



Report Cards on Child & Youth Sex Trafficking

State Action. National Change.

2023

T O O L K I T



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HOW TO USE THIS TOOLKIT

THIS TOOLKIT IS INTENDED TO BE USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE REPORT CARDS

on Child & Youth Sex Trafficking materials available online at reportcards.sharedhope.org. Those materials are organized by state and by the six areas of law analyzed under the advanced legislative framework and are designed to be printed and used in conjunction with this Toolkit to compile a customized analysis for your state and your key issues. To identify the important issues for your state, review your state's Analysis Report, which includes recommendations for addressing statutory gaps under the advanced legislative framework.

RESOURCES BY STATE

REPORT CARDS

Report Cards include an overall score, individual scores for each of the six issue areas, and summaries describing areas of strength and weakness. They also include state-specific highlights that address new legislation, legal trends, statutes, and statistics.

ANALYSIS REPORTS

Analysis Reports provide a thorough review of each state's statutes related to both offender accountability and victim protections while providing recommendations for addressing gaps in those laws. Though not graded on, promising practices, policies, and initiatives may also be highlighted within a state's Analysis Report to provide a complementary narrative to the statutory analysis.

RESOURCES BY AREA OF LAW

ISSUE BRIEFS

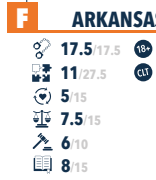
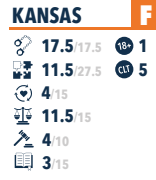
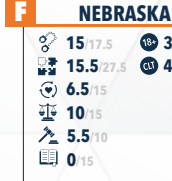
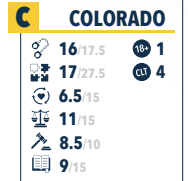
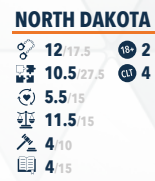
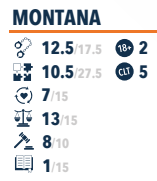
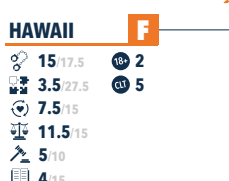
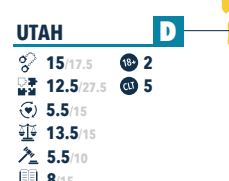
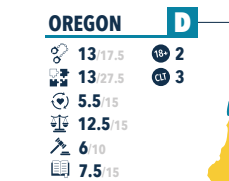
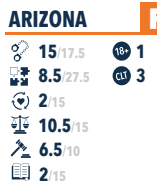
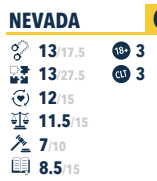
The advanced legislative framework is made up of 40 policy goals. Issue Briefs provide insight into the significance of each policy goal, considerations for drafting legislation, and links to related resources.

NATIONAL STATE LAW SURVEYS

National State Law Surveys identify state-by-state progress in enacting laws that address specific issues analyzed under the advanced legislative framework, providing a snapshot of the nation overall in a chart.

► **CUSTOMIZE YOUR TOOLKIT AT** reportcards.sharedhope.org

MAP OF STATE GRADES



PURPOSE

OVER A DECADE AGO, SHARED HOPE DEVELOPED THE NATION'S FIRST LEGAL FRAME-work that challenged states to enact laws that comprehensively address the crime of child sex trafficking. When we launched the Protected Innocence Challenge—and issued the inaugural State Report Cards—the majority of states received an “F” grade, reflecting the reality that many states’ laws failed to even recognize the crime of child sex trafficking. Since then, we have been working to lay the foundation for transformational policy, practice, and cultural change by supporting state legislators and stakeholders to identify gaps in the fabric of laws needed to address these heinous crimes. By 2019, no state received an “F” grade, and a majority of the country received an “A” or “B.”

Comprehensive and accessible victim protections are, undoubtedly, the most crucial components of a strong response to child sex trafficking and, yet, as a nation we continue to fall behind.

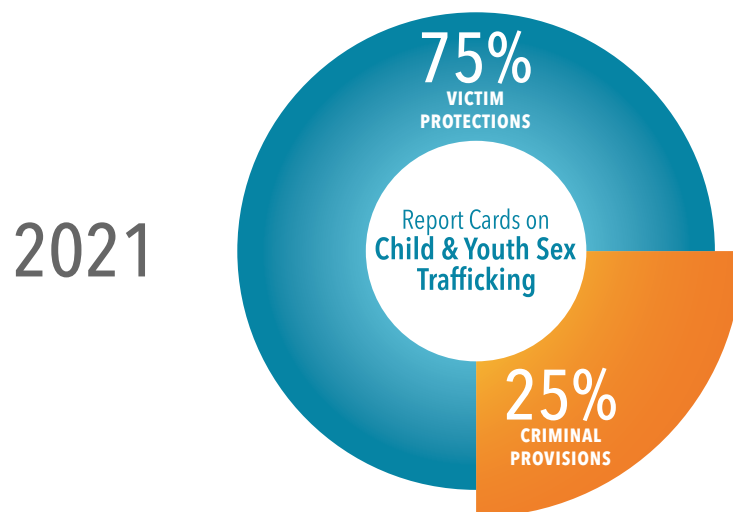
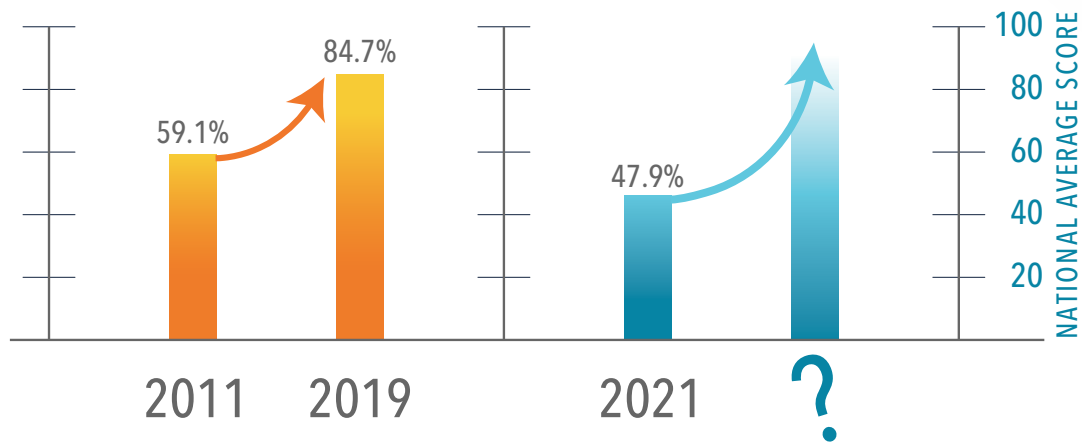
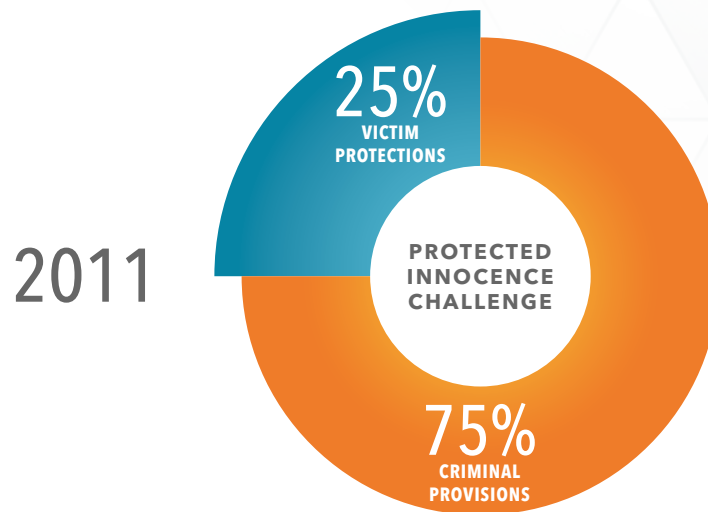
The Protected Innocence Challenge project was Shared Hope’s vision for mobilizing collective state action to ensure national change. Years of grassroots mobilization, advocacy, technical assistance, and consistent collaboration allowed this vision to become reality. All states now have a child sex trafficking law and, collectively, the country has made exciting progress to provide imperative protections

and access to specialized services for child survivors. However, new research and opportunities to listen to survivors has provided waves of information that require us, as a nation, to confront where we are and where we should be going. The Report Cards on Child & Youth Sex Trafficking Legislative Framework will build on the original Protected Innocence Challenge Framework, preserving the most fundamental components while including new policy priorities that reflect feedback and research from the field. Specifically, this advanced legislative framework focuses largely on victim protection laws, including policies pertaining to specialized service responses and access to justice. Comprehensive and accessible victim protections are, undoubtedly, the most crucial components of a strong response to child sex trafficking and, yet, as a nation we continue to fall behind.

Importantly, this framework also acknowledges the intersection of child sex trafficking with child labor trafficking and the unique challenges faced by youth age 18+. As such, several policy goals of the advanced legislative framework are eligible for receiving extra credit when state law extends the protective policy to child victims of labor trafficking and/or youth age 18+. For a complete list of eligible policy goals, please see the Extra Credit section of the framework below.

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SHIFT IN FRAMEWORK FOCUS



METHODOLOGY

BUILDING UPON 10 YEARS OF FOUNDATIONAL RESEARCH UNDER THE PROTECTED INNOCENCE Challenge (PIC), Shared Hope International undertook this re-imagining of the PIC Framework to include advanced policies and practices designed to shape the next 10 years of policy development at the state level. Through expert convenings, the JuST Response Council, and a nationwide survey, Shared Hope drew on the expertise of individuals in the field to identify challenges as well as promising practices related to victim protections. Specifically, the Report Cards on Child & Youth Sex Trafficking Legislative Framework was developed with the input of the Research to Action Stakeholder Workgroup and supported by in-depth vector outreach to state attorneys general, governors, and state agency human trafficking coordinators.

RESEARCH TO ACTION STAKEHOLDER WORKGROUP

In April 2019, Shared Hope convened over 60 leaders in the anti-trafficking movement from around the country, hosting a gathering in Phoenix, Arizona, to engage in conversation around the implementation and enforcement of state laws. Attendees divided into workgroups based on their fields of expertise (e.g., law enforcement, service providers, state agencies, and policy stakeholders), each tasked with identifying gaps and emerging trends based on their collective experiences. Attendees then reconvened for a larger group discussion on steps to move the nation closer to ending the scourge of child sex trafficking.

Following the Arizona convening, Shared Hope distributed a nationwide survey, seeking a broad range of perspectives on the challenges and successes of implementing laws that combat child sex trafficking and address the needs of survivors. This outreach was critical for developing the Report Cards on Child & Youth Sex Trafficking Legislative Framework as it connects Shared Hope's policy work with emerging and established promising practices from a diverse field. Over 200 responses were collected and considered.

In October 2019, Shared Hope once again convened state stakeholders from around the country in Cincinnati, Ohio, this time moderating panels on victim-centered prosecutions and service responses, which were carefully designed to generate robust discussion and to create a space to tackle barriers that currently impact the field. Panelists shared the challenges and successes in their jurisdictions, and individual attendees were encouraged to share what they had observed as promising practices in the field.

Based on the wealth of information shared by Research to Action participants, Shared Hope drafted the Report Cards on Child & Youth Sex Trafficking Legislative Framework. The draft framework took into consideration, and addressed, many of the challenging issues identified through the breakout sessions, panel discussions, and nationwide survey. As a final step, Research to Action stakeholders were consulted to review and provide feedback on the draft framework.

