



Resource Guide

For caregivers who are caring for children/youth from outside of Ventura County

The resources below are available to resource families/foster parents who are caring for court-dependent children, including children who are from out-of-county and out-of-state. The organizations listed provide assistance to place children/youth and to support the care of children/youth. Please contact the organizations directly for guidelines and eligibility to receive assistance.

Necessities & Basic Needs

ACTION

ACTION is a Ventura County nonprofit organization that mobilizes volunteers, churches, and businesses to volunteer and help people. Possibilities include assisting seniors and low-income families with basic household repairs, helping with yard work, or helping a family. 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. Foster 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.

Child Hope Services

Child Hope Services, Inc. is a Christian faith-based foster and adoptive support organization. They provide a range of support to families interested in fostering and adopting. Child Hope Services supports and covers resource families and youth in care with practical resources needed in the critical first moments of placement, along with supporting their long-term practical and relational needs. Whether it be through a HOPE Chest, which includes a week supply of clothing, diapers and toiletries, or through attending one of our ongoing community events, Child Hope wants to make sure that ALL families in the foster care community are cared for. For more information, or to request support, please email us at Info@childhopeservices.org or call 805-419-6182. Please visit childhopeservices.org and complete an application to be considered for support.

Defending the Fatherless

Defending the Fatherless is a ministry-based group that collaborates with churches throughout Ventura County. Defending the Fatherless works to support and equip resource and adoptive families through family events, networking, and support groups. They connect families with the love closet and will bring basic needs items upon placement. The love closet carries clothing up to 5T, infant care items, cribs, strollers, and other care related items. They also provide meals and peer mentors throughout your journey through care. Contact them at defendingthefatherless.info@gmail.com, website: defendingthefatherless.net



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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 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 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 and girls rescued out of trafficking, and an annual back to school event. Offices and warehouse are open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM or by appointment. Clients are welcome to drop by or schedule an appointment (preferred) by emailing jamesstorehouse@gmail.com. Their phone number is 805-499-7161. Se habla Español. jamesstorehouse.org. They are located at 3543 Old Conejo Rd #105, Newbury Park 91320.

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 Tuesdays emergencies only 9:00am-11:00am. To set up your first appointment, contact James Kam at (805)658-7223. The pantry is located is 1595 Walter St Ventura, CA 93003. Website: foodpantries.org or southcoastfellowship.org

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).



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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. www.sheltercareresources.com
Email ShelterCareResourcesOxnard@gmail.com for more information. 805-612-7091. Serving Oxnard area.

Women, Infants & Children (WIC)

WIC is a health and nutritional program for pregnant women and children under the age of 5. 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 Website: WIC for more information or Email: wic.program@ventura.org.

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

350 South K Street Oxnard, CA 93030 - 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. Hours of operation are Monday – Friday 3pm - 7pm. 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



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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 Homes with Heart VC for distribution to Resource Families on a first come, first serve basis. Contact at 805-654-3220. The YMCA contact is Amber Stevens at 805.642.2131 ext. 2117.

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 or call 805-484-2282. Address: 555 Airport Way Ste.D, Camarillo, CA 93010. Se Habla Español.

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 the mentorship program, email mentors@raisingHOPE.org.

Child Care/Child Development

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 www.CHS-CA.org, go in to the office at 3585 Maple ST Ste.272, Ventura, CA 93003 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.

Easter Seals

The Easter Seals Child Development Center serves children ages 6 weeks to 5 years old. Children in care typically qualify for very low or no cost services. Preschool scheduling is dependent on the family's work or school schedule and will be determined at the time of application. Easter Seals also offers a part time program for children preparing for kindergarten! Contact Easter Seals at 805-647-1141 Ext.3157 or 4622 for more information or to apply and be added to the wait list.

First 5 Neighborhoods for Learning (NfL)

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 For Specific questions, you can email assistant@first5ventura.org or call 2-1-1.

Youth Education

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.

California College Pathways:

Educational planning website with resources and program information to help youth succeed in college for youth in care. www.cacollegepathways.org
Access the Planning Guide at this link: [Foster Youth Educational Planning Guide](#)

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: AQUI

Kids Alliance:

For information about a child in care's educational rights, please visit: Kids-Alliance.org

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.

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 visit <http://ewchild.yolasite.com/>. To schedule a tutoring session contact Lynette Lucas at (951) 283-8917 or email ewchild@yahoo.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 – 805-652-1326, ext. 303, cell: 805-825-7978
cpillado@projectunderstanding.org

Scholarships

California Chafee Grant for Foster Youth

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: chafee.csac.ca.gov



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TEACH Fund Scholarship

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: 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. 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 officer of the day in the Eligibility unit at 805-654-3444.

