



Human Trafficking of Children Annual Report

Florida Department of Children and Families
Office of Community Services
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Executive Summary

In State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2025-26, the Florida Department of Children and Families (Department) continued to strengthen Florida's response to child human trafficking. The Florida Abuse Hotline accepted 2,555 human trafficking reports involving 1,727 children, a 13.4 percent increase from the previous fiscal year and the highest number recorded since trend reporting began in SFY 2016-17. Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) accounted for 91.62 percent of all reports. Female alleged victims remained the majority, accounting for 2,037 reports, or 79.73 percent. At the time of intake, 2,104 reports, or 82.34 percent, involved children living at home with a parent or other caregiver, while 451 reports involved children in out-of-home care. This demonstrates that trafficking can affect children in any living arrangement and reinforces the need to equip families, caregivers, and frontline professionals to recognize exploitation.

Successful placement of victims in Safe Houses and Safe Foster Homes increased by 31 percent from the previous fiscal year. Placement capacity also expanded. The Safe House network grew from 34 to 36 beds, including a new four-bed home serving male survivors, while the number of Safe Foster Homes increased from 28 to 33, an increase of approximately 18 percent.

The Department strengthened statewide support for victims by adding two Survivor Services Specialist positions focused on improving access to services and supporting the required six-month Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) follow-up in accordance with § 409.1754(2)(d) and § 409.1754(2)(e). These positions complement the Regional Human Trafficking Coordinators and strengthen support for children, families, and local partners. Department staff supported more than 430 hours of certification training and education statewide, including 80 hours of collaborative and cross-agency training for frontline professionals and multidisciplinary partners. These efforts include over 22,000 individual online training completions statewide and the certification of 376 DCF staff and 167 Adult Safe Home employees, as well as training for 292 Community-Based Care (CBC) staff.

Together, these efforts reflect Florida's continued investment in prevention, identification, specialized care, and recovery while building a more coordinated and survivor-centered system for children and families affected by human trafficking.

Background

Section 39.001(5), Florida Statutes (F.S.), establishes the following goals for the status and treatment of sexually exploited children who are residing in the dependency system:

- Ensure the safety of children;
- Provide for the treatment of such children as dependent children, rather than as delinquents in the criminal or juvenile justice system;
- Sever the bond between exploited children and traffickers, and reunite these children with their families or provide them with appropriate guardians; and
- Enable these children to be willing and reliable witnesses in the prosecution of traffickers.

Purpose

This report provides information as required in section 39.524(3), F.S., as follows:

- Prevalence of child commercial sexual exploitation;
- The specialized services provided and placement of such children;
- The local service capacity assessed pursuant to section [409.1754](#), F.S.;
- The placement of children in safe houses and safe foster homes during the year, including the criteria used to determine the placement of children;
- The number of children who were evaluated for placement;
- The number of children who were placed based upon the evaluation;
- The number of children who were not placed;
- And the department's response to the findings and recommendations made by the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) in its annual study on commercial sexual exploitation of children, as required by section [409.16791](#), F.S.

The activities described within this report occurred during SFY 2025-26, unless otherwise noted.

The Department tracked Human Trafficking allegations in two primary categories:

- Human Trafficking-CSEC: This maltreatment type is used for cases in which the allegations involve commercial sexual exploitation of a child (e.g., adult entertainment clubs, escort services, prostitution, etc.). Investigative types for this category include In-Home (Caregiver), Other, or Institutional. This distinction separates reports based on whether the alleged perpetrator is a parent, legal guardian, caregiver, unrelated adult, or appears to be an institution.

- **Human Trafficking-Labor:** This maltreatment type is used in cases in which the allegations involve issues associated with forced labor, slavery, or servitude that do not appear to be sexual in nature.