VETTOR REVIEW

The Report Cards on Child & Youth Sex Trafficking Legislative Framework has undergone several rounds of review to ensure that the next stage of policy development at the state level will be informed by the experiences of those who regularly tackle the challenge of responding to child sex trafficking and observing the implementation of states' laws as intended. Those invited to vet the framework included Research to Action stakeholders and Shared Hope's JuST Response Council, a group of over 30 experts from around the country who collaborate to improve responses to child sex trafficking victims, including policy advocates, government officials, medical professionals, law enforcement, judges, academics, and service providers, many of whom are themselves survivors of sex trafficking. State attorneys general, governors, statewide coordinators, and task force supervisors were also asked to review and advise on the framework and, similarly, are invited to vet the related legal analysis each year before grades are released.

Report Cards on **Child & Youth Sex Trafficking** **LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK**

The resulting Report Cards on Child & Youth Sex Trafficking Legislative Framework is comprised of 40 policy goals for each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia. These laws are grouped into the following six issue areas:



ISSUE 1:

Criminal Provisions



ISSUE 2:

Identification of &
Response to Victims



ISSUE 3:

Continuum of Care



ISSUE 4:

Access to Justice for
Trafficking Survivors



ISSUE 5:

Tools for a Victim-
Centered Criminal Justice
Response



ISSUE 6:

Prevention & Training

This framework is designed to provide a consistent measure of state progress while simultaneously operating as a dynamic tool to account for ever-evolving practices that are informing and shaping system responses to child sex trafficking victims. As such, the framework will be able to adapt to incorporate the expanded knowledge that comes from implementation.

GRADING

The Report Cards on Child & Youth Sex Trafficking Legislative Framework assigns a point value of 0 to 2.5 for each of the 40 critical policy goals included under the six issue areas noted above. That score is based on a written point allocation scheme. Those scores are added together to determine the total score, which translates to the corresponding letter grade.

After receiving full credit for satisfying an applicable policy goal, states are eligible for extra credit if that same protective policy is provided to youth age 18+ and/or child labor trafficking victims. Extra credit only applies to the policy goals listed in the extra credit section of the framework. States can earn up to 1 point of extra credit per policy goal with a max of 5 points for protections extended to youth age 18+ and a max of 5 points for protections extended to child labor trafficking victims (i.e. a max of 10 points total).

TIER RANKING

Another way the Report Cards on Child & Youth Sex Trafficking will measure progress is through a Tier system that will help states understand how they are doing compared to other states. Especially at this stage where grades are clustered at lower levels, the Tiers help to show states where they are on a spectrum. This provides another way for states to evaluate the progress they make beyond changes to their letter grade.

THE TIERS ARE STRUCTURED AS FOLLOWS:

- ▶ **TIER 1 = TOP 10 SCORES**
- ▶ **TIER 2 = MIDDLE 31 SCORES**
- ▶ **TIER 3 = BOTTOM 10 SCORES**

STATUTORY LAW ANALYSIS

It is important to note that the point allocation rubric looks solely at enacted statutes in a given state and their alignment with the Report Cards on Child & Youth Sex Trafficking Legislative Framework at the time of review. This analysis does not review caselaw, agency rules, or regulations. While we recognize the importance of policy to facilitate responses, grading on statutory law provides a clear mechanism for evaluating policy goals across all states while ensuring that survivor-centered reforms are an enduring part of states' service responses and represent a long-term commitment to addressing the needs of sex trafficked children and youth.

Shared Hope acknowledges the critically important role that implementation and enforcement play. For that reason, we regularly consult with the field on application of the laws analyzed under the framework and factor these considerations into our technical assistance. Further, we invite stakeholders from across the country to share promising practices, policies, and initiatives through our Insights from the Field process. Though not graded on, shared highlights are included within the relevant state's Analysis Report, providing a complementary narrative to the statutory analysis to paint a more complete picture of the state's anti-child sex trafficking response from the perspective of field experts.

DEFINITIONS

CHILD: This term refers to any person under the age of 18.

CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING VICTIM: The term “child sex trafficking victim” refers to any child who has experienced commercial sexual exploitation, regardless of whether anyone is charged or prosecuted in connection with their victimization and regardless of the prosecuted offense. This term includes a victim who is trafficked within the borders of the United States, regardless of their nationality, country of origin, or immigration status.

COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN (CSEC): The phrase “commercial sexual exploitation of children” (or “CSEC”) encompasses a variety of criminal offenses committed against a child in which the child engages, or agrees to engage, in a sex act in exchange for something of value either directly or through a third party.¹ Appropriately crafted CSEC laws can be important, additional tools available in a prosecution of child sex trafficking conduct by supplementing available penalties under the trafficking law and providing additional options for plea negotiations without requiring prosecutors to rely on unrelated or low-level offenses in that context. For this reason, we analyze trafficking laws separately from CSEC laws—even though both involve commercial sexual exploitation.

NON-CRIMINALIZATION: Non-criminalization laws should prohibit arresting, detaining, charging, and prosecuting all minors for prostitution offenses, regardless of whether a finding of trafficking victimization is made, and, instead, require law enforcement to direct child and youth survivors to specialized services and care. Non-criminalization laws should also prohibit criminalizing child sex trafficking survivors for other crimes committed as a result of their victimization.

SAFE HARBOR: This term refers to a law that protects victims from a punitive response and directs them toward restorative and protective services. This term includes non-criminalization.

TRAUMA-INFORMED: This term refers to policies, programs, or practices that reflect an understanding of the vulnerabilities and experiences of trauma survivors, placing priority on restoring the survivor’s feelings of safety, autonomy, and control.²

VICTIM/SURVIVOR: This term refers to any person who has been subjected to conduct that violates the sex trafficking law. This report uses “victim” and “survivor” interchangeably to align with statutory language and cross-agency terminology. Shared Hope recognizes that individuals who have experienced trafficking are survivors at all stages of their abuse and recovery and are not defined by their victimization. Shared Hope also recognizes that people with lived experience with trafficking may refer to themselves in many ways, which may or may not include the terms “victim” and/or “survivor.”

VICTIM-CENTERED: This term refers to policies, programs, or practices that prioritize the needs and interests of survivors while safeguarding against re-traumatization.³

VICTIM-OFFENDER (VO): For purposes of this report, “victim-offender” refers to an individual who has been subjected to sex trafficking victimization and is alleged to have engaged in conduct that violates the sex trafficking law. However, any discussion of VOs in this report may also have application to cases involving trafficking victims charged with other serious crimes that are not trafficking but are, nevertheless, related to their trafficking victimization.

VICTIM-OFFENDER INTERSECTIONALITY (VOI): For purposes of this report, this term refers to the phenomenon of sex trafficking victims alleged to have engaged in conduct that violates the sex trafficking law. Under this definition, the trafficking violation could involve a broad range of conduct, including recruitment, transportation, advertising, and harboring.

YOUTH: For purposes of this report, this term refers to any person between 18 and 24 years of age (i.e. 18 to 23 year olds).

NOTE ON LANGUAGE: We separately define child sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC), the latter encompassing a wide variety of criminal offenses that (1) are either specifically protective of children or provide an enhanced penalty when the victim is a child; (2) have a commercial component to the crime; and (3) involve some form of sex act or promise thereof. CSEC laws address, among other acts, prostitution-related activity, enticement, grooming, and sex tourism. While the conduct prohibited under CSEC laws generally overlaps with conduct prohibited under the child sex trafficking law, CSEC laws are a distinct category of offenses because they are not codified as trafficking within state statute.

Our reports do not analyze laws related to child sexual abuse material (CSAM) even though CSAM can intersect with child sex trafficking and CSEC.

1 *Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children*, OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUSTICE DELINQUENCY PREVENTION, <https://ojjdp.ojp.gov/programs/commercial-sexual-exploitation-children> (last visited Oct. 23, 2023).

2 Glossary, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, OFFICE FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME <https://ovc.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh226/files/model-standards/5/glossary.html> (last visited Oct. 23, 2023).

3 *Id.*

KEYSTONE STATUTES

- ▶ State laws addressing child sex trafficking
- ▶ State laws addressing commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC)

LIKE THE KEYSTONE THAT PROVIDES STABILITY AND STRUCTURE TO A BUILDING, state laws that criminalize child sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) create the infrastructure for combatting child sex trafficking and protecting child victims. These keystone statutes have ensured that state laws specifically criminalize trafficking of all minors under 18 for CSE without requiring force, fraud, and coercion and criminalize the entire range of potential CSEC conduct. They provide the essential foundation on which the provisions within the Report Cards on Child & Youth Sex Trafficking are built. When Shared Hope first commenced the Protected Innocence Challenge (PIC) in 2011, many states lacked these fundamental laws. In fact, many states did not have a child sex trafficking statute, let alone a robust set of laws that appropriately addressed the complexity and nuances of the crime. Presently, all states have child sex trafficking laws and the vast majority have at least one CSEC statute. Accordingly, these components of the PIC framework have been fulfilled and will no longer be graded as a part of the advanced legislative framework. Instead, these keystone statutes will be analyzed from a historical perspective as they provide the foundation for the critical next steps that will drive the next wave of state action and national change.

ADVANCED LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

6 **ISSUE AREAS** IDENTIFIED:

CRIMINAL
PROVISIONS

IDENTIFICATION OF &
RESPONSE TO VICTIMS

CONTINUUM
OF CARE

ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR
TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS

TOOLS FOR A VICTIM-CENTERED
CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSE

PREVENTION
& TRAINING

40 **POLICY GOALS** ANALYZED:

110 **TOTAL POINTS** AWARDED:

States earn up to 2.5
points per policy goal

100 possible points

Extra credit: Protections
for labor and youth 18+

plus up to 10 points

FINAL LETTER GRADES ASSIGNED:

A | 90-110 **B** | 80-89 **C** | 70-79 **D** | 60-69 **F** | <60

ADVANCED LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

1. CRIMINAL PROVISIONS

Clear criminal laws, including those that criminalize buyers of sex with children, are needed to ensure all sex trafficking offenders can be held accountable.

POLICY GOAL 1.1: The child sex trafficking law is expressly applicable to buyers of commercial sex with any minor under 18.

Mirroring the federal law, state child sex trafficking statute(s) should unequivocally apply to the conduct of buyers by criminalizing the act of “purchasing” or “patronizing” a minor for sex, regardless of the child’s age. States with existing ambiguous language (i.e. “obtains,” “causes,” or “procures”) should mitigate the risk of prosecutorial or judicial misinterpretation and add clear buyer conduct to the child sex trafficking statute(s).

POLICY GOAL 1.2: Commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) laws specifically criminalize purchasing or soliciting commercial sex with any minor under 18.

In addition to using the child sex trafficking law to prosecute buyers, law enforcement and prosecutors should also be able to investigate and charge a wide range of buyer conduct under state CSEC laws. These laws must clearly apply to buyers by criminalizing the act or attempt to solicit, purchase, or patronize a minor for sex without requiring an additional and limiting actus reus (e.g., use of computer to solicit the minor, transporting the minor). Historically, CSEC laws did not provide protections for older minors; to ensure this inadequacy is addressed, states should not limit buyer-applicable CSEC laws to younger minors.

POLICY GOAL 1.3: Commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) laws apply to traffickers and protect all minors under 18.

Child sex trafficking cases are complicated to investigate and prosecute, making it imperative for law enforcement and prosecutors to have a variety of offenses in addition to the trafficking offense that cover an array of exploitive conduct. State CSEC laws should protect all minors under 18 without requiring an additional and limiting actus reus (e.g., use of computer to solicit the minor, transporting the minor).

