

**LOCAL LAW 23 of 2013:
2015 ANNUAL REPORT**

**NEW YORK CITY ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN’S SERVICES
DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

A. INTRODUCTION

Local Law 23 of 2013 requires an annual report to the Speaker of the City Council, documenting the number of youth in contact with DYCD and ACS “who are referred as, self-report as, or who the department (DYCD) or ACS later determines to be sexually exploited children, disaggregated by age, gender and whether the children had contact with either DYCD or ACS or both agencies.” The law also requires DYCD and ACS to provide a “description of the services provided by the department and ACS to meet the needs of youth who are or have been sexually exploited.” Lastly, the law requires DYCD and ACS to document their methods for collecting data regarding this population.

The New York City (NYC) Administration for Children’s Services (ACS) and Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) are pleased to provide the third annual report on Local Law 23. As required, this report provides information on:

- A. The number of youth in contact with the department’s (DYCD’s) runaway and homeless youth services or ACS who are referred as, self-report as, or who the department (DYCD) or ACS later determine to be sexually exploited*
- B. Data disaggregated by age, utilizing the following ranges:
 - a. under 12 years old;*
 - b. 12-15 years old;*
 - c. 16-18 years old and,*
 - d. over 18 years old.*and by gender, and by whether such children had contact with the department with or ACS;*
- C. The number of sexually exploited children identified as having received services from DYCD and ACS;*
- D. A description of services provided by DYCD and ACS to sexually exploited youth; and,*
- E. The methods DYCD and ACS utilized to collect data regarding the number of sexually exploited children*

B. DATA SUMMARY

Table 1. Youth “referred as, self-reported as, or determined to be sexually exploited Served Through ACS and DYCD in 2015:	
Safe Harbour Providers	1,340 ¹
DYCD Runaway and Homeless Youth Services	620
Placement Services	28
Preventive Services	99 ²
Total Exploited or at Risk for Exploitation Youth Served in 2015:	2,087

In 2015, ACS, DYCD and our Safe Harbour providers served a total of 2,087 youth referred as, self-reported as, or determined to be sexually exploited.³ This is higher than the 2014 count of 1,405. We believe this is due primarily to an increase in reporting by providers, who have undergone more training and have additional resources to engage youth and identify the red flags of trafficking.

Provider Breakdown:

Safe Harbour Providers Served 1,340 Exploited Youth or Youth At-Risk for Exploitation:

- 11 youth who were exploited or at-risk of exploitation youth received services from GEMS⁴
- 61 youth who were exploited or at-risk of exploitation received services from the Safe Horizon Counselors specialized with working with commercially sexually exploited children (CSEC) at ACS’ Nicholas Scoppetta Children’s Center⁵

¹ Although a total of 1,340 youth were served by Safe Harbour providers, age and gender data is available only for 1,154 of the 1,340 youth. This is because Safe Horizon’s Streetwork (Street Outreach) Program provided data for all of the youth they encountered during the first quarter of Calendar Year 2015, rather than specifically just for the sexually exploited youth. Therefore, the 186 sexually exploited youth encountered by Streetwork during January through March 2015 do not have age or gender data available. This was remedied by the 2nd quarter of 2015.

² St. Luke’s New Beginnings Preventive Program worked with a total of 180 children (subject child and siblings) with 81 children under 12 years old in 2015. Since the program serves subject children age 12 and older, it is likely these are siblings of the subject children, not subject children themselves. Therefore the 81 children under age 12 have not been included in the total for New Beginnings.

³ It should be noted that some youth may have been counted multiple times, especially with street outreach. There is no means to determine whether or how frequently this occurred.

⁴GEMS provided 87 psycho-educational groups and 11 individual counselling sessions at ACS’ Children’s Center and the Horizon and Crossroads Secure Detention Centers, engaging with a total of 355 girls, after which eleven (11) girls self-identified as exploited.

⁵Sixty-one (61) exploited youth were worked with by the CSEC Counselors at the ACS Children’s Center, sometimes receiving multiple sessions.

