

New York City Administration for Children’s Services
Office of LGBTQ Policy & Practice – www.nyc.gov/acs/lgbtq
Resources for LGBTQ Young People with CSEC Experience

Jurisdictions throughout the country, including New York City, are launching initiatives to reduce the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC). Many of these initiatives largely focus on girls and young women, presumably straight, or heterosexual, and often overlook lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) young people. However, the New York City Administration for Children’s Services – in collaboration with several community-based organizations – aims to reduce and eventually eliminate CSEC activities through an initiative inclusive of LGBTQ youth.

In alignment with ACS’s LGBTQ Policy, *Promoting a Safe and Respectful Environment for LGBTQ Youth and their Families Involved in the Child Welfare, Detention, and Juvenile Justice Systems*, the information included in this bulletin offers LGBTQ affirming support services and interventions for CSEC youth who also identify as LGBTQ. The organizations listed below have extensive experience working with LGBTQ youth who have CSEC experience. When making referrals for LGBTQ youth with CSEC experience, it is critical to connect these young people with interventions and support services that are both LGBTQ affirming, and knowledgeable to meet their specific needs.

Background: Why are LGBTQ-Specific CSEC Resources Needed? In 2008, the National Council on Crime & Delinquency published a study uncovering a disproportionate number (15%) of youth in detention identifying as LGBTQ¹. Of these young people in detention, lesbian, bisexual, and questioning girls (11%) were found to be twice as likely as their straight, or heterosexual, peers (5%), to be held for sex work. The statistics were even more startling when examining gay, bisexual, and questioning boys (10%) who were detained for sex work as compared to their straight peers (1%). An even higher number of transgender girls and gender nonconforming boys and girls were detained for sex work.

Many studies indicate that LGBTQ youth are disproportionately represented among the CSEC population due to high rates of family rejection, couch surfing, and homelessness. Data collection on this population still remains difficult for a variety of reasons - many youth do not self-disclose their sexual orientation or gender identity out of fear of harassment and discrimination; providers do not ask these basic demographic questions out of discomfort with asking these questions and/or due to lack of training on how to properly ask these questions. While ACS is working to address these data voids, we do have some information. A recent study reported that about 40% of homeless youth identify as LGBTQ, and they are homeless mostly due to family rejection based on their LGBTQ identity.² This study also noted that 40% of agencies serving homeless youth do not address issues related to family rejection.

As a result of pervasive family rejection and homelessness, many homeless youth engage in survival sex – exchanging sex for food, shelter, clothing, etc. A survey of LGBTQ youth service

1 Irvine, A. (2010). “We’ve had three of them”: Addressing the invisibility of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and trans- gender youth in the juvenile justice system. *Columbia Journal of Gender and Law*, 19(3), 675–701.

2 Durso, L. E., & Gates, G. J. (2012). *Serving our youth: Findings from a national survey of service providers working with lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender youth who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless*. Los Angeles: The Williams Institute with True Colors Fund and The Palette Fund.

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provider in NYC highlighted the prevalence of survival sex among this population; while some providers thought it was more common among young boys and transgender girls, another provider reported that the majority of homeless LGBTQ youth were sexual exploited and it was evenly distributed across sexes³. Another study reported homeless LGBTQ youth were *three* times more likely to engage in survival sex as compared to their homeless straight counterparts⁴.

Support Services and Interventions for LGBTQ Young People with CSEC Experience

Housing

- **Ali Forney Center.** Emergency housing and supportive services for homeless LGBTQ youth. Transitional housing for LGBTQ 25 & under. Full case management, psychiatry, HIV testing. Offer breakfast & lunch at drop-in center.

Contact

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- **Safe Horizon: Streetwork Project:** Uptown and L.E.S. LGBTQ friendly drop-in services for homeless and marginally housed youth.

Contact

John Welch
Senior Director
646-602-6404.
Jwelch@safehorizon.org
<http://www.safehorizon.org/index/what-we-do-2/helping-youth-14/streetwork-project-141.html>

- **SCO: Group Living for LGBTQ Foster Youth.** This group living program provides 24-hour care in a uniquely accepting and healing environment specifically designed to meet the needs of LGBTQ youth in the child welfare system. We operate small family homes in Brooklyn that provide a safe, supportive and nurturing space for these youth as they strive for self-awareness and struggle for community, family and school acceptance.

Contact

3 Goodman, J. L., & Leidholdt, D. A. (2011). Lawyer's manual on human trafficking: Pursuing justice for victims, 150–151, unofficial publication, available at www.nycourts.gov/ip/womeninthecourts/LMHT.pdf

4 Ray, N. (2006). Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth: An epidemic of homelessness. New York: National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute and the National Coalition for the Homeless citing Gaetz, S. (2004). Safe streets for whom? Homeless youth, social exclusion, and criminal victimization. Canadian Journal of Criminology and Criminal Justice, 46(6).