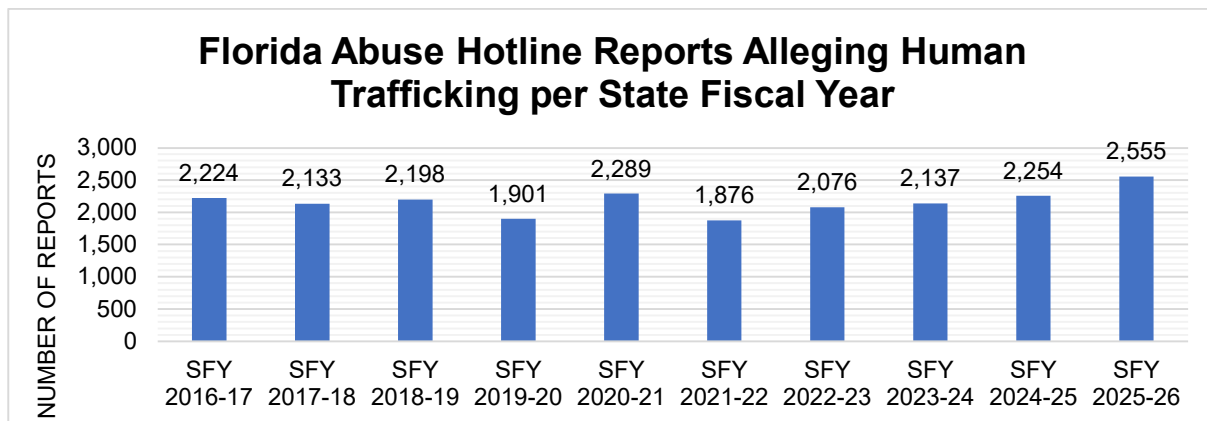
Florida continues to distinguish Human Trafficking — CSEC and Labor — as separate maltreatments to recognize the unique dynamics of each form of exploitation and prevent gaps in protection. This approach reflects Florida’s commitment to ensuring that every exploited child, regardless of the individual responsible, is identified, reported, and connected to appropriate services and law enforcement partners. Unlike other maltreatments, these allegations do not require the suspected perpetrator to be a parent or caregiver and may involve any person believed to be exploiting the child.

Investigative Intakes

In SFY 2025-26, the total number of initial and additional¹ reports accepted by the Florida Abuse Hotline (Hotline) alleging one of the human trafficking maltreatments — CSEC or labor trafficking — was 2,555, involving 1,727 children. Of these reports, 2,341 (91.62 percent) were coded as CSEC, while 214 (8.38 percent) involved labor trafficking.

Accepted human trafficking reports increased by 13.4 percent from SFY 2024-25, rising from 2,254 to 2,555 reports. This represents the highest number of accepted human trafficking reports since trend reporting began in SFY 2016-17. The overall increase was driven primarily by CSEC reports, which rose by 15 percent, from 2,036 to 2,341. This continual increase in reporting reflects heightened awareness, improved identification, and strengthened reporting efforts across the state.

The chart below depicts Hotline reports alleging human trafficking since SFY 2016-17.



¹ Report identified by a Florida Abuse Hotline counselor which contains new information about one or more participants in an existing open investigation.

Profiles for Reported Child Victims

In SFY 2025-26, 2,037 (79.73 percent) of the 2,555 accepted human trafficking reports involved female alleged victims, while 482 (18.86 percent) involved male alleged victims. An additional 36 reports (1.41 percent) listed the alleged victim's gender as unknown. This distribution remained largely consistent with the previous fiscal year, with female alleged victims continuing to account for the majority of reports. Of the total reports, 2,104 (82.34 percent) involved children living at home with a parent or other caregiver at the time of intake, while 451 (17.65 percent) involved children in out-of-home care.

This data demonstrates that human trafficking concerns affect children across all living arrangements and are not limited to children in out-of-home care. In response, the Department continues to broaden its prevention and intervention strategies through statewide and community-based training, participation in local human trafficking task forces, and the development and distribution of resources such as the Community Human Trafficking Identification Guide and parent safety toolkits. These efforts help equip families, caregivers, community partners, and frontline professionals to recognize risk factors, identify potential exploitation, and connect children and families to appropriate services.

Geographical Analysis

County-level data shows that Broward County received the highest number of accepted human trafficking reports, with 259, followed by Orange County with 236, Hillsborough County with 235, and Miami-Dade County with 220. Together, these four urban counties accounted for 950 reports, or approximately 37 percent of all accepted human trafficking reports statewide. However, an analysis based on estimated child population provides a different perspective. Lafayette (1.80), Columbia (1.61), and Hamilton (1.57) had the highest rates of accepted reports per 1,000 children. Although these counties had lower overall report totals, the per capita rates demonstrate that human trafficking concerns extend beyond Florida's larger urban areas.

