



Resources Available for Foster & Kinship Families

Basic Needs

iFoster Online Resource Portal

Foster youth, foster 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 foster youth, parent, or relative caregiver. Visit ifoster.org to learn more and to register or call 1-855-936-7837.

James Storehouse

James Storehouse secures donations for foster & relative caregivers, birth parents and youth in care. Items include furniture, clothing, and other material necessities. Items are generally distributed to families to support placement stability, placement with a relative, or ILP/ TAY youth. Please email a resource request application to HSA-CFS-Resources@ventura.org to be referred. The resource request application can be downloaded from www.fostervckids.org or provided to you by calling 805-654-3220.

RaisingHOPE

RaisingHOPE is a nonprofit that provides funds raised from their annual HOPE4Kids Festival and Run for basic needs, orthodontia, and other needs for youth in care that may not be met through our other resource partners. Please email a resource request application to HSA-CFS-Resources@ventura.org to be referred. The resource request application can be downloaded from www.fostervckids.org or provided to you by calling 805-654-3220.

Heart-to-Heart

Heart-to-Heart donates gently used items to foster parents, relative caregivers and children and is located in Ventura. Please email a resource request application to HSA-CFS-Resources@ventura.org to be referred. The resource request application can be downloaded from www.fostervckids.org or provided to you by calling 805-654-3220.



fosterVCKids.org | fosterVCKids@ventura.org | 805.654.3220





Resources Available for Foster & Kinship Families

Claudia's Closet

Claudia's Closet is the teen resource division of James Storehouse, Inc. and provides new and gently used clothes, as well as gift cards to teens in care. Contact Claudia at claudiascloset8@gmail.com or 805-300-1014 to schedule an appointment.

Rachael's Closet

Rachael's Closet is a resource closet run by VCFPA and provides new and used clothing, shoes, backpacks, bedding, infant and toddler supplies, and toys to fostering families in Ventura County through a central physical location in the City of Ventura. All of these items are provided free of charge. Caregivers can contact lisa@vcfpa.com or 805-285-3790 to schedule an appointment.

Cornerstone Clothing Closet

Cornerstone offers gently used items to foster parents, relative caregivers and children and is located in Simi Valley. Families may contact Iris Braswell to schedule an appointment john316simi@sbcglobal.net.

Child Hope Services

Child Hope Services, Inc is a Christian faith-based foster and adoptive support organization. They can provide funds and gift baskets with basic needs items to support families in fostering and adopting. Please visit <http://www.childhopeservices.org/new-page/> and complete an application to be considered for support. Child Hope Services can also be contacted at 805-419-6182 or info@childhopeservices.org.

Women, Infants & Children (WIC)

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

Extracurricular Activities

Children's Services Auxiliary

The CSA partners with CFS to provide a range of financial supports to foster youth and their families. Families can apply for reimbursements for extracurricular activities, summer camps, computers, clothing, and scholarships. Reimbursements can take up to 60 days to be processed. The CSA also hosts the Holiday Toy Store and events throughout the year. Please email your CSA reimbursement request and receipts to HSA-CFS-Resources@ventura.org. The form can be downloaded from www.fostervckids.org or provided to you by calling 805-654-3220.



Ventura County Children & Family Services

Resources Available for Foster & Kinship Families

RaisingHOPE and HOPE4Kids Festival & Run

RaisingHOPE is a nonprofit that provides funds raised from their annual HOPE4Kids Festival and Run for enrichment activities, driver's education, and other needs for youth in care that may not be met through our other resource partners. Please email a resource request application to HSA-CFS-Resources@ventura.org to be referred. The resource request application can be downloaded from www.fostervckids.org or provided to you by calling 805-654-3220.

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 fostering 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 be connected with a Faith in Motion congregation in your area, please contact fostervckids@ventura.org. Visit <http://fostervckids.org/faith-in-motion/> for more information, to get your congregation involved, or to be connected with a Faith in Motion partner!