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- **Sylvia's Place.** Sylvia's Place is the starting point for New York City's LGBTQI youth in crisis. Integrating case management with mental health services while stressing the unique strengths and potential of each youth, MCCNY Homeless Youth Services has developed a proven method for serving LGBTQI youth in crisis. This method has been modeled by service providers across the country and around the world.

Contact
Christopher Collazo
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212-629-7440
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<http://www.mccnycharities.org/hys.html>

Legal Services

- **Urban Justice Center's Sex Worker Project:** The Sex Workers Project provides client-centered legal and social services to individuals who engage in sex work, regardless of whether they do so by choice, circumstance, or coercion. One of the first programs in the nation to assist survivors of human trafficking, the Sex Workers Project has pioneered an approach to service grounded in human rights, harm reduction and in the real life experiences of our clients. Our professional service providers are multi-lingual, non-judgmental and bring more than ten years of experience.

Contact
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<http://sexworkersproject.org/>

- **Sylvia Rivera Law Project:** Transgender legal services: Name Changes, Assistance Obtaining and Updating ID Documents, Health Care Advocacy, Criminal History/Fingerprinting, Immigrant Rights Project, Prisoner Rights Project, Assistance Getting Trans-affirming health care, Assistance with Safety Issues, Advocacy for gender-affirming placement and conditions, Re-Entry Assistance.

Contact

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www.srlp.org

- **New York Legal Aid Society:** LGBT Law and Policy Initiative, Juvenile Rights, Trafficking Victims Legal Defense and Advocacy Project.

Contact
Kim Forte
Supervising Attorney
LGBT Law and Policy Initiative
212-577-3300
kforte@legal-aid.org
www.legal-aid.org

- **LAMBDA Legal:** Lambda Legal's Out-of-Home Care Project offers legal advocacy and education regarding LGBTQ youth in foster care and juvenile detention settings.

Contact
Currey Cook
Senior Staff Attorney
Youth in Out-of-Home Care Project
212-809-8585
ccook@lambda.org
www.lambdalegal.org

Medical and Mental Health

- **APICHA:** APICHA Community Health Center provides general primary care, HIV specialty care, mental health care, and support services. We are here to serve you regardless of your race, gender, sexual orientation, English competency, immigration status or ability to pay. We provide services to anyone who walks through our doors.

Contact
Cecilia Gentili
Trans* Healthcare Director
212-334-6029
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<http://www.apicha.org/about-apicha/>

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- **Callen-Lorde Community Health Center - Health Outreach to Teens.** HOTT, at Callen-Lorde, provides Lesbian gay, bisexual and transgender health care and the program provided free health care up to 24. Services are also available on the mobile health van. Free or low cost medical and counseling services with extensive experience working with at-risk youth.

Contact

Rosie Arocho

Director

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www.callen-lorde.org

- **Community Healthcare Network – The Transgender Program.** Transgender people have specific healthcare concerns and oftentimes face bias, discrimination, or ignorance when seeking medical care. CHN understands these concerns, and offers a unique and welcoming environment with high quality medical care. Originally founded in 2003 due to a lack of HIV outreach services in the transgender community, CHN's Transgender Program now offers a comprehensive array of services. CHN now offers two specialized programs for individuals of transgender experience at the Bronx Health Center in the South Bronx and the Family Health Center located in Jamaica, Queens.

Bronx Contact

975 Westchester Avenue

Bronx, NY 10459

Contact Renato Barucco: 718-320 6765

Queens Contact

90-04 161 st. 5th flr

Jamaica, NY 11432

Contact Jessica Contreras: 718-883-8635

<http://www.chnyc.org/services/transgender-program/>

- **Mt Sinai's Adolescent Youth Health Project.** Offers health providers, counselors and support staff are committed to ensuring that all young people coming to Mount Sinai Adolescent Health Center have access to high quality, comprehensive medical and mental health care with sensitivity and compassion and in a confidential setting, regardless of sexual expression or gender identity.

Contact

Dr. Angela Diaz

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<http://www.mountsinai.org/patient-care/service-areas/adolescent-health-center/services/lgbtq-support-services>

- **Persist; Health Project.** Persist Health Project is a peer-led project in New York City, made up of health educators, social workers, nurse practitioners and human rights advocates, all of whom have either current or former experience in the sex trade or are our committed allies. It is founded on a belief that when we take control of our health and wellness together through education and health care, it is an act of empowerment and a tool for positive change.

