



**Georgia Department
of Human Services**

Safe Harbor Commission

Q2 Meeting- April 2, 2024



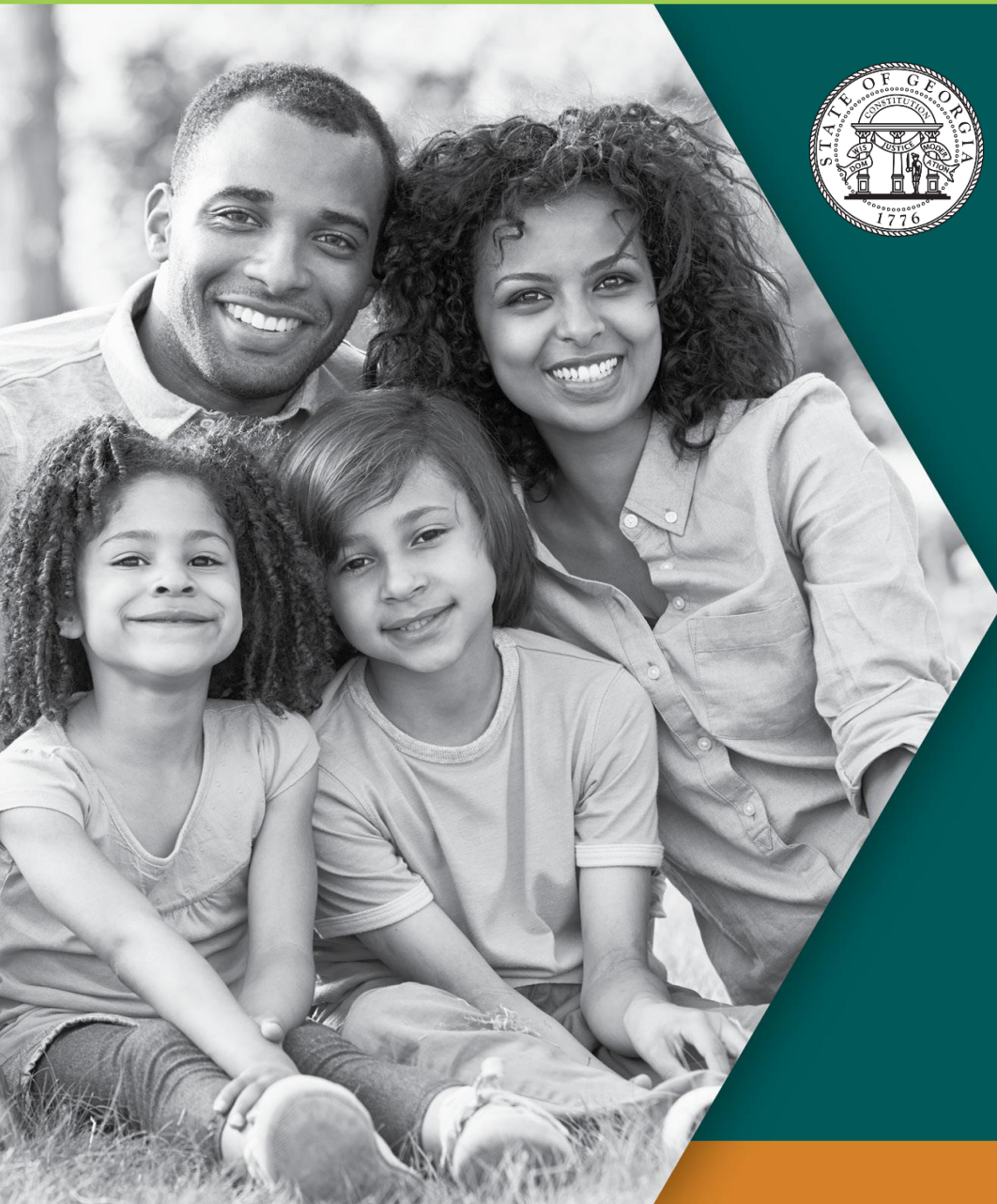
**Georgia Department
of Human Services**

