

POLICY GOAL 3.1 State law provides child sex trafficking victims with access to specialized services through a non-punitive system.

State ¹	Does state law <i>mandate</i> access to specialized services through a non-punitive system? If so, what system?	If not, does state law <i>authorize</i> access to specialized services through a non-punitive system? If so, what system?	Are there barriers to accessing specialized services? ²	Services include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following:
Alabama	Yes; through child welfare	N/A	No	Forensic evidence collection; forensic interviewing; counseling; advocacy; shelter; alcohol or substance abuse treatment; mental health services; medical treatment; legal services; educational tutoring, counseling, and language interpretation services; crisis intervention services; safety planning; and investigation and prosecution of the individuals subjecting the child to sexual exploitation or abuse
Alaska	No	No	N/A	N/A
Arizona	No	No	N/A	N/A
Arkansas	No	No	N/A	N/A
California	Yes; through the Commercially Sexually Exploited Children's Program administered by the Department of Social Services and family justice centers ³	N/A	Yes; not statewide	Services and support to children who are victims, or at risk of becoming victims, of commercial sexual exploitation.
Colorado	Yes; through child welfare	N/A	No	Social services and, in familial trafficking cases, foster care prevention services
Connecticut	No	Yes; subject to the discretion of the Commissioner of	Yes; limited to children who have been trafficked	Child welfare services

¹ Evaluations of state laws are based on legislation enacted as of August 1, 2021. For more information on the importance of this policy goal, please visit https://reportcards.sharedhope.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/IssueBrief_3.1.pdf.

² Although additional barriers may exist, this chart specifically considers failure to provide a clear process for connecting victims to services, creation of a program that is not statewide, and the provision of services only through a residential placement.

³ In the limited circumstance where a child is removed from the care of their parent or guardian and placed in a short-term residential therapeutic program, specialized services may also be available under Cal. Welf. & Inst. Code § 11462.01(b)(4)(A) (Contract for short-term residential therapeutic program).

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		Children and Families	through use of force, fraud, or coercion	
Delaware	No	Yes; tasks the Human Trafficking Interagency Coordinating Council with developing a comprehensive plan to provide victims of human trafficking with services but does not mandate access to those services	Yes; does not provide a clear process for connecting victims to services	Not specified
District of Columbia	No	Yes; through child welfare ⁴ or referral to an organization that provides treatment, housing, or services appropriate for victims of sex trafficking	No	Not specified
Florida	Yes; through child welfare	N/A	No	Emergency shelter and runaway center services; outpatient individual or group counseling for the victim and the victim's family or legal guardian; substance use disorder treatment services; drop-in centers or mentoring programs; commercial sexual exploitation treatment programs; child advocacy center services pursuant to s. 39.3035; prevention services such as those provided by the Florida Network of Youth and Family Services and the PACE Center for Girls; family foster care; therapeutic foster care; safe houses or safe foster homes; residential

⁴ D.C. Code § 4-1301.02(1)(B) (Definitions) states,

Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed as preventing or intending to prevent:

- (i) Sex trafficking, severe forms of trafficking in persons, a commercial sex act, or sex trafficking of children from being considered a form of sexual abuse for purposes of § 16-2301(32); or
- (ii) The Agency from offering or providing services for a child victim of sex trafficking, severe forms of trafficking in persons, a commercial sex act, or sex trafficking of children, including where the child was not abused or neglected by a parent, guardian, or custodian.

