STATEMENT OF NEED
Over 100,000 girls and boys are commercially sexually trafficked every year in the US. Most young people who fall victim to commercial sexual exploitation are those who’ve experienced trauma and abuse in their early childhood, or who are homeless. Victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) are traditionally placed in juvenile detention or other residential facilities due to the lack of alternative community-based options that could safely remove them from the control of their pimps. Disentangling children and youth from the psychological trauma bonds that have developed with their pimp/trafficker while also effectively addressing their educational, safety, health and home needs is complex, requiring sensitivity, commitment and trust.

YAP’S CSEC MODEL: DESIGNED FOR YOUNG VICTIMS WITH COMPLEX NEEDS
Youth Advocate Programs (YAP) CSEC model is an intensive and safe alternative to detention or placement that effectively meets the needs of sexually exploited youth within their homes and communities. Building from YAP’s core framework that blends wraparound planning, mentoring and positive youth development, YAP’s CSEC model integrates a trauma informed, gender responsive approach in supporting youth aged 10-18 who have been sexually trafficked.

YAP enforces a no-reject, no-eject policy, therefore 100% of referrals are accepted and no youth is ejected from services due to challenges that may arise during service delivery. All referrals are contacted via telephone within 24 hours and initial assessments are completed within 48 hours of the original referral. The assessment will lead to the development of the Individualized Service Plan (ISP) and will determine the exact intensity of services.

Specific services are guided by the youth’s Individualized Service Plan (ISP). Due to the vulnerability of the youth served, safety planning and crisis support are addressed immediately. YAP matches youth with a caring, culturally competent Advocate (paid mentor) who works with them intensively, addressing their needs while also building their strengths, skills and positive connections to the community.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION
AGE RANGE
10-18
GENDER
Male or Female, LGBTQ inclusive
HOURS
15/week average; higher at entry to reduce over time
CONTACTS
Average 5 days/week
LENGTH OF STAY
6-9 months
SUPPORTED WORK
10 hrs/week average
PROGRAM COST
$95/day per youth
PROGRAM COMPONENTS

➤ RAPID ENGAGEMENT WITH A TRUSTWORTHY ADVOCATE
Youth are matched with an Advocate and contacted within 24 hours of referral. To help promote the development of trust, youth are matched with someone of the same gender who often has shared experiences, culture, language, and interests.

➤ HOLISTIC, INDIVIDUALIZED PLANS
YAP’s approach address each youth’s specific needs, strengths and interests across all life domains, including residence, family, medical health, mental health and substance use, education, employment, legal, spiritual, social/recreational and financial.

➤ FLEXIBLE, INTENSIVE SUPPORT
Advocates meet with youth up to 20 or more hours in face to face contact, at least 5 times initially at locations and times most needed, such as nights and weekends at home or in the community. Recruited from the same communities as their youth, they are close by and easily accessible to their youth.

➤ EMPHASIS ON SAFETY
Protecting these youth from their pimps and “the life” is a primary goal. Safety plans are created based on each youth’s risks, with specific prevention and intervention steps, including those that address technology. YAP staff are available to youth 24/7, ready to search for a youth who may be missing or intervene during a family conflict.

➤ CONNECTION TO POSITIVE SUPPORTS AND SERVICES
YAP connects youth to services and/or other prosocial people, places and activities in their community based on needs and interests. A heavy focus is on strengthening the youth’s opportunities to contribute in meaningful ways of their choice within their community.

➤ COLLABORATIVE, MULTI-DISCIPLINARY APPROACH
YAP works with other partners in the community, such as law enforcement, the court, probation, a psychologist who specializes in trauma bonding, and others.

➤ YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AND HEALING
YAP’s program ensures that youth empowerment is fundamental to every aspect of programming. Youth have voice and choice developing their plan, weekly activities, and community connections. Further, they are connected to other young women, many of whom have been sexually trafficked, through evidence-based group interventions, such as “My Life, My Choice,” “Seeking Safety,” and “Girls Circle,” that promote physical, psychological and emotional safety, while building self-esteem and positive relationships with other girls.

➤ COURT ADVOCACY
YAP staff help to support and prepare traumatized youth for testifying against their pimps/traffickers in court and by attending all hearings with them.