Agenda Approval



**Georgia Department
of Human Services**

February 28, 2024 Meeting Minutes Approval

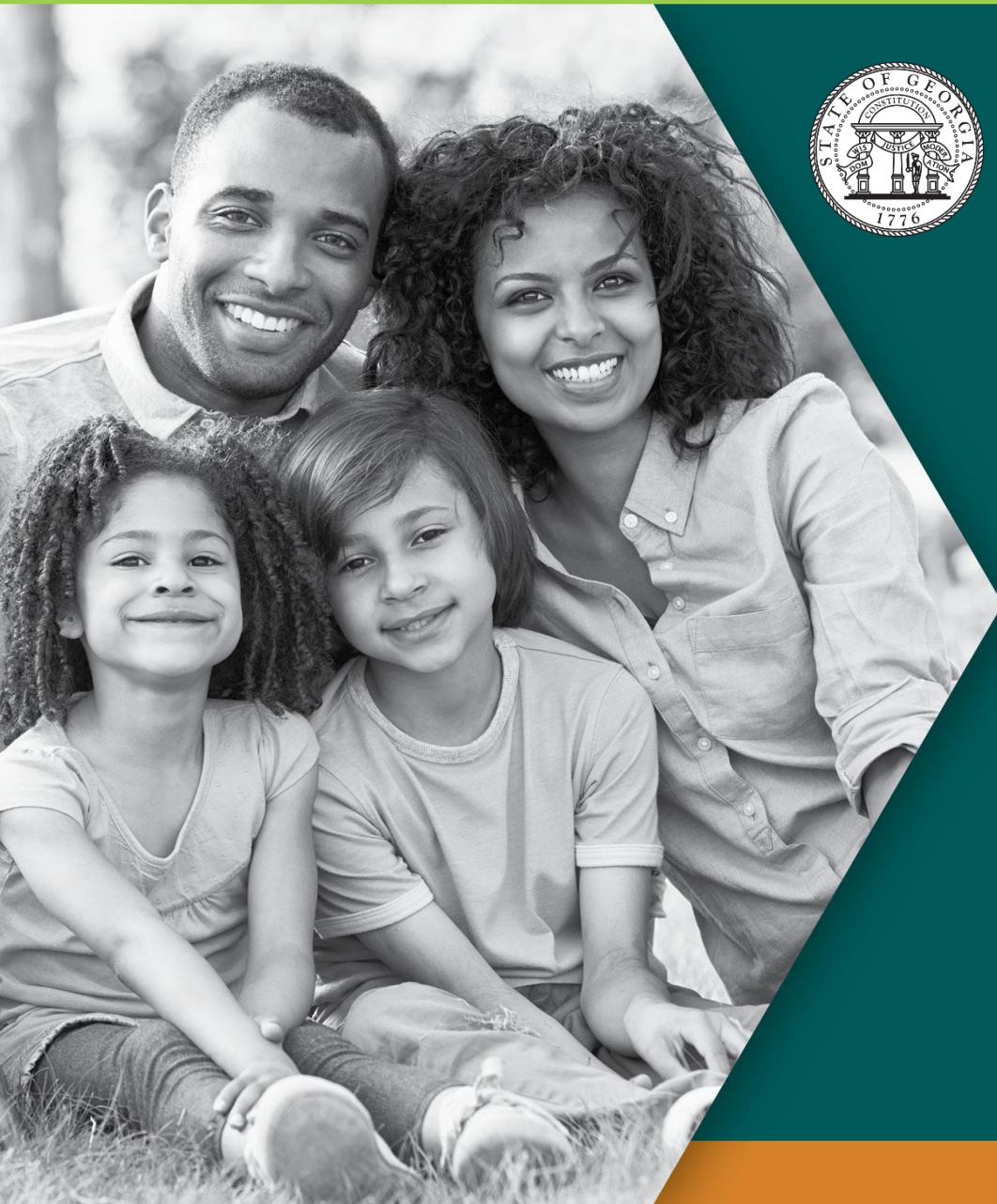


Georgia Department of Human Services

Updates & Announcements

Dianne Scoggins

Safe Harbor Commission, Vice-Chair

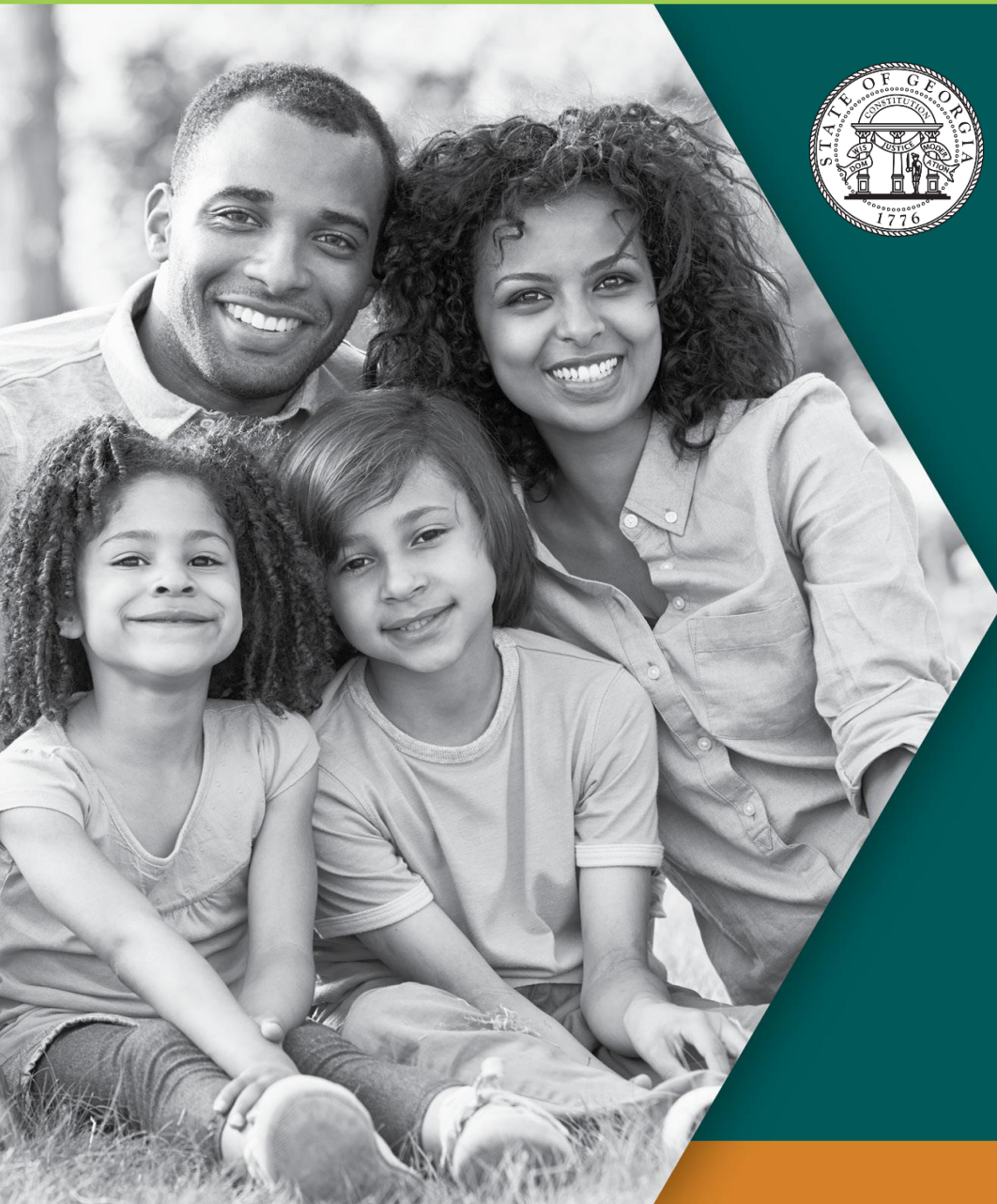


Georgia Department of Human Services

Attorney General Update

Ross Bergethon

Principal Deputy Solicitor General
Office of the Attorney General



Georgia Department of Human Services

Safe Harbor Commission

Budget Presentation

Melissa Barwick

Assistant Deputy Commissioner, Finance
DFCS, Chief Financial Officer

Funding Sources

- Safe Harbor for Sexually Exploited Children Fund:
 - Established as a separate fund in the state treasury in 2017
 - “The commission may authorize the disbursement of available money from the fund, after **appropriation thereof**, for purposes of providing care, rehabilitative services, residential housing, health services, and social services, including establishing safe houses, to sexually exploited children and to a person, entity, or program eligible pursuant to criteria set by the commission.”
- State General Funds:
 - The Governor and General Assembly can appropriate additional funding more than what is available for appropriation from the Safe Harbor Fund.