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				treatment programs; and employment or workforce training.
Georgia	No	Yes; referral to a victim assistance organization	No	Assistance with case management, placement, access to educational and legal services, and mental health services
Hawaii	No	Yes; through the Kawaiiloa youth and family wellness center operated by the Office of Youth Services	Yes; not statewide	Mental health services and programs; substance abuse treatment programs; crisis shelters for homeless youth; crisis shelters for victims of human and sex trafficking; vocational training; group homes; day treatment programs; aftercare; independent and family counseling services; educational services; and other services and programs
Idaho	No	No	N/A	N/A
Illinois	No	Yes; requires the Department of Children and Family Services to establish specialized placements (either by contract or development) but does not mandate access to services for all child sex trafficking victims	Yes; does not provide a clear process for connecting victims to services and the provision of services is only through a specialized placement	Licensed foster homes, group homes, residential facilities, and secure residential facilities that specialize in providing treatment to children who are victims of sex trafficking
Indiana	No	No	N/A	N/A
Iowa	No	Yes; requires the Department of Human Services to refer a commercially sexually exploited child for appropriate services	Yes; does not require the entity receiving the referral to provide access to specialized services and it only applies to children who are already system-involved	Not specified
Kansas	Yes; through child welfare	N/A	No	Not specified (determined by assessment) ⁵
Kentucky	Yes; through child welfare	N/A	No	Appropriate treatment, housing, and services consistent with the status of the child as a victim of human trafficking

⁵ For children placed in a staff secure facility, Kan. Stat. Ann. § 65-535(b), (c) (Staff secure facility; requirements; services; rules and regulations) provides for the following services by service providers who are trained to counsel and assist trafficking victims: case management, life skills training, health care, mental health counseling, substance abuse screening and treatment, and any other appropriate services.

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Louisiana	Yes; through family justice centers and child welfare	N/A	Yes; does not provide a clear process for connecting victims to services	Counseling, medical care, and other support, services, and assistance
Maine	No ⁶	No	N/A	N/A
Maryland	Yes; through the Safe Harbor Regional Navigators Grant Program	N/A	No	Safety planning; emergency response; basic living needs, not including housing; trauma counseling and mental health services; drug and alcohol abuse treatment; legal services; victim advocacy; case management; and designation of regional navigators
Massachusetts	Yes; through child welfare	N/A	No	Appropriate services
Michigan	Yes; through child welfare	N/A	Yes; limited to circumstance where a child is removed from the care of their parent or guardian and placed in the Department of Health and Human Services' care	Placement in a setting that provides mental health services, counseling, or other specialized services that are necessary or appropriate for a victim of human trafficking
Minnesota	Yes; through the Regional Navigators Grant Program ⁷	N/A	No	Services, support, programs, and all shelter, housing beds, and services provided by the commissioner of human services to sexually exploited youth and youth at risk of sexual exploitation
Mississippi	Yes; through child welfare	N/A	No	Counseling services and other appropriate services for child sex trafficking victims who are in child welfare's custody
Missouri	No	Yes; through child welfare but access to services is not mandated	No	Case management; emergency temporary housing; health care; mental health counseling; alcohol and drug addiction screening and treatment; language interpretation and translation services; English language instruction; job training; and placement assistance

⁶ Although, under Me. Rev. Stat. Ann. tit. 22, § 4099-E (Comprehensive program for homeless youth), specialized services may be available to children who have experienced homelessness or who are missing from care, which may include commercially sexually exploited children, Maine law does not provide a process to connect all child sex trafficking victims with access to specialized services through a non-punitive system.

⁷ Further, Minn. Stat. Ann. § 245A.25(5) (Residential program certifications for compliance with the family first prevention services act) sets standards for specialized residential placements of commercially sexually exploited children who are removed from a parent's care and directed into an out-of-home placement.

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Montana	No	Yes; presumes a commercially sexually exploited child to be a youth in need of care and entitled to specialized services	Yes; does not provide a clear process for connecting victims to services	Access to protective shelter, food, clothing, medical care, counseling, and crisis intervention services, if appropriate
Nebraska	Yes; through child welfare	N/A	No	Determined by assessment but should provide for safe and appropriate placement, medical services, mental health care, or other needs
Nevada	Yes; through an agency that provides child welfare services	N/A	No	Counseling, training or other services relating to commercial sexual exploitation; mental health triage; assessment of basic needs; assessment of medical needs; psychiatric evaluation; referral to detoxification; short-term placement; mobile crisis response; academic support; preventative services for children who are at risk of commercial sexual exploitation; therapeutic treatment to assist the child in safely transitioning to a home-based placement; and other services
New Hampshire	No	No	N/A	N/A
New Jersey	No	Yes; through family justice centers but creation of those centers is discretionary	No	Legal, law enforcement, social services, and health care assistance
New Mexico	No	Yes; referral to community-based services but does not mandate access to specialized services ⁸	No	Not specified
New York	Yes; through child welfare	N/A	No	Housing; assessment; case management; medical care; legal; mental health; substance and alcohol abuse services; counseling; therapeutic services; education services, including life skills services; and planning services to successfully transition residents back to the community

