



The Intersection of Human Trafficking + Youth Homelessness

Presenter

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NATIONAL NETWORK
 *for* **YOUTH**

No young person should ever experience homelessness. Yet, each year, an estimated 4.2 MILLION youth and young adults experience homelessness.

NN4Y is dedicated to preventing and eradicating youth homelessness in America.

NN4Y Programs



FEDERAL POLICY

With our network of young leaders and service providers we work to expand public resources and implement common-sense policies that prevent and respond to youth and young adult homelessness.



YOUTH + YOUNG ADULT PARTNERSHIPS

We invest in young leaders through our NYAC to educate policymakers, service providers, and community officials throughout the country about youth and young adult homelessness and advocate for solutions so that no young person in America has to experience even one day of homelessness.



COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

We provide on-the-ground support in local communities to address the root causes of homelessness among young people, identify gaps in services and support, and build strong collaborative relationships amongst youth-serving agencies in communities nationwide, leading to improved youth outcomes and system functioning.

AGENDA

01. Youth Homelessness + Human Trafficking

02. Common Risk + Protective Factors

03. Relevant Federal Policies

04. State Policy Examples + Opportunities



Ending Youth Homelessness Prevents Human Trafficking



The Intersection
Youth Homelessness + Human Trafficking

Defining Homelessness

RUNAWAY AND HOMELESS YOUTH ACT

for whom it is not possible to live in a safe environment with a relative and who have no other safe alternative living arrangement.

This definition includes only those youth who are unaccompanied by families or caregivers.

MCKINNEY-VENTO EDUCATION FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH ACT

individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence

Defining Human Trafficking

SEX TRAFFICKING

the crime of using force, fraud or coercion,

or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age,

to induce another individual to sell sex.

Common types include escort services, pornography, illicit massage businesses, brothels, and outdoor solicitation.

LABOR TRAFFICKING

the crime of using force, fraud or coercion to induce another individual to work or provide service. Common types include agriculture, domestic work, restaurants, cleaning services, and carnivals.

Defining Human Trafficking

FORCE

Physical restraint
Beatings
Rape
Confinement
Deprivation/withholding

FRAUD

False promises
Posing as a false employer or
lying about working
conditions/wages
Posing as a romantic partner

COERCION

Threats or blackmail
Confiscation of passport/
identification documents
Making person afraid
of seeking help

