

What Youth Say Works

CSEC victims can tell you what has and has not worked in their lives. The following is a list of interventions and interactions that youth had with various allies. The youth remember these people and experiences as being meaningful and effective when they were struggling with leaving the commercial sex industry.

What kind of support helped you when you were in “the life” and struggling to exit?

“I could talk to my counselor without nobody calling me names. I could tell them how I feel for the day, what my goals are and what I want to achieve, and they’ll help me achieve it.”

“The cop told my judge that I needed somewhere to go to be away from him [my pimp] instead of getting locked up.”

“When I was beat up in the hospital, the nurse gave me a hug for a really long time. It was the first time in a long time that someone had been kind to me.”

“He [the judge] acted mad interested in my life. So now, even if I have a good court report I go anyway, just so he can see I’m doing good.”

“My counselor is like my second best friend. Without her, I don’t think I’d be doing what I’m doing right now—going to school, getting ready to get a job, and trying to work it out with my family, which is not easy right now.”

“He [my lawyer] helped me clear up my record from my charges. Now I can get into the housing program I want to live in with my daughter.”

“A space [a youth program] where I can be myself. I don’t have to impress anybody. I don’t have to act different in front of nobody because it’s like they don’t judge me on things that I do or things that I’ve done in the past.”

“She [a cop] treated me like I was a real person. She even used to call me on weekends just to check on me and make sure I was doing good.”

“They [the youth program] have showed me what my talents are. My favorite is poetry.”

“I feel good that when I come in I could get a hug, something that I can get from my counselor that I can’t get from my own mother.”