



Resource Guide for Foster VC Kids Resource Families

[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. If you don't have access to a computer, iFoster can register and assist you over the phone!

Necessities & Basic Needs

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. Families are provided funds 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 Foster VC Kids or the Resource Partner directly for guidelines and specifications.

[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 basic household repairs, help with yard work, helping a family move or supplying basic household goods/appliances for those that can't afford them. For more information, please call 805-987-0300 or email action@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 parents can come and collect as needed for their new foster child. Please call Amy Freehauf to set up a time to come by. 805-766-1916
Catalyst Church is located at 241 N. Mill St., Santa Paula



fosterVCKids.org | fosterVCKids@ventura.org | 805.654.3220





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[Child Hope Services](#)

Child Hope Services, Inc. is a Christian faith-based foster and adoptive support organization. They can provide a range of support to families interested in fostering and adopting! Child Hope Services provides a new placement Hope Chest that contains items needed for the first week of placement. Please visit www.childhopeservices.org and complete an application to be considered for support. Child Hope Services can also be contacted at 805-419-6182 or info@childhopeservices.org.

[Children's Services Auxiliary](#)

The CSA partners with CFS to provide a range of financial supports to Ventura County dependent foster youth and their families. Families can apply for reimbursements for extracurricular activities, summer camps, computers, clothing, medical expenses, and educational 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 visit www.csavc.org to learn more about the CSA. The reimbursement form can be downloaded from www.csavc.org/reimbursement-procedures.html, www.fostervckids.org or provided to you by calling 805-654-3220.

To submit a reimbursement, please email the form and receipt to HSA-CFS-Resources@ventura.org.

**Please note that request must be made within 90 days of payment/registration.

[Defending the Fatherless](#)

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

[Heart-to-Heart](#)

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

[James Storehouse](#)

James Storehouse is a nonprofit that secures donations for resource families/foster and relative caregivers, birth parents and youth in care. 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. Offices and warehouse are open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9:00 AM to 2:00 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

They are located at 3541 Old Conejo Rd #117, Newbury Park 91320.



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[Open Hands Ministry](#)

South Coast Fellowship offers a clothing and food pantry. The pantry is open on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9:00am-12:00pm. To set up your first appointment, contact Larry Nordyke at 805-658-7223. The pantry is located is 1595 Walter Street, Ventura

[Rachael's Closet](#)

Rachael's Closet is available to help you on your journey as a foster, relative, kinship, or resource care provider by providing assistance with Co-Parenting, visitation, playroom, peer mentorship, guidance, support, networking, training, and education, new and gently used clothing, car seats, strollers, cribs & care bags. To schedule an appointment, contact Lisa Carlson-Pugh at 805-285-3790 or email: Lisa@VCFPA.com

[RaisingHOPE, INC](#)

RaisingHOPE provides advocacy, awareness and funds to current and former foster youth in the Ventura County area through community events, mentoring 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. www.sheltercareresources.com
Email ShelterCareResourcesOxnard@gmail.com for more information. 805-612-7091 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 wic.program@ventura.org for more information.

[Women of Substance & Men of Honor \(WOSMOH\)](#)

WOSMOH, Inc. addresses the needs of guidance and support for youth by providing rehabilitation & restoration services, education on healthy lifestyles and relationships, mentoring courses, scholarships, care items, food and clothing vouchers. Transitional aged youth & 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



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Extracurricular Activities/Enrichment Supports

Children's Services Auxiliary

The CSA partners with CFS to provide a range of financial supports to Ventura County dependent foster youth and their families. Families can apply for reimbursements for extracurricular activities, summer camps, computers, clothing, medical expenses, and educational 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 visit www.csavc.org to learn more about the CSA. The reimbursement form can be downloaded from www.csavc.org/reimbursement-procedures.html , www.fostervckids.org or provided to you by calling 805-654-3220.

To submit a reimbursement, please email the form and receipt to HSA-CFS-Resources@ventura.org. **Please note that request must be made within 90 days of payment/registration.

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 city-wide, 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 programming and membership to homeless and foster youth 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, to drama and Martial arts. The Y will give certificates to Foster VC Kids for distribution to Foster Parents on a first come, first serve basis. Contact RDS at 805-654-3220. The YMCA contact is Amber Stevens at 805.642.2131 ext 17.



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Mentoring

[Big Brothers Big Sisters of Ventura County](#)

The Big Brothers Big Sisters program matches volunteers who are over 21 with children in foster care. The program serves boys ages 8 – 15 and girls, ages 6 – 15. 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.