Defining Human Trafficking

Sex Trafficking

MINOR



COMMERCIAL SEX



HUMAN
TRAFFICKING

FORCE
or
FRAUD
or
COERCION



COMMERCIAL SEX



HUMAN
TRAFFICKING

Sex Trafficking

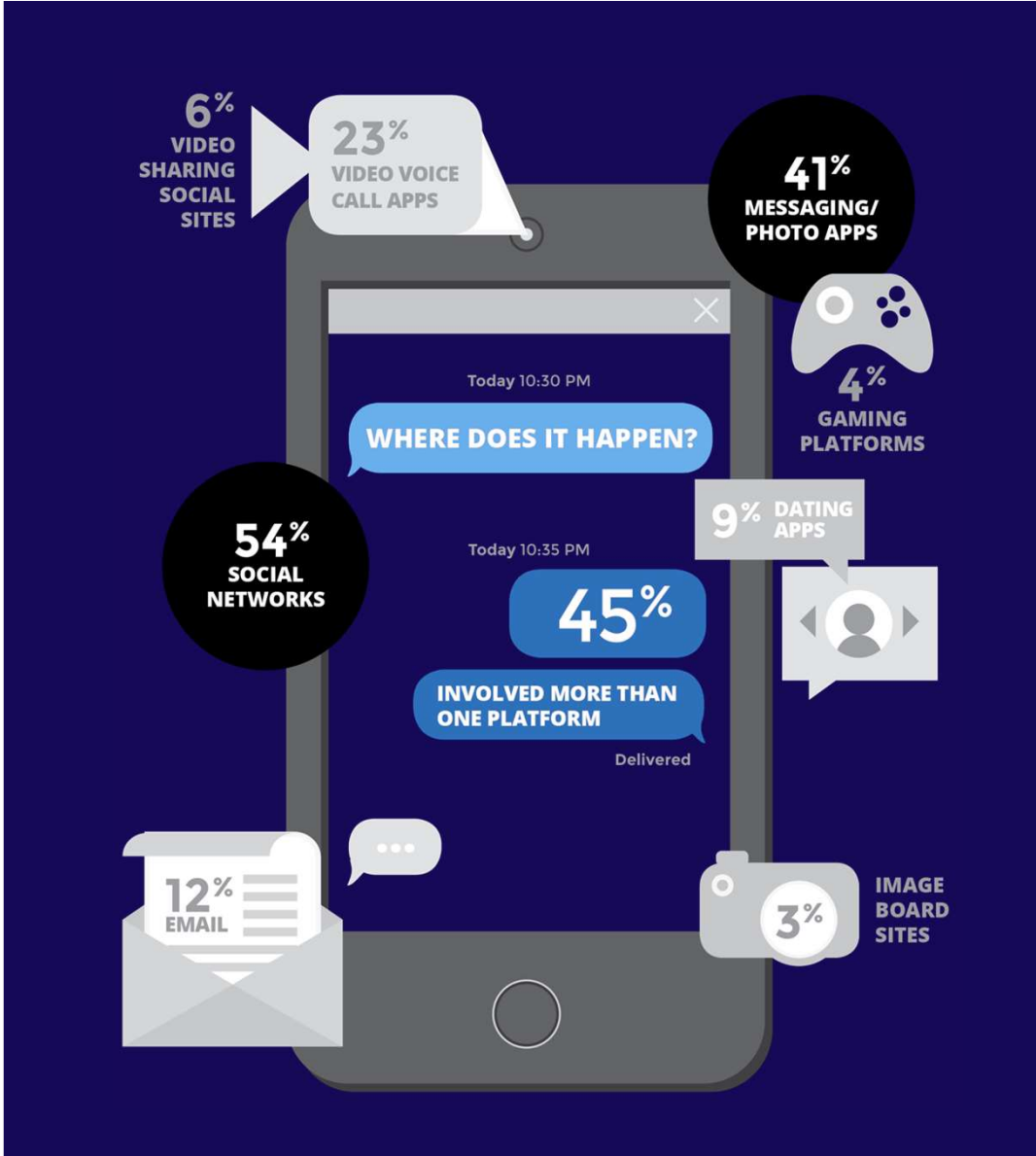
COMMON FORMS

Sex acts
Pornography
Stripping
Live-sex shows
Sex tourism
Sextortion

Personal sexual servitude
Escort services
Mail order brides
Military prostitution
Illicit massage parlors

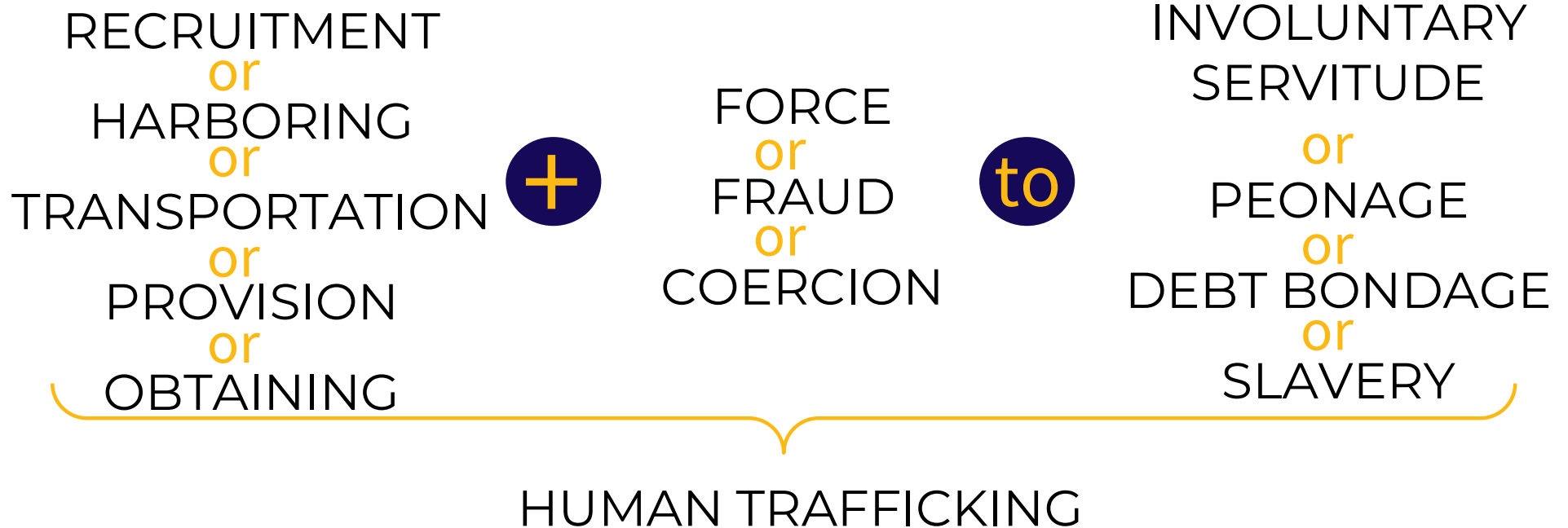
Sextortion

threats to expose a sexual image in order to make a person do something or for other reasons, such as revenge or humiliation.



