

Businesses with Heart

Businesses with Heart is a program designed to support our caregivers, children and youth with discounts from local businesses. Businesses participating in the program provide a wide variety of discounts on their products and/or services, and some businesses offer mentorships or employment opportunities to youth. Caregivers receive a membership ID card and a listing of participating businesses.

If you have not yet received your information and ID card, please contact Homes with Heart VC at 805-654-3220. Please check our website: strengtheningvcfamilies.org/bwh for all details on services and discounts for restaurants, dentists, mechanics, recreational activities, furniture, barbershop, and much more! The list of participating businesses is frequently updated; please visit our website for the most up to date information.

Our intent is to provide our families with a wide array of participating businesses and discounts within your community.

If you would like to refer a business, please email: StrengtheningVCfamilies@ventura.org

Please note that some of the resources listed are limited to Ventura County approved caregivers with Ventura County dependent children placed in their homes. Partnering organizations provide assistance for placement needs, as well as ongoing needs as appropriate. Funds are provided to families to support the children placed in their home, however the following resources can be accessed to help supplement or use in times of need. For clarification, please contact Strengthening VC Families/ Homes with Heart VC or the Resource Partner directly for guidelines and specifications.

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Necessities & Basic Needs

Resource Request Form

Local organizations have collaborated with us to offer additional support for unique unexpected urgent needs to our CFS children, youth and families. Before submitting the Resource request form to HSA-CFS-Resources@ventura.org, please review this Resource Guide to view all available resources that may fulfill your need. A staff member will vet all requests.

ASSITANCE LEAGUE OF VENTURA COUNTY (ALVC)

ALVC is a nonprofit volunteer organization dedicated to the enrichment of the lives of children in Ventura County and the betterment of their future. In collaboration with Homes with Heart VC, the Assistance League provides gently used clothing, shoes and emergency support to Resource Families, “fragile” families and youth who have aged out of care through the HWH Care Closet. ALVC also runs The Bargain Box which is an upscale resale shop staffed and managed entirely by volunteer members. The store provides a continuing source of income for the chapter’s philanthropic programs including the HWH Care closet and emergency assistance to CFS children, youth and families. Checkout their website at assistanceleagueventuracounty.org. The Bargain Box Thrift Store is located at 3351 Telegraph Road, Ventura, California. Our phone number is 805-643-5593.

ACTION

ACTION is a Ventura County nonprofit organization that mobilizes volunteers, churches, and businesses to volunteer and help people. By matching up volunteers with needs, our volunteers find ways to help that fits their abilities and resources while those in need benefit. Through this Serve Every Day program, a wide range of help can potentially be provided. Possibilities include assisting seniors and low-income families with basic household repairs, help with yard work or helping a family move based on availability of volunteers. For more information, please call 805-987-0300 or email action@actionvc.org, Website: www.actionvc.org.

Catalyst

Catalyst Church has a closet of gently used girls and boys clothing (newborn to age 6), diapers, toothbrush, toothpaste, and new underwear. Resource parents can come and collect as needed for their new child in care. Please call Sherrie Paul to set up a time to come by 805-901-2814 or email 805sherrie@gmail.com Catalyst Church is located at 241 N. Mill St., Santa Paula.

Heart-to-Heart

Heart-to-Heart, in partnership with Kids & Families Together, donates gently used items to resource families, relative caregivers and children and is located in Ventura. To receive Heart-to-Heart resources, please contact Kids & Families Together at 805-643-1446.

iFoster Online Resource Portal

Youth in care, resource families, relative caregivers, and professionals working with any of those groups can access local resources and retail discounts. Resources also include free online counseling with a life coach, tutoring, free cell phones, discounted laptop computers, and discounted orthodontics.

AmeriCorps Program: Youth 18-26 years old can earn \$ and scholarships for college while helping other youth in care, no work experience required, minimum 60hrs per month in Ventura, LA county, Sacramento and the Bay area.

Upon registration, participants will be asked to provide the name of someone who can verify their status as a youth in care, parent, or relative caregiver. Visit ifoster.org to learn more and to register or call 1-855-936-7837. If you do not have access to a computer, iFoster can register and assist you over the phone!

James Storehouse

James Storehouse is a nonprofit that secures donations for resource families and relative caregivers, birth parents and youth in care, teen parents and group homes. Items include furniture, clothing from newborn to teen, toys, diapers, and all baby/child gear including cribs and car seats. James Storehouse also hosts events throughout the year to support children and teens in care such as baby showers for youth in care, monthly life skills classes for teen parents, girls rescued out of trafficking, new Leadership Class for youth 18-24 transitioned out of care and an annual back to school event. Offices and warehouse are open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM by appointment only. For more information call 805-499-7161, email jamesstorehouse@gmail.com or visit their website jamesstorehouse.org. They are located at 3543 Old Conejo Rd., #105, Newbury Park. Se habla Español.

Open Hands Ministry

South Coast Fellowship offers a clothing and food pantry. The pantry is open on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9:00am-11:00pm. Monday and Tuesday's emergencies only 9:00am-11:00am. To set up your first appointment, contact James Kam at (805)658-7223. The pantry is located at 1595 Walter St., Ventura. Website: www.foodpantries.org or www.southcoastfellowship.com.