POLICY GOAL 1.4: Mistake of age is not an available defense in child sex trafficking prosecutions.

The harm caused by buyers and traffickers is not mitigated by the offender’s apparent ignorance regarding the child victim’s age, and the offender, not the child victim, should bear the risk of that

mistake. As such, state law should clearly prohibit buyers and traffickers from asserting a mistake of age defense in prosecutions for child sex trafficking involving victims who are under 18 years of age.

POLICY GOAL 1.5: Use of a law enforcement decoy is not an available defense in child sex trafficking cases.

Permitting law enforcement to pose as a minor for the purpose of investigating sex trafficking is essential to fighting the crime without risking actual harm to children. Child sex trafficking laws should expressly prohibit buyers and traffickers from raising a defense that the person solicited was not an actual minor.

POLICY GOAL 1.6: Business entities can be held criminally liable for conduct that violates the trafficking law.

Laws that clearly provide for business entity liability support law enforcement and prosecutors' ability to investigate and prosecute offending entities that may not be directly involved in trafficking conduct but, instead, aid, assist, or enable the trafficking enterprise for purposes of financial gain.

POLICY GOAL 1.7: State law mandates that financial penalties are levied on sex trafficking and CSEC offenders and are directed to a victim services fund.

Financial penalties may function as both a deterrent for offenders and a victim services funding stream, the latter providing a valuable resource for ensuring much needed services are adequately funded and available statewide. Accordingly, state asset forfeiture laws should direct a percentage of a sex trafficking or CSEC offender's forfeited assets toward a victim services fund. Additionally, states should assess a mandatory fee against sex trafficking and CSEC offenders that is also directed toward a victim services fund.

ADVANCED LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

2. IDENTIFICATION OF & RESPONSE TO VICTIMS

States' laws must identify all commercially sexually exploited children as victims of trafficking and provide for a protective, rather than punitive, response.

POLICY GOAL 2.1: The definition of child sex trafficking victim in the criminal code includes all commercially sexually exploited children without requiring third party control.

It is imperative that all CSE minors are rightfully identified as victims of child sex trafficking. This legal designation importantly facilitates a victim's ability to access opportunities for protection, services, and justice that are specifically designed for child sex trafficking victims. As such, the core child sex trafficking law should include all minors who experience commercial sex, regardless of whether the minor has, or identifies, a third party controller.

POLICY GOAL 2.2: State law provides policy guidance to facilitate access to services and assistance for trafficked foreign national children.

State statutory responses to child sex trafficking should protect all victims regardless of immigration status; however, foreign national victims of child sex trafficking are regularly barred from accessing critical services, benefits, and protections provided for under state law. As such, state law should provide policy guidance for stakeholders who interact with and serve foreign national children to facilitate access to care and benefits and mitigate the collateral consequences of working with this population (e.g., under-identification, punitive immigration proceedings).

POLICY GOAL 2.3: State law mandates child welfare agencies to conduct trauma-informed CSEC screening for children at risk of sex trafficking.

Under federal law, child sex trafficking victims fall under the definition of abuse and neglect and are entitled to specialized services through child welfare. Additionally, children already involved in the child welfare system are disproportionately more likely to have experienced or be at risk of experiencing commercial sexual exploitation. To ensure identification of victimization and the provision of specialized care, as well as the prevention of future harm, child welfare agencies should adopt trauma-informed CSEC screening measures to screen children at risk of sex trafficking.

POLICY GOAL 2.4: State law mandates juvenile justice agencies to conduct trauma-informed CSEC screening of children at risk of sex trafficking.

Commercially sexually exploited minors are disproportionately more likely to be involved in the juvenile justice system for offenses related to their trafficking victimization or offenses committed as a result of other life circumstances. Juvenile justice, as a rehabilitation and child serving entity,

plays an important role in identifying and providing an appropriate, service-based response to all CSE children in its care. To ensure identification of victimization and the provision of specialized care, as well as the prevention of future harm, juvenile justice agencies should be mandated to adopt trauma-informed CSEC screening measures to screen children at risk of sex trafficking.

POLICY GOAL 2.5: State law prohibits the criminalization of minors under 18 for prostitution offenses and establishes a services-referral protocol as an alternative to arrest.

Commercially sexually exploited minors are not prostitution offenders; contrarily, all minors who experience commercial sex are victims of sex trafficking and should be identified and responded to as such. The state prostitution statute should be clearly inapplicable to persons under 18 years of age, regardless of whether a finding of trafficking victimization is made. Instead, state law should establish a protocol that prohibits punitive forms of custody, such as arrest, and requires law enforcement to direct the child to specialized services.

POLICY GOAL 2.6: State law prohibits the criminalization of child sex trafficking victims for status offenses, and misdemeanor and non-violent felony offenses committed as a result of their trafficking victimization.

Recognizing that many child sex trafficking victims are forced or compelled to engage in other criminal conduct as a result of their victimization, state non-criminalization laws should extend to offenses beyond prostitution, including status offenses as well as misdemeanor and non-violent felony offenses committed pursuant to trafficking victimization.

POLICY GOAL 2.7: State law prohibits the criminalization of child sex trafficking victims for sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation offenses, including accomplice and co-conspirator liability, committed as a result of their trafficking victimization.

Aligning with their underlying victimization, child sex trafficking victims should not be charged as sex trafficking offenders or as accomplices alongside their exploiters. Prohibiting the criminalization of child sex trafficking victims for sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation offenses committed as a result of their trafficking victimization accounts for the actual dynamics of trafficking, the nature and extent of control exerted by sex traffickers, and the influence of trauma on the decision-making process and behavior of sex trafficking survivors.

POLICY GOAL 2.8: State law provides child sex trafficking victims with an affirmative defense to violent felonies committed as a result of their trafficking victimization.

A sex trafficking-specific affirmative defense allows sex trafficking victims accused of engaging in criminal conduct as a result of their victimization to assert a defense to prosecution and potentially avoid criminal liability if successful. Due to the forceful nature of violent felonies and the oftentimes severe harm caused to the crime victim, an affirmative defense is likely a more appropriate route than providing non-criminalization protections because an affirmative defense would shift the bur-

den to the accused to establish that they should not be held criminally liable for the harm caused. Accordingly, a child sex trafficking victim would need to establish their victimization and prove the nexus between the violent felony and their own victimization to benefit from this protection.

POLICY GOAL 2.9: Juvenile court jurisdiction provides for a developmentally appropriate response.

To ensure the provision of a developmentally appropriate response, all minors under 18 should be afforded the child-centered and rehabilitative-focused services that are connected to the juvenile justice system. This policy further protects CSE minors who have disproportionately higher rates of juvenile justice involvement for offenses related to their victimization or offenses committed as a result of other life circumstances.

POLICY GOAL 2.10: State law defines child abuse to include child sex trafficking to ensure access to child welfare services.

Federal law requires that child sex trafficking be defined and treated as a form of child abuse. However, state and local child welfare systems have historically been prohibited or underutilized in coordinating and/or providing a specialized response in child sex trafficking cases. To ensure that all reports of child sex trafficking are investigated or assessed and that all victims are afforded access to child welfare services, states should expressly identify child sex trafficking as a form of child abuse.

POLICY GOAL 2.11: State law allows for child welfare involvement in sex trafficking cases that do not involve caregiver fault and provides for an alternative, specialized response in those cases.

Child welfare's ability to respond in child sex trafficking and CSEC cases should not hinge on whether a parent, guardian, or other person responsible for the child's welfare is responsible for, or fails to prevent, the child's harm. Further, state law should provide for an alternative, specialized response in non-caregiver trafficking cases to ensure appropriate handling of these cases and the safety of the child.

ADVANCED LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

3. CONTINUUM OF CARE

To break the cycle of exploitation, state laws must provide victims access to funded, trauma-informed services.

POLICY GOAL 3.1: State law mandates a process for coordinating access to specialized services for child sex trafficking victims that does not require involvement in child-serving systems.

Survivors of child sex trafficking often have complex needs that cannot be addressed by a single agency or service provider; instead, survivors need support from a number of service providers addressing various needs. It is important that child sex trafficking victims not only receive a broad array of treatment but also that treatment is specialized to the unique trauma associated with commercial sexual exploitation. Further, these services should be provided through a number of entry points, including those that do not require involvement in child-serving systems, such as child welfare or juvenile justice. As such, the process for connecting child victims with community-based services should be statutorily mandated to ensure consistent, ongoing, comprehensive, statewide access to services for all impacted children and youth.

POLICY GOAL 3.2: State law provides for a survivor-centered multi-disciplinary team response to child sex trafficking cases.

A specialized multi-disciplinary team (MDT) approach in child sex trafficking cases ensures a coordinated response that addresses the holistic needs of survivors throughout the criminal justice and service response processes. Through MDTs, law enforcement, service providers, advocates, and other professionals work collaboratively to prioritize the wellbeing of the survivor and provide trauma-informed support and services.

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

Child welfare has an important and unescapable role in responding to child maltreatment involving commercial sexual exploitation. As such, it is imperative that child welfare is prepared to complement community-based service responses. Ideally, state law should require child welfare to ensure access to comprehensive services and support for all child and youth survivors while eliminating barriers to ensure services are impactful and accessible. Accordingly, state law should ensure that child welfare is positioned—through mandates and adequate funding—to provide access to comprehensive services for all child and youth survivors.

POLICY GOAL 3.4: State law requires the juvenile justice system to provide access to specialized services for identified sex trafficked children and youth.

State law should ensure juvenile justice-involved trafficking victims have access to specialized services and care. Such services are imperative for addressing past harm while ideally preventing future exploitation. Additionally, specialized services and care should be accessible to all identified victims, regardless of whether they participate in a diversion process.

POLICY GOAL 3.5: State law extends foster care services to older foster youth.

Youth age 18-22 years old are acutely vulnerable to exploitation. Frequently barred from accessing services and care specific to children, youth are forced, oftentimes overnight, to coordinate the provision of their own basic needs with little support. To mitigate vulnerabilities, ensure a continuum of care, and provide a bridge between adolescence and adulthood, state law should extend foster care services to youth under 23 years of age.

POLICY GOAL 3.6: State funding is appropriated to support specialized services and a continuum of care for sex trafficked children regardless of system involvement.

Over the years, state legislatures have made significant changes to state laws addressing care and protection for child sex trafficking victims. However, such advancements cannot be fully implemented without adequate funding; as such, state legislatures should make appropriations to specifically support specialized CSEC services and a continuum of care through community-based services or non-governmental organizations.

ADVANCED LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

4. ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS

A range of civil and criminal justice remedies must be available for victims under the law.

POLICY GOAL 4.1: State law allows trafficking victims to seek emergency civil orders of protection.

Presently, most states provide opportunities for victims of intimate partner violence and sexual assault to seek emergency orders of protection against their offenders. These protections are imperative for documenting violence, identifying offenders, and insulating victims from future harm, regardless of whether there are criminal charges pending against their offenders. To ensure this same opportunity for justice and protection, state law should allow victims of sex trafficking to pursue and receive *ex parte* civil orders of protection.

POLICY GOAL 4.2: Ineligibility factors for crime victims' compensation do not prevent victims of child sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) from accessing compensation.

Crime victim compensation (CVC) is a valuable tool for receiving support to offset the financial impact experienced by crime victims, including costs associated with receiving physical and mental health care or lost income. However, many states' CVC laws prohibit the provision of financial awards or reduce the amount based upon a number of factors, including the timeliness of a victim's report to law enforcement and cooperation in a related investigation, the victim's contributory fault, and CVC filing deadlines. However, these factors are incompatible with the realities of trafficking victimization. To ensure CSE minors have access to critical financial support to increase stabilization and healing, CVC laws should provide specific exceptions to all ineligibility factors for victims of sex trafficking and CSEC.