Defining Human Trafficking

Labor Trafficking



Labor Trafficking

DEBT BONDAGE/ PEONAGE

when labor is demanded as a means of repayment for a loan or service in which terms have not been defined or the value of the services is not reasonably assessed or the labor toward removing the debt. The value of their work is greater than the original sum of money/service “borrowed.”

INVOLUNTARY SERVITUDE/SLAVERY

when forced to work against their own will, under the threat of violence or some other form of punishment, their freedom is restricted and a degree of ownership is exerted.

Labor Trafficking

COMMON FORMS

Magazine/door-to-door sales

Selling/transporting drugs

Domestic work

Agriculture

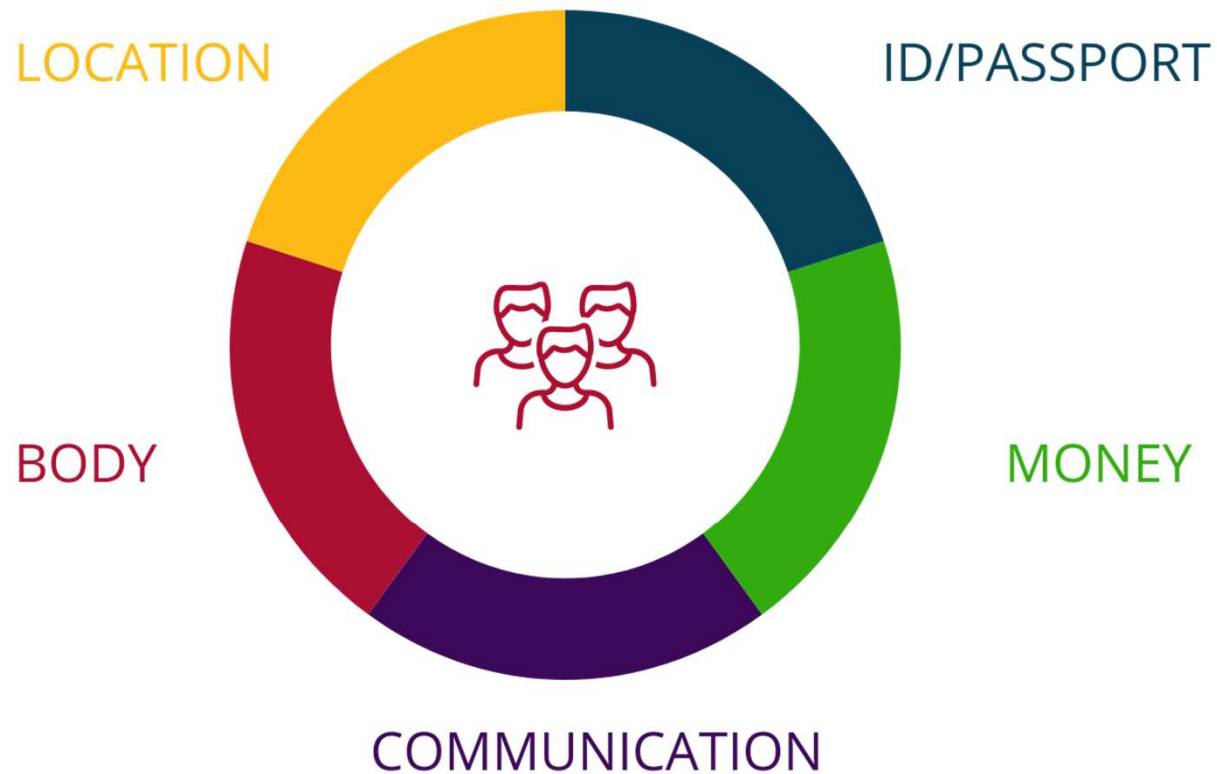
Sweatshop factory labor