RaisingHOPE, INC

RaisingHOPE provides advocacy, awareness and funds to current and former youth in care in the Ventura County area through community events, mentoring, life skills training and legal services. Funds go directly to helping children with payment for extracurricular activities, orthodontia, textbooks for college and help with transportation, such as bus passes along with anything else that might benefit the youth. For more information on RaisingHOPE, request a mentor or resource assistance please visit www.raisinghope.org or contact info@raisinghope.org. You can also call 805-491-KIDZ (5439).

Shelter Care Resources

Shelter Care Resources provides materials and resources such as gently used and new clothing, diapers, wipes car seats and furniture to resource families. Every two Friday they have food pantry services from 5:15pm- 6:30pm at 1925 Eastman Ave. in Ventura. Email ShelterCareResourcesOxnard@gmail.com for more information, call (805) 612-7091 or visit www.sheltercareresources.com.

Women, Infants & Children (WIC)

WIC is a health and nutritional program for pregnant women and children under the age of five. Fostering or relative care giving families are eligible to receive WIC for children in their care. WIC provides nutritional education and supplemental foods. Contact 1-800-781-4449 ext. 3 or (805)981-5251 visit their website at www.vchca.org/women-infants-and-children-wic.

Women of Substance & Men of Honor (WOSMOH)

WOSMOH, Inc. addresses the needs of guidance and support for youth by providing rehabilitation & restoration services, Alpha Leadership Development, education on healthy lifestyles and relationships, mentoring courses, scholarships, care items, food and clothing vouchers. Transitional youth in care & Probation youth are provided with Christmas gift bags, transitional and after care support, Transitional Housing and referrals for support. Email helpingyouth@wosmoh.org or visit their website at www.wosmoh.org.

Extracurricular Activities/Enrichment Supports

Conejo Valley Guide

A detailed online calendar of family friendly events, activities, things to do in the Conejo Valley, Thousand Oaks, Newbury Park, Greater Ventura County and surrounding areas. www.conejovalleyguide.com/events-calendar/.

Oxnard Police Activities League

The Oxnard Police Activities League (PAL) is a citywide, FREE after-school, crime prevention program designed to build positive relationships between youth, police officers and the community. Recreational, educational, seasonal sports programs, enrichment and mentoring programs are offered to youth ages 7 to 18, at no cost to participants. Office hours are Monday – Friday 9:30am – 5:30pm. Membership to PAL is FREE, but you need to submit an application. For application and Program schedule, visit www.oxnardpal.org or call 805-385-8230.

YMCA

The YMCA is committed to being socially responsible. Through Operation Ventura, an outreach initiative, and the generous support of our donors, the Y has been able to provide free programming to homeless and youth in care and families. Participation in swim programs and youth sports allows the underprivileged children in our community an opportunity to participate. These programs range from swim, to dance, to sports and Martial arts. The Y will give certificates to Strengthening VC Families for distribution to Resource Families on a first come, first serve basis. Contact at 805-654-3220. The [YMCA](#) contact is Jason Najera at 805.642.2131 ext. 2119.

Mentoring

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Ventura County

The Big Brothers Big Sisters program matches volunteers who are over 21 with children in care and probation. The program serves boys ages 8 – 15 and girls, ages 6 – 15. Older than 15 accepted if they are in placement. Matched children can remain in the program until they are 21. A staff member provides support on a monthly basis to the Big, the Little, and the child's guardian. For an application or more information, visit www.bbsvc.org, email info@bbsvc.org or call 805-484-2282. Address: 555 Airport Way Ste. D, Camarillo. Se habla Español.

CASA of Ventura County

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Ventura County believes that every court-dependent abused or neglected child should be safe, have permanence and the opportunity to thrive, and have a strong, compassionate volunteer advocate. CASA recruits, screens, trains, supervises and support volunteers who advocate for children in care appointed by the Juvenile Dependency Court to the CASA program. The CASA Advocate is the person who can be counted on to respond to those most basic needs for reassurance, guidance, comfort, representation and advocacy in times of extreme uncertainty, and is the one constant, positive presence in the child’s life until a permanent placement can be secured. A social worker must make referrals. Visit their webpage www.casaofventuracounty.org.

RaisingHOPE Mentorship Program

RaisingHOPE’s mentoring program connects trainer, background checked mentors with youth to give a reliable, stable caring adult connection for a lifetime. RaisingHOPE serves all youth in care, but primary focus is on the older youth (pre-teens, teens and non-minor dependents), and also take referrals for youth up to age 25 that are still need of support. All mentors are screened, trained and evaluated. This program is voluntary for all youth, and youth are screened to ensure the maximum effectiveness of the relationship. Once approved, mentors meet with mentees 2 times per month minimum to build relationships and visit within the community. For more information on mentorship program, check training dates and complete mentorship application visit their website raisinghope.org/mentoring or email mentors@raisingHOPE.org.