➤ FAMILY ENGAGEMENT
Stable, safe relationships with family is crucial to supporting CSEC youth. YAP works intensively with the family, and at times, with extended or fictive family, focusing on facilitating understanding, communication and appropriate limits and youth supervision.

➤ ACCESS TO SUPPORTED WORK
To help youth achieve financial stability that can aid in keeping them safely away from pimps, YAP offers short-term subsidized employment opportunities to youth unable to find traditional employment on their own. These opportunities are tailored to their career interest, and YAP provides onsite support and coaching as needed.
SPECIALIZED STAFFING
Advocates are recruited from the same communities as youth served. They work with a small caseload of 1 to 3 youth at any given time due to the intensive and sensitive nature of the work, and are only hired after careful and thorough screening and background checks. All staff receive training in Sexual Trafficking, Child and Adolescent Trauma, Substance Use and Addiction, Sexual Health, and meeting the needs of LGBTQ youth.

EVIDENCE-BASED INTERVENTIONS
*My Life, My Choice* is a nationally acclaimed, well researched 10 session curriculum for youth who have been- or are at risk of being- sexually exploited. The curriculum, led by a certified trainer and Survivor Mentor who has escaped the commercial sex industry, helps youth build the skills, knowledge and attitudes necessary to empower them to make safe, healthy choices. *Seeking Safety* is an evidence-based model that helps individuals attain safety from both trauma and addiction. There are 25 topics available to choose from that help promote self-awareness, healing and coping skills.

One Circle Foundation promotes resiliency and healthy relationships through research-based, gender responsive models. *Girls Circle* is an evidence-based curriculum that addresses conditions and risks girls face and promotes the development of protective factors. *The Council for Boys and Young Men* is a rite of passage curriculum with similar content adapted to the specific needs of young men.

YAPWORX: AN OPTIONAL ADD-ON ENHANCING FUTURE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY
Our new program, YAPWORX, focuses on enhancing the Future Economic Opportunity of high-risk youth in juvenile justice and child welfare systems. The goal of YAPWORX is not a job; it’s labor market participation and engagement. Youth develop connections to social capital in the labor market while learning the skills, credentials, education and experience needed to thrive in the work environment of their choice.

YAPWORX is a strength-based, module learning system that combines cognitive behavioral therapy, motivational interviewing, and experiential and project-based learning to give system-involved youth a chance at gaining authentic labor market information and connections. Advocates and youth have 24 topics from which to choose targeted areas for growth and development.

Every module includes a “Learn-Work” component, whereby youth with their Advocates test concepts learned by interacting with Opportunity Advisors (OAs). OAs are volunteers from the local labor market committed to sharing relevant industry information with youth.

WITH YAPWORX, THE LEARNING LABORATORY IS NOT A CLASSROOM; IT’S THE JOB MARKET.
A COST-EFFECTIVE ALTERNATIVE TO PLACEMENT THAT HELPS YOUTH THRIVE

According to a Justice Policy Institute report, states spent 7.1 million dollars a day to incarcerate youth in 2008 for a total of 5.7 billion annually and an average rate of $240/day or $87,600/year. This includes detention centers, state juvenile correctional facilities and private residential placements used by juvenile correction departments.

YAP’s CSEC Programming operates effective, community based, family focused, intensive alternative programs to these placements at an average of $95/day, or 40% of the cost of out-of-home placement.

80% reside in the community at discharge
92% had no new adjudications while in YAP
100% connected with school or meaningful employment

Las Vegas, Nevada

Clark County, Nevada routinely finds youth who have been sexually exploited in their courtrooms. In 2006, YAP joined Clark County and other community-based providers seeking to better serve these youth. As part of the Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI), Clark County utilized YAP’s wraparound advocacy services model to close the girls’ wing of its Detention Center and continues to rely on YAP to keep sexually exploited girls safely home.

Youth Advocate Programs, Inc. (YAP) is nationally recognized nonprofit exclusively committed to the provision of community-based services as alternatives to out of home care through direct service, advocacy and policy change.

For more information on our CSEC Programming, please contact Gary Ivory, Senior Executive Officer, at givory@yapinc.org or at 214-417-7614.