Respite Care

Channel Islands Social Services

County licensed foster parents and relative caregivers are eligible for up to **12** hours of FREE respite care each month. Families caring for children ages 12 or under, or a child with special needs, are automatically eligible and can contact [Channel Islands Social Services](#) directly at **805-384-0983** to register. If your family is caring for children over 12 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 **6** hours of respite, though they are **not** eligible for exceptions.

Child Care/Child Development

Child Development Resources

[Child Development Resources](#) administers a range of childcare programs and provides referrals to community child care providers. Foster children 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, foster parents should complete the following steps:

1. Complete the Centralized Eligibility List Application, which can be downloaded here: https://www.childdevelopmentresources.org/TextPages/how_do_i_enroll.aspx
2. Provide the completed application to HSA-CFS-Resources@ventura.org. Foster VC Kids will verify the child is a dependent minor and will submit the application packet, with the verification, to CDR directly.



Resources Available for Foster & Kinship Families

3. Foster VC Kids will follow up with caregivers to confirm the application has been submitted and provide them the CDR contact information so that you are able to check the status of the application.

Easter Seals

The Easter Seals Child Development Center serves children ages 2-5. Foster children 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. 11 for more information or to apply!

Child Development Centers

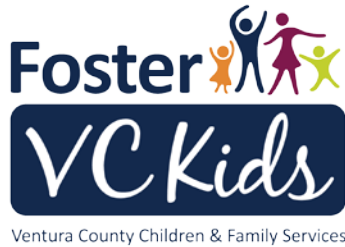
Child Development Inc. operates early care and education that serve children birth through twelve years of age. They offer a variety of infant, preschool and school age programs. They work with school districts to provide before and after school programs, including homework assistance and kindergarten readiness programs to families. CDC also provides preschool programs in Oxnard, Fillmore, Ventura, Thousand Oaks, & Port Hueneme. Foster children are often eligible for priority assignment into a program and subsidized care. Call 805- 483-6756 or visit <http://www.cdcdc.org/programs.php>. Please email HSA-CFS-Resources@ventura.org for a copy of the application and program flyer.

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 Community Education Services, Child Care and Development Services, and Family Resource Services. Along with helping children and their families, CHS is an expert resource for child care providers, other social service agencies, and government agencies at the local, state, and national level. Foster children are often eligible for priority assignment into a program and subsidized care. Visit <http://www.chs-ca.org/> or call 805-437-1910 for more information. Contact HSA-CFS-Resources@ventura.org if you require verification of the child's involvement in foster care.

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: <http://www.first5ventura.org/resources-for-families/interactive-nfl-map/>



Resources Available for Foster & Kinship Families

Training

Foster & Kinship Care Education

The Foster & Kinship Care Education program through the Community College District offers ongoing education and training opportunities to caregivers. FKCE sends email to caregivers with class updates. For more information, contact Rhonda Carlson at 805-289-6327 or rcarlson@vcccd.edu.

Ventura County Foster Parent Association (VCFPA): The VCFPA offers a range of training opportunities at their bi-monthly membership meetings. Ventura County foster, adoptive, and relative caregivers are all welcome to attend. For information on the association and meetings dates/times/locations, visit <http://www.vcfpa.com/>.

Online Training

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

Educational Sites

- National Childhood Traumatic Stress Network <http://www.nctsn.org/resources/audiences/parents-caregivers>
- Zero to Three <http://www.zerotothree.org/>
- The Institute for Safe Families <http://www.instituteforsafefamilies.org/materials/amazing-brain>
- Center for Social Emotional Foundations for Early Learning <http://csefel.vanderbilt.edu/resources/family.html>
- Healthy Children <http://www.healthychildren.org/>

Licensing Information

Community Care Licensing: Visit the CCL website to read Title 22 regulations for foster homes, as well as download forms such as the Unusual Incident Form <http://www.cclcd.ca.gov/>

Prudent Parent Standard: The Prudent Parent Standard grants you the ability to make various parenting decisions that allow for more normative experiences for foster children. Visit <http://cclcd.ca.gov/PG493.htm> and view 2005-01, 2005-02, 2005-03, and 2006-02.



