Technical Assistance includes technical bulletins to assist with reporting elements required in AFCARS 2020, based on the AFCARS Final Rule published May 12, 2020 (85 FR 28410).	
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Appendix III: ACF Policy Guidance, Reports, Briefs, and other Resources

Resource	Description	ACF Office
Information Memorandums		
<u>ACYF-CB-IM-14-03</u>	Issued on October 23, 2014, to inform states and Tribes of the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act. The IM provides information on the new law, including title IV-E plan changes, new case plan requirements and definitions, additions to AFCARS, modifications to the Family Connection grants, Chafee program, and reauthorization of the Adoption and Guardianship Incentive Program.	CB
<u>ACYF-CB/FYSB-IM-14-01</u>	Issued on November 4, 2014, to provide guidance on services for youth under age 18 who run away from foster care and come in contact with runaway and homeless youth programs.	ACYF
<u>ACYF-CB-IM-15-05</u>	Issued on July 16, 2015, to inform states of the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015. The IM provides information on the resulting changes in the CAPTA grants to states for child abuse or neglect prevention and treatment programs, including changes to the definition of child abuse and neglect.	CB
<u>OTIP-IM-22-01</u>	Issued on July 29, 2022, to explain how technology is misused by human traffickers, provides data on the increase in technology-facilitated child trafficking, and notes additional resources.	OTIP
Program Instructions		
<u>ACYF-CB-PI-15-07</u>	Issued on June 26, 2015, to describe new requirements for Title IV-E agencies created by the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act and instructs Title IV-E agencies on how to submit a Title IV-E plan amendment including these provisions. CB's regional offices worked with each agency to ensure they submitted an amendment documenting how that state or tribe met the requirements.	CB
<u>ACYF-CB-PI-16-03</u>	Issued on April 13, 2016, to describe new CAPTA requirements for states created by the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act and instructed states on how to report their	CB

	compliance with the law and submit the new CAPTA assurances related to sex trafficking.	
<u>OTIP-PI-16-01</u>	Issued on May 11, 2016, to describe the process by which an individual may request eligibility for federally funded assistance for a foreign national child who may have been subjected to human trafficking and notes a change in policy for issuance of Eligibility Letters for applicants who turn 18 years of age after submitting a RFA or a Request for Reconsideration.	OTIP
<u>OTIP-PI-19-01</u>	Issued on October 17, 2019, to explain how to access non-work social security number cards for foreign national minors who have experienced human trafficking with a valid Eligibility or Interim Assistance Letter.	OTIP
Reports		
<u>Report to Congress: The Child Welfare System Response to Sex Trafficking of Children</u>	This report summarizes current understanding and efforts related to children who run away from foster care and their risk of trafficking victimization, state efforts to serve children who are sex trafficking victims, and state efforts to support long-term connections to caring adults for children in foster care.	CB
<u>Report: Identifying Minors and Young People Exploited Through Sex Trafficking: A Resource for Child Welfare Agencies</u>	This CBCS resource includes information for Title IV-E agencies on sex trafficking screening and risk assessments for child welfare professionals.	CB
<u>Report: At Risk for Sex Trafficking, Youth Who Run Away from Foster Care</u>	This report examines what agencies can learn from data in their child welfare case management systems and AFCARS data. Agencies can use it to prompt conversations about youth who run away from state custody, how they can use data to learn more about this high-risk population, and how this knowledge can inform interventions.	CB
<u>Human Trafficking in Youth-serving Programs: A Blueprint for Organizations Working with Street Youth, Homeless</u>	This report includes important information for any youth-serving organization considering providing services to youth who are homeless and have experienced human trafficking. The resource addresses issues such as: • Common Misconceptions • Recruitment into Labor and Sex Trafficking • Understanding Risk and Protective Factors	FYSB

