

Dear Stakeholders Caring for Our Most Vulnerable Youth:

As we continue to navigate through this time of social distancing and school closures, our youth are utilizing technology as a primary source of socialization and education, increasing their vulnerability to exploitation. Predators and exploiters are actively still attempting to identify, lure, groom, and exploit and abuse children and youth and are increasing their online efforts to do so.

We are delighted to offer you some resources to help you keep the kids in your care or in your networks safer. We have partnered with 3Strands Global Foundation to offer your networks this “PROTECT” program to providers free of charge to assist in training staff and providing at-risk youth with prevention education.

See below for specific information on accessing the staff training modules as well as the curriculum for youth. Trauma-informed youth activities (that they can do on their own!) will also be launched in mid-April, and once registered for the training modules, you will be notified of availability.

Additional resources to educate various ages of children and youth about online safety can be found through the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children at <https://www.missingkids.org/NetSmartz>. Thank you for all that you do to protect and serve our most vulnerable!

Please don't hesitate to reach out to us or to Aimee Bonin (below) if you need assistance using PROTECT.

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3Strands Global Foundation, in collaboration with the Office of the Texas Governor Child Sex Trafficking Team, would like to offer an opportunity for your organization and staff to **PROTECT** our youth from risks of abuse and/or exploitation at no cost to you.

PROTECT Texas © is a human trafficking prevention education and training program designed to reduce the vulnerability of exploitation by identifying and preventing human trafficking using an evidenced-based, trauma-informed education curriculum.

Our three-part PROTECT Texas online training modules for those working with youth include:

- Human Trafficking 101: An Introduction to Child Exploitation
Here you will learn about what human trafficking is and where it is happening, in order to become better informed about how it affects our communities and schools.
- Human Trafficking 102: Understanding Vulnerability and Trauma
By learning about trauma, including the vulnerabilities and risks for child exploitation, you will be able to use trauma-informed approaches when creating safe spaces for children in your community to better care for their emotional and mental health.

- Human Trafficking 103: Red Flags, Reporting, and Implementing Prevention Education

Here you will learn about possible red flags, signs associated with human trafficking, and reporting processes in order to be able to identify ways to keep youth in your community safe.

Once registered you will be able to access the PROTECT Texas online learning system. There you will be able to view video presentations, resources, health and wellness activities, as well as ways to connect to others participating in the online training. The training will take approximately 1.5-2 hours to complete.

After completing the PROTECT Texas training series, you may access the online curriculum with lessons you can teach directly with your youth. With our current health crisis, we are developing trauma-informed prevention activities that will be available for youth to work on individually. More information and guidance relating to teaching youth during this time will be provided mid-April to those who register for our online system. In addition, our PROTECT Texas Regional Director, Aimee Bonin, can provide online webinar presentations for community members, parents, and other stakeholders you may serve.

PROTECT Texas Prevention Education Offerings:

- Elementary School (ages 5-11): *Safe People, Safe Places, Safe Choices*
- Middle School (ages 11-14): *Protecting A Masterpiece*
- High School I (ages 14-18): *Understand & Recognize Human Trafficking*
- High School II (ages 16-18): *Linking Historical and Modern-day Slavery*

If you would like to participate, please use the link below to register. Each staff member wishing to be trained through the PROTECT Texas program will need to register individually using a work email address. Once registered, you will receive an email with detailed instructions on how to log into the PROTECT Texas online system.

- **Eventbrite link for Texas service providers:**

www.eventbrite.com/e/protect-online-training-for-tx-service-providers-tickets-100962304972

If you have any additional questions, please contact:

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