

**POLICY GOAL 3.3** State law requires child welfare to provide access to specialized services for identified sex trafficked children and youth.

State <sup>1</sup>	Does state law <i>require</i> child welfare to provide access to specialized services?	If not, does state law <i>authorize</i> child welfare to provide access to specialized services?	Are there limitations to accessing specialized services? <sup>2</sup>	Services include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following:
Alabama	Yes	N/A	Yes (limited to children adjudicated dependent)	Forensic evidence collection, forensic interviewing, counseling, advocacy, shelter, alcohol or substance abuse treatment, mental health services, medical treatment, legal services, educational tutoring, counseling, language interpretation services, crisis intervention services, and safety planning
Alaska	No	No	N/A	N/A
Arizona	No	No	N/A	N/A
Arkansas	No	Yes	Yes (limited to children who are adjudicated dependent-neglected and placed in the custody of DHS)	Assistance with placement of a child victim of human trafficking in a home or any type of shelter or facility
California	Yes	N/A	Yes (only counties that opt into the Commercially Sexually Exploited Children's Program are required to provide specialized services)	Unspecified services
Colorado	Yes	N/A	Yes (requirement applies only to children who enter child welfare)	Unspecified social services and, in familial trafficking cases, foster care prevention services

<sup>1</sup> Evaluations of state laws are based on legislation enacted as of July 1, 2023. Responses do not include an analysis of case law, agency rules, regulations, or practices/initiatives that exist outside of statutory law. For more information on the importance of this policy goal, please visit <https://reportcards.sharedhope.org/related-resources/#3.3>.

<sup>2</sup> Although additional limitations or barriers may exist, this chart specifically considers responses that are (1) triggered only upon a *report* of suspected or identified sex trafficking, (2) limited to an *emergency* response, (3) not statewide, and/or (4) limited to those in residential placements/foster care or those who are adjudicated dependent.

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			on a report alleging sex trafficking victimization)	
Connecticut	No	Yes	Yes (limited to CSE minors who were trafficked by means of force, fraud, or coercion)	Unspecified child welfare services
Delaware	No <sup>3</sup>	No	N/A	N/A
District of Columbia	No	Yes	No	Unspecified
Florida	Yes	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, prevention service, family foster care, therapeutic foster care, safe houses or safe foster homes, residential treatment programs, and employment or workforce training; safe houses and safe foster homes (contracted by child welfare) are required to provide victim-witness counseling, family counseling, behavioral health care, treatment and intervention for sexual assault, education tailored to child's individual needs, life skills and workface training, survivor mentorship, substance abuse screening and treatment, transitional services, and prevention education
Georgia	Yes	N/A	No	Referral to a victim assistance organization that "provides comprehensive trauma-informed services designed to alleviate the adverse effects of trafficking victimization and to aid in the child's healing, including, but not limited to, assistance with case management, placement, access to

<sup>3</sup> Although not specific child welfare, Del. Code Ann. tit. 11, § 787(k)(3)(a), (m) (Trafficking an individual, forced labor and sexual servitude) requires the development of a state plan for providing appropriate services to child victims, which, when established, could facilitate access to specialized services through child welfare.

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				educational and legal services, and mental health services”
Hawaii	No	No	N/A	N/A
Idaho	No	No	N/A	N/A
Illinois	Yes	N/A	Yes (limited to CSE children who are in the care of DCFS)	Specialized placements, including, “but not be limited to, 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	Yes	N/A	Yes (limited to children who are already system-involved)	Referral to appropriate services
Kansas	Yes	N/A	Yes (limited to children placed in a staff secure facility)	Case management, life skills training, health care, mental health counseling, substance abuse screening and treatment, and other appropriate services
Kentucky	Yes	N/A	Yes (requirement applies only to children who enter child welfare on a report alleging sex trafficking victimization)	“[A]ppropriate treatment, housing, and services consistent with the status of the child as a victim of human trafficking”
Louisiana	Yes	N/A	No	Care coordination services, including “emergency and ongoing multidisciplinary coordination and service planning with key agencies to address medical, psychological, safety, housing, and other emergency and long-term needs of the child . . .” as well as comprehensive advocacy services
Maine	No	No	N/A	N/A
Maryland	Yes	N/A	No	Referral to the appropriate regional navigator for services including, 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, and case management
Massachusetts	Yes	N/A	No	Unspecified services but required to be appropriate, gender-responsive, and on a continuum
Michigan	Yes	N/A	Yes	“[C]ounseling services appropriate for minors victims of human trafficking” as well as placement in a “setting that

