

Overview


The Child Partnership is a coalition committed to advancing effective, accountable investments that protect children while strengthening American security, public safety, and technological resilience. For FY27, we urge Congress to provide targeted funding increases for Homeland Security programs combating the rapidly expanding threat of online sexual exploitation and abuse of children. These investments strengthen investigative capacity, accelerate child victim identification, disrupt global criminal networks, and prevent exploitation before it occurs.

FY27 Funding Requests

PROGRAM / ACCOUNT	FY27 REQUEST	PURPOSE
HSI Cyber Crimes Center (C3)	\$125M	Global investigations and digital forensic operations
Child Victim Identification Program (CVIP)	+\$9M	Hire forensic analysts to reduce victim identification backlog
Computer Forensics Unit (CFU) & HERO Corps	+\$6M	Expand digital forensic capacity and veteran investigator pipeline
Know2Protect Campaign	\$3M	National prevention and public awareness campaign

WHY THESE INVESTMENTS MATTER


A Rapidly Escalating Threat



20.5 million reports of suspected child sexual exploitation were made to NCMEC in 2024




Reports involved 29.2 million incidents and more than 62.9 million files of abuse material



Online enticement reports increased 192 percent in one year



Financial sextortion now averages nearly 100 reports per day




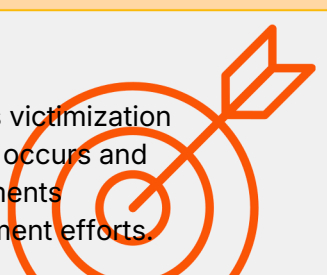


Reports involving generative AI increased 1,325 percent



Impact

Technology is accelerating exploitation faster than traditional law enforcement systems can respond.

Homeland Security Investigations – Cyber Crimes Center (C3) FY27 Request: \$125M	
<p>C3 leads complex multinational investigations targeting global networks distributing child sexual abuse material.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identified or rescued 1,783 child victims in FY2024 • Supported 4,959 arrests of child exploitation offenders • Coordinates investigations across dozens of countries • Serves as the federal government’s hub for digital forensic innovation 	<p>Impact</p> <p>Disrupts global predator networks and rescues children from ongoing abuse.</p> 
Child Victim Identification Program (CVIP) FY27 Increase: +\$9M	
<p>CVIP identifies children depicted in child sexual abuse material and helps law enforcement rescue victims.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More than 56,000 unidentified child victims remain in INTERPOL databases • Approximately half are believed to be American children • Identification backlogs delay rescues and prosecutions 	<p>Impact</p> <p>Additional forensic analysts accelerate victim identification and reduce investigative backlogs.</p> 
Computer Forensics Unit (CFU) & HERO Child-Rescue Corps FY27 Increase: +\$6M	
<p>CFU and HERO Corps expand the digital forensic capacity required to investigate online exploitation networks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C3 analyzed more than 7 petabytes of digital evidence last year • Criminals increasingly use encryption and anonymization tools • HERO program trains wounded veterans to support child exploitation investigations 	<p>Impact</p> <p>Strengthens investigative capacity while creating a pipeline of trained forensic specialists.</p> 
Know2Protect Campaign FY27 Request: \$3M	
<p>Know2Protect is the first nationwide DHS campaign dedicated to preventing online child exploitation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educates families and schools about grooming and sextortion tactics • Partners with technology companies and youth-serving organizations • Provides prevention resources for parents and educators 	<p>Impact</p> <p>Prevents victimization before it occurs and complements enforcement efforts.</p> 

Advancing U.S. Safety and National Security

Together these investments:

- Protect American children from rapidly evolving digital threats
- Disrupt transnational criminal networks
- Strengthen digital forensic and investigative capacity
- Reduce long-term criminal justice and victim service costs
- Reinforce U.S. leadership in combating child exploitation

These targeted investments ensure U.S. law enforcement keeps pace with emerging technologies used to exploit children.

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