Faith in Motion

Faith in Motion is a unique collaboration between the County of Ventura Children and Family Services and Ventura County faith communities. Faith communities throughout the county are stepping in to provide a range of support to our caregiving families. Families can be connected to a fostering ministry or social program at a congregation within their community. Faith in Motion partners can provide emotional and practical support to caregivers, basic need goods, respite care support, and special holiday events. To connect with a Faith in Motion congregation in your area or to get your congregation involved please contact (805) 654-3220 or visit strengtheningvcfamilies.org/faith-in-motion/.

Respite Care

Channel Islands Social Services

Approved Resource Families (RFA) are eligible for up to **12** hours of FREE respite care each month. Families caring for **Ventura County dependent children** ages 16 or under, or a child with special needs, are automatically eligible and can contact www.islandsocialservices.org directly at **805-384-0983** to register. If your family is caring for children over 16 or requires more than 12 hours, social workers can request an exception to the basic eligibility. These cases will be reviewed for need, natural support system, and plan for when the short-term exception ends. FFA certified homes are eligible for respite and should contact their agency for more information.

Child Care/Child Development

Catalyst Kids (formerly Child Development Centers)

Catalyst Kids operates early care and education that serve children birth through twelve years of age. They offer a variety of infant, preschool and school age programs. They work with school districts to provide before and after school programs, including homework assistance and kindergarten readiness programs to families including preschool programs in Oxnard, Fillmore, Ventura, Thousand Oaks, & Port Hueneme. Children in care are often eligible for priority assignment into a program and subsidized care. To find a center near you click [HERE](#) call:(800) 763-1731 or visit <https://www.catalystkids.org/> Resource parent contact the center of their choice directly, no referral needed.

Child Development Resources

CDR administers a range of childcare programs and provides referrals to community childcare providers. Children in care may receive priority assignment from the wait list and subsidies with verification from their social worker that the child is a court dependent minor. In order to apply, resource parents should complete the following steps:

- 1) Complete the Centralized Eligibility List Application, which can be downloaded [HERE](#).
- 2) Homes with Heart VC will provide a letter of verification of the child's dependent status. Please email strengtheningvcfamilies@ventura.org to request this verification.
- 3) Submit application and letter directly to CDR by email: info@localhost or in person at 221 E. Ventura Blvd, Oxnard 93036.

Children's Home Society (CHS)

Children's Home Society provides a variety of services to children and families in California and nationwide — working to improve their quality of life by offering vital informational, educational, and resource services, which include Early Learning and Education Programs, and Family Resource Services. Children in care are often eligible for priority assignment into a program and subsidized care. To access services for childcare, resource families will need to complete and submit an application. They can do this online at CHS-CA.org, go in to the office at 1801 Solar Drive, Ste.195 in Oxnard or call 805-437-1910 and request an application be mailed. Services provided are based off the child's income, and resource families will need to have a referral letter from their Case Worker to add to the application.

Easterseals Child Development Center

The Easterseals Child Development Center serves children 0 to 3 years of age through their free Early Head Start and Home Base Visitor Programs to income qualifying families. The Easterseals California State Preschool Program is a free to low monthly fee full-day preschool program focusing on preparing young children for Kindergarten success through indoor and outdoor classrooms. The Center is located at 10730 Henderson Road, Ventura, CA 93004. Year round hours are Monday through Friday, 7:30am – 5:30pm. Contact Easterseals at (805)647-1141 for more information, to apply or to be added to the wait list.

First 5 Neighborhoods for Learning (NfL)

We are in your neighborhood! Throughout Ventura County, the First 5 Neighborhoods for Learning, Powered by Interface (NfLs) are helping families raise children who are healthy, nurtured, and prepared for kindergarten. The NfLs offer **PACT** (Parent and Child Together) classes and resources for families. Families can access **screenings, referrals, parent education**, and more in familiar, high-quality settings. PACT (Parent and Child Together) Classes do not serve as a therapeutic intervention. However, it provides opportunities and a venue to strengthen the parent and child relationship, build social connections and provide a high quality early learning environment for you and your child. First 5 Ventura County has multiple NfL sites that offer parenting support, early literacy activities, and case management for families with children that are 0-5. For more information, go online first5ventura.org complete online [application](#), which is then forwarded, to the appropriate office or call (805)869-1317 or email NFL@first5ventura.org

Youth Education

California College Pathways

CCP is statewide partnership that provides resources and leadership to campuses and community organizations to **help youth in care succeed at community colleges** and four-year universities. Educational planning website with resources and program information for youth in care. www.cacollegepathways.org. Access the Planning Guide at this link: www.cacollegepathways.org/planningguide.

Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program

FYSCP works in collaboration with liaisons in each district in the county to ensure that the educational, physical, social and emotional needs of youth in care are identified, to determine gaps in educational and social support services and provide those services, directly or through referrals to collaborative partners. The program also seeks to facilitate the completion and timely transfer of school records, improve students' academic achievement, reduce truancy, dropout rates and delinquent behavior, and provide advocacy to promote the best interest of youths in care throughout the county. Contact the Foster Youth Services Program at 805- 437-1525 fys@vcoe.org. Visit website: [HERE](#).

