

COMMERCIALLY SEXUALLY EXPLOITED CHILDREN PROGRAM

SB 855:

- Clarifies Child Welfare Dependency Code to include commercially sexually exploited children as dependents.
- Establishes the optional CSEC Program, which provides counties with funds for expenditures related to the costs of implementing the program, prevention and intervention services, and training related to children who are victims of commercial sexual exploitation.
- Requires the state to track various data points and report to the Legislature information on: (1) the number of children who are CSEC; (2) the risk factors associated with commercial sexual exploitation of children; (3) the types of services required by CSEC; and (4) the barriers to serving CSEC victims.

Eligibility

- Any child identified as:
 - sexually trafficked, as described in Section 236.1 of the Penal Code, or who receives compensation for performance of sexual acts; AND
 - unprotected or inadequately protected by caregiver(s)

Funding:

- **The SFY 14-15 budget appropriated \$5 million for:**
 - Training of foster youth and other youth on CSE risks;
 - CSEC overview training to foster parents, group home staff and probation staff;
 - Protocol development and capacity building. All counties will require some approval.
- **The January Governor's Budget proposes \$17.8 million (\$14 million SGF) for:**
 - Development and implementation of case management and services, employing local multidisciplinary teams including mandated partner service providers, such as law enforcement, mental health, and others.

Implementation Status:

- **Instructions for County Plans.** An All-County Letter (ACL) is under development which will provide:
 - Mandatory elements for plans to be submitted by participating counties;
 - Tools to aid in the development of those local plans;
 - An allocation methodology for participating counties, developed in consultation with CWDA;
- **Intersection with the federal Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act.**
 - Work continues within the administration to define the requirements overlap between the state CSEC program and the new federal legislation.
 - That work includes identification of SB 855 activities that are eligible for federal reimbursement.

- **Training.**
 - Contract amendments are underway to provide the Regional Training Academies resources to provide overview training to social workers; and a new agreement is under development with the Chancellor's Office to provide training to caregivers through the community colleges.
 - CWDA has committed 59th county funds to provide county social workers with skills-based training.
- **Data Collection.**
 - A system change request has been approved through the governance process for updates to CWS/CMS to enable collection of key CSEC data elements. This system update is scheduled for May 2016.
 - In the meantime, special project codes (data fields designated locally or at state level for a very limited scope) will be employed, with instructions disseminated to counties in late March.