⁸ Further, a commercially sexually exploited child may receive services in conjunction with the “family in need of court-ordered services” process; however, that process may be used to penalize children and their families who do not willingly engage in services through the Department of Children, Youth & Families. N.M. Stat. Ann. § 32A-3B-2 (Definitions).

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North Carolina	No	Yes; through child welfare but access to services is not mandated	No	Child welfare services
North Dakota	No	Yes; presumes a commercially sexually exploited child to be a child in need of services		Appropriate social services
Ohio	No	No	N/A	N/A
Oklahoma	Yes; through child welfare	N/A	No	Medical care; mental health care; food; and other assistance
Oregon	No	No	N/A	N/A
Pennsylvania	Yes; through child welfare	N/A	No	Safe and stable housing; access to education; employment and life-skills training; comprehensive case management; physical and behavioral health care, including trauma therapy; treatment for drug or alcohol dependency; medical and dental care; access to personal care items and adequate clothing; and other needs that sexually exploited children may have as determined by the department or the county agencies
Rhode Island	No	Yes; presumes a commercially sexually exploited child to be an abused and/or neglected child and tasks the council on human trafficking to develop a coordinated and comprehensive service plan but does not mandate access to those services	No	Not specified
South Carolina	Yes; though the South Carolina Child Abuse Response Protocol, certified specialized service providers, and the Human Trafficking Acute Care and Resource Centers	N/A	No	Physical and mental health; housing; education; job training; child care; legal services; and other services
South Dakota	No	No	N/A	N/A

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Tennessee	No	Yes; through child welfare but access to services is not mandated	No	Not specified
Texas	Yes; through the Governor’s Program for Victims of Sex Trafficking	N/A	No	Customized package of services to fit the victim’s immediate and long-term rehabilitation and treatment needs— services provided under the program must address all aspects of the medical, psychiatric, psychological, safety, and housing needs of the victim ⁹
Utah	Yes; through child welfare	N/A	No	Not specified
Vermont	No	Yes; through child welfare but access to services is not mandated	Yes; does not provide a clear process for connecting all child sex trafficking victims to services	Not specified
Virginia	No	Yes; through child welfare but the service response is discretionary ¹⁰	No	Protective and rehabilitative services
Washington	Yes; through child welfare/specialized receiving centers	N/A	No	Mental health and substance abuse referrals; group counseling focused on developing/strengthening coping skills and improving self-esteem and dignity; and other appropriate services
West Virginia	No	Yes; through child welfare	Yes; does not provide a clear process for connecting victims to services	Appropriate child welfare services, including comprehensive trauma-informed services that are specialized to the needs of child victims of sexual abuse and exploitation or child sex trafficking victims
Wisconsin	No	No	N/A	N/A
Wyoming	No	Yes; referral to a child-serving entity but that entity is not mandated to provide the child with access	No	Available services, including legal service providers

⁹ Further, children in the foster care system may have access to services through specialized, residential placements under Tex. Hum. Res. Code Ann. § 42.0531(a) (Secure agency foster homes), and victims with specific and acute healthcare needs may also have access to a treatment program designed to “improve the quality and accessibility of care for victims of child sex trafficking” under Tex. Health & Safety Code Ann. § 50.0002 (Establishment; purpose).

¹⁰ Further, Va. Code Ann. § 9.1-116.5(A) (Sex Trafficking Response Coordinator; duties; report) requires the Sex Trafficking Response Coordinator to develop a plan for responding to child sex trafficking victims.

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		to specialized services		
Totals:	21 states <i>mandate</i> access to specialized services through a non-punitive system.	18 other states & DC <i>authorize</i> access to specialized services through a non-punitive system.		