Alliance for Children's Rights

The Alliance fights to provide stability for children in foster care and those at risk of entering foster care by helping them obtain access to mental and medical healthcare, educational services, benefits, housing, and more. For those who cannot return to their biological parents, the Alliance provides permanency through adoption and legal guardianship. For young adults who "age out" of foster care without a stable connection to a supportive adult, our programs and advocacy services specifically for young adults guide them in their journey to independence. For information about a child in care's educational rights, please visit their [website](#).

United Parents Educational Advocacy Program

United Parents Program provides Educational Advocates that assist parents in navigating the complex Special Education and mental health systems by facilitating the Individual Education Plan (IEP) process; 504 Accommodations and positive behavior supports. To Begin, call our office for a short fifteen-minute consultation and/or intake at 805-384-1555 or for more information, visit Unitedparents.org. Note: If you have concerns about your child's academic performance, behavior in the school setting, or overall development, please contact the child's social worker immediately. Please note that children that are 0-5 are eligible for educational and developmental support programs depending on their needs.

Tutoring

Ewcata! Tutoring

Free tutoring for youth in care in all subject areas, kindergarten through college. Embracing the Whole Child Foundation sponsors educational assistance. One-on-one online tutoring only. For more information or schedule a tutoring session contact Lynette Lucas at 714-989-6159 or visit their website at ewcata.wixsite.com.

Project Understanding Tutoring Centers

Tutoring Centers provide extra instruction for students grades K-5 with volunteer tutors in one-to-one interaction. Project Understanding currently has 11 tutoring centers throughout Ventura County, in

El Rio, Oxnard, Saticoy and Ventura. Free for all students. Contact 654-3220 for referral sheets and instructions. For more information, visit www.projectunderstanding.org/tutoring or contact Carol Pillado, Program Manager at (805) 652-1326, ext. 303, or (805) 825-7978 cpillado@projectunderstanding.org. **The Food Pantry at Project Understanding** provides groceries twice a month to families whose budget cannot support the purchase of their own. **To register please come to the Pantry 9:00 am - 12:00 pm on Monday, Wednesday & Friday.** Program requirement for the intake portion is a picture ID.

Independent Living Program & AB12

Transitional Age Youth Services

Caregivers of children ages 16-21 can visit www.StrengtheningVcfamilies.org to access information about Ventura County's Youth Services Division, Independent Living Program, and AB12 services.

ILP Funding Reimbursement Requests for Youth Ages 16-21

Resource available to provide a range of financial supports to Ventura County dependent youth and their families. Families can apply for reimbursement for expenses related to extracurricular activities, education (high school, college/vocational), transportation, employment and housing expenses. Some categories are limited for the fiscal year, while others may be a one-time only reimbursement. Requests for reimbursement will only be considered within 90 days of original purchase and reimbursement checks may take up to 60 days to process. Click [HERE](#) to fill out the form so we can provide you with more information on these resources.

Independent Living Coordinator

An Independent Living Coordinator provides assistance to current and former youth in care or probation who are between 16-21 years of age. The ILP Coordinator is available to help current and former youth in care. Call (805) 240-2700 or email HSA-ILP@ventura.org to connect with an Independent Living Program In-Care Youth Community Service Coordinator.

Youth Housing

RaisingHOPE, Housing Navigator

Contact housing navigator for 18+ youth housing information, Tami Barnett phone 805-491-5439, or email info@raisinghope.org.

James Storehouse

Transitional housing for young women ages 18 – 24 yrs. James Storehouse transitional housing program for female youth aging out of care. This home will not only give youth stable housing, it will

provide a trauma-informed, nurturing environment, and mentorship from a live-in James Storehouse staff member. Our goal is to help youth thrive and transition successfully to independence. Contact Stacy DeWitt for more information (805) 499-7161 or email jamesstorehouse@gmail.com.

Harbor House (Conejo Valley only)

Transitional housing for young men ages 18 – 21 yrs. At this transitional home with the help of our case managers, they can finish high school, begin college, get job experience, or get a driver's license. The youth can learn how to create a budget, open a bank account and pay bills. This home is for young people who need a caring and nurturing home in which to learn some of life's most important lessons around successful, independent living. Contact Denise Cortes for more information at (805) 464-3533 Ext. 101 or email at dcortes@harborhouseto.org. Harbor House can refer clients based on their needs. Using the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and can access countywide resources. Through a referral and intake process, they can provide assistance with housing, emergency shelter, meals, employment, legal, medical and psychological services in the Conejo Valley. Visit their website at harborhouseto.org

Scholarships

Joan Gendreau & Fostering the Future Scholarships

Children's Services Auxiliary recognizes the need and awards scholarships to Court Dependent graduating high school students or GED equivalent who are applying to at least one of the following: Vocational/Trade School, Community College, 4-year College and/or applying to the Military after high school or GED completion. One on-line application applies for both scholarships. For more information visit: <https://fosteringthefuture.net/apply-here/> or www.csavc.org. Click **HERE** to submit an application or contact Leeann Mesa at (805) 751-8697 or via email at leeann@csavc.org.