Youth, and Youth at Risk	• Prevention and Intervention • Approaches to Work with Youth Victims of Trafficking	
Best Practices and Recommendations to States Report	This report, published by the National Advisory Committee on the Sex Trafficking of Children and Youth in the United States (Committee) in September 2020, provides recommendations for states to improve their efforts to address the sex trafficking of children and youth. The report builds on the Committee's Preliminary Recommendations to Strengthen the Nation's Response to the Sex Trafficking of Children and Youth in the United States , published in January 2019.	OTIP
Preliminary State Self-Assessment Survey Overview Report	This report, published in January 2022, provides a high-level summary and descriptions of state efforts to implement the recommendations of the Committee. The Committee developed the report based on responses gathered from their March 2021 State Self-Assessment Survey , which allowed states to assess their work to address the sex trafficking of children and youth.	OTIP
Pretesting a Human Trafficking Screening	This report summarizes findings from a study to develop and pre-test a human trafficking screening tool with 617 youth in RHY and child welfare settings.	Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation
State Statutes Series		
State Statutes Series: Responding to Youth Missing from Foster Care	This resource overviews states' protocols for reporting children missing from care to law enforcement, locating children missing from care, assessing a child's experiences while absent from care, and more.	CB
State Statutes Series: Responding to Child Victims of Human Trafficking	This publication overviews state laws, including statutes, regulations, and policies collected from states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories to understand what efforts state agencies are legally required to make when responding to minors who have experienced sex trafficking.	CB
Bulletins		
Bulletin for Professionals: Human Trafficking and Child Welfare-A Guide for Caseworkers	This bulletin explores how caseworkers can identify and support children at risk for or who have experienced human trafficking. It provides background information about the issue, strategies caseworkers can use to identify and	CB

	support this population, and tools and resources that can assist caseworkers.	
Bulletin for Professionals: Human Trafficking and Child Welfare-A Guide for Agencies	This bulletin is intended for child welfare agency leadership and explores how child welfare agencies can support children at risk for or who have experienced human trafficking. It provides background information about the issue, including its scope and relevant legislation and initiatives, and strategies that agencies can implement to address the trafficking of children. State and local policy and program examples also are provided.	CB
Handouts & Issue Briefs		
Survivor-Informed Services Among Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs	This document provides youth-serving organizations strategies for integrating survivor-informed practices.	FYSB
Integrating Effective Practices to Identify Youth Victims of Human Trafficking	This factsheet provides youth-serving organizations strategies for integrating effective approaches for conducting a human trafficking assessment.	FYSB
Human Trafficking Prevention: Strategies for Runaway and Homeless Youth Settings	This Issue Brief overviews how RHY programs can prevent sex and labor trafficking among youth in their care and highlights the importance of integrating public health, trauma-informed, and positive youth development principles into human trafficking interventions.	FYSB
Human Trafficking Fact Sheet	This Fact Sheet defines human trafficking and explains its components per the TVPA, as amended.	OTIP
Assistance for Child Victims of Human Trafficking Fact Sheet	This Fact Sheet provides information on the federal reporting requirements and referral process to request assistance on behalf of a foreign national child who may have or has experienced human trafficking.	OTIP
Child Eligibility Benefits Handout	This document explains how to use an Eligibility Letter or Interim Assistance Letter to apply for benefits and services. This handout is also available in Spanish, Portuguese, French, and Chinese .	OTIP
Resource Guides		
Human Trafficking for Runaway and Homeless Youth	This resource provides information on various topics overlapping RHY and human trafficking, including strategies to establish collaborative	FYSB