Mental 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 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.

LGBTQ+

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

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



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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. Youth ages 12 years and older are provided mental health counseling and a unique clinician-community member led youth group that meets Wednesdays from 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

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 10 FREE Counseling Sessions for individuals in the LGBTQ+ community, specializing in: sexual assault.

For more information, call the Coalition for Family Harmony at (805) 983-6014, ext. 106, 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:

Drop-in support groups available for

- Transgender and gender non-conforming 18yrs and older: Mondays from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
- Spanish support group for parents of LGBTQ youth available Mondays from 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. by-monthly;
- Support group for parents of transgender boys: Tuesdays 4:30p.m.-5:30p.m.
- Support group for adolescent transgender boys: Tuesdays 4:30p.m.-5:30p.m.



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Post Approval Training

Resource Family Approved (RFA) 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. To view topics and tracking form, visit HomeswithHeartVC.org or call 654-3220.

Please note that not all trainings from the organizations listed below will count towards the mandatory post-approval training requirements. If you are in doubt about a training, please consult with your Resource Family Approval (RFA) social worker.

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 [Casa Pacifica Trainings](#)

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:

Ventura & Oxnard Colleges - Rhonda Carlson: 805.289.6327 rcarlson@vcccd.edu

Kids and Families Together Training and Support Groups and Workshops:

K&FT hosts drop in groups for caregivers to explore a range of topics relevant to foster and adoptive care. Topics include dealing with difficult behaviors, trauma, brain and dysregulation, attachment, therapeutic parenting, playfulness, and co-parenting. Groups are free to caregivers. Call Kids and Families Together at 643-1446 for upcoming dates.

Online Training

- California's Just in Time Training www.QPcalifornia.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

Resources Specific to Kinship Caregivers

Project - KinshipCareCA.org includes location-based resources for respite care, childcare, healthcare, education and many other developmental and quality of life assets. Additionally, it includes access to resources supporting stability and the fulfillment of basic needs, such as utility, housing and food assistance. The online resource database currently covers 53 of California's 58 counties, with resources for remaining counties rolling out by the end of the year. Kinship navigator call specialists are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, with live chat rolling out in the coming months. The website is powered by California's partnership of 211 information and referral providers, and a new statewide resources database for 17 counties not served by 211. Caregivers can also sign up for informational updates by texting KINSHIP to 211 211. United Ways of California is proud to partner with the California Department of Social Services and local United Ways in serving our state's kinship families.

LEGAL - Family Resource Center at the Juvenile Courthouse

A program of Ventura County's Self Help Legal Access Center. Free walk-in assistance for all areas of Family law, including guardianship assistance, restraining orders, divorce, custody, and support. (805)289-8724 www.ventura.courts.ca.gov

Kids and Families Together

Provides supports for Kinship caregivers. Please contact KFT for more information and approval. Administration and Kinship Support Center: 805.643.1446 www.kidsandfamilies.org
Counseling Center: 864 Santa Clara Street, Ventura, CA 93001



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Kids & Families Together Kinship Family Food Pantry

In Collaboration with Project Understanding, **KINSHIP FAMILIES** may pick up food from Project Understanding on the 1st Tuesday of the month. Please contact Noemi Hernandez at KFT for more information. (805) 643-1446 Ext. 125

SUPPORT & EDUCATION - Kinship Support Services Program www.kidsandfamilies.org

Provides case management, monthly support groups, resource referrals, and financial assistance (when funds available) to kinship families. Includes in-house referrals for our counseling services.

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.cclcd.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. For more information about [reasonable and prudent parent standards click here.](#)

Resource Family Approval:

Visit the CDSS website to learn more about the RFA approval process and to review the Written Directives. www.childsworld.ca.gov/PG3416.htm

Important Phone Numbers

Visit: homeswithheartvc.org/contact-us to access staff contact information.

Recruitment, Retention, & Caregiver Support Info Line: 805-654-3220

Resource Family Approval: 805-654-3405

Eligibility: 805-654-3409

2-1-1 Ventura County:

2-1-1 Ventura County is a free service that operates a database of local resources and information. 2-1-1 is fast, free, and confidential. It is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, in over 150 languages. Call 2-1-1 (800-339-9597) or text your zip code to 898211 or visit www.211ventura.org.