- 678 youth who identified as exploited, or at-risk for exploitation received services from Safe Horizon's Streetwork Outreach Team⁶
- 20 youth who were exploited or at risk of exploitation youth completed the Summer Youth Employment Program with the Henry Street Settlement
- 202 youth who were exploited or at risk received services at The Door
- 28 youth who were exploited or at-risk of exploitation received services at Hetrick Martin Institute
- 178 youth who were exploited or at-risk of exploitation received services at the Ali Forney Center
- The NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance confirmed 6 New York City youth as sexually exploited
- 156 sexually exploited youth, or youth at-risk for exploitation were identified through ACS' Child Trafficking Mailbox

DYCD Served 620 Exploited or At-Risk for Exploitation Youth Through Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) Programs:

- 349 youth received Crisis Bed services
- 141 youth received services from Transitional Independent Living Programs (TILS)
- 130 youth received services at Drop In Centers

ACS Placement and Preventive Services:

- Placement: Served 28 Sexually Exploited Youth at the Jewish Child Care Association's (JCCA) Gateways Program. Gateways worked with a total of 28 girls in 2015 (18 Child Welfare and 10 Non-Secure Detention), of which 14 cases opened in 2015 (7 Child Welfare and 7 Non-Secure Detention), the remainder (11 Child Welfare and 3 Non-Secure Detention) carried over from 2014.
- Preventive: Served 99 Sexually Exploited and/or Sexually Abused Youth at the Mt. Sinai-St. Luke's New Beginnings Preventive Program. St. Luke's New Beginnings Preventive Program worked with a total of 180 children (subject child and siblings) in 2015, with 81 children under 12 years old. Since the program serves subject children age 12 and older, it is likely these are siblings of the subject children, not subject children themselves. Therefore the 81 children

⁶ As mentioned in FN1, for the first quarter of Calendar year 2015, Safe Horizon's Street Outreach (Streetwork Program) provided the ages and genders for all of the youth they encountered, not specifically delineating the CSEC/at-risk of CSEC youth. Therefore, the age and gender of these 186 youth is unknown. This was remedied for the second quarter of 2015.

under age 12 have not been included in the total for New Beginnings. New Beginnings worked a total of 81 families in 2015, with 39 new cases opened and 42 cases carried over from 2014.

Table 2. Delineation of Data by Required Local Law 23 Categories: As per available data totaling 1,901 youth⁷ the following breakdown of youth were seen by Safe Harbour providers in 2015:

By Age:	Under 12 years old:	2
	12 to 15 years old:	274
	16 to 18 years old:	786
	Over 18 years old:	839
By Gender:	Male:	665
	Female:	1153
	Transgender:	83
By Contact With DYCD or ACS:		
ACS only		348
DYCD only		1,211
Both ACS and DYCD		522
Unknown		6

C. DATA CAPTURE METHODOLOGY

In 2015, ACS obtained demographic data of young people served by New York State Safe Harbour-funded programs from ACS and DYCD Safe Harbour providers directly. Data was also obtained through the ACS' Child Trafficking Mailbox, which allowed ACS and provider agency staff to send notifications of trafficked children, ask questions, request resources and receive case practice guidance. Notifications were sent by ACS and provider agency staff to the mailbox, which were read, and responded to primarily by the Director of Child Trafficking Prevention and Policy, but also by the Senior Advisor for Investigations, the Operations Manager of the Investigative Consultation Program, the Criminal Justice Coordinator and an Investigative

⁷ Although a total of 2,087 youth were served in 2015, age and gender data is only available for 1,901 youth. As aforementioned in FNs 1 and 5, although 1,340 youth that were served by Safe Harbour providers, age and gender data is available only for 1,154 of those 1,340 youth. Safe Horizon's Streetwork (Street Outreach) Program provided data for all of the youth they encountered during the first quarter of Calendar Year 2015, rather than specifically just for the sexually exploited youth. Therefore, the 186 sexually exploited youth encountered by Streetwork during January through March 2015 do not have specific age or gender data available. Hence, the total of 2,087 youth, with age and gender data available for only 1,901 of the youth.