POLICY GOAL 4.3: Sex trafficked children and youth may vacate delinquency adjudications and criminal convictions for any offense arising from trafficking victimization.

Sex trafficked children and youth are commonly compelled to commit juvenile and criminal offenses. In addition to harms caused by criminalization, related records present detrimental challenges and barriers to seeking safe housing, meaningful employment, and educational opportunities. To prevent ongoing discrimination and harm, state law should allow sex trafficked children and youth to seek vacatur relief for adjudications or convictions received as a result of their trafficking victimization.

POLICY GOAL 4.4: State law mandates restitution for child sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) offenses.

Restitution is critical for survivors' attainment of justice and for providing a meaningful form of punishment for offenders. In addition to serving as a financial penalty, requiring restitution orders as a part of child sex trafficking and CSEC sentences can support survivors' ability to obtain comprehensive services without being left with significant out-of-pocket costs.

POLICY GOAL 4.5: State law provides child sex trafficking victims with a trafficking-specific civil remedy.

The ability to pursue civil remedies against trafficking perpetrators is an important and practical aspect of justice. State law should provide victims of child sex trafficking with a specific opportunity to pursue civil relief to support full restoration for damages suffered.

POLICY GOAL 4.6: Statutes of limitation for criminal and civil actions for child sex trafficking or commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) offenses are eliminated to allow prosecutors and victims a realistic opportunity to pursue criminal action and legal remedies.

Eliminating both criminal and civil statute of limitations (SoL) for child sex trafficking and CSEC offenses is a necessary and trauma-informed approach to supporting survivors' access to justice. Importantly, the elimination of SoLs recognizes the complexity of identifying and reporting victimization as well as the challenges of investigating and building successful cases against offenders.

ADVANCED LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

5. TOOLS FOR A VICTIM-CENTERED CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSE

Criminal justice procedures for the benefit and protection of victims must be provided under the law.

POLICY GOAL 5.1: Non-testimonial evidence may be admitted through a child sex trafficking-specific hearsay exception to reduce reliance on victim testimony.

Child sex trafficking cases present an array of evidentiary challenges, including the difficulty of corroborating allegations of a crime that is oftentimes hidden. However, child victims often make out-of-court statements to trusted adults in their lives that, per states' evidentiary rules, may be barred from being admitted in proceedings against their offenders. To overcome this challenge, states should enact hearsay exceptions, allowing a victim's non-testimonial out-of-court statements to be admitted into evidence.

POLICY GOAL 5.2: State law provides child sex trafficking victims with alternatives to live, in-court testimony regardless of the prosecuted offense.

Oftentimes, victim-witness testimony is the link between an allegation of sex trafficking and a successful conviction of the offender. Yet, the act of testifying, particularly in the presence of the perpetrator, can be a highly traumatic process. To mitigate the risk of re-traumatization and support the child's ability to provide accurate testimony regarding their exploitation insulated from the influence of fear, state law should allow all child sex trafficking victims, regardless of the prosecuted offense or the child's age, with alternatives to live, in-court testimony, including testimony by closed circuit television or videotaped deposition.

POLICY GOAL 5.3: Child sex trafficking victims have access to victim protections in the criminal justice system.

Reporting a crime and participating in a resulting investigation and prosecution can be daunting for any crime victim; however, it is particularly intimidating for child victims of sexual violence, including child sex trafficking. To lessen the presence and impact of fear, state law should ensure that child sex trafficking victims are afforded access to victim protections during the criminal justice process, including court record confidentiality, courtroom supports, and a victim advocate. The availability of these victim protections can also play an important role in supporting a positive rapport between the child victim and law enforcement, ultimately contributing towards more successful investigations and prosecutions.

POLICY GOAL 5.4: State law provides for privileged communications between caseworkers and child sex trafficking victims.

Trust is an essential component of a productive child-case worker relationship. When trust is established, child victims often disclose aspects of their victimization that, if made available to others, could adversely impact the child, including disclosure of criminal conduct. However, that trust can be broken when caseworkers are compelled to divulge to law enforcement, or in the course of a prosecution, sensitive and/or potentially incriminating statements made by the child. To protect the child, foster productive child-caseworker relationships, and ultimately promote healing, states should enact child sex trafficking-specific caseworker privilege laws that protect a child sex trafficking victim's communications with a caseworker from being disclosed during the prosecution related to the child's trafficking victimization.

ADVANCED LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

6. PREVENTION AND TRAINING

To help prevent trafficking and promote more just responses to child sex trafficking victims, training for child welfare, juvenile justice agencies, law enforcement, prosecutors, and school personnel as well as prevention education for students, must be required by law.

POLICY GOAL 6.1: State law mandates statewide training for child welfare agencies on identification and response to child sex trafficking.

Child welfare agencies play an important role in identifying exploitation, caring for victims, and preventing future harm. However, statewide training on child sex trafficking is critical for empowering a strong and appropriate child welfare response. At a minimum, and in compliance with federal law, state law should require the provision of statewide training on child sex trafficking identification and response for all child welfare employees.

POLICY GOAL 6.2: State law mandates statewide training for juvenile justice agencies on identification and response to child sex trafficking.

Research demonstrates that child sex trafficking victims are over-represented in the juvenile justice system, oftentimes unbeknownst to the agencies themselves. To facilitate identification and the provision of appropriate care, state law should mandate the provision of training on identification and appropriate responses to child sex trafficking for all juvenile justice agency personnel.

POLICY GOAL 6.3: State law mandates ongoing, trafficking-specific training on victim-centered investigations for law enforcement.

Law enforcement's response to child sex trafficking has a tremendous impact on the well-being of the child victim and the trajectory of the case. Law enforcement are often the first to encounter a child sex trafficking victim, making it critically important that they have the knowledge, skills, and resources to deliver a safe and trauma-informed response. Law enforcement can facilitate strong prosecutions when equipped with the information and tools necessary for conducting a comprehensive, victim-centered trafficking investigation. As such, state law should mandate the provision of training on child sex trafficking at both the academy and continued in-service training levels.

POLICY GOAL 6.4: State law mandates trafficking-specific training on victim-centered investigations and prosecutions for prosecutors.

Prosecutors have an enormous potential to positively impact the lives of child victims and secure justice against their offenders. Prosecutors also face particular challenges as they may be both in the position of working with child sex trafficking victims as victim-witnesses and also in the position of prosecuting child sex trafficking victims for crimes committed as a result of sex trafficking vic-

timization. To support prosecutors' role in ensuring child victims' access to justice in the criminal justice process, state law should mandate the provision of training on child sex trafficking to facilitate appropriate charging and plea-bargaining decisions and support victim-centered prosecutions.

POLICY GOAL 6.5: State law mandates child sex trafficking training for school personnel.

School personnel, including teachers and school counselors, who understand the dynamics of child sex trafficking are more likely to identify trafficking exploitation and will be better equipped to respond appropriately. State law should require the provision of such prevention education training in all public schools.

POLICY GOAL 6.6: State law mandates child sex trafficking prevention education in schools.

A developmentally and age-appropriate child sex trafficking curriculum can serve as a valuable tool for supporting students' ability to recognize and safely report suspected or known personal exploitative experiences or the experiences of their peers. State law should require the provision of such prevention education in all public schools.

ADVANCED LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

EXTRA CREDIT

In recognition of the impact that specific policies have on youth age 18+ and/or on minors who experience sex and labor trafficking polyvictimization, several policy goals are eligible for receiving extra credit if state law extends the same protection to youth age 18+ and/or child victims of labor trafficking.

AFTER RECEIVING FULL CREDIT FOR ACHIEVING THE POLICY GOAL SET OUT IN AN APPLICABLE policy goal, states will be eligible for extra credit if that same protective policy is extended to youth age 18+ and/or child labor trafficking victims. Extra credit only applies to the policy goals listed below. States can earn up to 1 point of extra credit per policy goal with a max of 5 points for policy goals extended to youth age 18+ and a max of 5 points for policy goals extended to child labor trafficking victims (i.e. a max of 10 points total).

EXTENSION TO YOUTH AGE 18+

In its landmark decision in *Roper v. Simmons*, the United States Supreme Court recognized that “[t]he qualities that distinguish juveniles from adults do not disappear when an individual turns 18.”¹ This statement shows an important acknowledgment that the transition into adulthood is not an immediate and singular moment that occurs at the point of turning 18 but, instead, a gradual transition that can take place over many years. This is supported by neurobiology, which has revealed that a person’s brain does not fully develop until their early to mid-twenties.² It is also supported by a growing body of research showing that 18 to 24-year-olds share many developmental characteristics with those under 18.³ Moreover, according to a Congressional Research Service Report, youth up to age 24 are still transitioning to adulthood due to cultural and economic trends that have extended adolescence.⁴

In recognition that youth, and in particular vulnerable youth, face barriers and continued vulnerability beyond the age of 18, federal anti-trafficking legislation and programming have created mechanisms for response to youth age 18+. The Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act (2014) provided states with the option of including any young person up to age 26 within child welfare’s policies and procedures addressing screening, documentation, and service response for child sex trafficking victims or those at risk of victimization.⁵ The Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act (2015) also allowed states to define the term “child” to include persons under the age of 24, allowing states to receive funding for child abuse prevention and treatment programs for youth of that age.⁶ Therefore, the importance of policy that specifically addresses youth age 18+ and offers support and protections to this population is acknowledged not only in federal law but also by the U.S. Supreme Court and is supported by neurobiology and research on developmental characteristics.

Further, it is particularly important for state lawmakers to consider the close connection between commercially sexually exploited children and youth. The commercial sexual exploitation of children

is inherently linked with the sex trade at large.⁷ According to a national survey of survivors of child commercial sexual exploitation conducted by THORN, the majority of participants entered the commercial sex industry at age 15; one in six entered before the age of 12.⁸ Therefore, many adults active in the commercial sex industry entered as children.⁹

Vulnerabilities that increase risk of initial victimization and revictimization do not disappear at 18, and, in fact, these vulnerabilities could be exacerbated by a decrease in supports and protections for those over 18 years of age. Importantly, the trauma resulting from sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation also does not stop at age 18. As a result, supports and protections that are offered to child sex trafficking and commercially sexually exploited children in state law, including screening and identification efforts, non-criminalization responses, funding, non-punitive service responses, and victim protections, should be extended to youth age 18+.

ELIGIBLE POLICY GOALS:

2.1	The definition of child sex trafficking victim in the criminal code includes all commercially sexually exploited children without requiring third party control.
2.3	State law mandates child welfare agencies to conduct trauma-informed CSEC screening for children at risk of sex trafficking.
2.4	State law mandates juvenile justice agencies to conduct trauma-informed CSEC screening of children at risk of sex trafficking.
2.5	State law prohibits the criminalization of minors under 18 for prostitution offenses and establishes a services-referral protocol as an alternative to arrest.
2.6	State law prohibits the criminalization of child sex trafficking victims for status offenses, and misdemeanor and non-violent felony offenses committed as a result of their trafficking victimization.
2.8	State law provides child sex trafficking victims with an affirmative defense to violent felonies committed as a result of their trafficking victimization.
2.9	Juvenile court jurisdiction provides for a developmentally appropriate response.
3.1	State law mandates a process for coordinating access to specialized services for child sex trafficking victims that does not require involvement in child-serving systems.
3.2	State law provides for a survivor-centered multi-disciplinary team response to child sex trafficking cases.
3.6	State funding is appropriated to support specialized services and a continuum of care for sex trafficked children regardless of system involvement.
4.2	Ineligibility factors for crime victims' compensation do not prevent victims of child sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) from accessing compensation.
4.5	State law provides child sex trafficking victims with a trafficking-specific civil remedy.
4.6	Statutes of limitation for criminal and civil actions for child sex trafficking or commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) offenses are eliminated to allow prosecutors and victims a realistic opportunity to pursue criminal action and legal remedies.
5.1	Non-testimonial evidence may be admitted through a child sex trafficking-specific hearsay exception to reduce reliance on victim testimony.
5.2	State law provides child sex trafficking victims with alternatives to live, in-court testimony regardless of the prosecuted offense.
5.4	State law provides for privileged communications between caseworkers and child sex trafficking victims.

