

How CACs Can Serve Trafficked and Exploited Children Better



NATIONAL CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE®

What are trafficking and CSEC? Are they the same thing?

In CACs, “trafficking” and the “Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children” (CSEC) are often used interchangeably to mean “the sale of children for sex.” However, CSEC refers to a host of crimes¹:

- **Commercial production of child pornography**
- **Sharing videos of children engaged in sexual activity in exchange for anything of value**
- **Engaging in sexual activity with a child in return for anything of value (shelter, drugs, gifts, etc.)**
- **Commercial child sex tourism or the performance of children in sexual venues**
- **Internet-based marriage brokering or early marriage (under certain conditions)**

It is important to recognize the differences among each type of CSEC—it has crucial implications for the CAC response. The general term “trafficking” does not accurately describe all types of exploitation. However, for the purposes of this report, we looked strictly at CSEC cases involving child sex trafficking.

How are CACs currently serving this vulnerable population? Is it enough?

Almost 93% of CACs report they are currently serving this population, providing at least one key MDT response². However, 60% of CACs reported barriers to identifying or screening cases. Once screened, only **21.5%** of CACs are providing intensive case management.

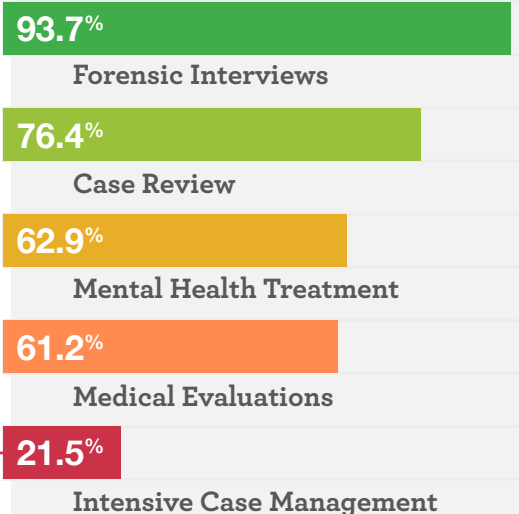
Intensive case management is a crucial component to serve trafficking victims. Many are not part of a supportive household, instead depending on the ecosystem of their abuse as an alternative support structure. At a minimum, intensive case management encompasses the response of all MDT partners and continuing follow-up care. It's the most important part of a successful CSEC response that ensures these children receive the care they need to heal.

Many people may believe CSEC doesn't happen in their communities. In fact, CSEC victims are exploited in areas around the country: urban, rural, and suburban. While areas near major interstate highways, ports, military bases, major sports and convention venues, and other features may provide infrastructure and opportunity to commercial traffickers, no community is immune.

What resources are needed to develop a new program to serve these children?

On average, CACs indicate that to develop or expand trafficking programs, they would need \$61,633². Many centers indicated they wouldn't need new funding to begin serving this population. But for those who did, additional funding would be needed for staffing, training, space, etc.

How many CACs are providing key services to CSEC victims?



¹ Learn more at ojdp.gov/programs/csec_program.html

² All data from NCA's 2016 Member Census.

Yet there are already many free resources to get CACs on the path to serving CSEC victims. There's our free online learning portal, "Unifying the CAC Response to Child Sexual Exploitation," at [CSEC-Response.org](https://csec-response.org). The [National Criminal Justice Training Center](https://www.nctac.org)³ at Fox Valley Technical College offers free webinars on several CSEC-related topics. [OJJDP Online University](https://www.ojjdp.org)⁴ also has many learning opportunities. Search "CSEC online training" online for more resources through social service organizations, law enforcement programs, and others.

What are the barriers to providing services? How can we overcome them?

A common barrier to service is knowing whether clients have been involved in CSEC. Thirty-one percent of CACs reported they didn't know or track how many CSEC cases they served. To identify clients, implement a screening tool like the [Comprehensive Human Trafficking Assessment Tool](https://www.ncjtc.fvtc.edu)⁵ or [CSE-IT](https://www.theacademy.sdsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/csec-screening-tools-matrix.pdf), or see a [matrix of potential tools](https://www.theacademy.sdsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/csec-screening-tools-matrix.pdf)⁶.

Case tracking software like NCAtrak can offer features to help add CSEC-related details to existing cases. Of course, you can't track what you don't know. It is important for CAC/MDT staff to know the signs of CSEC cases and to ask the proper questions. Reaching out to fellow NCA member CACs with existing programs for advice is also a helpful step.

What can I do? Does NCA offer resources to help CACs develop or improve a program?

First, use the online learning portal at [CSEC-Response.org](https://csec-response.org). This CSEC series provides a wealth of information and can help you form a comprehensive response to CSEC cases. A new module with content on developing a response to the victims of child pornography will launch in Q3 2017.

In Fall 2017, NCA will release a solicitation offering funds to help build or improve CSEC programs under Domestic Victims of Trafficking Funds (DVTF).⁷

To learn more about other possible funding state and federal funding sources, reach out to NCA's Director of Government Affairs, Denise Edwards, or contact NCA's Coordinator for Strategic Partnerships, Dave Betz, about initiatives with federal and state partners⁸. Congress, through the Department of Justice (DOJ), is proposing \$45 million in new funds for human trafficking grant programs for Fiscal Year 2018. Interested CACs should [monitor the DOJ website](https://www.justice.gov/business/grants) for announcements and requests for funding proposals⁹.

Will I really need to find \$61,633 to serve CSEC victims?

Not necessarily! Many CACs reported they wouldn't need any funding resources at all to serve CSEC victims. Here are some next steps you can take to start developing your program now.

1 Identify screening barriers and tools to identify CSEC victims

2 Access free training and other resources to reduce program costs

3 Assess what your CAC needs to meet CSEC victims' needs

4 Consult with CACs with existing CSEC programs for advice

5 Identify NCA and other funding sources to help build your program

³. Available at <https://ncjtc.fvtc.edu/>

⁴. Available at <https://www.nttac.org/>

⁵. Available at <https://humantraffickinghotline.org/resources/comprehensive-human-trafficking-assessment-tool>

⁶. Information on CSE-IT and other tools can be retrieved from <https://theacademy.sdsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/csec-screening-tools-matrix.pdf>

⁷. For more information, contact cacprograms-dtvm@nca-online.org.

⁸. Contact Denise at dedwards@nca-online.org and Dave at dbetz@nca-online.org.

⁹. <https://www.justice.gov/business/grants>