Consultation Supervisor. In some instances, the responses served to link ACS staff and service providers, legal staff and law enforcement for enhanced casework opportunities. The mailbox was promoted as a reporting tool during Child Trafficking and Awareness and Skills trainings throughout the year, which increased its usage significantly. Collecting and documenting data on this population has inherent challenges for several reasons. Often youth are reluctant to disclose because they are afraid, embarrassed or traumatically bonded to their trafficker. In reviewing the 2015 data, ACS found providers did not collect data in a uniform way because of the collection methodology, which varies based upon the contact type. For example, street outreach workers cannot always obtain all the information that a case planner would obtain due to environment and/or due to the preferred anonymity of the youth involved. Additionally, there were challenges in ascertaining whether youth were counted more than once, due to the anonymity involved with street outreach and drop in centers. ACS is working to enhance data collection whenever possible. A web-based Child Trafficking Database is in development, which will streamline reporting and improve the efficacy of available data. The goal is to develop a standardized application for ACS and provider agencies to directly input their data and enable aggregation and analysis.

Table 3. Data Delineation by Agency and Indicator:

PROVIDER	TOTAL	GENDER			AGE				ACS and DYCD CONTACT			
		Total Youth	Males	Females	Trans	< 12	12 to 13	16 to 18	> 18	ACS Only	DYCD Only	ACS + DYCD
Gateways	28	0	28	0	0	10	18	0	28	0	0	0
New Beginnings	99	20	79	0	0	79	20	0	99	0	0	0
Child Trafficking Mailbox	156	2	152	2	2	72	75	7	156	0	0	0
Streetwork Street Outreach January - March	186	Not provided	132	54	Not provided							
Streetwork Street Outreach April - December	492	194	264	34	0	69	420	3	0	390	102	0
Children's Center Counselors	61	1	59	1	0	28	33	0	0	0	61	0
Summer Youth Employ Prog.	20	17	3	0	0	9	11	0	0	20	0	0
GEMS Groups at Facilities	11	0	11	0	0	4	7	0	0	0	11	0
The Door	202	92	108	2	0	1	36	165	0	123	79	0
Alli Forney Center	178	80	67	31	0	0	39	139	65	45	68	0
Hetrick Martin Institute	28	14	1	13	0	0	1	27	0	27	1	0
DYCD RHY Programs	620	245	375	0	0	0	122	498	0	474	146	0
OTDA Confirmations	6	0	6	0	0	2	4	0	0	0	0	6
Total	2,087	665	1,153	83	2	274	786	839	348	1,211	522	6
Section Totals	2,087		1,901			1,901				2,087		

D. SERVICE PROVISION FOR SEXUALLY EXPLOITED YOUTH

1. DYCD Contracted Programs and Services to Meet the Needs of Sexually Exploited Children

The central responsibility of DYCD is to administer city, state, and federal funds to community-based organizations that serve New York City's youth and families. DYCD funds a range of programs including immigration, after-school, literacy, jobs and internships, parenting, and runaway and homeless youth programs and services. Currently, DYCD's FY 2016 budget provides \$692.6 million in funding to support these programs and services.

The continuum of Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) services funded by DYCD is designed to protect young people, and whenever possible, encourage family reunification. In cases where reunification is not possible, these programs help youth progress from crisis and transitional care to independent living arrangements. Youth who participate in DYCD funded programs receive comprehensive services geared toward developing independent living skills, and strengthening their problem solving, decision making and communication abilities. This wide range of services includes food and clothing; medical services; substance abuse education; housing assistance; educational services; counseling; independent living skills training; employment counseling and assistance; recreation; legal assistance; and transportation assistance.

DYCD funds services to at-risk youth through crisis shelters (serving youth aged 16-20) which offer emergency, voluntary short-term residential programs. Youth in need of longer-term residential services may obtain a referral through the crisis shelter to DYCD's Transitional Independent Living (TIL) programs (serving youth aged 16-20), which assist youth in establishing independence through services such as educational and vocational programming, job placement, and counseling.