EXTENSION TO CHILD LABOR TRAFFICKING VICTIMS

The intersection of sex trafficking and labor trafficking victimization is important for state lawmakers to understand and consider as they develop mechanisms for protecting and supporting vulnerable populations. One direct intersection, as multiple studies have shown, is that some minors and young adults experience sex and labor trafficking polyvictimization. Commercially sexually exploited (CSE) children have also been forced and coerced into various forms of labor, such as drug dealing, working in flea markets, commission-based sales jobs, driving other youth, and other sex-trade related labor.¹⁰ This polyvictimization often occurs simultaneously but also may occur at different points in time. A study completed on children with sex and labor trafficking allegations investigated through child welfare revealed that 14.7% of children with a history of labor or sex trafficking allegations had subsequent investigations for alleged sex trafficking victimization.¹¹ The frequent intersection between child sex and child labor trafficking highlights the importance of implementing state-level responses for both of these vulnerable populations.

States should also consider affording many of the same protections to child labor trafficking victims based on the similar dynamics between sex and labor trafficking. Factors that create vulnerability to victimization as well as trauma and the psychological impact of child labor trafficking victimization can resemble those for child sex trafficking. Labor and sex traffickers often target people “who are disproportionately affected by poverty, the lack of access to education, chronic unemployment, discrimination, and the lack of economic opportunities.”¹² Individual risk factors such as a history of sex abuse and mental health issues also increase risk for both forms of trafficking.¹³ In the aforementioned study on children with human trafficking allegations, data showed that, similar to CSE, children with labor trafficking allegations had extensive abuse histories but actually had higher rates of additional forms of abuse or neglect co-occurring with their trafficking victimization.¹⁴

Additionally, coercive and fraudulent recruitment tactics often look similar for both sex and labor trafficking; coercive tactics by the trafficker may also continue throughout the trafficking and victims of both labor and sex trafficking may bond with their traffickers.¹⁵ As with sex trafficking, love, community, family, and well-being can be used as mechanisms for control in some forms of labor trafficking; these coercive tactics can result in trauma and serious psychological harm.¹⁶

Accordingly, supports and protections that are offered to child sex trafficking and CSE children in state law, including non-criminalization responses, funding, non-punitive service responses, victim protections, and access to justice, should be extended to child labor trafficking victims.

ELIGIBLE POLICY GOALS:

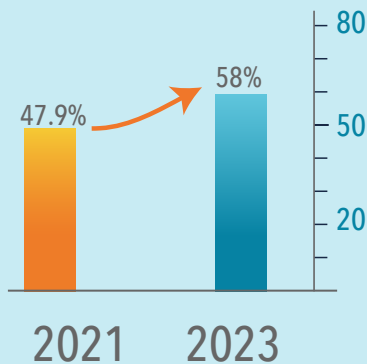
1.7	State law mandates that financial penalties are levied on sex trafficking and CSEC offenders and are directed to a victim services fund.
2.6	State law prohibits the criminalization of child sex trafficking victims for status offenses, and misdemeanor and non-violent felony offenses committed as a result of their trafficking victimization.
2.8	State law provides child sex trafficking victims with an affirmative defense to violent felonies committed as a result of their trafficking victimization.
2.10	State law defines child abuse to include child sex trafficking to ensure access to child welfare services.

2.11	State law allows for child welfare involvement in sex trafficking cases that do not involve caregiver fault and provides for an alternative, specialized response in those cases.
3.1	State law mandates a process for coordinating access to specialized services for child sex trafficking victims that does not require involvement in child-serving systems.
3.3	State law requires child welfare to provide access to specialized services for identified sex trafficked children and youth.
3.4	State law requires the juvenile justice system to provide access to specialized services for identified sex trafficked children and youth.
3.6	State funding is appropriated to support specialized services and a continuum of care for sex trafficked children regardless of system involvement.
4.1	State law allows trafficking victims to seek emergency civil orders of protection.
4.2	Ineligibility factors for crime victims' compensation do not prevent victims of child sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) from accessing compensation.
4.3	Sex trafficked children and youth may vacate delinquency adjudications and criminal convictions for any offense arising from trafficking victimization.
4.4	State law mandates restitution for child sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) offenses.
4.5	State law provides child sex trafficking victims with a trafficking-specific civil remedy.
4.6	Statutes of limitation for criminal and civil actions for child sex trafficking or commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) offenses are eliminated to allow prosecutors and victims a realistic opportunity to pursue criminal action and legal remedies.
5.1	Non-testimonial evidence may be admitted through a child sex trafficking-specific hearsay exception to reduce reliance on victim testimony.
5.2	State law provides child sex trafficking victims with alternatives to live, in-court testimony regardless of the prosecuted offense.
5.4	State law provides for privileged communications between caseworkers and child sex trafficking victims.

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- 1 Roper v. Simmons, 543 U.S. 551, 574 (2005).
 - 2 Frances E. Jensen, MD & Amy E. Nutt, *The Teenage Brain: A Neuroscientist's Survival Guide to Raising Adolescents and Young Adults* (1st ed. 2015).
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 - 5 Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act (PSTSFA) of 2014, Pub. L. No. 183, 128 Stat. 1919 (2014).
 - 6 Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act (JVTA) of 2015, Pub. L. No. 114-22, 129 Stat. 227 (2015).
 - 7 Debra Haak, *Re(defining Prostitution and Sex Work: Conceptual Clarity for Legal Thinking*, 40 Windsor Rev. Legal & Soc. Issues 67, 97 (2019).
 - 8 Dr. Vanessa Bouché, *Survivor Insights: The Role of Technology in Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking*, THORN (2018) <https://www.thorn.org/survivor-insights/> (last visited Oct. 23, 2023).
 - 9 Maureen O'Hara, *Making Pimps and Sex Buyers Visible: Recognising the Commercial Nexus in Child Sexual Exploitation*, 39 Critical Soc. Pol'y 108, 115 (2019). A review of recent studies reveals that globally, nearly half of study participants were minors when they entered the commercial sex industry. In the UK, anywhere from 32%-64% of adults had entered the commercial sex industry as minors. Maddy Coy, *Joining the Dots on Sexual Exploitation of Children and Women: A Way Forward for UK Policy Responses*, 36 Critical Soc. Pol'y 572, 574 (2016).
 - 10 Deborah A. Gibbs, Sue Aboul-Hosn & Marianne N. Kluckman, *Child Labor Trafficking Within the US: A First Look at Allegations Investigated by Florida's Child Welfare Agency*, J. OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING, Apr. 2019 at 6; Laura T. Murphy, *Labor and Sex Trafficking Among Homeless Youth* 4-8 (2016).
 - 11 Gibbs et al., *supra* note 10, at 10.
 - 12 Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000, Pub. L. No. 106-386, 114 Stat. 1464.
 - 13 Murphy, *supra* note 10, at 8.
 - 14 Gibbs et al., *supra* note 10, at 10.
 - 15 Elizabeth Hopper, Ph.D. & Jose Hidalgo, M.D., *Invisible Chains: Psychological Coercion of Human Trafficking Victims*, IHRLR, June 2006, at 187.
 - 16 Murphy, *supra* note 10, at 28.

2023 STATE GRADES

NATIONAL AVERAGE SCORES



OVERALL MOST IMPROVED STATE
2021-2023

TENNESSEE

90 Points | Grade A
+28.5 Points

STATES PER LETTER GRADE

A 90-110	1 STATE
B 80-89	1 STATE
C 70-79	7 STATES
D 60-69	10 STATES
F <60	32 STATES

STATES BY TIER

TIER 1

1. TENNESSEE
2. FLORIDA
3. MINNESOTA
4. CALIFORNIA
5. WASHINGTON
6. TEXAS
7. COLORADO
8. NEVADA
9. LOUISIANA
10. KENTUCKY & MISSISSIPPI

TIER 2

12. UTAH
13. GEORGIA
14. OKLAHOMA
15. SOUTH CAROLINA
16. DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA & NORTH CAROLINA
18. OREGON
19. PENNSYLVANIA
20. MISSOURI & NEBRASKA
22. MONTANA
23. NEW HAMPSHIRE
24. ARKANSAS
25. KANSAS & MASSACHUSETTS

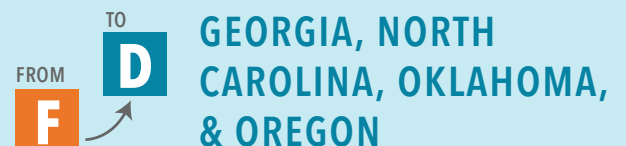
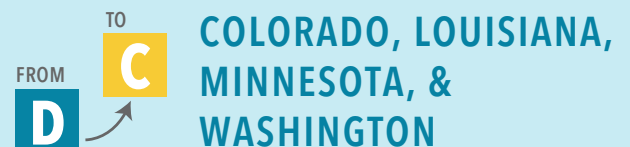
TIER 3

27. MARYLAND & OHIO
29. MICHIGAN
30. ILLINOIS
31. DELAWARE & NEW YORK
33. HAWAII, IOWA, & NORTH DAKOTA
36. ALABAMA & RHODE ISLAND
38. CONNECTICUT
39. INDIANA & WISCONSIN
41. ARIZONA & NEW MEXICO