At the regional level, the Central Region received the highest number of reports, with 674, followed by the Suncoast Region with 580. The Southeast Region received 421 reports, followed by the Northeast Region with 397, the Northwest Region with 257, and the Southern Region with 226. Together, the Central and Suncoast Regions accounted for 1,254 reports, or 49 percent of all accepted human trafficking reports statewide.

To strengthen service coordination and response, particularly in areas experiencing higher concentrations of reports, the Department added two Survivor Services Specialist positions during SFY 2025-26. These positions complement the Department's Regional Human Trafficking Coordinators by helping connect children

and families to appropriate services and supporting coordinated responses across systems through the completion of required Multidisciplinary Team staffings. Regional Human Trafficking Coordinators also continue to work with Community-Based Care Lead Agencies, service providers, local task forces, Safe Houses, and Safe Foster Homes to promote timely access to services and coordinated responses throughout the state.

The below table shows the number and type of human trafficking reports by Department region.

Region	Human Trafficking - CSEC	Human Trafficking - Labor	Total
Central	612	62	674
Suncoast	535	45	580
Southeast	382	39	421
Northeast	349	48	397
Northwest	244	13	257
Southern	219	7	226
Totals	2,341	214	2,555



Investigative Findings

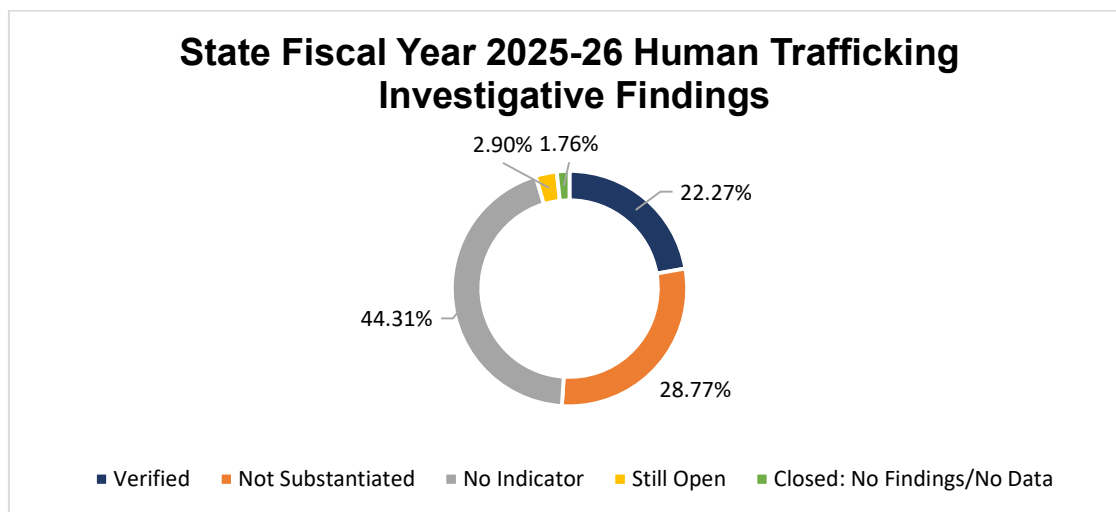
In SFY 2025-26, the Florida Abuse Hotline accepted 2,555 reports of human trafficking. Of these, 569 reports (22.27 percent) were closed with verified findings. An additional 74 reports (2.9 percent) remained open at the time of report writing.

For CSEC, 528 of the 2,341 reports were closed as verified, resulting in a verification rate of 22.55 percent.²

For labor trafficking, the verification rate increased from 16.06 percent in SFY 2024-25 to 19.16 percent in SFY 2025-26³. The number of verified labor trafficking reports also increased from 35 to 41. This continued growth may reflect improved awareness and assessment practices among frontline professionals, strengthening Florida's ability to distinguish labor trafficking from other forms of labor exploitation and connect victims to appropriate protections and services.

Analysis of verified reports shows that CSEC cases continued to predominantly involve female victims, while verified labor trafficking cases more frequently involved male victims. Among verified CSEC reports, 52 involved male victims and 476 involved female victims. Among verified labor trafficking reports, 30 involved male victims and 11 involved female victims.

The chart below depicts the findings of human trafficking investigations conducted during the fiscal year.