In 2006, DYCD revised its RHY model by establishing drop-in centers for each borough, enhanced street outreach services and specialized services for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning (LGBTQ) youth, pregnant and parenting teens, and sexually exploited young people, as well as expanded shelter options. Services in this continuum are described in greater detail on the following page. DYCD's aggregate data is provided in the Addendum.

- a. **Crisis Shelters** – Crisis shelters offer emergency shelter for runaway and homeless youth up to the age of 21. These voluntary, short-term residential programs provide emergency shelter and crisis intervention

services aimed at reuniting youth with their families. If family reunification is not possible, crisis shelters help arrange appropriate transitional and long-term placements. In 2015, DYCD funded an additional 100 crisis beds, including specialized services for LGBTQ youth for a total of 226 crisis beds (with 76 beds pending NYS Certification).

- b. **Drop-in Centers** – DYCD also funds emergency intervention services at its seven drop-in centers in each of the five boroughs. Three drop-in centers are located in Manhattan and one each in Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island, and the Bronx. Six of the Drop-in Centers are open six days a week and provide youth up to the age of 24 with essentials such as food, clothing, and immediate shelter as well as access to counseling, support, and referrals to relevant services. In 2015, DYCD funded the Ali Forney Center to provide 24 hour drop-in center services at its Harlem location through non-Safe Harbour funding.
- c. **Street Outreach Program** – DYCD also funds outreach on the street to reach at-risk youth where they are. Currently, the street outreach is conducted by the contracted provider, Safe Horizon’s Streetwork Project, with the use of three vans. The Streetwork Project is a 30-year old confidential and voluntary program serving anyone who is under 24 years old and homeless. DYCD’s Street Outreach’s vehicle-based outreach program focuses on locations where youth are known to congregate. By going directly to where at-risk youth are likely to congregate, such as subway stations and transportation hubs, the Street Outreach Program, with the assistance of street outreach workers, develops rapport with youth and provides contact by disseminating information about RHY services, providing food, clothing and other resources; making referrals to other service providers; and transporting youth back to their homes or relatives, to crisis shelters, or to other safe locations. In October 2013, through the infusion of the state Safe Harbour Funds, the Street Outreach Program expanded from two vans to three vans.
- d. **Transitional Independent Living (TIL) Programs** – DYCD contracts with providers to offer a total of 227 Transitional Independent Living beds. In addition to the services that are offered to all youth in the RHY continuum, those who are specifically identified as sexually exploited and in need of specialized services can be referred to the nationally recognized Girls Educational and Mentoring Services’ (GEMS) Transitional Independent Living program, when appropriate. The GEMS TIL program specializes in services specifically for young women who

have experienced sexual exploitation. Placement in the GEMS program is not always possible as it is limited to eight DYCD-funded beds and does not serve young men or transgender youth. However, young people residing in any of the DYCD funded programs will receive ongoing case work counseling to address issues associated with exploitation. As each young person's experience is different, the service providers make referrals, as appropriate, to outside services. Program staff take care to engage youth in services when the youth is ready to address this sensitive issue.

2. New York State Safe Harbour-Funded Programs to Meet the Needs of Sexually Exploited Children

In 2015, New York State's Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) provided \$550,000 in funding to New York City to continue to enhance our capacity to reach young people who are at risk of, or who are victims of sexual exploitation. The Safe Harbour grantee programs provide services to engage and educate exploited youth and assist with risk reduction through the use of internships, counseling groups, and outreach efforts. A summary of the services provided by each agency follows:

a. Ali Forney Center

The Ali Forney Center (AFC) specializes in providing street outreach, emergency shelter, transitional housing, job assistance, and social services for at-risk and homeless LGBTQ youth. AFC received a total of \$20,000 to be used between July and December 2015. This funding provided services and goods for 161 youth who were referred as, self-reported as, or determined to be sexually exploited. AFC used this funding to purchase and distribute critical items for LGBTQ youth experiencing homelessness, including safe sex items, clothes, and undergarments. Ali Forney Center also provided temporary paid internships to AFC clients who have been, or are at risk of being sexually exploited. AFC offered three internship types: General Support, Outreach, and Culinary. AFC's General Support Interns assisted at their drop-in center with administrative tasks. The Outreach Interns worked alongside the Outreach Specialists by assembling safe sex kits, providing street outreach, and attending community events to alert other

youth of AFC services and safe sex practices. The Culinary Interns assisted the Meal Coordinator in the kitchen. They can also receive training to pass their New York Food Handler's License exam.