California Chafee Grant for Youth in Care

May qualify for up to \$5,000 a year to help pay for college, childcare, transportation and rent while you are in school. You can use your Chafee Grant at any eligible California college or university or career or technical school, as well as schools in other states. Must be a current or former youth in care and not have reached your 22nd birthday as of July of the award year. The court must have established your dependency when you were between the ages of 16 and 18. The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) will verify your eligibility status. Must submit FAFSA or CA Dream Act Application and Chafee Grant Application (for first time applicants). Visit: www.chafee.csac.ca.gov.

TEACH Scholarship Fund

This scholarship is for graduating high school seniors and graduates under the age of 25 who are or have been in care or a group home in Ventura County, California. To qualify for this scholarship, applicants must be current or emancipated youth in care who will attend or who are currently attending a community college, trade/technical school, or four-year college/university. Financial need is not a requirement, but will be considered. For more information or to apply visit www.vccf.org.

Foster Care to Success

FC2S collaborates with organizations, foundations, and individuals to deliver scholarships to youth in care across the country. The website lists multiple scholarships available to current and former youth in care. www.fc2sucess.org.

Medical, Mental & Behavioral Health

CFS Eligibility Unit

For questions about your child's Medi-cal/Gold Coast Health Care Plan benefits, you can contact the worker of the day in the eligibility unit at (805) 240-2700.

Health Care Program for Children in Care

Public health nurses provide education and coordination to medical, dental, developmental, and mental health care needs to Ventura County children in out-of-home placement. They work closely with resource parents, social workers, probation officers and others to prevent illness and provide well childcare. You can reach a nurse at (805) 654-3444.

Behavioral Health Services

If you have concerns about your child's emotional health or behavior, and believe that he/she may benefit from a mental health evaluation, please speak to your child's social worker immediately. Your child will be evaluated and can be referred for evaluation and treatment through the Ventura County child Behavioral Health Subsystem Program and contracted providers. People who need Health Services or who are going through a mental health crisis can call (866) 998-2243 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

National Institute of Mental Health

Online information about child & adolescent mental health can be found at www.nimh.nih.gov.

Tri-Counties Regional Services

Tri-Counties Regional Center provides a variety of supports and services for individuals with developmental disabilities living in San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties so that they may live fully and safely as active and independent members of our community. To see a list of services provided click [HERE](#) or call the Oxnard office at (805)485-3177 or (800) 664-3177.

Braces and Dental Care

iFoster Online Resource Portal

Youth in care, resource families, relative caregivers, and professionals working with any of those groups can access local resources and retail discounts. Resources also include free online tutoring, free cell phones, discounted laptop computers, and discounted orthodontics. Upon registration, participants will be asked to provide the name of someone who can verify their status as a youth in care, parent, or relative caregiver. Visit www.ifoster.org to learn more and to register or call 1-855-936-7837. If you do not have access to a computer, iFoster can register and assist you over the phone.

In-Home Support Programs

Hair Whisperers

CFS has a contract with Hair Whisperers for in-home lice removal. Contact Homes with Heart VC at HSA-CFS-Resources@ventura.org or 805-654-3220 to request a referral. **Homes with Heart VC/CFS Staff must refer families.**

Kids & Families Together (K&FT) - Peer Partner & Educator (PPE) Program

Kids and Families Together provides a Peer Partner & Educator Program (PPE) Goal: to provide education and support services to new or existing-Resource Parents, including understanding the child welfare system and community resources. Eligibility: Resource Parents-caring for children in the Child Welfare System. Services: Caregivers are assigned to a Peer Partner and Educator-to educate/coach caregivers on understanding the child welfare system, and accessing community resources for personal and household needs. Contact Kids & Families Together at 805 643-1446 x253.

Kids & Families Together-Support & Education Training (SET)

In home services for resource parents or relative caregivers who have children with trauma histories in their homes, are struggling with behavioral challenges, or need support and training connecting with the child. For more information or to self-refer visit kidsandfamilies.org, call 805-643-1446 ext. 180, or email referrals@kidsandfamilies.org.

LGBTQ+

(Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender/Queer/+)

Strengthening VC Families collaborates with the [Diversity Collective Ventura County](#) and [The Coalition for Family Harmony](#) to serve the LGBTQ+ community of Ventura County.

The Coalition for Family Harmony

Offers a new [LGBTQ+ Program](#) providing a variety of free services for LGBTQ+ youth who experience bullying, abuse, and violence that may affect them. The mission of the program is to improve access to

the Coalition's trauma informed services. Community education and networking events for youth are held through the year, and Teen Dating Violence workshops are available upon request. Referrals to our LGBTQ+ centered community partners can be provided, based on the needs of youth and their caregivers. The Coalition for Family Harmony is now offering FREE Counseling Sessions for individuals in the LGBTQ+ community, specializing in: sexual assault. For more information on youth counseling, call the Coalition for Family Harmony at (805) 983-6014, ext. 1100, the crisis hotline for after-hours care, or visit the website at www.thecoalition.org. 24-hour Bilingual Crisis Hotline: 1-800-300-2181; TTY 805-656-4439 1030 N. Ventura Road, Oxnard.