² To verify a maltreatment of human trafficking / CSEC, investigative information must show that a child under 18 was used for sexual purposes in exchange for something of value (or promise thereof).

³ To verify a maltreatment of human trafficking / Labor, investigative information must show that a child was recruited, harbored, transported, provided, or obtained for labor or services for the purpose of subjecting that child-to-child labor, involuntary servitude, peonage (being held against one's will to pay off a debt), debt bondage, or slavery.

Safe Houses and Safe Foster Home Capacity and Placement

Specialized residential placement options for children who have experienced or are at risk of CSEC, including Safe Houses and Safe Foster Homes, are available in five of Florida's six regions. While these homes are located within specific regions, they accept referrals from throughout the state.

The Department's Human Trafficking Prevention Unit continues to support specialized CSEC residential providers through onsite visits, provider meetings, technical assistance, and ongoing case consultation. Department staff work directly with providers to address complex placement and service needs, strengthen coordination, and support the delivery of safe, stable, and trauma-informed care.

Safe Home and Safe Foster Home Capacity

The statewide Safe House network continued to expand during SFY 2025-26. Five licensed providers now operate six facilities with a combined capacity of 36 beds, an increase from 34 beds during the previous reporting period. In April 2026, a new four-bed Safe House for male survivors opened in the Suncoast Region, addressing a previously identified gap in specialized residential services for male youth. Additional growth is anticipated in March 2027, when a Suncoast Region provider plans to open two new homes that could add up to 12 beds statewide.

The Department also strengthened its support of the Safe House network by establishing biweekly meetings between the Human Trafficking Operations Unit, Regional Human Trafficking Coordinators, and each provider. These meetings allow the Department and providers to respond quickly to emerging challenges, support placement stability, and improve communication regarding anticipated vacancies. By preparing referral and placement documentation in advance, regional teams can help reduce the length of time beds remain vacant and facilitate more timely placements.

Safe Foster Homes also continued to expand, increasing from 28 homes during the previous reporting period to 33 homes as of July 2026 — an increase of approximately 18 percent. Devereux Florida operates 15 homes through its DELTA Foster Home Program, while Citrus Health Network oversees 11 homes through its CHANCE Program. Together, these providers manage approximately 79 percent of the state's Safe Foster Home capacity. Expansion efforts also supported the addition of seven Safe Foster Homes in Pasco County and one in Duval County, increasing the geographic availability of specialized family-based placements. Unlike the current Safe House network, the Safe Foster Home model is designed to serve both male and female children.

The Department continues to work alongside our valued partners to recruit foster parents and expand capacity in communities where additional homes are needed.

Through a marketing campaign conducted supported by the Florida Legislature, in partnership with KPMG, approximately 600 prospective foster parents completed a short informational course through the Florida Foster Information Center, and 256 were referred to local licensing agencies to continue the application process. As applicants move through the licensing process, local agencies discuss the specific placement needs within their communities, including the need for homes equipped to serve children who have experienced human trafficking. The Department is also working with Florida Atlantic University and the Florida Institute for Child Welfare to study current recruitment and licensing practices and identify additional strategies for increasing foster home capacity.

Overall, these efforts reflect continued progress in expanding both residential and family-based placement capacity. The opening of a Safe House serving male youth, planned Safe House expansion, growth in Safe Foster Homes, and continued recruitment efforts demonstrate the Department's commitment to increasing the availability, geographic reach, and diversity of trauma-informed placements for children who have experienced commercial sexual exploitation.

Safe Home Placement

When a child is identified as a survivor of CSEC, the Community-Based Care (CBC) Lead Agency, in coordination with the regional human trafficking team, initiates an assessment to determine the most appropriate placement and level of care. This process typically includes MDT staffing and completion of the Level of Care Placement Tool. The assessment considers factors such as the child's history of elopement, dependency involvement, connections to gangs or traffickers, substance use, behavioral and psychiatric needs, supportive relationships, geographic considerations, and readiness to participate in services.

Placement recommendations are individualized and based on each child's circumstances. Youth with co-occurring mental health or substance use needs may require a higher level of care, such as residential treatment or a substance use treatment program. Youth with stable family supports may be appropriately served through intensive community-based wraparound services, while those who are ready to engage in services and need a structured, specialized environment may benefit from placement in a Safe House or Safe Foster Home.