Resources Available for Foster & Kinship Families

Networking

Foster Parent Networking provides foster parents the opportunity to meet and build relationships with other foster parents in their communities. Be sure to “Like” us on Facebook and visit www.fostervckids.org to view the most current information on events! * Please note that meetings are subject to change*

Simi Valley: Provided through the Moorpark College FKCE program and meets the 2nd Friday of the Month at Cornerstone Church. Contact Jason_lee5@vcccd.edu for more information.

Ventura: Foster VC Kids hosts evening networking on the last Tuesday of the month from 6-8 pm; Morning meetings are held the last Wednesday of the month from 10am-12pm at Ventura Missionary Church. Contact Foster VC Kids at 805-654-3220 or fostervckids@ventura.org for more info.

Spanish: Foster VC Kids hosts meetings the last Wednesday of the month from 6-8 pm at Ventura Missionary Church. Contact Foster VC Kids at 805-654-3220 or fostervckids@ventura.org for more info.

Camarillo: Defending the Fatherless is a Christian faith based caregiver support network/group. All are welcome. Email defendingthefatheless.info@gmail.com or go to <http://www.defendingthefatherless.net/> for more info.

Ventura: Support from your peer foster parents is critical to your success! One of our long time foster parents, Amanda Bowles, has created a new support group that is open to caregivers! The group will meet the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month. Contact Amanda at 805-320-6705 or amanda.bowles86@gmail.com for the time and location.

Ventura County Foster Parent Association (VCFPA): The VCFPA offers support, training and resources to Ventura County foster, adoptive, and relative caregivers. They hold monthly membership meetings bi-monthly. For information on the association and meetings dates/times/locations, visit <http://www.vcfpa.com/>.

For Relative Care Givers

Please visit www.kidsandfamilies.org or call 805-643-1446 ext. 125 for most updated list of support group meetings. * Please note that meetings are subject to change*

Oxnard Resource Group: 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of each month, 6:00 pm-8:00 pm, Sierra Linda Elementary School, 2201 Jasmine Street, Oxnard



Ventura County Children & Family Services

Resources Available for Foster & Kinship Families

Ventura Resource Group: 2nd & 4th Tuesdays of each month, 6:00 pm-8:00 pm, Kids & Families Together 856 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura

Simi Valley Resource Group: 3rd Wednesday of each month, 9:30 am-11:00 am, Simi Valley Senior Center, 3900 Avenida Simi, Simi Valley

Thousand Oaks Resource Group: 2nd Tuesdays of each month, 6:30 pm-8:30 pm, Senior Concerns, 401 Hodencamp Rd., Thousand Oaks

Santa Paula Resource Group (Bilingual): 2nd & 4th Thursdays of each month, 6:00 pm-8:00 pm, Santa Paula High School, 404 N. 6th St., Room 114, Santa Paula

Oxnard Resource Group (Spanish): 1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month, 6:00-8:00 pm, Driffill Elementary, 910 S. E St., Oxnard

Education

Foster Youth Services Program: FYS works in collaboration with foster liaisons in each district in the county to ensure that the educational, physical, social and emotional needs of foster youth 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 foster youths throughout the county. Contact the Foster Youth Services Program at 805- 437-1525 fys@vcoe.org

Kids Alliance: For information about a foster child's educational rights, please visit <http://kids-alliance.org/programs/education/education-rights-of-foster-youth/>

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.

Medical, Mental & Behavioral Health

Foster Health Link: This "electronic health backpack" is a website and mobile app that provides caregivers with health information about the children in their care. Also available through Foster Health Link is the Network of Care; this is a searchable-online database that provides information about medical conditions, medication, mental health, and local services providers. Caregivers will be able to access the current Health Education Passport (HEP) for children in their care in an electronic format by logging onto Foster Health Link from their computers or smart devices. Training on how to



Ventura County Children & Family Services

Resources Available for Foster & Kinship Families

use Foster Health Link is available on our website, www.fostervckids.org. Caregivers will need an email address to be able to access the portal. **Please also remember to send an email to fostervckids@ventura.org so we can add your email to the database!**

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 805-654-3409.