b. Hetrick-Martin Institute (HMI)

The Hetrick-Martin Institute (HMI) provides after-school programs, supportive programs, and internships for LGBTQ youth. HMI utilized Safe Harbour funding to provide services and goods for 28 LGBTQ youth (of which 13 self-identified as transgender) referred as, self-reported as, or determined to be sexually exploited by producing a job fair specifically for transgender females, a population known to correlate with sexual exploitation. HMI also provided individual counseling sessions for the youth. The individual counseling sessions help meet young people where they are by providing support, resources, connection to job readiness, medical care, and other supportive services for youth who are sexually exploited and working in the sex industry. HMI has prioritized individual counseling in response to feedback from youth who stated they were uncomfortable participating in a closed group with other sexually exploited young people. Youth expressed concerns over privacy and discomfort while talking to peers about these issues and reported feeling more comfortable meeting with program staff individually.

c. The Door

The Door provides a wide range of services for New York City youth age 12 to 21, including after school programs, college advisement, mentoring, medical services, and legal services. The Door used Safe Harbour funding in 2015 to provide services for 202 youth referred as, self-reported as, or determined to be sexually exploited by funding a Crisis Counselor who meets with young people in emergency situations, and for their “Smart Hustle” open and closed groups. The open group focused on exploitation education and prevention. The closed group focused on support for young people engaged in commercial sex. A variety of supportive activities and workshops were

sponsored, including art expression , resume writing, job search, self -defense, and how homelessness is used as a way to take advantage of people sexually.

d. Safe Horizon

Safe Horizon, a leading service provider in the field of commercial sexual exploitation, provided two areas of service through the Safe Harbour grant. Two Licensed Master Social Workers (LMSW) worked as CSEC Consultants at the Nicholas Scoppetta Children’s Center. The social workers, who are employed through Safe Horizon’s Streetwork Project, provided screening and assessment for suspected or identified CSEC, assisted staff in identifying exploited youth, engaged with and advocated for the youth, and provided appropriate service recommendations and referrals. In addition to their work with exploited children and other vulnerable populations, the consultants provided psycho-educational groups for all youth and technical support for staff. During 2015, the social workers served 61 youth referred as, self-reported as, or determined to be sexually exploited.

2014 Safe Harbour funding also enabled the continuation of street outreach to identify and support trafficked youth. Safe Horizon’s Streetwork Project’s Outreach Team provided the contact card of the CSEC Consultant, the contact card for the Outreach Team, safer sex items, and a variety of essentials, including snacks, water, hygiene items, hats, scarves, gloves and hand warmers to 619 homeless youth, and youth on the street referred as, self-reported as, or determined to be sexually exploited. Homelessness often correlates with “survival sex”. Many youth are repeat contacts for street outreach, and the Team has continued to build a strong relationship with them.

e. Girls Education and Mentoring Services (GEMS)

Girls Education Mentoring Services (GEMS) is a nationally recognized organization that works with sexually exploited young women and girls through intervention and outreach, direct supportive services, training, and technical assistance. GEMS used their 2015 Safe Harbour funds to facilitate 87 psycho-educational group outreach sessions at three different ACS facilities: The

Nicholas Scoppetta Children's Center, and the Crossroads and Horizon Secure Detention Facilities. Through these sessions, GEMS provided CSEC information to a total of 355 girls and young women, of which 11 were referred as, self-reported as, or determined to be sexually exploited. GEMS also provided eleven (11) individual counseling sessions following the group sessions, as requested by individual group members.