State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2025 Budget Conference Committee

| Line Item | State General Funds | Safe Harbor Funds |
|--|---------------------|-------------------|
| <i>Base Budget</i> | \$3,375,000 | \$200,199 |
| Increase funds for full cost of the Gwinnett CSERC funded by HB 19 (2023 Session). | \$4,746,840 | - |
| Increase funds to reflect FY 2023 collections. | - | \$54,120 |
| Increase funds for a psychiatric nurse to support youth survivors of exploitation and trafficking. | \$100,000 | - |
| Total SFY 2025 Budget | \$8,422,039 | \$254,319 |



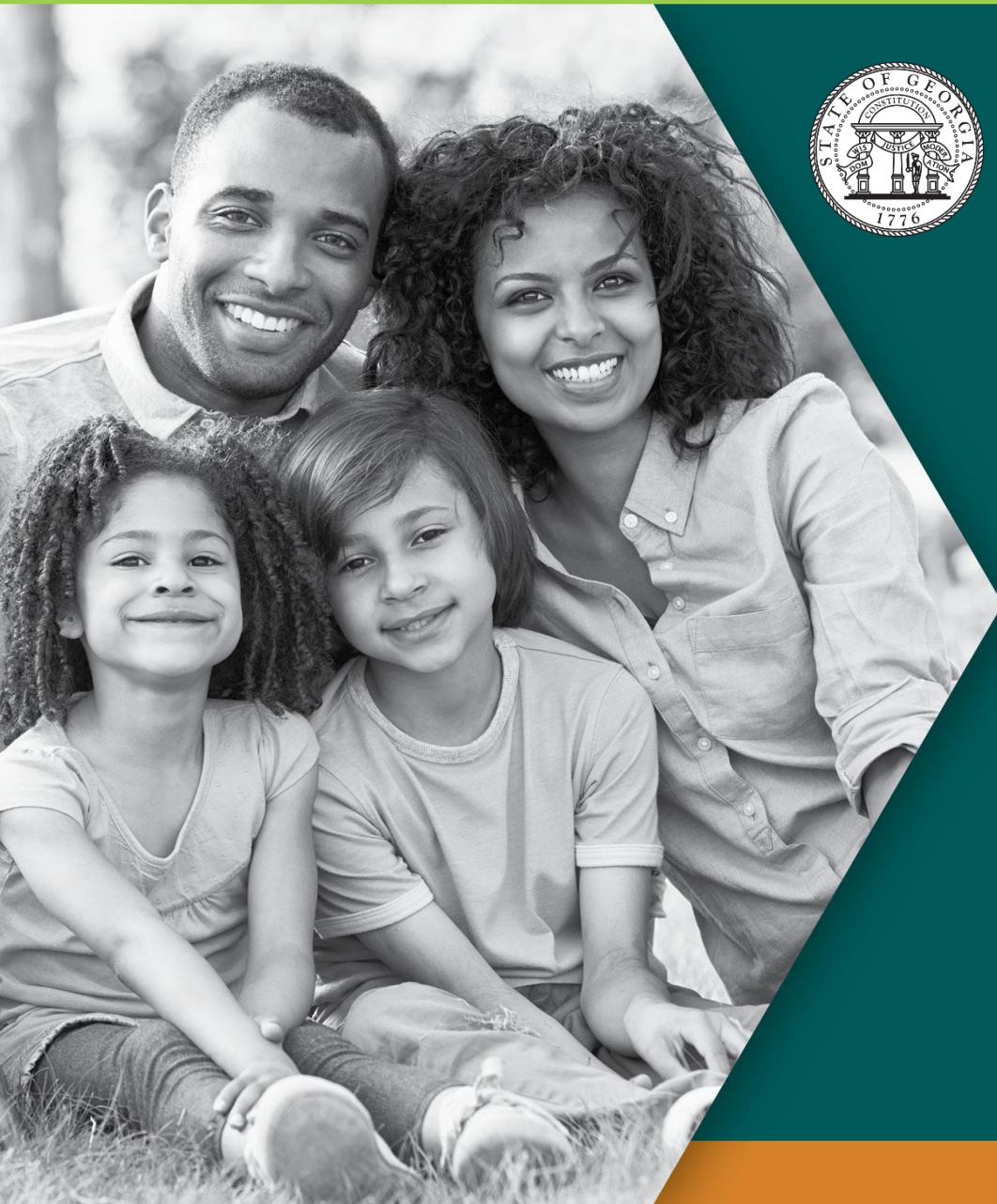
State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2025 Budget

