



Funds Distribution Report

Recipient Organization:
Center for Children & Youth Justice

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Organization's General Goals:
By convening and partnering with parents, advocates, service providers and policymakers, Center for Children & Youth Justice develops and advances innovative approaches to systemic change to support kids, stabilize families, and strengthen communities. We work to achieve research-based, data-driven, tangible outcomes for generations of youth.

Date of Award:	Level:
2022 Q1	\$5,001 to \$7,500

For more information, please read the attached report from Center for Children & Youth Justice.

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IMPACT REPORT

The Center for Children & Youth Justice (CCYJ) is grateful for Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund's investment in our mission. Children, youth, and families involved with Washington's state systems continue to face heightened challenges due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and interrelated crises, including housing instability, job loss and economic stressors, gun violence, mental health crises, and more. Across our organization, our goal is to enable our partners and the entire cross-sector, youth-serving system to more compassionately, equitably, and effectively serve children and youth who must interact with the youth justice and related systems. Your partnership makes our work possible, and we are pleased to provide highlights of our work over the past year.

| Highlights of Impact

Overview

The Center for Children & Youth Justice (CCYJ) is grateful for Tulalip Tribe Charitable Fund's support in 2022 for Project Respect. Your generous investment is creating a more just and compassionate system to support the thousands of young people who are commercially sexually exploited in Washington State each year. We are pleased to provide an update on CCYJ and our work through Project Respect this year, thanks to your partnership.

Program Updates

Founded in 2006, CCYJ's mission is to create better lives for generations of children and youth by reforming the child welfare and youth justice systems. With Tulalip Tribe Charitable Fund's investment this year, CCYJ's Project Respect is building and sustaining a statewide, coordinated, and survivor-centered response to the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) in Washington State. Project Respect fulfills this goal by supporting 12 regional multi-disciplinary CSEC Task Forces and coalitions that address CSEC, hosting an annual conference, providing support to the CSEC Statewide Coordinating Committee, and advocating for policy change. Task forces

include service providers, advocates, policy makers, courts, law enforcement, educators, and community members.

The high-level outcome we work toward through Project Respect is to: improve the knowledge and skill level of youth serving professionals/professionals who develop and implement policy and procedures that impact youth who are impacted by commercial sexual exploitation and/or youth who are systems-involved and are impacted by discrimination and violence due to their gender identify and/or their sexual orientation.

CCYJ's Project Respect team planned for and facilitated our 8th annual CSEC Task Force Conference and preliminary learning sessions, through which 168 people participated this fall. We prioritized survivor voices as presenters and also drew presenters from across the US. In the month leading up to the Conference, we hosted virtual learning sessions, which included the following:

- Learning Session #1 - A W/holistic Approach for Aftercare with Youth and for Yourself While Working with CSEC Youth Survivors; presented by Bridie Johnson (Two-Spirit, she, they), the Senior Director, Behavioral Health Services for Colorado Coalition.
- Learning Session #2 - National Center for Missing & Exploited Children's Response to Child Sex Trafficking and Resources; presented by Courtney Desilet (she, her), Resource Specialist II, Child Sex Trafficking Recovery Services; and Belinda Beltrán Swan (she, ella), Outreach Manager—both presenters were from the National Center for Mission and Exploited Children.

On October 4, 2022, we hosted the CSEC conference. Conference keynote and plenary sessions included the following titles and speakers:

- Keynote Address: The Power of Unlikely Relationships, by Oree Freeman (she, her), an advocate who works to transform the lives of youth involved in the juvenile justice and child welfare systems by sharing what she has learned from her own experience as well as the countless youth she has served over the past eight years. Oree is more than a survivor of child sex trafficking, she is a thriver after overcoming life's unfair battles.
- Plenary: Survivor Equity & Inclusion Framework: Preventing the Re-Exploitation of Survivor Leaders in the Anti-Trafficking Movement; presented by Dr. Shobana Powell (she, her), CEO & Founder of Shobana Powell Consulting and Melanie Thompson (she, they), Outreach & Advocacy Coordinator at the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women.

The conference agenda and all information can be found here: <https://ccyj.org/2022-events/csec-learning-series-conference/>

We solicited feedback from conference participants through a survey. Quotes from participants included:



"Today's presentation on the re-exploitation of survivors really made me think about the ways organizations do cause harm, even if not intentional. It will change the way I engage survivors in the work we do. I own that I have caused harm and as they say, "When you know better, you must do better."

"All of the presenters were amazing! I am so glad that I was able to attend this year."

"Great information and amazing speakers! Thank you!!"

Other results include the following:

- 69% of survey respondents agreed that they learned new skills, or developed new ideas, that they can directly apply to their work in the next 6 months.
- 77% said they would either absolutely or likely attend the conference next year.

Over the past year, CCYJ also continued our role as convener, resource hub, advocate, and technical assistance provider for 12 CSEC Task Forces.

- We coordinated regular meetings with all CSEC Task Force leads and focused on the upcoming legislative session. We continue working to build relationships with CSEC Task Force members, which is an ongoing effort.
- We planned and hosted a virtual CSEC 101 Training Refresher for Task Forces in mid-November. This was in response to our conversations with each Task Force earlier in the year, through which they indicated a need and desire for this type of refresher training. The training offered an update to the "Responding to the Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of Youth" Train the Trainer course and was specifically geared toward trainers who participated in the original course a few years ago. The key trainer was Leslie Briner: <https://socialstrategiesnow.com/team/> We provided a 2-day training of 4 hours each day via Zoom. On Day 1, 23 people attended; and on Day 2, 21 people attended. This was a great turnout with return participants numbering close to the number of participants from the original course several years ago. Participants included representatives from: Cocoon House, Alliance for Child Welfare Excellence, Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services, The h3 Project, Rebuilding Hope! Sexual Assault Center for Pierce County, Cowlitz County Juvenile Probation, The Skagit Valley Family YMCA, King County Superior Court, YWCA Clark County, Camp Hope Yakima, and many more.
- We curate and disseminate a monthly Project Respect Newsletters. This resource includes CSEC trainings, resources, and funding opportunities.

We are also participating as a member of the Washington Coalition of Homeless Youth Advocates. This work group is focused on developing and advancing policy changes that will allow minors to consent to enter a shelter. There is a barrier for youth who are living away from home and in need of shelter: If a provider calls their parent or caregiver, the parent/caregiver can say "No," that they may not stay at the shelter, while also refusing to let them come home. This leaves the young person with nowhere to go. CCYJ is a member and participates regularly



because homeless youth populations overlap significantly with youth who are commercially sexually exploited. If they don't have access to safe shelter and services, they are more vulnerable.

All of our work provides vital support—including trainings, technical assistance, and a community of practice—for service providers, advocates, policy makers, courts, law enforcement, educators, and the community at large in the Puget Sound region and across Washington. Your support over the past year has helped us meet the needs of thousands of children and young people who are commercially sexually exploited, by equipping agencies and professionals to better identify and serve them through survivor-informed strategies and best practices.

Thank you for your partnership!