Janitorial

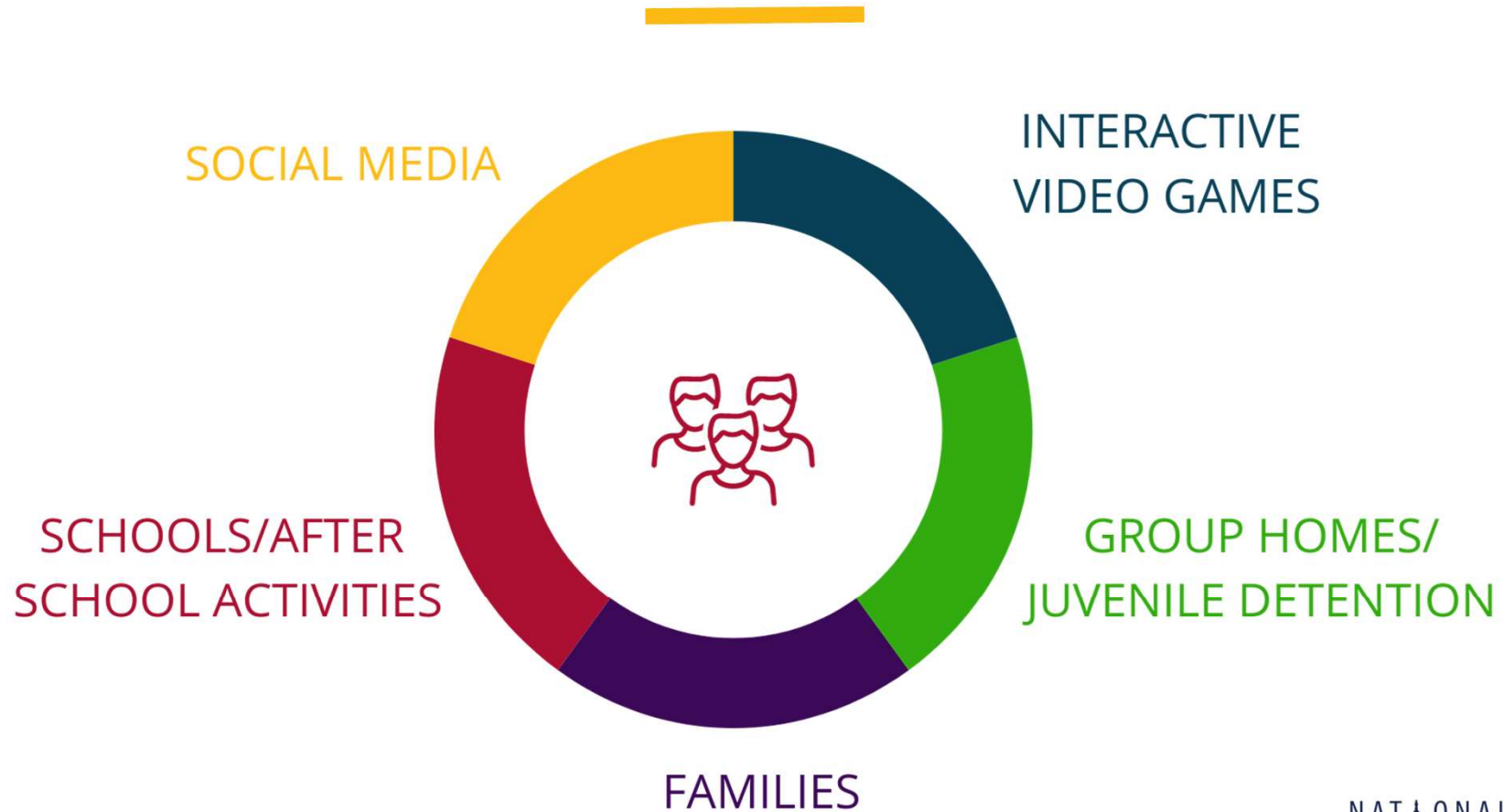
Begging

Other manual labor

Trafficking Can Involve Control Over:



Trafficking Recruitment and Grooming Happens



Sherry's Story



“I was homeless and forced into trafficking at 18. I bounced from friend to friend and shelter to shelter. I became a mother, got my first apartment, and also got evicted at 19. Despite my efforts to build a brighter future for myself and my daughter [earned an associates degree and got a stable job], I am still always denied housing because of my past. I feel as though I am left with the dilemma of living with an abuser or living in various unstable housing situations. Do I really have a choice? Or is youth homelessness and trafficking truly a never ending cycle?”