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			(limited to children who are placed in the care of DHHS)	provides mental health services, counseling, or other specialized services that are necessary or appropriate for a victim of human trafficking <sup>3</sup>
Minnesota	Yes	N/A	No	Care and supportive services, including a safe setting designed to prevent ongoing and future trafficking; equitable, culturally responsive, and individualized services; assistance with accessing individualized medical, mental health, legal, advocacy, and family services; provision of relevant educational, life skills, and employment supports; trafficking prevention education; support; and transition services
Mississippi	Yes	N/A	Yes (limited to children in the custody of DCPS)	Counseling services and other appropriate services for CSE children
Missouri	Yes	N/A	No	Forensic interview, 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
Montana	Yes	N/A	No	Access to protective shelter, food, clothing, medical care, counseling, and crisis intervention services, if appropriate
Nebraska	Yes	N/A	Yes (requirement applies only to children who enter child welfare on a report alleging sex trafficking victimization)	Safe and appropriate placement, medical services, mental health care, or other needs as determined by a specialized assessment
Nevada	Yes	N/A	No	Safety planning, counseling, and referral to services
New Hampshire	No	No	N/A	N/A
New Jersey	No	No	N/A	N/A
New Mexico	Yes	N/A	Yes (requirement applies only to children who enter child welfare on a report alleging sex trafficking victimization)	Unspecified services

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New York	Yes	N/A	No	“[H]ousing, assessment, case management, medical care, legal, mental health and substance and alcohol abuse services” and “[w]here appropriate . . . counseling and therapeutic services, educational services including life skills services and planning services to successfully transition residents back to the community”
North Carolina	No	No	N/A	N/A
North Dakota	No	No	N/A	N/A
Ohio	No	No	N/A	N/A
Oklahoma	Yes	N/A	No	Appropriate housing, medical care, mental health care, food, legal assistance, safety planning, emergency child welfare services, and other assistance
Oregon	No <sup>4</sup>	No	N/A	N/A
Pennsylvania	Yes	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	No	Unspecified services
South Carolina	Yes	N/A	No	“[P]hysical and mental health, housing, education, job training, child care, legal and other services”
South Dakota	No	No	N/A	N/A
Tennessee	No	No	N/A	N/A
Texas	No	Yes	Yes (limited to residential placements)	Individualized services based on the trauma endured by the child, including mental health services, behavioral health services, counseling, treatment for sexual assault, treatment for substance abuse, life skills services, and mentoring
Utah	Yes	N/A	No	Unspecified services

<sup>4</sup> However, Or. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 418.322(2), (3)(c) (Placement in congregate care residential setting; limitations) alludes to specialized services being provided by some child-caring agencies.

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Vermont	No	No	N/A	N/A
Virginia	No	Yes	Yes (requirement applies only to children who enter child welfare on a report alleging sex trafficking victimization)	Protective and rehabilitative services
Washington	Yes	N/A	No	Appropriate, available, community-based services
West Virginia	No	Yes	No	“[A]ppropriate child welfare services including, but not limited to, 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	No	N/A	N/A
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>26 states</b> <i>statutorily require</i> child welfare to provide access to specialized services.	<b>7 states<sup>5</sup></b> <i>statutorily authorize</i> child welfare to provide access to specialized services.		

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<sup>5</sup> Though not technically a state, District of Columbia has been included in the overall state count for statistical purposes.