43. VIRGINIA
44. NEW JERSEY
45. WYOMING
46. MAINE
47. WEST VIRGINIA
48. VERMONT
49. SOUTH DAKOTA
50. IDAHO
51. ALASKA

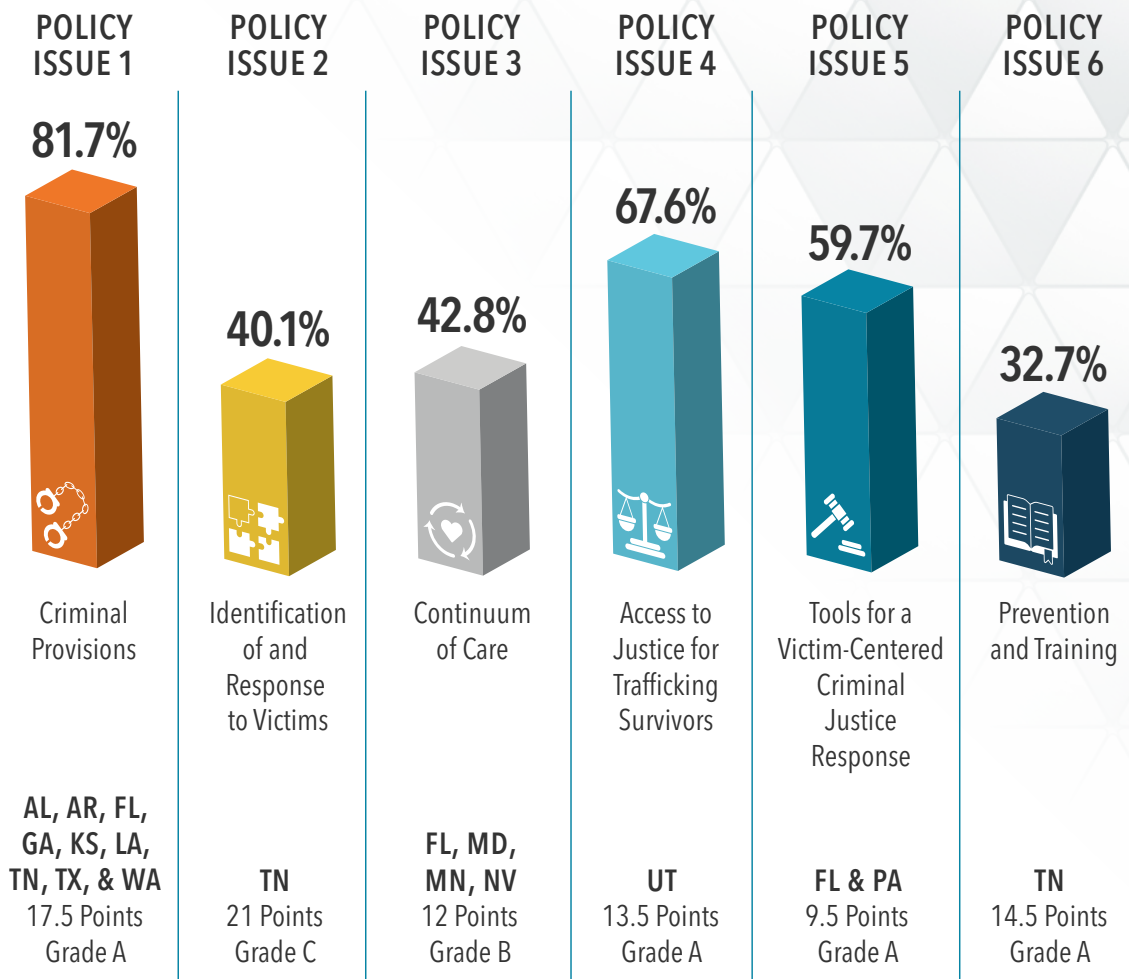
*In the case of duplicate scores, states are arranged alphabetically

10 STATES
INCREASED THEIR LETTER GRADES



AVERAGE SCORE PER ISSUE

TOP STATE 2023 PER ISSUE



WHAT IS SAFE HARBOR?

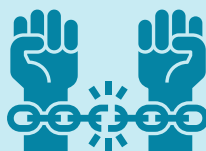
“Safe Harbor” refers to laws that insulate victims from a punitive response and direct them toward restorative and protective services.

WHY SAFE HARBOR?

These laws ensure victims of child and youth sex trafficking are not involved in the juvenile or criminal justice system and receive trauma-informed care. Appropriate identification and access to services are vital to creating a just response for victims of child and youth sex trafficking.

30 states (including D.C.) have Safe Harbor laws that, at a minimum, prohibit the criminalization of child sex trafficking victims for prostitution offenses.

21 states still have laws that allow child sex trafficking victims to be prosecuted for prostitution.



SAFE HARBOR LAWS

Comprehensive Safe Harbor laws **SHOULD PROHIBIT ARRESTING, DETAINING, CHARGING, & PROSECUTING** all minors for prostitution offenses, regardless of whether a finding of trafficking victimization is made, and, instead, require law enforcement to direct child and youth survivors to **SPECIALIZED SERVICES & CARE.**

Safe Harbor laws **SHOULD ALSO PROHIBIT CRIMINALIZATION** of child sex trafficking survivors for other crimes committed as a result of their victimization.

2023 STATE GRADES

ARRANGED ALPHABETICALLY

ICON GUIDE



ISSUE 1:
Criminal
Provisions



ISSUE 2:
Identification of
& Response to
Victims



ISSUE 3:
Continuum of
Care



ISSUE 4:
Access to Justice
for Trafficking
Survivors



ISSUE 5:
Tools for a Victim-
Centered Criminal
Justice Response



ISSUE 6:
Prevention &
Training



**EXTRA
CREDIT**
Youth 18+



**EXTRA
CREDIT**
Child Labor
Trafficking

F ALABAMA

TIER II

$\frac{17.5}{17.5}$	$\frac{6}{27.5}$	$\frac{5}{15}$	$\frac{8}{15}$	$\frac{8.5}{10}$	$\frac{1}{15}$

EXTRA CREDIT	
3	4

C CALIFORNIA

TIER I

$\frac{14.5}{17.5}$	$\frac{14.5}{27.5}$	$\frac{9.5}{15}$	$\frac{11}{15}$	$\frac{7}{10}$	$\frac{12.5}{15}$

EXTRA CREDIT	
3	4

F ALASKA

TIER III

$\frac{10}{17.5}$	$\frac{3.5}{27.5}$	$\frac{2}{15}$	$\frac{8.5}{15}$	$\frac{2}{10}$	$\frac{0}{15}$

EXTRA CREDIT	
2	3

C COLORADO

TIER I

$\frac{16}{17.5}$	$\frac{17}{27.5}$	$\frac{6.5}{15}$	$\frac{11}{15}$	$\frac{8.5}{10}$	$\frac{9}{15}$

EXTRA CREDIT	
1	4

F ARIZONA

TIER II

$\frac{15}{17.5}$	$\frac{8.5}{27.5}$	$\frac{2}{15}$	$\frac{10.5}{15}$	$\frac{6.5}{10}$	$\frac{2}{15}$

EXTRA CREDIT	
1	3

F CONNECTICUT

TIER II

$\frac{12}{17.5}$	$\frac{6}{27.5}$	$\frac{5}{15}$	$\frac{10}{15}$	$\frac{5}{10}$	$\frac{8.5}{15}$

EXTRA CREDIT	
1	2

F ARKANSAS

TIER II

$\frac{17.5}{17.5}$	$\frac{11}{27.5}$	$\frac{5}{15}$	$\frac{7.5}{15}$	$\frac{6}{10}$	$\frac{8}{15}$

EXTRA CREDIT	
1	2

F DELAWARE

TIER II

$\frac{12.5}{17.5}$	$\frac{8}{27.5}$	$\frac{5.5}{15}$	$\frac{9.5}{15}$	$\frac{8.5}{10}$	$\frac{6}{15}$

EXTRA CREDIT	
2	2

2023 STATE GRADES

ARRANGED ALPHABETICALLY

ICON GUIDE



ISSUE 1:
Criminal
Provisions



ISSUE 2:
Identification of
& Response to
Victims



ISSUE 3:
Continuum of
Care



ISSUE 4:
Access to Justice
for Trafficking
Survivors



ISSUE 5:
Tools for a Victim-
Centered Criminal
Justice Response



ISSUE 6:
Prevention &
Training



**EXTRA
CREDIT**
Youth 18+



**EXTRA
CREDIT**
Child Labor
Trafficking

D DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

TIER II

13.5 17.5	15.5 27.5	4 15	11 15	3.5 10	9.5 15

EXTRA CREDIT 3	3

B FLORIDA

TIER I

17.5 17.5	18.5 27.5	12 15	13 15	9.5 10	12 15

EXTRA CREDIT 2	5

D GEORGIA

TIER II

17.5 17.5	10.5 27.5	8 15	11 15	7 10	6 15

EXTRA CREDIT 2	4

F HAWAII

TIER II

15 17.5	3.5 27.5	7.5 15	11.5 15	5 10	4 15

EXTRA CREDIT 2	5

F IDAHO

TIER III

11 17.5	8 27.5	4 15	4.5 15	5 10	0 15

EXTRA CREDIT 0	1

F ILLINOIS

TIER II

15.5 17.5	10.5 27.5	4 15	10 15	4 10	5.5 15

EXTRA CREDIT 1	4

F INDIANA

TIER II

12 17.5	8.5 27.5	2 15	9.5 15	7 10	5 15

EXTRA CREDIT 2	3

F IOWA

TIER II

15 17.5	10 27.5	5.5 15	6.5 15	7.5 10	4 15

EXTRA CREDIT 1	4

F KANSAS

TIER II

17.5 17.5	11.5 27.5	4 15	11.5 15	4 10	3 15

EXTRA CREDIT 1	5

D KENTUCKY

TIER I

13 17.5	17.5 27.5	8.5 15	10.5 15	6.5 10	6.5 15

EXTRA CREDIT 2	4

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**EXTRA
CREDIT**
Child Labor
Trafficking

C LOUISIANA

TIER I

17.5 17.5	16 27.5	10 15	12.5 15	6.5 10	3 15

EXTRA CREDIT 2	3

C MINNESOTA

TIER I

15 17.5	13 27.5	12 15	11.5 15	7.5 10	9.5 15

EXTRA CREDIT 4	5

F MAINE

TIER III

12.5 17.5	7.5 27.5	4 15	9.5 15	4 10	0 15

EXTRA CREDIT 1	3

D MISSISSIPPI

TIER I

16 17.5	14 27.5	9 15	8.5 15	8 10	5 15

EXTRA CREDIT 3	5

F MARYLAND

TIER II

12.5 17.5	14 27.5	12 15	8 15	5 10	2.5 15

EXTRA CREDIT 2	0

F MISSOURI

TIER II

13.5 17.5	12.5 27.5	9 15	9.5 15	8 10	3 15

EXTRA CREDIT 1	3

F MASSACHUSETTS

TIER II

13.5 17.5	9 27.5	10 15	11.5 15	6.5 10	1 15

EXTRA CREDIT 2	4

F MONTANA

TIER II

12.5 17.5	10.5 27.5	7 15	13 15	8 10	1 15

EXTRA CREDIT 2	5

F MICHIGAN

TIER II

15.5 17.5	11 27.5	4 15	10 15	5 10	6 15

EXTRA CREDIT 1	3

F NEBRASKA

TIER II

15 17.5	15.5 27.5	6.5 15	10 15	5.5 10	0 15

EXTRA CREDIT 3	4

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**EXTRA
CREDIT**
Youth 18+



**EXTRA
CREDIT**
Child Labor
Trafficking

C NEVADA

TIER I

$\frac{13}{17.5}$	$\frac{13}{27.5}$	$\frac{12}{15}$	$\frac{11.5}{15}$	$\frac{7}{10}$	$\frac{8.5}{15}$

EXTRA CREDIT	
3	3

D NORTH CAROLINA

TIER II

$\frac{15}{17.5}$	$\frac{13.5}{27.5}$	$\frac{4.5}{15}$	$\frac{10}{15}$	$\frac{6}{10}$	$\frac{8}{15}$

EXTRA CREDIT	
2	4

F NEW HAMPSHIRE

TIER II

$\frac{17}{17.5}$	$\frac{14.5}{27.5}$	$\frac{5.5}{15}$	$\frac{11.5}{15}$	$\frac{5}{10}$	$\frac{0}{15}$

EXTRA CREDIT	
1	4

F NORTH DAKOTA

TIER II

$\frac{12}{17.5}$	$\frac{10.5}{27.5}$	$\frac{5.5}{15}$	$\frac{11.5}{15}$	$\frac{4}{10}$	$\frac{4}{15}$

EXTRA CREDIT	
2	4

F NEW JERSEY

TIER III

$\frac{16}{17.5}$	$\frac{4.5}{27.5}$	$\frac{4}{15}$	$\frac{7.5}{15}$	$\frac{5.5}{10}$	$\frac{3.5}{15}$

EXTRA CREDIT	
2	3

F OHIO

TIER II

$\frac{14.5}{17.5}$	$\frac{3.5}{27.5}$	$\frac{6.5}{15}$	$\frac{12.5}{15}$	$\frac{8.5}{10}$	$\frac{4.5}{15}$