HOMELESSNESS HAPPENS... TRAFFICKING HAPPENS...

wealthy communities

cities

coasts/ports

tribal reservations

heartland

suburbs

poor communities

rural areas

EVERYWHERE

NATIONAL NETWORK
for YOUTH

Prevalence of Youth Homelessness

One in 10 young adults ages 18-25 experienced homelessness over a 12-month period.



That's approximately 3.5 million young adults

One in 30 youth ages 13-17 experienced homelessness over a 12-month period.



That's approximately 700,000 youth

SOURCE: Morton, M.H., Dworsky, A., Matjasko, J.L., Curry, S.R., Schlueter, D., Chávez, R. & Farrell, A.F. (in press). Prevalence and correlates of youth homelessness in the United States. Journal of Adolescent Health.

Discussion Question

How many youth experiencing homelessness do you think have also experienced trafficking?

- A. 10%
- B. 20%
- C. 40%
- D. 70%



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Prevalence of Trafficking Among Youth Experiencing Homelessness

Youth Experiencing Homelessness



One in five youth had been a victim of sex and labor trafficking or both

Research findings have varied between studies and range from 20 - 40% of youth experiencing homelessness have also been victims of sex or labor trafficking or both. Using the lower range estimates, approximately 900,000 youth experiencing homelessness are also trafficked.

SOURCES: Loyola University New Orleans's Modern Slavery Research Project/Covenant House International, Labor and Sex Trafficking Among Homeless Youth: A Ten-City Study (2016).; Middleton, J. S., Ghent, R., Gattis, M., Roe-Sepowitz, D., Goggin, R., & Frey, L. M. (2016). Youth Experiences Survey (YES): Exploring the scope and complexity of sex trafficking in a sample of youth experiencing homelessness in Kentuckiana. Report submitted by the Human Trafficking Research Initiative, University of Louisville, KY.



Common Risk + Protective Factors

Risk Factors for Trafficking + Homelessness

LGBTQ2S+ and Black, indigenous, and other youth of color are at increased risk for trafficking, systems involvement, and homelessness.



Protective Factors to Prevent Trafficking + Homelessness

Increasing youths' protective factors decreases their risk for homelessness + human trafficking + many other negative outcomes



Challenges to Exiting Homelessness/Trafficking

LACK OF LEGAL RIGHTS/VITAL DOCS

Parental signature, vital doc, and valid government ID requirements limit access to available programs

EXTREME DISCONNECTION

Many youth are disconnected from systems of support and lack connections to caring adults

May have unhealthy attachment to trafficker

LACK OF HOUSING + SERVICE OPTIONS

Youth have a difficult time accessing housing and services due to narrow eligibility requirements and lack of options