(RHY) Serving Agencies: A Resource Guide	community efforts to prevent and address trafficking, and reflects the unique needs of RHY programs.	
2016 Child Welfare Virtual Expo: Building Capacity to Address Sex Trafficking and Normalcy	These videos and other resources provide strategies and best practices for addressing sex trafficking and promoting normalcy among children and youth in foster care. They are available online on the CBCS website through the CapLEARN platform.	CB
Domestic Human Trafficking and the Child Welfare Population	These resources provide strategies for identifying and assisting children and youth served by CB programs who are at risk for or have experienced domestic human trafficking. They summarize current understandings of human trafficking and resources addressing human trafficking in the child welfare population. • Identifying and Addressing Human Trafficking in Child Welfare Agencies: Final Report • Screening for Human Trafficking in Child Welfare Settings: Tools in Use. • Human Trafficking and Child Welfare: Scope of Agency Authority • Survey of Youth Currently and Formerly in Foster Care at Risk for Human Trafficking: Findings Report • Recommendations for Child Welfare System Support from Youth Currently and Formerly in Foster Care • Examining the Link: Foster Care Runaway Episodes and Human Trafficking	Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation
Tools		
Toolkit for Building Survivor-Informed Organizations	The toolkit describes resources that build organizational capacity to collaborate with and support staff, volunteers, and consultants who have experienced human trafficking.	OTIP
Shepherd Case Management System	Shepherd provides a secure, streamlined way for caseworkers and other professionals to request assistance for individuals who have experienced human trafficking and check the status of their requests.	OTIP

Appendix IV: Federal Statutory Authorities and Requirements

Federal Statutory Authority	Population of Concern	Requirement	Service Provision	Reporting	Screening	Training	Data Collection
Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act	All children and youth	Mandated reporters must report concerns of sex trafficking in the same way as concerns of abuse and neglect, in accordance with state and local child welfare reporting requirements and using the definition of sex trafficking from the TVPA, as amended (which includes non-caregiver perpetrators).		x			
	Children in foster care who have experienced sex trafficking	State Child Protective Service agencies must provide an assurance that the state has provisions and procedures for training child protective services workers about identifying, assessing, and providing comprehensive services for children who have experienced sex trafficking.	x		x	x	
	Children in foster care who have experienced sex trafficking	State child protective service agencies must report, to the maximum extent practicable, the number of children who have experienced sex trafficking to NCANDS.					x
Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act	Children in foster care who are at risk for experiencing trafficking	Child welfare agencies must develop policies and procedures for identifying, documenting, and determining services for children under state child welfare supervision at risk for or who have experienced human trafficking.	x		x		
	Children and youth	Child welfare agencies must create protocols to determine			x		

	missing from care	the child's experiences while missing from care, including screening to determine if they have experienced sex trafficking.					
	Children and youth in foster care who are missing or abducted	Child welfare agencies must notify law enforcement within 24 hours of receiving information about missing or abducted children. Information is then entered into the FBI's NCIC database.		x			
	Children and youth in foster care who are missing or abducted	Child welfare agencies must notify NCMEC within 24 hours of receiving information about missing or abducted children.		x			
	Children in foster care who have experienced sex trafficking	States must include sex trafficking data in AFCARS.					x
	Children missing from foster care; children who have experienced sex trafficking; all children in foster care	The Secretary of HHS must report to Congress on information about: (1) children who run away from foster care and their risk for experiencing sex trafficking; (2) state efforts to provide specialized services, foster family homes, child care institutions, or other forms of placement for children who have experienced sex trafficking; and (3) state efforts to ensure children in foster care form and maintain long-lasting connections to caring adults, even when a child in foster care must move to another foster family home or when the child is placed under the supervision of a new caseworker. Therefore,					x

		states must ensure appropriate information is provided to HHS, as directed.					
Trafficking Victims Protection Act, as amended	Foreign national minors (non-U.S. citizen or non-lawful permanent resident) present in the U.S. who may have experienced labor and/or sex trafficking at any point in their life and in any country.	Federal, state, and local officials with information about foreign national minors who <i>may have</i> experienced human trafficking must refer all cases of potential trafficking among foreign national minors to OTIP for assessment within 24 hours.		X			
Family First Prevention Services Act	Children in foster care who have experienced sex trafficking or are at risk for experiencing sex trafficking	Settings providing high-quality residential care and supportive services to children and youth who have been found to be, or are at risk of becoming, sex trafficking victims are exempted from time limits on claiming title IV-E reimbursement applicable to other congregate care settings.	X				