

# | Training

Stakeholder training is an essential component of creating a victim-centered and trauma-informed systemic response to commercially sexually exploited children and youth (CSEC/Y). In addition to general training on the issues surrounding sex trafficking and associated warning signs, or “red flags,” role-specific training is essential to ensuring that no matter which system CSEC/Y interact with, responders and providers are equipped to meet victims’ and survivors’ needs.

## Task force training scope

Task forces are charged with ensuring both basic and advanced CSEC/Y training is available within their jurisdiction. Training should be available year-round to professionals at all levels and of all types.

## Role-specific recommendations

Training recommendations vary based on stakeholders’ roles within the systemic response to CSEC/Y. While general task force members likely require basic training on the issues surrounding CSEC/Y, professionals engaged in case-level response (multidisciplinary team members) require in-depth, specialty-specific training. Moreover, task forces should help ensure all local law enforcement are basically trained on issues surrounding CSEC/Y, including risk factors to help identify at-risk children and youth. The Model Protocol outlines role-specific training recommendations, which are briefly summarized below. See the Model Protocol for complete guidance.

- **Local law enforcement:** Minimal CSEC/Y training should be given to all local law enforcement officers. Moreover, at least two should receive in-depth CSEC/Y training – preferably sergeants or detectives. In-depth training should enable officers to take charge of scenes where CSEC/Y are identified or suspected, as well as how to contact CSEC/Y-trained community advocates to immediately meet with victims.
- **Advocates:** Community-based agencies should ensure at least two domestic violence/sexual assault (DV/SA) or similar types of advocates received in-depth CSEC/Y training. Training should include how to interact with and assume responsibility for CSEC/Y, as well as case management.
- **Child Protective Services (CPS):** Minimally, each Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) region should have at least two locations with at least two Child Protective Services (CPS) social workers and one CPS supervisor (per location) who have in-depth CSEC/Y training. Meaning, each DSHS region should have four CPS social workers and two CPS supervisors – at a minimum – who have received in-depth training. Training should include safety planning and placement options.
- **Service providers:** For providers delivering youth services (such as those serving runaway and homeless youth), at least a portion of the provider’s staff should receive in-depth CSEC/Y training. Training should include CSEC/Y screening and guidance on appropriate services or referrals as needed.

- **Prosecutors:** Prosecutors' offices should have at least one deputy prosecutor with in-depth CSEC/Y training who reviews cases and filing on juveniles. Training should include identifying, engaging, and working with CSEC/Y.
- **Defense attorneys:** Each county should have at least one public defender with in-depth CSEC/Y training. Training should include how to identify and work with CSEC/Y in a trauma-informed manner, motivational interviewing to develop trust, and knowledge of local resources and services available for CSEC/Y.
- **Others:** Task forces should identify any other community stakeholders pertinent to the systemic CSEC/Y response. Once identified, task forces should determine appropriate levels of training for each stakeholder.

## Training resources

In addition to task force-organized events, training and resources are available through organizations such as CCYJ and the King County CSEC Task Force. It should be noted that this list is not all inclusive and is subject to change. Task forces should verify training availability as needed.

- **CCYJ**
  - Annual Training of Trainers (TOT): *Responding to Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of Youth*.<sup>1</sup>
- **King County CSEC Task Force**
  - CSEC 101: *Responding to the Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of Youth*.
  - CSEC 102: *And Boys Too*.
  - CSEC 103: *At the Margins: The Sex Trafficking of LGBTQ+ Youth*.
  - CSEC 201: *Engaging Men to End Commercial Sexual Exploitation*.
  - CSEC 202: *Understanding and Responding to Running Away Behavior in CSEC*.
  - CSEC 401: *Survivor Centered Programming*.
  - CSEC 402: *Walk With Me*.
  - CSEC 404: *Human Trafficking in Indian Country: Identify and Respond*.
  - Lunch and Learn sessions, workshops, guest speakers, videos, and podcasts.

## Helpful Links

- **King County CSEC Task Force:** <https://www.kingcountycsec.org/>
  - See Podcast, Videos, Trainings, and Events tabs.

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<sup>1</sup> This training may be available in your region via a certified trainer (check with CCYJ).