[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 foster children 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. Referrals must be made by a social worker. www.casaofventuracounty.org

[Businesses With Heart](#)

Businesses with Heart provides an opportunity for businesses to partner with Foster VC Kids to help support our foster youth and caregivers. Businesses provide discounts on their products or services, mentor a youth to provide an inside look at what goes on in the day of a particular business, even offer an internship or job! Businesses can also give back by connecting with one of many non-profit partners which directly supports our foster community.

Resource Families will soon receive a membership card as well as emails and updates on upcoming events, discounts and more!

Please check our website www.fostervckids.org/BWHPartners for all details on services and discounts for: restaurants, dentists, mechanics, recreational activities, furniture, barber shop, and much more! If you would like to suggest a particular need or would like to refer a business to Businesses with Heart, please contact Jaci Johnson at jaci.johnson@ventura.org.



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[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 Crystal.Stratton@Ventura.org. Visit www.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, relative caregivers, and resource families are eligible for up to **12** hours of **FREE** respite care each month. Families caring for **Ventura County dependent 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 respite and should contact their agency for more information.

[United Parents Respite Program](#)

United Parents Respite Program provides short term breaks for caregivers raising children with mental health, emotional and behavioral disorders for a small co-pay. Child/teen must be a client of Ventura County Behavioral Health. Trained respite providers offer group and individual activities that promote pro-social interactions with other children, in or outside of the home. Families pay on a sliding scale, usually \$1-\$5 an hour for up to ten hours a month of respite care. For more information, or to download an application visit www.unitedparents.org/programs/respite or call 805-384-1555.



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Child Care/Child Development

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 www.cdcdc.org/programs Contact your Social Worker to have them submit the CDC referral and the CEWL application to be placed on the eligibility waitlist.

Child Development Resources

[Child Development Resources](http://www.childdevelopmentresources.org) 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: www.childdevelopmentresources.org/PDFLibrary/CDRCCELAPPLICATIONJuly2011ENG.pdf
2. Foster VC Kids will provide a letter of verification of the child's dependent status. Please email HSA-CFS-Resources@ventura.org to request this verification.
3. Submit application and letter directly to CDR.

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. 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 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. Contact HSA-CFS-Resources@ventura.org if you require verification of the child's involvement in foster care.



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[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!

[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: www.first5ventura.org/resources-for-families/interactive-nfl-map

Training

Caregivers are required to complete a minimum of 10 hours of continuing education each year. Foster VC Kids encourages a blend of online, in-person, and networking groups to receive these hours. Please retain copies of certificates of completion. To receive credit self-study training, visit www.fostervckids.org or call 654-3220 to obtain the required form.

[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 <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/casa-pacific-centers-for-children-and-families-254246353>

[Foster & Kinship Care Education \(FKCE\)](#)

A program of Ventura County Community Colleges provides free ongoing education and training to potential and existing foster & 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 College- Rhonda Carlson: 805.289.6327 rcarlson@vcccd.edu

Oxnard College- Debbie Flowers: 805.986.5800 x.2018 DebbieFlowers@vcccd.edu



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Kids and Families Together Training and Support Groups: 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.

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/> or view their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/vcfpa/>.

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



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Youth Education

California College Pathways: Foster youth educational planning website with resources and program information to help youth succeed in college. 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 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 www.kids-alliance.org/programs/education/education-rights-of-foster-youth

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 www.unitedparents.org/programs/educational-advocacy/ .

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.



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Tutoring

[Eureka! Tutoring](#)

Free tutoring for foster youth in all subject areas, kindergarten through college. Embracing the Whole Child Foundation sponsors educational assistance. One-on-one tutoring available through in-home webinars and in home. To schedule a tutoring session, go to: www.ewcata.com For more information, contact Lynette Lucas at 714-989-6159 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, Santa Paula, Saticoy and Ventura. Free for all students. Contact RDS at 805-654-3220 for referral sheets and instructions. Sometimes students may have to be on a waiting list due to space limitations. For more information, visit www.projectunderstanding.org/tutoring-centers/ or contact Maria Gonzalez, Program Manager – 805-652-1326, ext 303

Scholarships

[Joan Gendreau and 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: www.fosteringthefuture.net/ or contact [Leeann Mesa](#) via email or 805-217-6187.

[Independent Living Program and AB12](#)

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



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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 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 805-654-3444.

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 805-240-2700.

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. Individuals needing Health Services or are experiencing a mental health crisis can call 866-998-2243, 24 hours, 7 days a week.

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

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 service provided click [HERE](#) or call the Oxnard office at (805) 485-9643, (805) 485-9892 En Español or the Simi Valley office at (805) 823-2325, (805) 485-9892 En Español



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LGBTQ+

Foster VC Kids partners 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 affecting 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. 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.