Contact

Zill Garner Goldstein

Clinical Health Director / Family Nurse Practitioner

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Zil@persisthealthproject.org

<http://persisthealthproject.org/>

- **Project Stay** - LGBT Youth Program offers comprehensive medical and psychosocial services to high-risk and HIV-positive youth between the ages of 12 and 24.

Contact

Dr. Cohall

Director

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ATC1@columbia.edu

- **SUNY Downstate – Teen HEAT (Health & Education Alternatives for Teens).** Free health testing, counseling, support groups and workshops for young people. Comprehensive Medical, Mental Health, Case Management, HIV Testing for Positive & High Risk LGBTQ at Risk Youth. Hormone Therapy, Ballroom Community Support. Workshops in High Schools.

Contact

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LGBT Outreach Coordinator

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Supportive Services, Counseling and Social Groups

- **The Door:** LGBTQ specific and Runaway Homeless Youth programming, legal department addresses domestic and foreign national traffic victims, health services.

Contact

Jessica Rodriquez
Outreach Coordinator
212-941-9090 x3377
jrodriquez@door.org
www.door.org

- **Family Therapy Intervention Pilot for LGBTQ Youth.** The Family Therapy Intervention Pilot (FTIP) is a New York City Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) funded initiative that helps LGBTQ youth remain in or return to their family home. The program promotes families' acceptance of their LGBTQ children and provides free services to reduce negative risk factors experienced by LGBTQ youth, such as homelessness and experimentation with drug usage. For more information, please call 718.935.9466

Contact

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http://www.nyc.gov/html/dycd/downloads/pdf/FTIP_Brochure.pdf

- **Gender Identity Project @ LGBT Community Center.** The GIP offers a range of transgender-driven supportive services, advocacy, outreach, education and capacity-building. GIP offers practical training to provide for individual, couples, and group counseling, as well as information and referral services, community forums, and professional education. GIP also offers an opportunity for trans-identified individuals to interact with other trans-identified and allied service providers, who serve as both powerful role models as well as supportive agents in the process of normalizing a person's trans-identity.

Contact

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- **Hetrick-Martin Institute:** LGBTQ youth drop-in services, social groups, counseling, homeless youth services, paid internships.

Contact

Bridget Hughes
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- **Safe Horizon: Streetwork Project:** Uptown and L.E.S. LGBTQ friendly drop-in services for homeless and marginally housed youth.

Contact

John Welch
Senior Director
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- **SAVI, Sexual Assault and Violence Intervention Program.** SAVI offers LGBTQ inclusive, validating, healing and empowering care for survivors and their supporters to lead safe, healthy lives through advocacy, free and confidential counseling, and public education.

Contacts

Rita Abadi, LMHC
Clinician & Operation Manager
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Danielle Latimer
Program Coordinator
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Training & Professional Development

- **Empire State Coalition:** The Empire State Coalition is a membership organization using its collective voice to promote the safety, health and future of runaway, homeless and street-involved youth. The Empire State Coalition is committed to working on behalf of runaway, homeless and street youth to ensure their rights. Youth have the right to be safe, healthy and prepared for the future. The organization's website includes existing training webinars on CSEC issues as they impact LGBTQ young people.

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Contact

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- **Hetrick-Martin Institute:** LGBTQ youth drop-in services, social groups, counseling, homeless youth services, paid internships.

Contact

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www.hmi.org

- **Safe Horizon's Anti-trafficking Program:** Established in 2001, Safe Horizon's Anti-Trafficking Program (ATP) is one of the largest service providers for survivors of human trafficking in the US. The program's services are open to women and men, transgender individuals, and children who have been compelled to work against their will. Human trafficking commonly occurs in areas such as domestic servitude, health care, manufacturing, construction, agriculture, food service, beauty salons, and the commercial sex industry. Since its founding, the Anti-Trafficking Program has assisted more than 500 survivors of human trafficking from over 60 countries.

Contact

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<http://www.safehorizon.org/index/what-we-do-2/anti-trafficking-program-13.html>

Youth Leadership/ Advocacy Programs:

- **Fierce.** A membership-based organization building the leadership and power of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) youth of color. Provides LGBTQ youth leadership opportunities and social justice internships.

Contact

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- **Streetwise and Safe.** SAS is a project by and for youth of color in NYC that shares the ins & outs, do's & don'ts, and street politics of police encounters between LGBTQ youth of color and police. The organization also stands for and with LGBTQ and youth with experience trading sex for survival needs. The organization is committed to informing youth about their rights and empowering young people to be more confident in protecting themselves.

Contact

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Have a general question about services for LGBTQ youth with CSEC experience or know of other resources and providers we haven't listed? If so, please contact the ACS Office for LGBTQ Policy and Practice by emailing us at LGBTQ@acs.nyc.gov.