

Search

All of NJ

Submit

[Home](#)[Newsroom](#)[Media](#)[Administration](#)[NJ's Priorities](#)[Contact Us](#)[Press Releases](#)[Public Addresses](#)[Executive Orders](#)[Press Kit](#)[Reports](#)[Home](#) > [Newsroom](#) > [Press Releases](#) > 2013

## Christie Administration Announces Expansion Of Human Trafficking And Homeless Services For Sandy-Impacted Youth

Friday, October 25, 2013

Tags: [Hurricane Sandy](#)

**Stay Connected**  
with Social Media

**Stay Connected**  
with Email Alerts

**LIKE THIS PAGE? SHARE IT  
WITH YOUR FRIENDS.**

 [SHARE](#)    

### **Nearly \$1.5 Million In Federal Funds Will Bolster State's Programs For Homeless Youth And Human Trafficking Prevention And Treatment Services**

**Trenton, NJ** – To ensure that Sandy-impacted youth at risk for homelessness and exploitation have access to social services, New Jersey Department of Children and Families (DCF) Commissioner Allison Blake today announced the state will use more than \$1.5 million from a federal Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) to expand services aimed at protecting vulnerable youth.

"We've seen instances throughout the world where predators have seized on disasters as opportunities to exploit youth," said DCF Commissioner Blake, who made the announcement at the Human Trafficking Victim/Survivor Awareness Summit sponsored by the Office of the Attorney General. "This additional funding will strengthen programs and services and protect vulnerable young New Jerseyans who are also experiencing the additional hardships of Sandy."

According to the U.S. Department of State, human traffickers prey on those with little or no social safety net and look for victims left vulnerable from disasters and economic hardship.

Federal funds went to award contracts to Bridgewater-based Somerset Home for Temporarily Displaced Children and Atlantic City-based Covenant House New Jersey of Atlantic City for street outreach to vulnerable youth in Sandy-impacted areas.

"These kids – runaways and abused and neglected children – are at risk on a daily basis," said David Walker, executive director of Somerset Home. "Our street outreach efforts are dedicated to protecting these kids from exploitation, including the horrors of human trafficking."

New Brunswick-based Prevent Child Abuse New Jersey will train social service providers about human trafficking and educate vulnerable youth on how to avoid becoming a victim.

"We have the opportunity – and responsibility – to not only free victims from human sex trafficking, but to also keep young girls from being recruited in the first place – to actually prevent these tragedies from occurring," said Rush Russell, executive director of Prevent Child Abuse New Jersey. "We will also be working with boys and men's groups in these counties to let them know how they can change their attitudes and behaviors to help protect girls from devastating harm."

"Human trafficking is a direct cause of and effect of homelessness," said Jill Rottman, executive director for Covenant House New Jersey. "Because of that stark reality, we are fiercely committed to our partnership with the Department of Children and Families and our other wonderful partners throughout the state to combat this most heinous of human offenses."

Individuals who are, or believe they may know, a victim of human trafficking are encouraged to call the New Jersey Human Trafficking hotline number at 1-855-END-NJ-HT. The state hotline is staffed by Division of Criminal Justice detectives 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Individuals can also call the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) at 1-888-373-7888 or text BeFree (233733). NHTRC is a national, toll-free hotline available to answer calls and texts from anywhere in the country, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, every day of the year.

Individuals under the age of 21 and who are homeless are encouraged to call the New Jersey Department of Children and Families toll-free hotline at 1-855-INFO-DCF (1-855-463-6323) for help.

###

Press Contact:

<http://nj.gov/governor/news/news/552013/approved/20131025c.html>

11/19/2017

Office of the Governor | Newsroom

Michael Drewniak  
Colin Reed  
609-777-2600



[Contact Us](#) | [Privacy Notice](#) | [Legal Statement & Disclaimers](#) | [Accessibility Statement](#) | 

Statewide: [NJ Home](#) | [Services A to Z](#) | [Departments/Agencies](#) | [FAQs](#)  
Office of the Governor: [Home](#) | [Newsroom](#) | [Media](#) | [Administration](#) | [NJ's Priorities](#) | [Contact Us](#)

Copyright © State of New Jersey, 1996-2017  
Office of the Governor  
PO Box 001  
Trenton, NJ 08625  
609-292-6000