

March 2017



Dear Caregivers, Parents and Staff

The Children's Services Auxiliary is pleased to be able to continue providing funding and support to address the unmet needs of Ventura County's court-dependent children. All children with an open dependency case with Ventura County Court and Children & Family Services are able to access funding throughout the case, prior to its closure. As the need grows for families to access resources we are extending our support to Guardianship and Family Maintenance cases. These cases will have the ability to submit for reimbursement funding up to 90 days after establishing Guardianship or returning home to parent(s). CSA provides reimbursements as funds are available. Funding is not guaranteed. The 2017 reimbursement procedures and forms are attached to this letter.

Listed below are some of the expenses the Auxiliary is currently funding. Please keep in mind there is a limited amount budgeted for each of these categories. All efforts must be made to utilize alternative funding sources where available. If it is appropriate, children (especially teens) are expected to make every effort to help themselves earn needed funds by participating in fundraising efforts, or through their own employment and savings to offset the cost of a school activity or registration for a youth sports team or other expense.

Scholarships: Updated Monetary Awards available to all graduating foster youth and **returning** youth who intend on going to College, Military or trade school. Applications available on CSA website.

Enrichment Activities: Updated Limit of \$400 for the year per child; to include all expenses related to activities such as: Music Lessons, Dance, Gymnastics, and Sports to include (Registration fees and uniform costs). Day Care/Preschool is not a covered expense. **Receipts are required and not invoices.**

Camp Fund: A maximum of \$300 per child may be available to attend resident or day camps. Funding may be used for any camp or combinations of camps throughout the year. **Updated** Funds school-related activities such as Youth Conferences', Retreats and Outdoor School. Field trip fees when the school will not waive the fee. Donations are not covered.

Clothing Fund: Updated up to \$100: For funding emergency clothing needs, school uniform assistance, etc. **within the first 60 days of placement only.**

School Activities: Updated Up to \$100 available for ILP only.

Graduation Incentive: Graduating high school seniors or students completing GED receive \$300. The County Social Worker will complete the request form, must submit proof of graduation or completion of GED.

Senior Expenses: High school seniors may receive **up to \$400** reimbursement for senior expenses, such as pictures, class ring, prom, yearbook, senior trip, Grad Night, etc. Receipts along with proof of senior status are required within 90 days of purchase.

Computers: Limited funding is available to provide refurbished computers for high school students. Please contact RDS Unit for details.

Sincerely,

Leeann Cunningham-Mesa
President
Children's Services Auxiliary

Receipt Guidelines 2017

About Us

The Ventura County Children's Services Auxiliary is an *all-volunteer* 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization founded in 1983, *with no paid staff positions*. While the Children's Services Auxiliary works very closely with the County of Ventura, we are a free standing organization.

For over 34 years, our mission has been to meet the unmet needs of Ventura County's court-dependent children (foster care, group homes, Casa Pacifica, relatives, guardians and court supervision). There is an estimated 1200 children in the system at any point in time.

Reimbursement Request Process

With over 1200 children in need of support it is with great necessity that we standardize our Spending Guidelines. Our Mission is to support the ongoing needs of our foster families and with that said, we need to be able to offer services to as many families as possible.

Please read the following items carefully, please reach out to the RDS unit at hsa-cfs-resources@ventura.org with any questions.

Procedures

- **NEW:** Requests **MUST** be submitted by Caregiver (Foster, Resource Family, Relative and Group Homes).
- Hand written receipts will not be accepted unless the business name, address, phone number, date and a clear description of the expense, is included. All receipts must be LEGIBLE,
- **UPDATED:** REQUIRED All receipts must **ONLY** display items that were purchased for the DEPENDENT child(ren); no other purchases can be displayed on receipt.
- **REMINDER:** Invoices are not allowed, Purchases **MUST** be made for reimbursements to qualify
- Receipts will only be considered within 90 days of original purchase.
- CSA has the right to deny any claims due to fraud, misrepresentation, or abuse of CSA systems.
- CSA reserves the right to conduct audits on any or all monthly requests for reimbursement.
- If a request is selected for audit, and there is no response from claimant or the retailer, the claim may be denied.
- Please submit your claim **ONLY ONCE**. Multiple submissions result in extra processing times and delays in reimbursement.
- All claims **MUST** be submitted by the 30th of every month to be considered for reimbursement.
- Each receipt must be accompanied by a CSA claim form. Please use a separate claim form for each child or expense.
- For your convenience, a few blank claim forms have been included here along with the SAMPLE form below. Additional forms are available on our website at csavc.org or at fostervckids.org

Unchanged Procedures

- Reimbursement checks may take up to 60 Days to process.
- Funding is not guaranteed without prior approval and is subject to availability of funds.
- Approval is requested by calling or emailing RDS Unit at 805- 654-3220 or hsa-cfs-resources@ventura.org
- If any other funding source is obligated to pay for an expense, that source must be exhausted prior to requesting CSA funds.

SAMPLE
CHILDREN'S SERVICES AUXILIARY
REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST FORM

DATE: **January 4, 2017** Child's Gender: **Female Male** is the child over the age 16? **Y N**

Payable to Name: **Mary and David Fosters**

Address: **1313 Mockingbird Lane**

City: **Ventura** State: **CA** Zip code: **90000** Phone Number: **(805) 865-5309**

Amount requested: \$**235.43**

PURPOSE OF REQUEST:

Softball Registration for Male/Female - \$165.00 and Softball glove \$70.43

By signing this document you are aware that Children's Services Auxiliary is not associated with Children & Family Services of Ventura County and all your information is private. We will not disclose information to anyone outside of Children & Family Services of Ventura County without your written request.

SUBMITTED BY: *Mary D. Foster*

Submit Claim ONCE ONLY via any of the following:

Mail: RDS Unit
4651 Telephone Rd, Suite 300
Ventura, CA 93004

Phone: 805-654-3220

Email: hsa-cfs-resources@ventura.org

CSA Office Use only – DO NOT WRITE Below this point:

Eligible: ILP Foster/Resource Family/Relative/Guardianship/Family Maintenance (choose 1)

BUDGET NUMBER: # _____ CATEGORY: _____

Verified By: _____

APPROVED BY: Check one

- Budget Allocation
- Spending Procedures

CSA Approval/Denial Signature: _____ Amount approved: \$ _____ Amount Denied: \$ _____

Reason for Denial: _____

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REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST FORM**

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Payable to Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____ Phone Number: _____

Amount requested: \$ _____

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