EXTRA CREDIT	
1	5

F NEW MEXICO

TIER II

$\frac{11.5}{17.5}$	$\frac{13}{27.5}$	$\frac{7.5}{15}$	$\frac{7.5}{15}$	$\frac{5}{10}$	$\frac{0}{15}$

EXTRA CREDIT	
2	2

D OKLAHOMA

TIER II

$\frac{17}{17.5}$	$\frac{16}{27.5}$	$\frac{5.5}{15}$	$\frac{10.5}{15}$	$\frac{5.5}{10}$	$\frac{4.5}{15}$

EXTRA CREDIT	
2	4

F NEW YORK

TIER II

$\frac{12.5}{17.5}$	$\frac{8}{27.5}$	$\frac{9}{15}$	$\frac{9}{15}$	$\frac{3}{10}$	$\frac{6.5}{15}$

EXTRA CREDIT	
2	4

D OREGON

TIER II

$\frac{13}{17.5}$	$\frac{13}{27.5}$	$\frac{5.5}{15}$	$\frac{12.5}{15}$	$\frac{6}{10}$	$\frac{7.5}{15}$

EXTRA CREDIT	
2	3

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**EXTRA
CREDIT**
Youth 18+



**EXTRA
CREDIT**
Child Labor
Trafficking

D PENNSYLVANIA

TIER II

$\frac{16}{17.5}$	$\frac{8.5}{27.5}$	$\frac{8}{15}$	$\frac{11}{15}$	$\frac{9.5}{10}$	$\frac{2}{15}$

EXTRA CREDIT	
2 5	

A TENNESSEE

TIER I

$\frac{17.5}{17.5}$	$\frac{21}{27.5}$	$\frac{7.5}{15}$	$\frac{12.5}{15}$	$\frac{9}{10}$	$\frac{14.5}{15}$

EXTRA CREDIT	
3 5	

F RHODE ISLAND

TIER II

$\frac{15}{17.5}$	$\frac{9.5}{27.5}$	$\frac{4}{15}$	$\frac{11}{15}$	$\frac{5}{10}$	$\frac{6.5}{15}$

EXTRA CREDIT	
1 1	

C TEXAS

TIER I

$\frac{17.5}{17.5}$	$\frac{7.5}{27.5}$	$\frac{11.5}{15}$	$\frac{12.5}{15}$	$\frac{6.5}{10}$	$\frac{12}{15}$

EXTRA CREDIT	
1 5	

D SOUTH CAROLINA

TIER II

$\frac{15}{17.5}$	$\frac{15.5}{27.5}$	$\frac{9.5}{15}$	$\frac{9}{15}$	$\frac{6}{10}$	$\frac{2}{15}$

EXTRA CREDIT	
2 5	

D UTAH

TIER II

$\frac{15}{17.5}$	$\frac{12.5}{27.5}$	$\frac{5.5}{15}$	$\frac{13.5}{15}$	$\frac{5.5}{10}$	$\frac{8}{15}$

EXTRA CREDIT	
2 5	

F SOUTH DAKOTA

TIER III

$\frac{12.5}{17.5}$	$\frac{3.5}{27.5}$	$\frac{3}{15}$	$\frac{8.5}{15}$	$\frac{6}{10}$	$\frac{0}{15}$

EXTRA CREDIT	
1 1	

F VERMONT

TIER III

$\frac{6}{17.5}$	$\frac{14.5}{27.5}$	$\frac{3.5}{15}$	$\frac{8.5}{15}$	$\frac{3}{10}$	$\frac{0}{15}$

EXTRA CREDIT	
2 1	

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Survivors



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Tools for a Victim-
Centered Criminal
Justice Response



ISSUE 6:
Prevention &
Training



**EXTRA
CREDIT**
Youth 18+



**EXTRA
CREDIT**
Child Labor
Trafficking

F VIRGINIA

TIER III

10
17.5



9
27.5



5
15



10
15



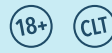
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10



7
15



EXTRA CREDIT
1 2



F WISCONSIN

TIER II

12.5
17.5



9.5
27.5



3
15



11.5
15



5.5
10



0
15



EXTRA CREDIT
3 4



C WASHINGTON

TIER I

17.5
17.5



13
27.5



11
15



11
15



8
10



10
15



EXTRA CREDIT
2 3



F WYOMING

TIER III

12.5
17.5



10.5
27.5



3
15



6.5
15



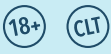
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10



7
15



EXTRA CREDIT
1 2



F WEST VIRGINIA

TIER III

15
17.5



6.5
27.5



4
15



8.5
15



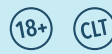
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1
15



EXTRA CREDIT
0 2



2023 STATE GRADES

RANKED BY SCORE

	1. Criminal Provisions	2. Identification of Response to Victims	3. Continuum of Care	4. Access to Justice for Trafficking Survivors	5. Tools for a Victim-Centered Criminal Justice Response	6. Prevention & Training	Extra Credit: Youth 18+	Extra Credit: Child Labor Trafficking	TOTAL	GRADE
TOTAL POSSIBLE	17.5	27.5	15	15	10	15	5	5	100 (+10)	A
TENNESSEE	17.5	21	7.5	12.5	9	14.5	3	5	90	A
FLORIDA	17.5	18.5	12	13	9.5	12	2	5	89.5	B
MINNESOTA	15	13	12	11.5	7.5	9.5	4	5	77.5	C
CALIFORNIA	14.5	14.5	9.5	11	7	12.5	3	4	76	C
WASHINGTON	17.5	13	11	11	8	10	2	3	75.5	C
TEXAS	17.5	7.5	11.5	12.5	6.5	12	1	5	73.5	C
COLORADO	16	17	6.5	11	8.5	9	1	4	73	C
NEVADA	13	13	12	11.5	7	8.5	3	3	71	C
LOUISIANA	17.5	16	10	12.5	6.5	3	2	3	70.5	C
KENTUCKY	13	17.5	8.5	10.5	6.5	6.5	2	4	68.5	D
MISSISSIPPI	16	14	9	8.5	8	5	3	5	68.5	D
UTAH	15	12.5	5.5	13.5	5.5	8	2	5	67	D
GEORGIA	17.5	10.5	8	11	7	6	2	4	66	D
OKLAHOMA	17	16	5.5	10.5	5.5	4.5	2	4	65	D
SOUTH CAROLINA	15	15.5	9.5	9	6	2	2	5	64	D
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	13.5	15.5	4	11	3.5	9.5	3	3	63	D
NORTH CAROLINA	15	13.5	4.5	10	6	8	2	4	63	D
OREGON	13	13	5.5	12.5	6	7.5	2	3	62.5	D
PENNSYLVANIA	16	8.5	8	11	9.5	2	2	5	62	D
MISSOURI	13.5	12.5	9	9.5	8	3	1	3	59.5	F
NEBRASKA	15	15.5	6.5	10	5.5	0	3	4	59.5	F
MONTANA	12.5	10.5	7	13	8	1	2	5	59	F
NEW HAMPSHIRE	17	14.5	5.5	11.5	5	0	1	4	58.5	F
ARKANSAS	17.5	11	5	7.5	6	8	1	2	58	F
KANSAS	17.5	11.5	4	11.5	4	3	1	5	57.5	F
MASSACHUSETTS	13.5	9	10	11.5	6.5	1	2	4	57.5	F
MARYLAND	12.5	14	12	8	5	2.5	2	0	56	F
OHIO	14.5	3.5	6.5	12.5	8.5	4.5	1	5	56	F
MICHIGAN	15.5	11	4	10	5	6	1	3	55.5	F
ILLINOIS	15.5	10.5	4	10	4	5.5	1	4	54.5	F
DELAWARE	12.5	8	5.5	9.5	8.5	6	2	2	54	F
NEW YORK	12.5	8	9	9	3	6.5	2	4	54	F
HAWAII	15	3.5	7.5	11.5	5	4	2	5	53.5	F
IOWA	15	10	5.5	6.5	7.5	4	1	4	53.5	F
NORTH DAKOTA	12	10.5	5.5	11.5	4	4	2	4	53.5	F
ALABAMA	17.5	6	5	8	8.5	1	3	4	53	F
RHODE ISLAND	15	9.5	4	11	5	6.5	1	1	53	F
CONNECTICUT	12	6	5	10	5	8.5	1	2	49.5	F
INDIANA	12	8.5	2	9.5	7	5	2	3	49	F
WISCONSIN	12.5	9.5	3	11.5	5.5	0	3	4	49	F
ARIZONA	15	8.5	2	10.5	6.5	2	1	3	48.5	F
NEW MEXICO	11.5	13	7.5	7.5	5	0	2	2	48.5	F
VIRGINIA	10	9	5	10	4	7	1	2	48	F
NEW JERSEY	16	4.5	4	7.5	5.5	3.5	2	3	46	F
WYOMING	12.5	10.5	3	6.5	3	7	1	2	45.5	F
MAINE	12.5	7.5	4	9.5	4	0	1	3	41.5	F
WEST VIRGINIA	15	6.5	4	8.5	3	1	0	2	40	F
VERMONT	6	14.5	3.5	8.5	3	0	2	1	38.5	F
SOUTH DAKOTA	12.5	3.5	3	8.5	6	0	1	1	35.5	F
IDAHO	11	8	4	4.5	5	0	0	1	33.5	F
ALASKA	10	3.5	2	8.5	2	0	2	3	31	F

*In the case of duplicate scores, states are arranged alphabetically.



ISSUE 1: CRIMINAL PROVISIONS

	ISSUE SCORE	ISSUE GRADE
TOTAL POSSIBLE	17.5	A
ALABAMA	17.5	A
ARKANSAS	17.5	A
FLORIDA	17.5	A
GEORGIA	17.5	A
KANSAS	17.5	A
LOUISIANA	17.5	A
TENNESSEE	17.5	A
TEXAS	17.5	A
WASHINGTON	17.5	A
NEW HAMPSHIRE	17	A
OKLAHOMA	17	A
COLORADO	16	A
MISSISSIPPI	16	A
NEW JERSEY	16	A
PENNSYLVANIA	16	A
ILLINOIS	15.5	B
MICHIGAN	15.5	B
ARIZONA	15	B
HAWAII	15	B
IOWA	15	B
MINNESOTA	15	B
NEBRASKA	15	B
NORTH CAROLINA	15	B
RHODE ISLAND	15	B
SOUTH CAROLINA	15	B
UTAH	15	B
WEST VIRGINIA	15	B
CALIFORNIA	14.5	B
OHIO	14.5	B
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	13.5	C
MASSACHUSETTS	13.5	C
MISSOURI	13.5	C
KENTUCKY	13	C
NEVADA	13	C
OREGON	13	C
DELAWARE	12.5	C
MAINE	12.5	C
MARYLAND	12.5	C
MONTANA	12.5	C
NEW YORK	12.5	C
SOUTH DAKOTA	12.5	C
WISCONSIN	12.5	C
WYOMING	12.5	C
CONNECTICUT	12	D
INDIANA	12	D
NORTH DAKOTA	12	D
NEW MEXICO	11.5	D
IDAHO	11	D
ALASKA	10	F
VIRGINIA	10	F
VERMONT	6	F



ISSUE 2: IDENTIFICATION & RESPONSE TO VICTIMS

	ISSUE SCORE	ISSUE GRADE
TOTAL POSSIBLE	27.5	A
TENNESSEE	21	C
FLORIDA	18.5	D
KENTUCKY	17.5	D
COLORADO	17	D
LOUISIANA	16	F
OKLAHOMA	16	F
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	15.5	F
NEBRASKA	15.5	F
SOUTH CAROLINA	15.5	F
CALIFORNIA	14.5	F
NEW HAMPSHIRE	14.5	F
VERMONT	14.5	F
MARYLAND	14	F
MISSISSIPPI	14	F
NORTH CAROLINA	13.5	F
MINNESOTA	13	F
NEVADA	13	F
NEW MEXICO	13	F
OREGON	13	F
WASHINGTON	13	F
MISSOURI	12.5	F
UTAH	12.5	F
KANSAS	11.5	F
ARKANSAS	11	F
MICHIGAN	11	F
GEORGIA	10.5	F
ILLINOIS	10.5	F
MONTANA	10.5	F
NORTH DAKOTA	10.5	F
WYOMING	10.5	F
IOWA	10	F
RHODE ISLAND	9.5	F
WISCONSIN	9.5	F
MASSACHUSETTS	9	F
VIRGINIA	9	F
ARIZONA	8.5	F
INDIANA	8.5	F
PENNSYLVANIA	8.5	F
DELAWARE	8	F
IDAHO	8	F
NEW YORK	8	F
MAINE	7.5	F
TEXAS	7.5	F
WEST VIRGINIA	6.5	F
ALABAMA	6	F
CONNECTICUT	6	F
NEW JERSEY	4.5	F
ALASKA	3.5	F
HAWAII	3.5	F
OHIO	3.5	F
SOUTH DAKOTA	3.5	F

*In the case of duplicate scores, states are arranged alphabetically.