Diversity Collective Ventura County Community Resource Center

Offers resources through the HOPE Counseling Center, Rainbow Umbrella, and Free Rapid HIV Testing (anonymous testing on 3rd Monday of the month). Other programs: **Thrive program** for meditation, counseling and discussion. **Jest Improv** gathering to come together, crack some jokes and have fun. **Pride Prom** Ventura County, **Aids Walk** Ventura County and Ventura county **Pride Parade**. For more information, call 805-644-5428. 2471 Portola Road, Suite 100, Ventura 93003 or to visit their website click [HERE](#).

LGBTQ+ Program

Provides crisis support via its walk-in crisis center and 24/7 hotline at (800) 300-2181. LGBTQ+ centered advocacy is provided through the Coalition's Rape Crisis Center and emergency housing is available for families experiencing domestic violence. General counseling is provided for family members, partners, and caregivers of LGBTQ+ youth, as well.

Pride Clinic at Santa Paula West

Transgender Clinical support group for 18+: This group supports all individuals who identify as transgender, gender non-binary or gender non-conforming. Currently meeting via Zoom Mondays at 10am and is at no cost. Email navigationteam@thecoalition.org or call (805)983-6014 to set up an intake appointment.

Training

Caregivers are required to complete a minimum of 8 hours of continuing education each year, including specific mandatory trainings. Homes with Heart VC encourages a blend of online, in-person, and networking groups to receive these hours. Please retain copies of certificates of completion.

Casa Pacifica Training Institute

Casa Pacifica Centers for Children and Families offers training and professional development for resource parents. Topics meet the requirements for initial and ongoing training as required by the county and various agencies. Courses include CPR/AED, first aid, water safety, crisis prevention, problem

solving, and a variety of child and youth care topics. Half-day workshops are also available for specialized trainings. There is no cost to attend, but registration is required. For more information call (805) 366-4064 or visit www.eventbrite.com/o/casa-pacifica.

Foster & Kinship Care Education (FKCE)

A program of Ventura County Community Colleges provides free ongoing education and training to potential and existing resource & kinship care providers to assist them in meeting the needs of the youth in their care. Participants are provided with certificates of attendance to meet the licensing requirements of their licensing agency. For more information, contact Rhonda Carlson at (805) 289-6181 or email rcarlson@vcccd.edu.

Kids & Families Together (K&FT)

- **SET Program (Support, Education, and Training):** Weekly, one-on-one support with an experienced therapist, in-home, office, or virtual. Caregivers receive support and psychoeducation on topics relevant to parenting children who have experienced trauma. This program focuses on helping caregivers become therapeutic parents in order to strengthen the child's security of attachment. The goal is to help families stay emotionally connected to one another and for children to experience placement stability and permanency, allowing them to heal from past traumas. This program is tailored to each family's specific needs and circumstances and can be flexible in how many sessions/hours the family receives. Caregivers can earn training hours. Call 805-643-1446, ext. 180 or email referrals@kidsandfamilies.org to self-refer.
- **Trainings, Support Groups, and Workshops:** K&FT hosts various trainings/workshops for caregivers and families. See below under *networking and support groups* for more information on specific groups. Groups are free and caregivers can earn training hours. Call 805-643-1446, ext. 180, email referrals@kidsandfamilies.org or visit www.kidsandfamilies.org/groups-and-workshops/ for more information.
- **Caregiver Provider Training (CPT)**
The Care Provider Training Program provides specialized training to care providers of children and youth involved in the child welfare system. Care Provider populations eligible to receive the training include Children and Family Service (CFS) employees, current or prospective resource parents, adoptive parents, relative guardians, and employees providing child-placing and childcare agencies. Our trainers represent the diversity of our local community and are leading experts in a multitude of child and family wellness topics. Training topics are based on current training needs assessment results and are customized monthly to meet the community's needs. For more information please contact: Dr. Kathleen Van Antwerp-CPTP Director of Training
Email: Kvanantwerp@kidsandfamilies.org Cell: (818)984-7868

Online Training

- California's Just in Time Training www.QPIcalifornia.org
- Foster Training www.foster-training.com
- Cenpatico U www.cenpaticoU.com
- Foster Care & Adoptive Community www.fosterparents.com
- Foster Parent College www.fosterparentcollege.com
- Foster Club www.fosterclub.com/_booster/article/foster-parent-online-training

Educational Sites

- National Childhood Traumatic Stress Network www.nctsn.org/resources/audiences/parents-caregivers
- Zero to Three www.zerotothree.org
- The Institute for Safe Families www.instituteforsafefamilies.org/materials/amazing-brain
- Center for Social Emotional Foundations for Early Learning www.csefel.vanderbilt.edu/resources/family.html
- Healthy Children www.healthychildren.org
- American Academy of Pediatrics Adoption & Foster Care www.healthychildren.org/english/family-life/family-dynamics/adoption-and-foster-care

Networking & Support Groups

Trauma-Informed Parenting Support Groups Earn Training Hours!