Safe Harbor Funds Available for Allocation

| Safe Harbor Funds | Amount |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| SFY 2025 Safe Harbor Funds | \$254,319 |
| Interest Recognized and Carry Over | \$26,335 |
| Funds Available for Allocation | \$280,654 |

- Safe Harbor Funds are used to contract with the Georgia Criminal Justice Coordinating Council to administer grants from the Georgia Safe Harbor for Sexually Exploited Children Fund.
- Satisfies statutory obligation to “provide grants to Georgia agencies for the purposes of meeting the costs of care and rehabilitative and social services for certain citizens in the state who have been sexually exploited. (O.C.G.A. §15-21-202)





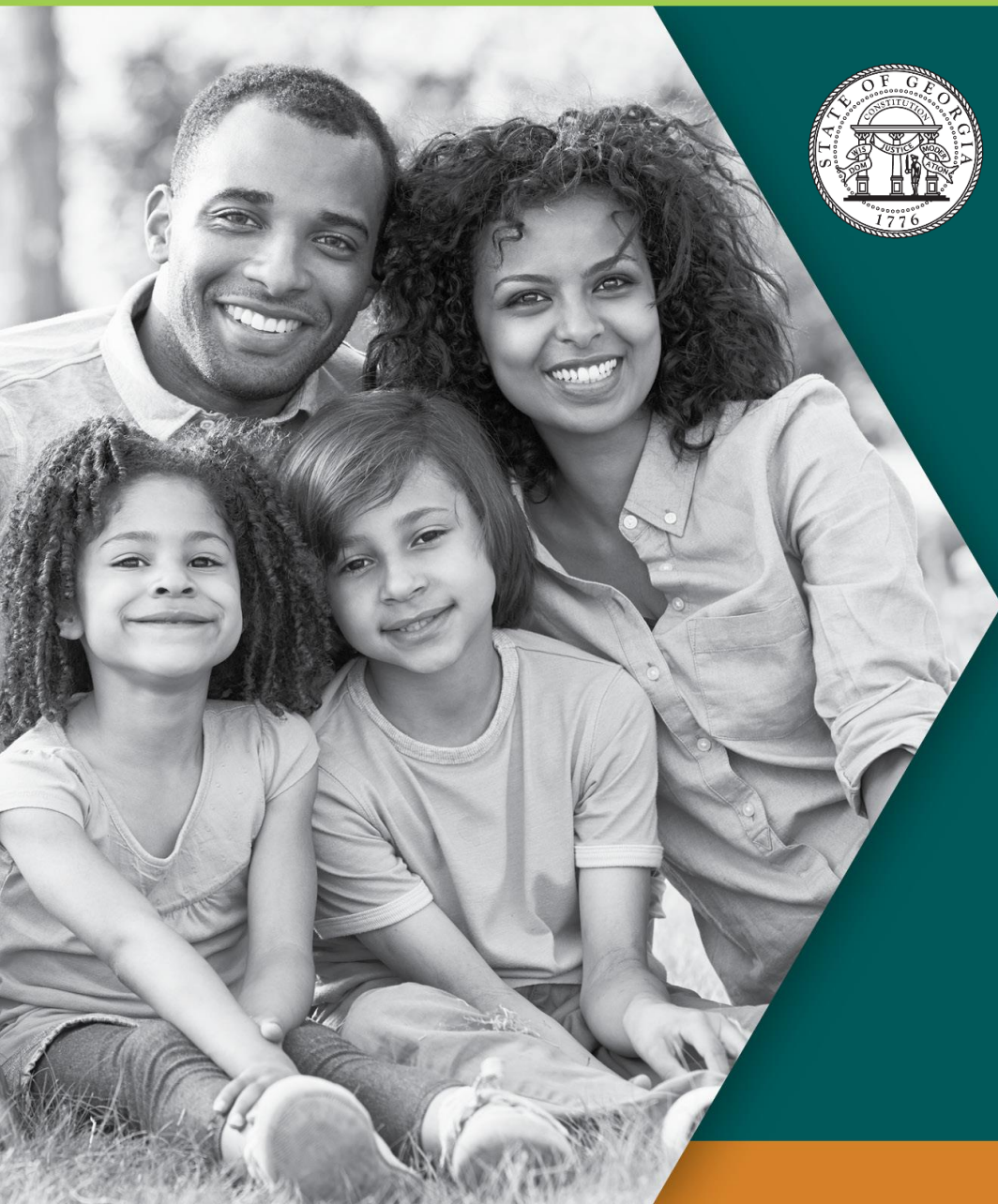
Georgia Department of Human Services

Melissa Barwick

Assistant Deputy Commissioner, Finance

Deputy Chief Financial Officer, DHS

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Georgia Department of Human Services

CJCC Report

Kristy Carter

Victim Assistance Division Director, CJCC

SFY25 Safe Harbor Grant Program

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council



Safe Harbor Fund Draft Priorities/RFA

CJCC | Safe Harbor for Sexually Exploited Children Fund

15-21-202

(b) There is created the Safe Harbor for Sexually Exploited Children Fund as a separate fund in the state treasury. The state treasurer shall credit to the fund all amounts transferred to the fund and shall invest the fund moneys in the same manner as authorized for investing other moneys in the state treasury. (c) The commission may authorize the disbursement of available money from the fund, after appropriation thereof, for purposes of *providing care, rehabilitative services, residential housing, health services, and social services, including establishing safe houses, to sexually exploited children and to a person, entity, or program eligible pursuant to criteria to be set by the commission.* The commission shall also consider disbursement of available money from the fund to a person, entity, or program devoted to awareness and prevention of becoming a sexually exploited child. The commission may also authorize the disbursement of fund money for the actual and necessary operating expenses that the commission incurs in performing its duties; provided, however, that such disbursements shall be kept at a minimum in furtherance of the primary purpose of the fund, which is to disburse money to provide care and rehabilitative and social services for sexually exploited children