During SFY 2025-26, CBC Lead Agencies evaluated 343 youth using the Level of Care Placement Tool. Of those evaluated, 110 were recommended for placement in a Safe House or Safe Foster Home, and 59 were successfully placed. This represents a placement rate of 53.6 percent, compared with 37.5 percent during the previous fiscal year. The number of youth successfully placed also increased from 45 to 59, representing a 31 percent increase and demonstrating continued progress in connecting youth to specialized, trauma-informed placements.

Of the 110 youth recommended for specialized placement, 51 did not enter a Safe House or Safe Foster Home. Eleven were unable to be placed because a bed was unavailable when placement was needed. Other circumstances included the youth being on runaway status, declining the placement, requiring a higher level of mental health or substance use treatment, or entering a juvenile justice placement. Some youth may later enter a specialized placement after completing their treatment or involvement with the juvenile justice system. Youth who are recommended for specialized placement but may receive placement elsewhere based on their individual needs and circumstances are provided referrals for specialized non-residential services.

Other Specialized Services (Non-Residential)

The State of Florida offers a range of community-based supports for youth who have experienced human trafficking. During SFY 2025-26, 327 youth were referred for specialized nonresidential services. These services are an essential component of the continuum of specialized care available to youth who have experienced commercial sexual exploitation. Community-based services may be particularly appropriate for youth who have a stable and supportive living environment, do not wish to enter a Safe House, or do not require the level of care provided by a Safe Foster Home, Safe House, or residential treatment center. Services typically include individualized therapy, specialized case management or advocacy, and other supports tailored to each youth's unique needs.

When substance use is identified, addressing it may become an immediate priority to help stabilize the youth before introducing additional services. Youth with severe substance dependency or who require detoxification must address these issues before working to recover from their victimization. The Department continues to identify and engage substance use treatment programs serving youth and encourages providers to strengthen their understanding of the specific needs and vulnerabilities of commercially sexually exploited children.

Expenditures for Human Trafficking

Through the leadership of Governor DeSantis and the Florida Legislature, \$3 million in recurring funds continues to be provided annually through the General Appropriations Act to support youth who have experienced sexual exploitation and have been adjudicated dependent or are the subject of an open investigation involving allegations of abuse, neglect, or exploitation. As directed by the Legislature, these funds are provided to CBC Lead Agencies to support the cost of placement and services for sexually exploited youth.

In SFY 2025-26, Lead Agencies reported \$3,324,699.36 in expenditures for CSEC services. This continued investment reflects Florida's commitment to providing

specialized placement, treatment, and recovery services for children who have experienced commercial sexual exploitation.

CBC Lead Agencies and community partners continue to build on their collective expertise and strong partnerships to expand access to specialized services for youth in the community. Ongoing collaboration is helping identify opportunities to strengthen service pathways, particularly for youth who need substance use treatment before entering a Safe House, and to support timely access to the appropriate level of care, regardless of formal involvement with the child welfare system.

Annual Summary of Activities

Throughout SFY 2025-26, the Department continued to strengthen Florida's response to human trafficking through statewide coordination, enhanced identification and assessment practices, specialized services and placements, improved data collection, prevention, training, and collaboration with child welfare and community partners. Regional Human Trafficking Coordinators and statewide specialists continued to support human trafficking practice across all six regions, providing consistent guidance and assistance to frontline staff and local partners.

Regional Human Trafficking Coordinators served as subject matter experts supporting case consultation, specialized placement coordination, multidisciplinary team staffings, technical assistance, and collaboration with CBC Lead Agencies and community partners. During the reporting period, the Department strengthened the coordinators' role in the MDT process to improve documentation, service planning, coordination, and required follow-up for children suspected or identified as victims of human trafficking.

The Human Trafficking Program also expanded by adding two statewide Survivor Services Specialist positions focused on improving access to services and supporting the required six-month MDT follow-up. These positions provide additional support to Regional Human Trafficking Coordinators and local partners, strengthen continuity of care, and help address service gaps across regions.

Data collection and analysis remained a priority throughout the year. The Department continued improving individual-level data collection related to MDT activities, specialized placements, service referrals, and service delivery. These efforts support more accurate and timely reporting, strengthen oversight, and help the Department identify geographic and programmatic gaps within Florida's continuum of care.