Kids & Families Together-Nurturing Connections:

Support and Training in Becoming a Therapeutic Parent – Earn training hours!

Support and training group led by an experienced therapist. Resource, Adoptive, and Kinship Caregivers in Ventura County have the opportunity to explore a variety of topics in a safe, supportive environment of their peers. Topics include trauma, attachment, development, the brain and dysregulation,

therapeutic parenting, dealing with difficult behaviors, working with birth families, playfulness, and more. Receive training hours that can be applied toward Resource Parent training requirements. Childcare provided by CISS must be arranged at least 48 hours in advance (when groups are in-person). Please call to RSVP if you plan to attend a group. Attendance is not required each week. Call 805-643-1446, ext.180 or email referrals@kidsandfamilies.org for dates or to register, visit www.kidsandfamilies.org/groups-and-workshops/ for more information.

TBRI® Caregiver Training (Kids & Families Together) – Earn training hours!

Trust-Based Relational Intervention® (TBRI®) is an attachment-based, trauma-informed intervention that is designed to meet the complex needs of vulnerable children. TBRI® is designed for children who have a history of abuse, neglect, and/or trauma. The TBRI® Caregiver Training offers practical tools to help caregivers see the “whole child” in their care and meet their unique needs, in order to help that child heal and reach their highest potential. Four full days of training, offered 1-2 times a year. Call 805-643-1446, ext. 180 or email referrals@kidsandfamilies.org for dates or to register, visit www.kidsandfamilies.org/groups-and-workshops/ for more information.

Hold Me Tight Couples Workshop (Kids & Families Together) – Earn training hours!

Eight weekly sessions in which couples learn to deepen their connection, change painful/frustrating cycles, and make sense of their relationship/attachment needs. Based on the book, Hold Me Tight: Seven Conversations for a Lifetime of Love, by Dr. Sue Johnson. Workshop offered 1-2 times a year. Call 805-643-1446, ext. 106 or email referrals@kidsandfamilies.org for dates or to register, visit www.kidsandfamilies.org/groups-and-workshops/ for more information.

Hold Me Tight, Let Me Go Parent and Teen Workshop (Kids & Families Together) – Earn training hours!

One Friday evening for parents only and the following full day with parents and their teens, led by two experienced therapists. Families will deepen their connection, enhance trust and emotional safety, change frustrating cycles, and better understand each other. On the second day, families have time all together as a group, time alone with their teen, as well as a parent support group and teen support group during the day. Workshop offered 3-4 times a year. Call 805-643-1446, ext. 180 or email referrals@kidsandfamilies.org for dates or to register, visit www.kidsandfamilies.org/groups-and-workshops/ for more information.

Resources Specific to Kinship Caregivers

LEGAL - Family Resource Center at the Juvenile Courthouse

A program of Ventura County's Self Help Legal Access Center. Free informational assistance that includes restraining orders, divorce, custody, and support. Walk-in service is not currently available. Click [HERE](#) to make a phone or Zoom appointment or call (805)289-8732 www.ventura.courts.ca.gov.

Kids & Families Together (K&FT)

Provides therapeutic counseling and education-support services to Resource Parents, Informal Kinship caregivers, including, Legal Guardians, and Adoptive Caregivers in Ventura County. Please contact K&FT for more information and approval. Support Programs & Training Center 1317 Del Norte Rd., Suite 150, Camarillo, CA. 93010, (805) 643-1446 (Website) www.kidsandfamilies.org. Counseling Center & Administration: 864 Santa Clara Street, Ventura.

Licensing & RFA Information

Community Care Licensing

Visit the CCL website to read Title 22 regulations for resource homes, as well as download forms such as the Unusual Incident Form www.ccl.ca.gov.

Prudent Parent Standard

The Prudent Parent Standard grants you the ability to make various parenting decisions that allow for experiences that are more normative for children in care. Visit the [CCLD](#) page and view 2005-01, 2005-02, 2005-03, and 2006-02.

Resource Family Approval

Visit the [CDSS](#) website to learn more about the RFA approval process and to review the Written Directives.

Homeless Services/Food Pantries

Project Understanding

Project Understanding guides and supports clients to achieve their highest attainable level of independence. They monitor progress, as well as provide a system of accountability. They strive to prevent homelessness for clients and move homeless clients out of homelessness as soon as possible. The intake process at the **First Step Center** is the first step for individuals and families to begin identifying and solving problems in their lives. Intake Specialists assist clients with realistic objectives, resources and referrals. Some of the most common referrals offered are DMV reduced-fee vouchers,

utility payment assistance through Community Action, referrals to our H2H (Homeless 2 Home) program, and Rental Assistance through H2H to prevent homelessness. Representatives from outside programs visit once a month to meet with clients and start the application process.

Visit projectunderstanding.org/first-step-center to complete the online Intake Form, or stop by the First Step Center during regular business hours Monday-Friday 8am-5pm at 2734 Johnson Dr. Ste. E, Ventura, (805)652-1326. Email: firststep@projectunderstanding.org.

