

County Innovations to Prevent Commercial Sexual Exploitation

The program will look to identify victims and potential victims of trafficking which has become a nationwide epidemic. Children, especially those with histories of runaway, truancy, expulsion, sexting or electronic transmission of certain material depicting minors, etc., and those involved in foster-care are exponentially more likely to be trafficked than other similar youth. The program will focus on early identification by using an multidisciplinary agency developed screening tool focusing on risk factors, in conjunction with applicable youth being screened via the Commercial Sexual Exploitation Tool, commonly referred to as CSE-IT, a validated risk-assessment tool specifically designed to identify victims and potential victims of sex-trafficking. Once youth are appropriately identified, the program will provide youth a none-secure safe-house (placement) wherein they will receive needed services. The services will include but not be limited to: basic care (room & board) a safe-house, educational services, medical and therapeutic services, intensive-community-based case management services to establish wraparound support for ongoing success. The program will use a multidisciplinary approach to service delivery, working with all community-based stakeholders serving youth throughout the community. This diversionary program will provide trafficked youth needed services as opposed to criminalizing actual victims who are often detained in juvenile detention centers. This program would provide law enforcement a safety and services based alternative to refer these youth as opposed to referring them into the juvenile criminal justice system. Juvenile detention is the probation department's most cost-prohibitive service.

Proposed Budget: \$602,610.42