

COVID-19 Programmatic SE/HT Response Considerations

Implications, Strategies, & Resources

Implications for Youth Vulnerable to Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking	Possible Response Strategies	Resources
<p>Increased Risk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sexual Exploitation takes a toll on the body (nutrition, dehydration, STI's, HIV/AIDS) and decreases immunity to fight against viruses Limited access to resources will make young people who are sexually exploited or at risk of exploitation more vulnerable and easily recognizable to traffickers/exploiters Financial strain on families increases risk of CSEC, child abuse, and domestic violence incidents (especially when family is the abuser/exploiter) Increased recruitment and financial coercion attempts by exploiters seeking to capitalize off of vulnerability Youth who are being sexually exploited have increased exposure and risk of contracting COVID-19 due to regular skin to skin and body fluid contact/exchange with multiple people Place of residence may be high risk (a lot of people in and out, presence of high risk individuals) Traffickers and buyers will prioritize gratification vs. protecting victims <p>Increased Disconnection/Isolation & Lack of Access to Safe Environments/Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased lack of access to services (medical, outreach, shelter, drop in, etc.) Places previously screening for CSEC/HT will likely be focusing on emergency screening only Decreased presence & access to law enforcement Trauma bond (dependence on abuser for survival) increases --further isolates from helpful resources 	<p>Remaining Engaged and Connected</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check in by phone more frequently, use FaceTime if available & appropriate Zoom has free HIPAA compliant packages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offer zoom support group times Google Hangouts is free with any Gmail account and can be used to conduct check-ins and intakes WhatsApp can be used to send text messages and video calls <p>Social Media</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private support groups can be created on Facebook Facebook Messenger, can be used to make free calls, even with inactive phone services Life-skills & social distancing groups can be facilitated via Instagram Live Twitter Live Chat can be used for service providers to answer non-confidential questions regarding access to services Use social media platforms to create online outreach campaigns and post positive messages <p>Content for Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> List resources of the day-resources that help connect online -listing another source each day keeps young people coming back to get new resources (e.g. above options) Post agency flyers that help orient and inform youth with online or in-person intake hours-- placed in essential businesses (drop in centers, grocery stores, dollar stores, hospitals) that youth may access for help (provide tear-off tabs on poster) 	<p>Maintaining Connection During the COVID-19 Crisis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening Developmental Relationships Amidst COVID-19 COVID-19: Connecting with disconnected youth (Street Outreach, etc.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look for Motel information Street Outreach Tip Sheet Connecting with Survivors Digitally COVID-19 CDC Tips for Outreach Staff COVID-19 <p>Provide Information that Helps Youth Understand and Protect Selves</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inform Youth of COVID-19 Facts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look for printable posters to distribute in multiple languages Look for ways to communicate factual information <p>Safety Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safety Planning by Survivors for Survivors <p>Remaining Connected during COVID-19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zoom: Video Conferencing, Web Conferencing Google Hangouts Youth Emotional Well-Being During COVID-19

COVID-19 Programmatic SE/HT Response Considerations

Implications, Strategies, & Resources

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced services and sheltering in place forces youth who are vulnerable to stay or return to unsafe/unstable environments. • Services (therapy/case management etc.) moved to telehealth/virtually limits access for some youth, even though the need for services will increase • Inconsistent contact with high-risk populations decrease trust and connection with service providers • Increased loneliness magnifies depression, anxiety, and other mental health challenges (can further isolate) • Increased invisibility of youth who are transient due to communal lockdowns, further isolates from shelter and service options • Increased engagement of life-sustaining unlawful activity (crimes to meet needs) 	<p>Risk Reduction for In-Person Connections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practice social distancing and safety--use equipment such as tables to help provide separation (while distributing supplies) • Model wearing gloves and taking protective measures when distributing food and other basic needs- helps teach youth safety skills • Drop In Center may consider how they can serve youth on a limited but consistent basis (see NN4Y resource and others) • Provide wipes, hand sanitizer, cleaning supplies • Communicate calmness & planfulness <p>Engaging Youth in Solution Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask what they need the most right now • Ask what they believe other young people need during this crisis • Partner with youth to develop solutions • Partner with youth to reach other youth • Partner with Youth Advisory Boards/Groups 	<p>Access to the Internet</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comcast Free Internet • Spectrum Internet for Youth <p>Interim Guidance for Responding to COVID-19 among People Experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CDC Guidance for Homeless and Unsheltered Populations <p>Response for Youth In Foster Care and/or Homeless</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BEYOND THE FOOD PANTRY: COVID-19 Response for Students Who are Homeless or With Experience in Foster Care <p>Parent and Family Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent and Family Tip Sheet-Trauma Stress Network
<p>Emotional Implications on Service Providers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fear and Anxiety • Exposure to extreme stress • Feelings of uncertainty • Burnout, compassion fatigue <p>Lack of Staff/Volunteers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expected loss of staff/volunteers by choice • Lack of staff due to illness or quarantine <p>Risk Exposure for Staff & Families</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essential youth services put staff and families at risk for COVID-19 <p>The Necessity of Survival Mode Operation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decreases ability to provide same level of intentional therapeutic responses to victims/survivors 	<p>Increase Safety and Predictability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide safety measures/materials/supplies • Involve staff in crisis planning • Have a planned and known response (e.g. tiered response based on current factors/situation) • Help educate youth of current risk and Covid-19 and measures taken to protect them (helps calm young people and environment) • Involve young people in safety planning and responses as it helps engage, empower, and calm youth which in turn benefits staff <p>Help program staff prioritize and use very basic therapeutic responses</p> <p>Appreciate, Support, Celebrate Staff and Volunteer Work, Successes, and Contribution</p>	<p>Helping Shelters Respond to COVID-19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shelter Considerations During Infectious Disease <p>Taking Care of Staff/Volunteers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-Care during COVID-19