GEMS' Youth Outreach Team is comprised of trained staff, fellows, and interns who develop and maintain the successfully proven CSEC curriculum used by GEMS. Safe Harbour funding also helped cover costs for the Youth Outreach Team to travel to and from ACS facilities, as well as costs associated with program related supplies for Safe Harbour outreach efforts.

f. Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP)

ACS again partnered with DYCD to set aside slots in DYCD's Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) specifically for sexually exploited and at-risk youth. ACS reached out to youth in preventive programs, youth in foster care, and youth in juvenile justice placements, with the goal of employment experience and identification of educational pathways to support career and life goals. Safe Harbour funding permitted the 20 youth to participate in this valuable program, for up to 25 hours per week during the summer of 2015.

3. ACS Contracted Preventive and Placement Programs to Meet the Needs of Sexually Exploited Children

In addition to services funded by the NYS Safe Harbour grant, ACS also contracts for specialized preventive and placement programs as part of its continuum of services for at-risk youth and victims of sexual exploitation.

a. Preventive: Mt. Sinai-St. Luke's New Beginnings Program

ACS contracts with Mt. Sinai-St. Luke's Roosevelt's New Beginnings Program, which was designed to maintain youth ages 12–17 who are at-risk for sexual abuse and/or exploitation, or who are victims of sexual abuse and/or exploitation safely in their homes by providing intensive

therapy to the youth and family members. The program also works with youth in foster care up to age 21, as well as with youth up to age 22 who have aged out of foster care.

In 2015, the New Beginnings Program opened 39 new cases (with 82 children), for a total of 81 cases (180 children) served. New Beginnings benefitted from Safe Harbour funding through the funding of a session of the Reciprocity Foundation's Film and Media Education Program and Holistic Mental Health services (meditation). An award-winning, contemplative nonprofit offering transformative programming for homeless and foster youth in NYC, the Reciprocity Foundation Reciprocity focuses on teaching youth to create media using cutting edge software programs (Final Cut Pro) uploaded to Apple workstations. In this course, youth learn how to shoot footage, edit film reels on computer workstations and produce production-ready media (short films, documentaries, music videos and commercials). The staff also teach project management, time management, stress management, personal organization, network, teamwork and budgeting. Additionally, Safe Harbour provided \$7,400 for motivational incentives (gift cards) for the children served by New Beginnings.

b. Placement: The Jewish Child Care Association's Gateways Program

The Jewish Child Care Association (JCCA) is a longstanding contractor that provides foster home, residential, community, mental health and preventive services. Since 2011, ACS has contracted with JCCA for services provided at the Gateways Program, an intensive, specialized residential program for female trafficking victims ages 12 to 16. JCCA currently supports these young people by using the Sanctuary trauma-informed care model, as well as a four-phase system of treatment that involves assessment, individual and family therapy, and peer counseling. Gateways maintains 18 beds at its campus in Westchester, New York

specifically for sexually exploited girls who want to leave “the life”. Twelve beds are located in the Child Welfare Cottage, and are used for regular foster care placements. Six beds are specifically for Non Secure Detention placements. In 2014, Gateways accepted 5 new girls for placement, serving a total of 28 girls across 2015. Gateways benefitted from 2015 Safe Harbour funding through \$7,500 provided for gift card incentives and funding of the Therapeutic Horseback Riding program and affirmation ceremonies.

E. Community Outreach: Building Awareness By Working With The Community

1. The New York City Faith-Based Coalition Against Human Trafficking and Domestic Violence’s “Not On My Watch!” campaign

Safe Harbour funding permitted The New York City Faith-Based Coalition Against Human Trafficking and Domestic Violence to contribute to the sponsorship of the 2015 “Not On My Watch!” campaign to empower, train, educate, and mobilize churches in taking an active role in combatting human trafficking and domestic violence. The Coalition produced a large-scale conference in New York City, at which over 500 persons attended to experience a variety of presentation (including that of ACS) on Human Trafficking by experts and survivors. The campaign also produced CSEC prevention bumper stickers and posters featuring the phone number to the National Human Trafficking Resource Center.

