

Each year, hundreds of children in Ventura County are placed with loving, safe families who help restore hope, self-confidence and a chance for their future until they return to their birth families or are adopted into a new loving household.



The County of Ventura Human Services Agency provides public services that promote self-sufficiency, health and well-being. Our programs help ensure the protection of children, the elderly and dependent adults, and provide a safety net for individuals and families who need assistance with basic necessities, such as food, housing and health care. Additionally, we help people secure employment through education, training, job search skills, and job placement.



Referral line for health, human and community services.



COUNTY OF VENTURA
Toll-Free: (866) 904-9362
www.vchsa.org

Foster and Kinship Care



Nurturing caring relationships with our children



Helping children thrive

Caring for foster children is rewarding, yet it can also present challenges. We partner with local public and private agencies to offer mentors, continuing education, and other support services for foster parents.



Creating a family

The Human Services Agency is here to help

The Human Services Agency strives to find community members who are reliable, stable and committed to caring for foster children. We coordinate foster parent training, provide financial assistance and support for children placed in their homes, and work with community partners to ensure that foster families have the resources they need.

Foster children range in age from newborn to 18 years old and come from diverse backgrounds, so our foster parents range from young and single to mature and married, with or without children, and have varied ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds. Our goal is to meet the unique needs of each child.

Foster parents always have the final decision regarding which foster children they accept. They work closely with a placement social worker to ensure that they have the best fit for both child and family, based on age and gender, strengths and challenges, religion, interests, activities, education, and social and physical skills.

Ongoing family support

Resources for foster children

To help foster parents care for their foster children, the Human Services Agency provides a Medi-Cal card for each child and financial assistance to help pay for basic needs such as food, shelter and clothing.

We partner with Children's Services Auxiliary to provide a well-rounded experience for each foster child. Foster children can apply for scholarships for camp, computers and youth sports. Foster children also may receive graduation incentives, birthday balloon-o-grams, emergency clothing and supplies, tuition for music, dance and art classes, as well as help in paying for recreational activities and medical expenses.

A placement social worker regularly visits each foster family to facilitate communication and to support the foster family during the child's supervised visits with birth parents or other family members.

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Caring for those who care

Resources for foster parents

Caring for foster children is rewarding, yet it can also present challenges. We partner with local public and private agencies to offer mentors, continuing education and other support services for foster parents.

Our agency employs an ombudsman to assist foster parents in solving problems. The ombudsman also provides foster parents with requested information, including agency policies and referrals to support services and training.

License to love and protect

How to become a foster parent

Community members interested in becoming foster parents attend an informational meeting that details the foster care program. Upon deciding to become foster parents, they attend 24 hours of training, which includes an orientation on licensing, the legal system and other skills to meet the needs of the children.

To ensure the highest level of safety for foster children, potential foster parents are screened before being licensed. They are fingerprinted, have a licensing home inspection, complete a full physical and tuberculosis test, and are certified in CPR and first aid.

Licensed foster parents are required to participate in eight hours of training each year to renew their license and further develop their skills. These training resources are available to foster parents at no cost.

For more information about becoming a foster parent, call (805) 654-3456.

Keeping the family together

Kinship care

The Human Services Agency makes every effort to keep children with their birth families as long as it is safe for children.

Relatives can volunteer to be considered for placement. Those who agree to care for the child must submit to a background check, home inspection and interview to determine their ability to care for the child.

For more information about the Human Services Agency's foster and kinship care programs, call (805) 654-3422.