CJCC | Safe Harbor for Sexually Exploited Children Fund

Available Funds to Release in Upcoming Competitive RFA:

The estimated amount of money available to disperse for SFY25 is \$280,654.

Cap Awards: Depending on the number of applications received, the Safe Harbor Commission reserves the right to cap awards at up to \$100,000 per award.

CJCC | Eligibility Criteria

GENERAL ELIGIBILITY

Applicants are limited to agencies within Georgia whose sole purpose is to serve crime victims, particularly of trafficking, and are operated by a public agency, nonprofit organization, or combination of such agencies or organizations or other public and nonprofit organizations that have components which offer services to human trafficking crime victims.

Applicant agencies should be certified and eligible to receive Local Victim Assistance Program (LVAP) 5% funds and be certified to provide trauma-informed services to trafficking victims by CJCC. Agencies without certification may apply for funding; however, if funding is awarded the agency must complete certification requirements prior to being awarded funds.

If an applicant is a residential provider, the applicant must be in compliance with Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking (DMST) Standards of Care State of Georgia for Residential Treatment Facilities/Safe Homes.

CJCC | Purpose Areas/Priorities

- 1 Residential Treatment Facility and Safe Home Support
- 2 Prevention and Awareness
- 3 Innovative Community-Based Services & Underserved Populations

CJCC | Residential Services and Safe Home Support



- A range of housing options may be addressed to include, but not limited to emergency shelter, short-term housing assistance, long-term housing assistance and transitional housing. Applicants that propose any specialized housing and shelter programs must be able to demonstrate experience or a history of providing housing and shelter services. Proposals may include new construction or renovation of a residential facility.
- Training; ex: Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TRBI) for staff on the model for training professionals who engage with traumatized youth that provide skills to respond in an empowering and trauma-informed way.

