

# ADVOCACY & SUPPORT FOR CSEC YOUTH

ELEVATING, EMPOWERING, AND SUPPORTING VULNERABLE YOUTH WITHIN THE CSEC POPULATION



**Stanford Sierra Youth & Families employs Youth Advocates (individuals with lived experience) to serve our CSEC (Commercial Sexually Exploited Children) population. The core framework of the program focuses on implementing the Seeking Safety Curriculum, emphasizing a harm reduction approach, and collaborating with agency team members and external partners.**

## WHO WE SERVE:

- All gender identities
- Youth up to age 21 who have a history of exploitation, are at risk, or are currently being exploited
- Youth impacted by CSEC (generational cycles of exploitation, recruitment/pimping, family/peer pressure to live the lifestyle)

## WHAT WE OFFER:

- Individualized support provided by a Youth Advocate
- Community-based services
- Linkage to community resources
- Open either independently or in conjunction with SSYAF mental health programs (Wraparound, FIT)
- Focused on empowerment, building self-confidence, and independent living skills
- Harm Reductive Approach to Services
- Reproductive health and gender affirming education
- Meeting youth where they are in their journey

## RISK FACTORS TO BE MINDFUL OF:

- Inappropriately aged relationships or engagement with individuals
- Unsafe online behaviors
- Intimate Partner Violence (aka Domestic Violence)
- Engagement in survival sex to meet needs
- Glamorized perception of the sex industry by peers/family
- Unhealthy attachment/boundaries in relationships
- Age-inappropriate sexualized behavior
- Family history of exploitation
- Peer pressure
- Unsecure placement
- Unsafe online behaviors

*Language matters: Please note that the terminology included is utilized for the sake of ensuring clear understanding of the population we are discussing and serving. We do not stand by derogatory language nor are we encouraging the utilization of it.*

**REFERRAL PROCESS:**

Please access the referral form on our website, and submit to [referral@ssyaf.org](mailto:referral@ssyaf.org).

**CSEC FACTS:**

- Sacramento is considered the 2nd most prominent city in the nation for human trafficking. The city's access to numerous freeways enables facilitated transport of youth.
- Youth from all backgrounds can be targeted and exploited.
- The average age for youth entering trafficking is 12 to 14 years old; the median lifespan once involved is only 7 to 10 more years.
- Youth involved in CSEC typically experience a wide range of psychological distress including, but not limited to: PTSD, depression, anxiety, challenges forming positive relationships, or even an increased risk of engaging in risky/impulsive behaviors.

**NECESSITIES:**

- Safe and stable living situation
- Social support system in place
- Exploring and assessing where youth are on their journey

**PRIORITY NEEDS:**

Reduction in traumatic stress systems (Harm Reduction)

**GOAL AND DREAMS:**

- Academic engagement
- Accessing employment opportunities
- Housing security
- Healthy relationships
- Community connections
- Self-sufficiency