Florida's continuum of specialized care for commercially sexually exploited youth continued to expand during the fiscal year. A new Safe House serving male survivors opened in the Suncoast Region, addressing a previously identified gap in residential services. Efforts also continued to increase Safe Foster Home capacity and identify additional specialized residential and community-based treatment options. Recurring meetings with specialized residential providers strengthened communication regarding

placement availability, service needs, and emerging challenges, helping improve placement coordination and reduce disruptions in care.

The Department also increased its focus on transition planning for youth approaching adulthood. This work included coordinating warm handoffs to adult-serving programs and connecting youth to housing resources, behavioral health treatment, and other community-based supports. These efforts help promote continuity of care and reduce service disruptions as youth transition from child-serving systems.

Oversight of specialized services was strengthened through enhanced contract performance measures, referral pathways, utilization reporting, and provider monitoring. In partnership with the Florida Institute for Child Welfare, the Department assessed Florida's residential and nonresidential service capacity for commercially sexually exploited youth. The assessment examined geographic and programmatic service gaps, projected demand, and barriers to accessing specialized behavioral health and substance use treatment.

Prevention efforts also addressed emerging forms of technology-facilitated exploitation, including online grooming, sextortion, and the misuse of artificial intelligence. The Department developed and launched the Human Trafficking Online Safety and Artificial Intelligence Toolkit to provide parents and caregivers with practical information about online risks, warning signs, prevention strategies, and reporting options. This resource supports earlier identification and helps families take proactive steps to protect children from exploitation and can be found at [Online and AI Safety Toolkit](#).

Training and outreach remained central to the Department's anti-trafficking strategy. A primary focus during SFY 2025-26 was the review and modernization of the Department's core human trafficking curricula in collaboration with Workforce Learning and Development. The revised 12-hour At-Risk Home Human Trafficking Curriculum was finalized and implemented in June 2026. In April 2026, the Department also launched the S.H.I.E.L.D. At-Risk Human Trafficking Train-the-Trainer curriculum, which uses standardized instructional materials, interactive learning activities, and performance-based teach-backs to prepare at-risk home providers, safe house and safe foster home providers, case managers, and Child Protective Investigators for consistent statewide implementation.

The Department's human trafficking team continues to support Adult Safe House training materials, and expanded access to resources through the Human Trafficking Learning Resource Page on My FL Learn. During SFY 2025-26, 17 Adult Safe Houses were certified, providing adult survivors access to 95 beds. Department-approved training was also provided to newly licensed At-Risk Homes and Safe Houses, supporting consistency in the care and supervision of youth across specialized placement settings.

During the fiscal year, Department staff provided over 430 hours of training and education to law enforcement officers, educators, healthcare professionals, child welfare professionals, community organizations, Safe House and At-Risk Home staff, probation and parole professionals, emergency response personnel, and multidisciplinary partners. Training topics included human trafficking awareness and victim identification, online exploitation, substance use and trafficking, labor trafficking, trauma-informed responses, and emerging risks associated with technology and artificial intelligence.

Collaboration remained a key component of the Department's training efforts. The Department delivered or supported 80 hours of collaborative and cross-agency training with state, local, federal, and community partners. These partners included the Florida Sheriffs Association, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Department of Juvenile Justice, Adult Protective Services, Florida Council Against Sexual Violence, local law enforcement agencies, healthcare organizations, community task forces, and other child- and adult-serving systems.

Department staff also presented at and participated in statewide, national, and international training events, including the 2025 Child Protection Summit, International Human Trafficking Investigators Conference, AdventHealth Emergency Department Symposium, Florida Independent Living Winter Training, Statewide Emergency Operations Conference, International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Conference, Florida Sheriffs Association law enforcement trainings, and statewide human trafficking and task force meetings. These engagements expanded access to specialized information, strengthened professional partnerships, and reinforced Florida's leadership in developing coordinated responses to human trafficking.

The Department's human trafficking team provided direct operational support in collaboration with law enforcement and child welfare partners during statewide and local recovery efforts. During SFY 2025-26, the team supported both local recovery operations and large-scale efforts led by the U.S. Marshals Service, including Home for the Holidays, a two-week, multi-agency operation in November 2025 that successfully recovered 122 missing and endangered children.

