

In January 2023, Louisiana State legislation (Act 662) provided advocacy services for child sex trafficking victims. The Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) contracted with BCFS Health & Human Services (HHS) Common Thread and Unbound Now to provide these services.

Advocates Provide:



**Crisis
Response**



**Basic
Needs**



**Personal
Support**



**Case
Management**



Advocacy



**Support in
Justice
Activities**

Serving Youth Under Age 18 Who:

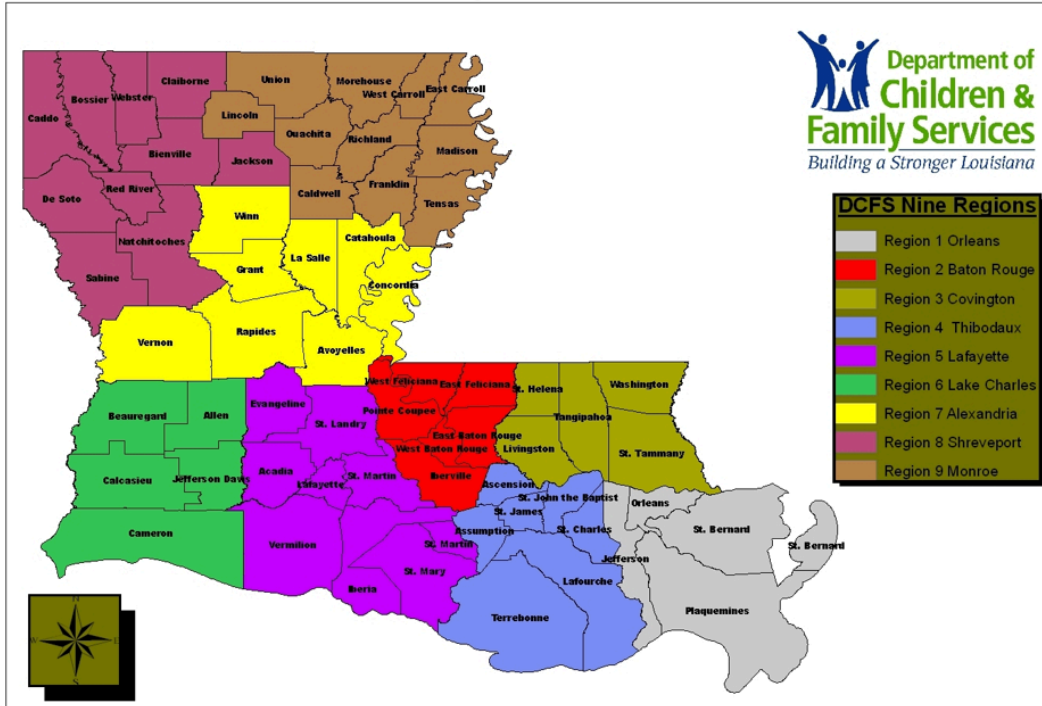
- Are identified as victims of child sex trafficking
- May be referred by law enforcement, medical providers, other first responders, child welfare, service providers, caregivers, community members, or survivors themselves

Advocates Fill the Gaps in Between Services:

Advocates are dispatched by first responders immediately upon recovery of a survivor and meet the youth where they are --literally/geographically and figuratively-- regardless of whether or not the survivor is cognizant of their own victimization and need for help. Advocates also respond immediately to calls from youth in crisis and as soon as possible when a survivor is newly identified but in a safe and stable environment. They commit to continue in a supportive relationship with the survivor throughout their progression through the stages of healing, including relapse, without judgment.

Advocates are field-based and work collaboratively with stakeholders in support of the victim centered goals for survivors, law enforcement, child welfare, juvenile justice, healthcare, and other partners. By building trusting relationships, advocates help those exploited gain the strength needed to become survivors and to participate in the investigation/prosecution of their exploiters.

Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services Regions



BCFS Health & Human Services (HHS)

Common Thread:



Unbound Now:



REFERRALS

BCFS HHS- Common Thread

24/7 Hotline Referral:

- 1-888-8THREAD
- 1-888-884-7323



Concerns or Questions:
Commonthread@bcfs.net

Unbound Now

24/7 Hotline Referral:

- Baton Rouge: (225) 475-9635
- New Orleans: (504) 285-9865



Concerns or Questions:
Louisiana@unboundnow.org