

# Los Angeles County Five Year Strategic Plan to Prevent and Address Child Trafficking

October 1, 2024



# Introduction



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# Los Angeles County Five-Year Strategic Plan to Prevent & Address Child Trafficking

2025 - 2030



## Acknowledgments

- Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
- DCFS Executive Team
- Kate Walker-Brown and Mae Ackerman-Brimberg, National Center for Youth Law
- Dr. Carly Dierkhising, California State University, Los Angeles
- Michelle Guymon, Probation Department
- Susie Baldwin, MD, MPH, Department of Public Health
- Melissa Gomez, Child and Family Policy Institute of California
- Stephanie Richard, Professor, Loyola University, Sunita Jain Anti-Trafficking Initiative
- Child Trafficking Steering Committee
- Child Labor Trafficking Committee
- Providers, Youth, Parents, Survivors

# Public Health Approach



# A Public Health Prevention Framework

- Moving upstream
- Multi-sector partnerships
- Evidence-based approaches
- Trauma informed service delivery
- Community-based responses
- Whole family approach
- Equity and inclusivity



# The Social Ecological Model

Risk factors for  
violence and abuse

Protective factors



# The Plan



# Community Engagement

- Listening sessions
  - 9 youth sessions (virtual & in person)
  - 2 parent / caregiver sessions
  - 8 community based org / public agency sessions
- Steering Committee sessions
- Youth Commission presentation
- Integration with other LA County initiatives
- Review of 20+ other County Strategic Plans
- Feedback Loop
- Information Session once plan complete





# Goals of the Strategic Plan

**1**

**Reduce the number of youth and families impacted by human trafficking**

**2**

**Improve youth and family well-being and healthy youth development**

**3**

**Promote healthy family environments and social connectedness**

# Strategic Priority Areas



1

Invest in early education and prevention



2

Build a broad and inclusive community-based service and support ecosystem



3

Fill service gaps in key areas



4

Foster youth empowerment, peer mentorship, and lived experience leadership



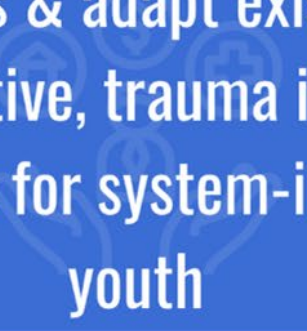
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Empower parents/caregivers to support their own children



6

Assess & adapt existing collaborative, trauma informed responses for system-impacted youth



# Priority Area 1

Invest in Prevention and Early Education





“  
Prevention work is everything.  
There is so much more we can do  
to get ahead of exploitation so we  
are not trying to clear up and  
restore.”

— *Advocate & Lived Experience Expert*



“

**If you ignore poverty and lack of equity that factor into the risk, you are not actually tackling the issue.**

*Lived Experience Expert*



# Priority Area 2

**Build a broad and inclusive community-based  
service and support ecosystem**



**“I struggled early on with people giving referrals and none of them were relevant to me. Do you even know my name? Do you know anything about me? When you need support and help, you need people who are going to show up. [That’s why now] I always vet resources before I give them out.”**

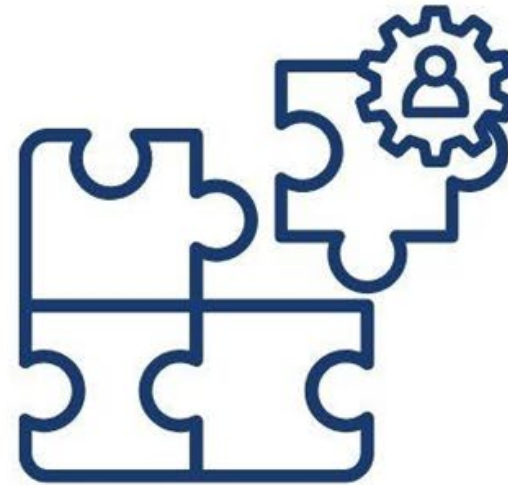
**— *Advocate & Lived Experience Expert***

**“In some ways there are an overwhelming amount of resources, and yet there is also a shortage of resources everywhere.” — Lived Experience Expert**



# Priority Area 3

Fill Service Gaps in Key Areas





“

**I am here for awareness and letting people know the signs, but we need financial literacy, to build self-confidence, build life skills, teach how to fill out job applications. We need to uplift and empower youth to be self-sufficient.**

*Lived Experience Expert*



# Priority Area 4

**Uplift Youth Empowerment, Peer Mentorship,  
and Lived Experience Leadership**





**“I got a survivor advocate. Me and her literally had the same exact story, so we connected. She used to always tell me, you remind me of little me. All stakeholders agree that there must be lived experience leadership and peer support programs. The advocacy program helped me a lot because they knew who I was.” — *Youth***

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**“We need more one-on-one mentorship for survivors. Different people have different talents and specialties. Youth can be matched with other peer leaders that want to learn about those things.” — *Lived Experience Expert***



# Priority Area 5

Empower parents/caregivers to  
support their own children



**“The information was so powerful. My daughter was missing, and so much was going on. Everytime after the class, I had a plan.” — Parent, describing Parent Empowerment Program**

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**“If we also put parents at center, then we can have them in a healthy state - and the kids see that their parents are strong and can help them.”— Parent Partner**



# Priority Area 6

**Assess & Adapt Existing Collaborative, Trauma Informed Responses for System-Impacted Youth**



**“I’m happy that commercial sexual exploitation is getting more acknowledgement and people in official government jobs are hearing this and spreading the word and doing something about it.” — *Youth***

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**“None of these services existed when I was being exploited. We need more but it is very encouraging to see that it’s getting better.”**

**— *Advocate & Lived Experience Expert***





**“As we look to empower families to support youth, we have to keep in mind possible generational cycles and how triggering or unsettling it can be trying to learn about your child and learning about yourself and your experience in turn. We need additional support if parents are going to be in these spaces, especially if they have the experience themselves.” — Lived Experience Expert**





# Moving Forward





**“It has been a great experience and feeling to know that there are people trying and working to help. I want my baby to know this is something I was a part of and something to help the community. Hopefully it will be important to him once he is old enough to understand.” — *Youth***



# Los Angeles County Child Trafficking Leadership Team (CTLT)



**Establishing new Reporting and Accountability Structure for the  
Child Trafficking Strategic Plan Motion**

August 6, 2024

**Convening of CTLT Meetings**  
Engaging other County Agencies

**Development of Implementation Plan**

April 2025: Presentation of Implementation Plan to include specific tasks  
& deliverables, budget, and anticipated timelines for completion.

# Thank You!

Adela Estrada, Department of Children and Family Services  
Dr. Susie Baldwin, Department of Public Health  
Kate Walker-Brown, National Center for Youth Law  
Michelle Guymon, Probation Department