Health Care Program for Children in Foster 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 foster parents, social workers, probation officers and others to prevent illness and provide well child care. You can reach a nurse at 805-654-5536.

Rx for Kids: Rx for Kids provides unique and innovative Public Health child abuse intervention services. Working with Children and Family Services, our Public Health nurses work in all areas of child protection from investigation, court unit, drug court, family maintenance, family re-unification through emancipation. They provide medical care coordination and advocacy for children in Child Protective Services. They give children comprehensive in-home nursing assessments, substance exposure screenings, and developmental screenings. They use evidence-based, valid, and reliable screening tools. They also refer children to resources as needed. They conduct specialized in-home visits to children with complex health conditions. We educate biological and foster parents to support the child's optimal growth and development. They can be contacted at 805-654-7620.

Mental Health Services: If you have concerns about your child's emotional health or behavior, and believe he/she may benefit from a mental health assessment, please speak to the child's social worker immediately. Your child will be screened and may be referred to be assessed and treated through Ventura County's Behavioral Health Child Welfare Subsystem Program and contract providers.

National Institute of Mental Health: Online information about child & adolescent mental health can be found at <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/topics/child-and-adolescent-mental-health/index.shtml>

Independent Living Program and AB12

Caregivers of children ages 16-21 can visit <http://fostervckids.org/tay/> to access information about Ventura County's Youth Services Division, Independent Living Program, and AB12 services.



Ventura County Children & Family Services

Resources Available for Foster & Kinship Families

In-home Support & Contract Programs

Kinship In-home Placement Training (KIPT): This program is required for newly approved relative caregivers to receive 8 hours of additional training in trauma, attachment, working with birth families, and self-care. Families are automatically referred after receiving a relative placement. Contact Kids & Families Together 805-643-1446 or your relative approval social worker for more information.

Support & Education Program (SET): In home services for foster parents or relative caregivers who have children with trauma histories in their homes, are struggling with behavioral challenges, or need support and training in connecting with the child. Contact the Foster VC Kids team at 805- 654-3220 or HSA-CFS-Resources@ventura.org for more info or to be referred. ***Families must be referred by staff to this program.***

Peer Partner & Educator (PPE) Program: Provides mentors to new foster parents. All foster parents are matched to a mentor when they get their first placement. Contact cmcauliffe@kidsandfamilies.org for more information.

KSSP Support Groups & Kinship PPE Programs: Support for Relative Caregivers. Contact jfutvoye@kidsandfamilies.org for more information.

Hair Whisperers: CFS has a contract with Hair Whisperers for in-home lice removal. Contact Foster VC Kids at HSA-CFS-Resources@ventura.org or 805-654-3220 to request a referral. Families must be referred by Foster VC Kids/CFS Staff.

Important Phone Numbers

Visit <http://fostervckids.org/contact-us/> to access staff directions.

Recruitment, Development, & Support Info
Line: 654-3220
RDS Manager: 654-5594
Licensing: 955-2290
Relative Approval: 654-3405
Placement Vacancies: 289-1900
Placement Coordinators: 654-3216, 654-3217,
or 654-3211
Adoptions: 240-2700
Youth Services Division: 240-2700
Rx for Kids Public Health Program: 654-7620
Foster Care Nurse: 654-5536

General Information Emergency Response &
Court Units: 654-3444
General Information Ongoing Units: 240-2700
General Information East County: 955-2290
General Information Central Programs: 654-
3405
Children's Services Auxiliary (CSA): 654-3245
CSA Reimbursements: 654-3220
Field Based Case Aids: 654-3444
ILP Coordinators: 240-2700
Eligibility Officer of the Day: 654-3409