CJCC | Residential Services and Safe Home Support



- The Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking Minimum Quality Standards of Care for Safe Homes are used to determine whether a residential program is qualified to receive Human Trafficking Victims Assistance certification. Although voluntary, certification is required for residential programs to receive referrals for placement by law enforcement, DFCS and other agencies. As a reminder, CJCC and Commission members would provide an on-site visit and conduct a risk assessment for any new programs interested in providing residential services.

**With new and emerging programs, CJCC is working on a current fact sheet on residential services for CSEC victims in Georgia.*

CJCC | Prevention and Awareness

Applicant proposals should illustrate a collaborative effort to develop or adapt and disseminate training and outreach materials that highlight or utilize the following:

- Statewide 24/7 Hotline
- Statewide Service Delivery Plan
- Statewide Resource Awareness
- Statewide PSA Campaign

CJCC | Prevention and Awareness

- Applicants should ensure that proposed prevention and awareness materials are culturally diverse and linguistically and culturally sensitive. Materials for specific audiences, including cultures or groups of people who may be less likely to ask for assistance or to report suspicious activity, should be available in different languages depending on the targeted audience.
- Applicants may consider prevention to include internet safety, how to seek help, and bystander response.
 - The role that technology and social media play in recruitment and victimization have only been intensified by the effects of COVID-19.

CJCC | Community-Based Services & Underserved Populations

- Applicant proposes to target identified underserved populations and to provide specialized services for the following:
 - Runaway/ Homeless Youth Interventions
 - Male, LGBTQIA Populations
 - Specialized Services for Expectant Mothers
 - Complex Trauma Wrap-Around Services

CJCC | Examples of Innovative Community-Based Services

- Secure transport for victims, enhancing victim accessibility to services
- Legal services for victims of CSEC wishing to access remedies provided under the Survivors First Act (i.e., expungement of criminal records)
- Medical services for expectant mothers

CJCC | Process for Administering and Dispersing Funds

Step 1: Commission Reviews and Approves Request for Applications

- Eligibility Criteria
- Grant Award Period (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025)
- Priorities
- Reporting Requirements
- Award Requirements

CJCC | Application Review Process

Step 2: Release RFA and Convene Review Committee

- Release approved RFA April 5, 2024
- Establish Review Panel – May 2024
- Convene Review Panel to Review Scoring Rubric and Timeline for Proposed Recommendations for Commission – May 2024
- Applications due May 15, 2024
- Review Applications – May 2024
- Approval Process – Safe Harbor Commission – June 2024
- Applicants Notified and Award Packets Sent – June 2024

CJCC | Contact Information



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CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL | THE STATE OF GEORGIA



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**Georgia Department
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New Business: CJCC RFA Approval 2025



**Georgia Department
of Human Services**

Safe Harbor Commission: Legislative Update

Georgia General Assembly 2024

Emma McCullough, DHS Director of Governmental Affairs

Senate Bill 377

Sponsor: Senator Blake Tillery

Summary: Joint effort of DHS and DCH, which adds Qualified Residential Treatment Programs (QRTPs) as a type of Child-Caring Institution (CCI).

Status: Governor's Desk



House Bill 1201

Sponsor: Representative Houston Gaines

Summary: Provides for the vacating of sentences for victims of trafficking; adds 'Commercial sexual exploitation recovery center' as a type of Child-Caring Institution (CCI).

Status: Governor's Desk



Senate Bill 342

Sponsor: Senator Randy Robertson

Summary: Adds the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) among the agencies specifically authorized to receive confidential child welfare information directly from DFCS.

Status: Governor's Desk



House Bill 970

Sponsor: Representative Robert Dickey

Summary: Adds children who are victims of trafficking as eligible for the REACH scholarship and changes funding mechanisms for the scholarship.

Status: Governor's Desk



Senate Bill 370

Sponsor: Senator Mike Hodges

Summary: First Lady's Bill; Requires massage therapists, body art studios and convenience stores to post human trafficking hotline information.

Status: Governor's Desk



Questions?

Emma McCullough

Director of Governmental Affairs

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**Georgia Department
of Human Services**

Closing Comments



**Georgia Department
of Human Services**

Thank you!