DAMAGED CREDIT + CRIMINAL RECORDS

**“I had no place to live, no job
and no hope. I was on waitlists
for housing. My trafficker didn’t
have a waitlist.”**

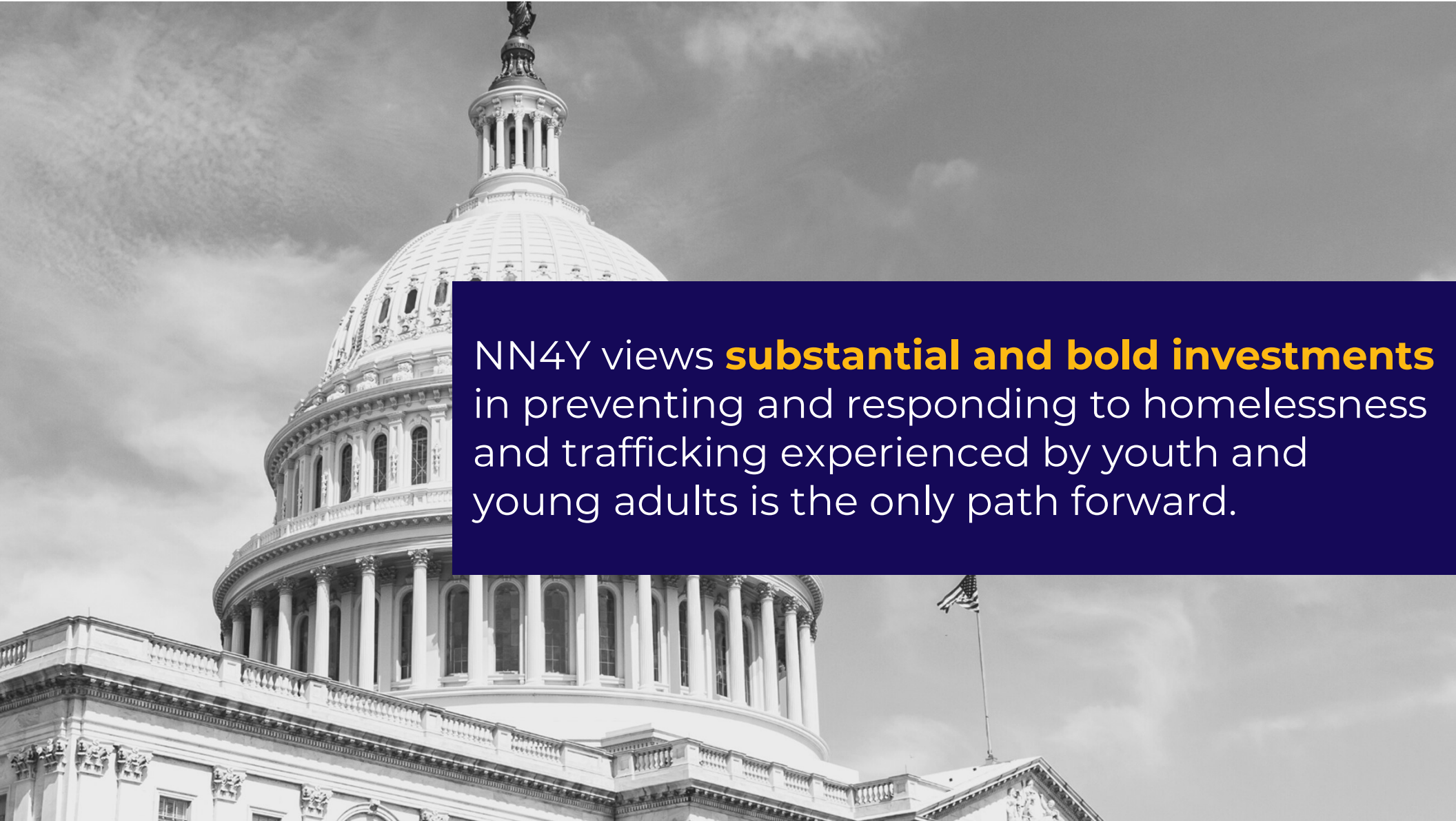
—NYAC Young Leader

“I really wanted a job to get money to access housing. I was offered a job in door-to-door sales. I was transported in a large van with daily quota I could never meet and was never paid.”