During these operations, recovery service HUBs provided central locations where recovered youth could have their immediate needs assessed and be connected with appropriate services while law enforcement continued its recovery efforts. The Department's human trafficking team helped establish HUB locations, coordinate participating agencies and staff, and ensure necessary resources were available. The team also worked with law enforcement, child welfare professionals, the Department of Juvenile Justice, service providers, caregivers, and placement partners to address basic needs and coordinate assessments, safe placements, referrals, and follow-up support. These partnerships strengthened the Department's ability to respond in real time and promote continuity of care for children and youth following recovery.

The progress made during SFY 2025-26 reflects Florida's continued investment in prevention, identification, protection, specialized care, and recovery. Through expanded staffing, stronger partnerships, improved oversight, modernized training, and an increased focus on emerging threats, the Department continues to build a more coordinated and responsive system for children and families affected by human trafficking.

The Department's response to the findings and recommendations made by OPPAGA.

Section 39.524(3), F.S., requires the Department of Children and Families to respond to the findings and recommendations presented in OPPAGA's annual study of CSEC. During SFY 2025-26, the Department took the following actions to address OPPAGA's recommendations related to placement capacity, interagency coordination, survivor mentorship, data collection, and Baker Act reporting.

Safe Foster Home Capacity

OPPAGA recommended that the Legislature and Department continue investing in safe foster home programs to expand the availability of specialized placement settings identified as effective for CSE children

During the reporting period, the Department continued working to increase foster home recruitment and availability. In partnership with KPMG, the Department conducted a foster parent recruitment campaign through which approximately 600 prospective foster parents completed an introductory course and 256 were referred to local licensing agencies to continue the application process. Local licensing agencies also discussed specific community placement needs with applicants, including the need for additional placements equipped to serve children who have experienced human trafficking.

The Department is also working with Florida Atlantic University and the Florida Institute for Child Welfare to study current recruitment and foster home licensing practices. The findings will help identify additional strategies for increasing capacity in areas where more homes are needed. Together, these efforts support the Department's broader goal of expanding family-based placement options, including specialized placements for children with complex needs.

DJJ and Information Sharing

OPPAGA recommended enhancing information sharing between the Department and DJJ to improve the continuum of care for CSE children served by both systems.

The Department continued work during the reporting period to strengthen the exchange of information for dually served youth, including efforts to expand the data sharing agreement between DCF and DJJ. Improved information sharing will support more coordinated assessment, placement, service planning, and transition activities for youth involved with both systems.

Survivor Mentor Services

OPPAGA recommended expanding access to survivor mentors and increasing awareness of survivor mentor services.

During SFY 2025-26, the Department funded Lutheran Services of Florida, in consultation with the Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center, to develop a survivor mentor certification program. This work included developing a certification curriculum, recruiting participants, and making the training available on an ongoing basis. A total of 181 participants completed the training during the reporting period. The program provides a more consistent framework for preparing survivor mentors and expands the pool of individuals qualified to provide survivor-informed support to children affected by commercial sexual exploitation.

Individual-Level Data Collection

OPPAGA recommended updating the Department's individual-data collection to include all statutorily required elements and facilitate analysis of placements for CSE children.

The Department expanded its Human Trafficking Multidisciplinary Team data collection to capture additional elements identified through the recommendation. These elements include each child's county of origin and whether placement in a Safe House or Safe Foster Home was recommended but unavailable. These data will help the Department identify geographic patterns, assess unmet placement needs, evaluate capacity, and inform future service and placement planning.

Baker Act Reporting

OPPAGA recommended that the Department work with the Baker Act Reporting Center (BARC) to help ensure designed receiving and treatment facilities submit involuntary inpatient commitment orders and required documentation in a usable format.

The Department's Substance Abuse and Mental Health program is developing Rule 65E-5.295, Florida Administrative Code, *Involuntary Services*. Applicable requirements include the submission of required orders to BARC. The program has also incorporated this requirement into its monitoring activities to promote compliance and help ensure documentation is submitted completely and in a usable format.

Collectively, these actions demonstrate the Department's continued work to strengthen placement capacity, improve coordination across systems, expand survivor-informed support, and enhance the data available to identify service gaps and improve outcomes for children affected by commercial sexual exploitation.