Community Resource Center: Offers resources through the HOPE Counseling Center, Rainbow Umbrella, Free 2 Be Me Foundation, Baumer Law Offices and Free Rapid HIV Testing. For more information, call 805-644-5428. 2471 Portola Road, Suite 100, Ventura 93003

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: A drop-in support group is available for transgender and gender non-conforming youth on Mondays from 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m., and a support group for parents is available on Mondays from 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.



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In-home Support Programs

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.

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

Peer Partner & Educator (PPE) Program: Channel Islands Social Services provides PPEs (mentors) to new Resource Families/foster parents. All foster parents are matched to a mentor when they become a resource family. Contact edith@islandsocialservices.org or visit www.islandsocialservices.org/families/ppe-program 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 or your assigned Community Services Coordinator at 805- 654-3220 or HSA-CFS-Resources@ventura.org for more info or to be referred. ***Families can now self-refer for this program.***

Networking & Support Groups

Foster Parent Networking provides foster parents the opportunity to meet and build relationships with other foster parents in their communities. Peer support is critical to your success as a resource family. Networking and Support groups can help you by: Providing monthly training and education opportunities, Expanding your network of resource families for peer support, Sharing of experiences from veteran caregivers, Offering ongoing emotional and moral support, Helping to establish partnerships with other caregivers to share babysitting and facilitate play dates, as well as secure additional options for respite care.

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*



Ventura County Children & Family Services

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Peer HUB Groups for non-kinship resource families: Facilitated by FKCE & Channel Islands Social Services to provide you additional training as well as offer opportunities for meeting other caregivers. They offer an East County group, a West County Group and a Spanish language group. Please check our Foster VC Kids Facebook for meetings dates, times, and locations! Contact Foster VC Kids at 805-654-3220 or fostervckids@ventura.org for more info and for upcoming dates.

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

Educational: Kids and Families Together hosts a support group on a range of topics provided in a safe and supportive environment, while strengthening their therapeutic parenting skills. Groups meet periodically. Contact Karina at 805-643-1446, ext. 118 for the latest information.

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

Kinship care is the full or part-time parenting of children by grandparents or other relatives. These training groups will explore the practical issues related to parenting a second generation and provide tools and support to help you get and keep your bearing along the way. No RSVP needed- Walk-ins welcome! Training hour certificates provided upon request. For further information, email kssp@kidsandfamilies.org

Sponsors: Ventura College FKCE, Oxnard College FKCE and Kids & Families Together

Camarillo: last Thursday of the month, 6-8pm at 5251 Verdugo Rd. Suite G., Camarillo, Channel Island Social Services

Oxnard: (Spanish) 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 6-8:00pm at 910 S. E St., Driffil Elementary School

Santa Paula: (Bilingual) 2nd Tuesday of the month 6-8pm at 214 10th Street, First 5 Neighborhood for Learning

Simi Valley: 3rd Wednesday, 6-8pm at 3900 Avenida Simi, Simi Valley Senior Center



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Ventura: 1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 6-8pm at 856 E. Thompson Blvd, Kids & Families Together Center

Thousand Oaks: 2nd Tuesdays, 6:30-8:30pm at 401 Hodencamp Rd., Senior Concerns

Ojai: 4th Tuesday of the month, 6:30-8:30pm at 105 E. Topa Topa St., Ojai Valley Wesleyan Church

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 walk-in assistance for all areas of Family law, including guardianship assistance, restraining orders, divorce, custody, and support. (805)981-5974 www.ventura.courts.ca.gov

[Kids and Families Together](#) provide 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

[Kids & Families Together Kinship Family Food Pantry](#)

In Collaboration with Project Understanding, **KINSHIP FAMILIES** may pick up food from Project Understanding two Tuesdays of the month, on any Tuesday of the month from 9am to 12pm. 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



Resource Guide for Foster VC Kids Resource Families

Licensing & RFA 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 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 www.cclcd.ca.gov/PG493.htm 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. www.childsworld.ca.gov/PG3416.htm

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: 654-3405
Resource Family Approval (RFA): 654-3405
Relative Approval: 654-3405
Placement: 289-1900
Eligibility Officer of the Day: 654-3444
Adoptions: 240-2700
Youth Services Division: 240-2700
Rx for Kids Public Health Program: 654-7620

Foster Care Nurse: 654-5536
Child Abuse Hotline: 654-3200
General Information Emergency Response & Court Units: 654-3444
General Information Ongoing Units: 240-2700
General Information East County: 955-2290
General Information Family Collaboration and Support: 654-3405
CSA Reimbursements: 654-3220
Field Based Case Aids: 654-3444
ILP Coordinators: 240-2700