ISSUE 3: CONTINUUM OF CARE

	ISSUE SCORE	ISSUE GRADE
TOTAL POSSIBLE	15	A
FLORIDA	12	B
MARYLAND	12	B
MINNESOTA	12	B
NEVADA	12	B
TEXAS	11.5	C
WASHINGTON	11	C
LOUISIANA	10	D
MASSACHUSETTS	10	D
CALIFORNIA	9.5	D
SOUTH CAROLINA	9.5	D
MISSISSIPPI	9	D
MISSOURI	9	D
NEW YORK	9	D
KENTUCKY	8.5	F
GEORGIA	8	F
PENNSYLVANIA	8	F
HAWAII	7.5	F
NEW MEXICO	7.5	F
TENNESSEE	7.5	F
MONTANA	7	F
COLORADO	6.5	F
NEBRASKA	6.5	F
OHIO	6.5	F
DELAWARE	5.5	F
IOWA	5.5	F
NEW HAMPSHIRE	5.5	F
NORTH DAKOTA	5.5	F
OKLAHOMA	5.5	F
OREGON	5.5	F
UTAH	5.5	F
ALABAMA	5	F
ARKANSAS	5	F
CONNECTICUT	5	F
VIRGINIA	5	F
NORTH CAROLINA	4.5	F
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	4	F
IDAHO	4	F
ILLINOIS	4	F
KANSAS	4	F
MAINE	4	F
MICHIGAN	4	F
NEW JERSEY	4	F
RHODE ISLAND	4	F
WEST VIRGINIA	4	F
VERMONT	3.5	F
SOUTH DAKOTA	3	F
WISCONSIN	3	F
WYOMING	3	F
ALASKA	2	F
ARIZONA	2	F
INDIANA	2	F



ISSUE 4: ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS

	ISSUE SCORE	ISSUE GRADE
TOTAL POSSIBLE	15	A
UTAH	13.5	A
FLORIDA	13	B
MONTANA	13	B
LOUISIANA	12.5	B
OHIO	12.5	B
OREGON	12.5	B
TENNESSEE	12.5	B
TEXAS	12.5	B
HAWAII	11.5	C
KANSAS	11.5	C
MASSACHUSETTS	11.5	C
MINNESOTA	11.5	C
NEVADA	11.5	C
NEW HAMPSHIRE	11.5	C
NORTH DAKOTA	11.5	C
WISCONSIN	11.5	C
CALIFORNIA	11	C
COLORADO	11	C
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	11	C
GEORGIA	11	C
PENNSYLVANIA	11	C
RHODE ISLAND	11	C
WASHINGTON	11	C
ARIZONA	10.5	C
KENTUCKY	10.5	C
OKLAHOMA	10.5	C
CONNECTICUT	10	D
ILLINOIS	10	D
MICHIGAN	10	D
NEBRASKA	10	D
NORTH CAROLINA	10	D
VIRGINIA	10	D
DELAWARE	9.5	D
INDIANA	9.5	D
MAINE	9.5	D
MISSOURI	9.5	D
NEW YORK	9	D
SOUTH CAROLINA	9	D
ALASKA	8.5	F
MISSISSIPPI	8.5	F
SOUTH DAKOTA	8.5	F
VERMONT	8.5	F
WEST VIRGINIA	8.5	F
ALABAMA	8	F
MARYLAND	8	F
ARKANSAS	7.5	F
NEW JERSEY	7.5	F
NEW MEXICO	7.5	F
IOWA	6.5	F
WYOMING	6.5	F
IDAHO	4.5	F

*In the case of duplicate scores, states are arranged alphabetically.



ISSUE 5: TOOLS FOR A VICTIM-CENTERED CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSE

	ISSUE SCORE	ISSUE GRADE
TOTAL POSSIBLE	10	A
FLORIDA	9.5	A
PENNSYLVANIA	9.5	A
TENNESSEE	9	A
ALABAMA	8.5	B
COLORADO	8.5	B
DELAWARE	8.5	B
OHIO	8.5	B
MISSISSIPPI	8	B
MISSOURI	8	B
MONTANA	8	B
WASHINGTON	8	B
IOWA	7.5	C
MINNESOTA	7.5	C
CALIFORNIA	7	C
GEORGIA	7	C
INDIANA	7	C
NEVADA	7	C
ARIZONA	6.5	D
KENTUCKY	6.5	D
LOUISIANA	6.5	D
MASSACHUSETTS	6.5	D
TEXAS	6.5	D
ARKANSAS	6	D
NORTH CAROLINA	6	D
OREGON	6	D
SOUTH CAROLINA	6	D
SOUTH DAKOTA	6	D
NEBRASKA	5.5	F
NEW JERSEY	5.5	F
OKLAHOMA	5.5	F
UTAH	5.5	F
WISCONSIN	5.5	F
CONNECTICUT	5	F
HAWAII	5	F
IDAHO	5	F
MARYLAND	5	F
MICHIGAN	5	F
NEW HAMPSHIRE	5	F
NEW MEXICO	5	F
RHODE ISLAND	5	F
ILLINOIS	4	F
KANSAS	4	F
MAINE	4	F
NORTH DAKOTA	4	F
VIRGINIA	4	F
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	3.5	F
NEW YORK	3	F
VERMONT	3	F
WEST VIRGINIA	3	F
WYOMING	3	F
ALASKA	2	F



ISSUE 6: PREVENTION AND TRAINING

	ISSUE SCORE	ISSUE GRADE
TOTAL POSSIBLE	15	A
TENNESSEE	14.5	A
CALIFORNIA	12.5	B
FLORIDA	12	B
TEXAS	12	B
WASHINGTON	10	D
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	9.5	D
MINNESOTA	9.5	D
COLORADO	9	D
CONNECTICUT	8.5	F
NEVADA	8.5	F
ARKANSAS	8	F
NORTH CAROLINA	8	F
UTAH	8	F
OREGON	7.5	F
VIRGINIA	7	F
WYOMING	7	F
KENTUCKY	6.5	F
NEW YORK	6.5	F
RHODE ISLAND	6.5	F
DELAWARE	6	F
GEORGIA	6	F
MICHIGAN	6	F
ILLINOIS	5.5	F
INDIANA	5	F
MISSISSIPPI	5	F
OHIO	4.5	F
OKLAHOMA	4.5	F
HAWAII	4	F
IOWA	4	F
NORTH DAKOTA	4	F
NEW JERSEY	3.5	F
KANSAS	3	F
LOUISIANA	3	F
MISSOURI	3	F
MARYLAND	2.5	F
ARIZONA	2	F
PENNSYLVANIA	2	F
SOUTH CAROLINA	2	F
ALABAMA	1	F
MASSACHUSETTS	1	F
MONTANA	1	F
WEST VIRGINIA	1	F
ALASKA	0	F
IDAHO	0	F
MAINE	0	F
NEBRASKA	0	F
NEW HAMPSHIRE	0	F
NEW MEXICO	0	F
SOUTH DAKOTA	0	F
VERMONT	0	F
WISCONSIN	0	F

*In the case of duplicate scores, states are arranged alphabetically.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

HIGHLIGHTED RESOURCES

Community-Based Services White Paper



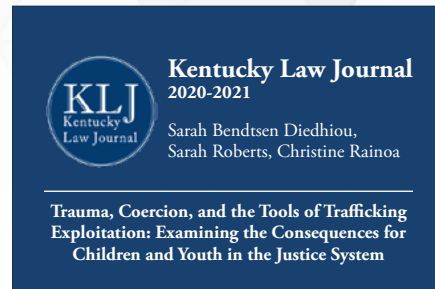
This white paper discusses the importance of providing comprehensive, trauma-informed services to all child sex trafficking victims, regardless of system involvement, and provides examples of state statutory responses.

Victim-Offender Intersectionality Report



This report examines the phenomenon of sex trafficking survivors entering the criminal justice system for allegedly engaging in sex trafficking conduct and provides tools for criminal justice stakeholders to assist in identifying and responding to these cases in a trauma-informed manner.

Trauma, Coercion, and the Tools of Trafficking Exploitation



This law journal article examines the harms of relying on a juvenile justice-based response for serving child sex trafficking victims, the importance of enacting strong non-criminalization laws, the intertwined nature of sex trafficking victimization and criminalized conduct, and the importance of using a trauma-informed lens in response.

JuST RESPONSE COUNCIL RESOURCES

The JuST Response Council is a group of 30+ experts from around the country who collaborate to improve responses to juvenile sex trafficking victims, drawing on the group's combined research, knowledge, and expertise in services, law, and policy. To access resources developed with the input of the Council, please visit <https://sharedhope.org/what-we-do/bring-justice/just-response-council/>.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

For legislators and policy advocates assisting elected officials in creating legislation, request a consultation with our Policy Team online at sharedhope.org/legislative-technical-assistance. We will set up a meeting to discuss your legislative goals and create a customized plan for ongoing technical assistance, bill drafting services, and legislative support.

ADVOCACY ACTION CENTER

The Advocacy Action Center is an online resource that allows individuals to join the fight against child sex trafficking either through legislator engagement or by signing a petition. For more information, visit act.sharedhope.org/actioncenter.



Contact your legislators, letting them know you want greater protections for child sex trafficking victims and increased accountability for their exploiters.



Sign a petition to show your support for issues that advance justice for child sex trafficking survivors.



Help end the criminalization of child sex trafficking survivors! Several states can still criminalize child sex trafficking victims for prostitution. Sign the petition to show your support for changing these laws.

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The Report Cards on Child & Youth Sex Trafficking Legislative Framework was drafted under the direction of Christine Raino, Esq., Sarah Roberts, J.D., LL.M., Sarah Bendtsen, J.D., and Sidney McCoy, Esq. and was greatly assisted by Camryn Peterson, LexisNexis Cares, and Regent University School of Law’s Center for Global Justice and Public Policy. The following Shared Hope fellows contributed to the report: Stephanie Gerhart, Kate Goodman, Katharine Greer, Hailey Harp, Christine Marsden, Alec McFarlin, Shelby Whalen, and Mariah Wilson. Shared Hope also thanks Christina Goodman and Phil Raino for their services in designing this report and related materials.

