Youth Advocate Programs, Inc.’s (YAP) CSEC program is a cost-effective alternative to detention or placement that safely and 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 matches youth with a caring, culturally competent Advocate (paid mentor) who works with them intensively for 6-9 months, addressing their needs while also building their strengths, skills and positive connections to the community.

PROGRAM COMPONENTS

- Rapid Engagement
- Holistic, Individualized, Youth-Led Plans
- Flexible, Intensive Support
- Emphasis on Safety
- Multi-Disciplinary Approach
- Access to Supported Work
- Youth Empowerment and Healing
- Court Advocacy
- Connection to Needed Supports and Services
- Family Engagement

CLARK COUNTY YAP: PROVIDING ALTERNATIVES TO DETENTION FOR CSEC

Victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) are traditionally placed in juvenile detention due to the lack of alternative secure shelters or intensive community-based programs that could safely remove them from the control of their pimps. 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 bring sexually exploited girls safely home.

- 50% of YAP’s JJ-involved youth are CSEC victims
- 80% reside in the community at discharge
- 92% had no new adjudications while in YAP
- 100% connected with school or meaningful employment
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.

STAFFING

Advocates 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. Staff are trained in YAP’s 9 course Basic Advocacy Training Curriculum certified by Rutgers University, as well as in specific training in Sexual Trafficking, Child and Adolescent Trauma, Substance Use and Addiction, Sexual Health, and meeting the needs of LGBTQ youth.

Case Study: Alisa*

Alisa* was referred to YAP because she was being exploited through prostitution. She was also a victim of gang rape. YAP assigned a caring, culturally competent Advocate who helped her find a job to support herself and her young child, pay her bills and develop a career track.

Through YAP’s Supported Work Program, Alisa works in a local restaurant. She intends to obtain her high school diploma and attend community college with help from a YAP Endowment Fund scholarship. Her story is one of many powerful examples of how YAP is helping young victims move beyond their past and their pain.

*not her real name

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
GARY IVORY, PRESIDENT
GIVORY@YAPINC.ORG / 214.417.7614

$95/day
program cost per youth