- **Food Pantry:** Provides groceries twice a month to registered families. To register stop by Mon, Wed or Frid from 9am-12pm. Picture ID is required for registration.
- **Homeless to Home (H2H):** For assistance call (805)231-2299 Mon-Frid between 9am-4pm. Requirements – Proof of Income: Last 2 check stubs, SSI/SSA/Disability award letter or bank statement if direct deposit, food stamps, and/or unemployment stubs. Proof of Address: Rental agreement; if renting a room, letter from landlord. Proof of Dependents/Custody: Rental agreement (if listed on it), legal paperwork and awarding custody. If homeless: ID and mailing address
- **SHORE at the WAV:** Supportive Housing Opportunities in a Residential Environment. The goal of this program is to assist those who desire to end their homelessness with case management of previously homeless families and individuals in permanent, supportive housing apartments subsidized by Section 8 funds.

Harbor House (Conejo Valley only)

Harbor House can refer clients based on their needs. Using the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), they can access countywide resources to help with housing, emergency shelter, meals, employment, legal, medical and psychological services. **Case Managers** assist those who are homeless or on the edge of homelessness in becoming more self-sufficient. They help each person create attainable goals and walk alongside them, help with life skills like problem solving, money management and conflict resolution. **Gas & Electricity Assistance:** Assists all Ventura county residents with gas (GAF) and electricity (EAF) bills. Southern California Edison assistance is provided once in a 12-month period and The Gas Co assistance is provided once in a winter program period.

Certain income criteria applies. Visit harborhouseto.org/programs to download the Utility Assistance Program instructions, GAF and EAF applications.

- **Showers:** Hot showers are available every Thursday from 3:30-5:30pm at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church along with the daily meal/lunch program, sign up required.
- **Laundry:** Wednesdays from 2-4pm is Harbor House laundry day at Launderland located on 363 E. Avenida de Los Arboles, Thousand Oaks. Funds and detergent provided (two loads maximum per family).
- **Rental Assistance:** Emergency rental assistance for eviction prevention serves low-income families and individuals in the Conejo Valley. Eligibility is based on a set criteria and is determined through intake; documentation may be required.
- **Adopt a family:** Harbor House signs up families in the late early fall to be adopted for the holidays. In the past year over 400 families signed up which equates to between over 1100 children. Gifts are distributed in December.
- **Other Assistance:** Harbor House provides gas and bus vouchers to help in getting to work, school or doctor appointments.

SPiRiT of Santa Paula

SPiRiT of Santa Paula is a non-profit organization that collaborates with local and national agencies and organizations to offer a wide range of services from assisting with rental assistance, utility payments and advocacy in Homeless Court, counseling at their Resource Center for people who are homeless, hungry and lonely. They are ServSafe food certified and serve up to 600 hot meals each week. They are adept at food rescue, food pantry services, USDA food distribution and counseling. They provide support to parents with at-risk kids, sponsored outreach programs for kids in the park, the Police Clergy Council and 12-step efforts. They are located at 1498 E. Harvard Blvd, Santa Paula (805)229-7750.

- **Resource and Drop in Center** – Food, encouragement and basics for homeless and hungry. 1498 E. Harvard Blvd, Santa Paula. Monday – Thursday from 9am-2pm. Fridays meet at One Stop.
- **One stop** - in collaboration with Ventura County Health Care Agency and El Buen Pastor Church provide whole person care, **showers, breakfast, lunch and healthcare** at 1029 E. Santa Paula St., Santa Paula. Fridays from 9am to noon. Supports basic hygiene and connects homeless individuals with services helping their long-term stability including mental health, alcohol & drug programs and TB test appointments.
- **A Little Laundry** – Every Friday from 7:30am-9:00am. Limit \$15 per person. HMIS ID required and must be homeless.
- **Emergency Food Boxes** – By appointment only (805)340-5025.
- **Food Pantry** – Wednesdays 4:30pm-5:30pm at 121 N. Davis Street, (805)340-5025.
- **Food Rescue**- In collaboration with the State of California CalRecycle Program & Waste Free Ventura County connects with commercial food service organizations who throw away food every day. If you have a connection with any food service organization such as school cafeterias, restaurants, catering services, food distributors and grocery stores refer them to SPIRIT. They have commercial refrigerators, freezers, trucks and know how to handle food safely.

Important Phone Numbers

Child Abuse Hotline:	654-3200
Resource Family Approval Manager, Rosanna Salazar:	654-3405
Resource Family Recruitment:	654-3220
Resource Family Approval (RFA):	654-3405
Placement:	289-1900

Eligibility Officer of
Day:

Resource Guide

the

654-3444
Adoptions:	240-2700
Youth Services Division:	240-2700
Rx for Kids Public Health Program:	654-3444
Public Health Nurse:	654-3444
General Information Neighbors Together & Ongoing units:	240-2700
General Information East County:	955-2290
General Information Family Preservation, Emergency Response:	654-3444
CSA Reimbursements:	654-3220
Field Based Case Aids:	240-2700
ILP Coordinators:	240-2700