—NYAC Young Leader



Relevant Federal Policies + Potential Levers

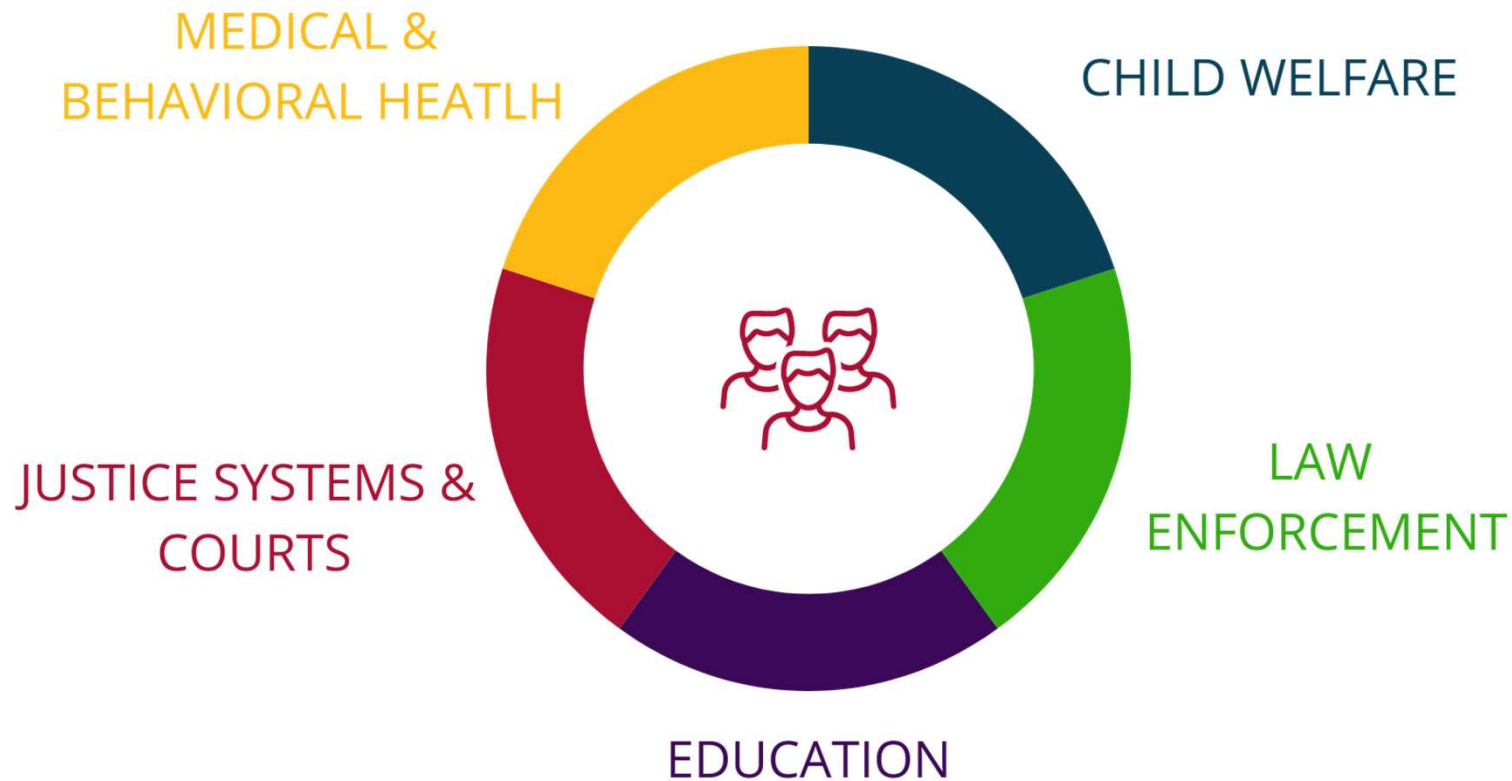


NN4Y views **substantial and bold investments** in preventing and responding to homelessness and trafficking experienced by youth and young adults is the only path forward.

What Survivors Need to Exit/Prevent Trafficking/Homelessness



Upstream Cross-System Collaboration is Key to Prevention



Federal Policy Opportunities

PASS THE RUNAWAY AND HOMELESS YOUTH AND TRAFFICKING PREVENTION ACT (RHYTPA)

REAUTHORIZE TRAFFICKING VICTIMS PREVENTION ACT (TVPA)

PASS THE HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH ACT (HCYA)

A NATIONAL TRAFFICKING PREVENTION STRATEGY THAT IS MULTI-SYSTEM

The Federal Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA) Program

The following vital programs are made possible by the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA):

- | | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|--|
| 01
STREET OUTREACH | 02
BASIC CENTER | 03
TRANSITIONAL LIVING | 04
NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM | 05
NATIONAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER |
| education, prevention, treatment, counseling, connection, and referrals to vital services to prevent sexual abuse and human trafficking for youth at-risk of and experiencing trafficking and homelessness | temporary housing with, counseling, therapeutic family intervention, connection to education, and supportive services for minors experiencing homelessness for youth under the age of 18 | longer-term housing with supportive services, including Maternity Group Homes for pregnant and parenting youth | 24/7 national phone, text, and online communications system which connects youth and families in crisis with prevention services and reunifies families | training and technical assistance to all RHYA grantees |

Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act (RHYTPA)

- RHYTPA has not yet been reintroduced, but will be soon
- Same champions:
 - Senate: Leahy (D-VT) + Collins (R-ME)
 - House: Yarmuth (D-KY) + Bacon (R-NE)
- A new optional prevention services program to be added on to those grantees receiving BCP, TLP & MGH
- 5 year grants (staggered every 2-3 years)
- Geographic distribution will be considered when issuing grants
- Programs are to provide training to staff on human trafficking, trauma, sexual abuse, and assault
- Mandatory non-discriminatory practices

Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act (RHYTPA)

If funded at less than \$200 million, grants awarded will be less than \$250,000 per year.