2. Mt. Sinai Adolescent Clinic

Safe Harbour funding provided \$7,500 to the Mt. Sinai Medical Center’s Adolescent Clinic for the funding of therapeutic services and safe sex items at their free clinic. This clinic is open to all youth up to age 22 (up to age 24 if registered before age 22). Additionally, it is the free health provider for (the trafficked and formerly trafficked) girls affiliated with GEMS.

F. Increased Identification of Exploited and At-Risk Children

This year's New York State Safe Harbour funding allowed the city to enhance our capacity to reach young people who are at risk of or who are victims of sexual exploitation. One of the best ways to do so is to increase the ability to identify exploited youth, and thereby engage with and provide services to them. ACS has been doing so through training and screening efforts.

1. Training

To assist staff and providers in better identifying, and thereby providing services to trafficked children, in 2015, ACS implemented a full scale training effort. ACS worked diligently to provide the highest quality of training for both its own staff and for the local social service providers.

ACS launched a standardized, full day Awareness and Skills based training, featuring the red flags of human trafficking and all of the affiliated dynamics and components, a presentation from the ACS Investigative Consultation Program, an overview of applicable legislation, a presentation on how ACS' work will move forward with screening, identifying, and providing services to trafficked children, and skills to assist with engaging and interviewing trafficked children. The training also includes a service provider panel of experts who work with trafficked children who answer attendees' case questions. ACS produced this full day training eleven (11) times, with a total of 856 ACS and contract and provider agency staff trained.

Additionally, for the evening and overnight staff at the Children's Center, the full day of training was split into two 3-hour modules, with each module provided three times to ensure staff attendance and shift coverage. These six trainings hosted a total of 127 attendees. Moreover, the CSEC Consultants at the Children's Center provided one training to the staff on Transgender Awareness, which is a topic very relevant to CSEC due to the correlation between transgender youth and survival sex. Examples of additional half day Awareness trainings provided include:

(1) Ninety-one (91) Division of Youth and Family Justice (DYCD) (secure and non-secure detention) staff, Department of Probation staff, Bellevue Hospital clinicians, foster care provider staff and OCFS staff

- (2) Thirty-eight (38) Preventive Child and Family Specialists
- (3) Staff of the ACS Office of Clinical Practice, Policy & Support

In 2015, ACS also sponsored a 3-Day Train the Trainer, provided by GEMS, for seventy-two (72) ACS preventive and foster care agency staff to develop internal training and technical support capacity both within ACS and for ACS' contract and community providers. ACS intends to repeat this effort in 2016.

ACS is diligently complying with the NYS Office of Children and Family Services' (OCFS) mandated training webinar requirements, as per 15-OCFS-ADM-16: Requirements to Identify, Document, Report and Provide Services to Child Sex Trafficking Victims. For example, as of February 17, 2016, the Division of Child Protection (ACS' largest division) identified the following webinar completions:

- Child Welfare Requirements for Identifying and Working with Sex Trafficking Victims: 2,085 completions
- Human Trafficking/Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC): An Overview: 2,369 completions

2. Screening

ACS is rolling out the implementation of the NYS Office of Children and Families (OCFS) mandated screening tools, as specified within 15-OCFS-ADM-16: Requirements to Identify, Document, Report and Provide Services to Child Sex Trafficking Victims (September 1, 2015). The ADM encompasses two screening tools and a law enforcement report form:

- a. Rapid Indicator Tool to Identify Children Who May Be Sex Trafficking Victims or At-Risk of Bring a Sex Trafficking Victim
- b. Child Sex Trafficking Indicators Tool
- c. Law Enforcement Report of a Child Sex Trafficking Victim

ACS anticipates that once the screening process is fully implemented, many more trafficked and at-risk children will be identified and served.

Conclusion

Over the past several years, ACS and DYCD have systemically recognized and addressed the needs of sexually exploited young people. The Safe Harbour Act and state resources have allowed us to strengthen our work in this area by enhancing our existing services and developing increased specialized services for this population, training staff, and evaluating mechanisms to improve our efforts to identify and document sexually exploited youth. We greatly appreciate the Council's attention to this vulnerable population of children, and look forward to discussing how the Council can support the work to help the trafficked and sexually exploited children of NYC.