If funded at more than \$200 million, grants will be awarded less than \$275,000 per year

Increased Authorized Appropriated Amount to \$300 million annually

- BCP & TLP: \$225 million
- SOP: \$75 million
- PREVENTION: \$67.5 million
\$367.5 million annually

**Periodic estimates: \$2 million every three years*

RHYTPA: Current Status

- **Expected Reintroduction September 2022**
 - **SENATE:** Senator Leahy (D-VT) and Senator Collins (R-ME)
 - **HOUSE:** US Reps John Yarmuth (D-KY) and Don Bacon (R-NE)
- **Goal: pass both chambers**
 - Make it a priority of each committee:
 - SENATE: Judiciary Committee
 - HOUSE: ED & Labor Committee
 - Have Senator Schumer make it a priority



Trafficking Victims Prevention Act (TVPA) Reauthorization

There are currently multiple bills in the House and Senate that would reauthorize and expand the Trafficking Victims Prevention Act.

- [Menendez-Risch-Kaine-Rubio TVPRA S. 4171](#)
- [Grassley/Feinstein TVPRA S. 3949](#)
- [Cornyn/Klobuchar TVPRA S. 3946](#)
- [Smith/Bass/McCaul TVPRA H.R. 6552](#) (passed House)

Some new areas of focus this round of TVPA reauthorization:

- ID/vital doc issues for survivors of trafficking + youth experiencing homelessness
- focusing on system-involved youth

New Credit Repair Process for Survivors

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) has established a new rule (policy) on how survivors of trafficking can request that financial reporting agencies remove information from their credit reports that resulted from their trafficking situation.

- The rule has established a process for survivors to repair their credit scores
 - Survivors are required to submit documentation from a government entity affirming their status as trafficking survivors
- Credit reporting companies are prohibited from providing a report containing adverse financial information on survivors credit that is a result of their trafficking..
- The final rule allows government agencies to designate victim service providers to determine that an individual is a survivor of trafficking for this credit repair process and to provide documentation of their determination on behalf of the government entity.
 - With our partners, NN4Y is working to ensure that a broad group of entities can verify survivor status.



State Policy Examples + Opportunities

State Policy Opportunities

HOUSING OPTIONS +
SUPPORTIVE SERVICES
FOR MINORS + YOUNG
ADULTS

ID + VITAL DOCUMENTS
ACCESS

RECORD EXPUNGEMENT

SCREENING +
ASSESSMENT

Increase Access to Vital Docs + ID

TEXAS

[HB 123](#) that was passed in 2019. It waives fees to get birth certificates (born in Texas), IDs and Driver's Licenses (DL) for youth in care and youth experiencing homelessness. It also creates a fund Texans can pay into to cover the costs of IDs and DLs. To prove a youth is homeless: schools, shelter staff, drop-in center staff, etc can verify with a letter - a form letter is used.

[SB 2054](#) that was passed in 2021. It creates a program at the Texas Workforce Commission to use the excess fees from the Drivers License fund created above to cover the other costs of barriers to get a driver's license (Drivers Ed, practice driving time, driving tests, and a car to take the driving test)

NEW YORK

Allows for a “Statement of Identity” ([form MV-45B](#)) for “disenfranchised, homeless youth”, certified by a state employee, to prove identity if they cannot meet other identification requirements. This law is considered a success for proving identity for individuals represented/ served by a government or government-approved facility, although it does not remove barriers for those not represented by a facility/system. In addition, applicants still must provide an original birth certificate to obtain an ID.

Housing Options + Supportive Services

Nine states allocate funding or authorize local governments to expend funds for youth-specific housing and service options

MINNESOTA

[Homeless Youth Act funds](#) and awards grants to providers serving youth experiencing and at-risk of homelessness, to provide street and community outreach and drop-in programs, emergency shelter programs, and integrated supportive housing and transitional living programs, to reduce the incidence of homelessness among youth. The most recent funding ask for this program is [\\$25 million per year](#).

MAINE

Has a [comprehensive program for youth experiencing homelessness](#) that mirrors pretty closely the federal Runaway and Homeless Youth Act. The state most recently funded this law at \$4 million.

Record Expungement

44 states offer some form of criminal record relief specific for survivors of trafficking

40 of those states provide relief for both minor and adult victims

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Allows for convictions to be vacated and expungement or sealing of criminal records for certain offenses when the conduct of the person was the direct result of the person having been a victim of trafficking. [Toolkit to learn more.](#)

Assessment Tools

There are different screening and assessment tools- some examples:

- [Quick Youth Indicators for Trafficking Youth \(QYIT\)](#)
- [Human Trafficking Assessment for Runaway and Homeless Youth](#)
- [Vera Screening for Human Trafficking](#)

Thank You!

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