

Homeless situations are often complex and require help from several agencies. We work jointly with other agencies to meet with clients at locations in their own communities and give them access to the resources and services they need.



The County of Ventura Human Services Agency is the central resource for public services that promote personal independence and a strong community. Our mission is to strengthen families, promote self-sufficiency, and support safety, health and well-being. Serving more than 10 percent of the county's population, we provide a safety net for individuals and families who need assistance with basic necessities, such as food, housing and health care.

We offer programs and services that strengthen family bonds and ensure the protection of children, the elderly and dependent adults. Additionally, we help people secure employment through education, training, job placement and basic job search skills.

Through our delivery of local benefits and services, we help people of all ages develop the tools they need to live healthy and productive lives.

Homeless Services



Helping people find resources for housing and employment



Referral line for health, human and community services.



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



A place to call home

Each year, more than 600 people living in Ventura County without a home find safe shelter, services and permanent housing.



Building the Foundation

The Human Services Agency is here to help

When the Human Services Agency learns of homeless individuals and families seeking help, we connect them to a network of agencies that provide income benefits, health care, mental health services, alcohol and drug treatment, and transitional housing. We help our clients obtain birth certificates, photo I.D.s and driver licenses. We also act as a liaison with local housing authorities to help with housing issues.

The Human Services Agency does not define "homeless" as simply sleeping on the street. Someone is homeless if he or she sleeps in unsafe or inhumane conditions, a different place every night, or in a shelter, transitional housing or motel.

Because lack of housing usually equates to lack of transportation, we meet people where they reside, including homeless camps, to ensure that they connect to agencies that can help them become self-sufficient members of our community.

Partnering for success

Community partnerships

Homeless situations are often complex and require help from several agencies. Our social workers maintain strong relationships with public and nonprofit agencies across the county to make the most effective use of limited resources. We work jointly with other agencies to meet with clients at locations in their own communities and give them access to the resources and services they need. Along with other organizations, we advocate on behalf of the homeless population throughout the county.

Shelter from the cold

The winter shelter program

Each winter, we work with shelters to ensure that homeless individuals in communities across Ventura County have a warm place to eat and sleep, and are connected to services that will help them become self-sufficient. Each client who enters one of the shelters receives a cot to sleep on, a hot meal, a shower and a light breakfast. We also have social workers who visit the shelters to link clients to benefits or services they may be eligible for.

The Winter Warming Shelter rotates between the National Guard Armories in Oxnard and Ventura. The Conejo Valley Winter Shelter in Thousand Oaks, Public Action Delivering Shelter (PADS) in Simi Valley, and Ojai Valley Family Shelter all rotate between churches and temples within the faith community and are staffed by volunteers.

A place to call home

RAIN Transitional Living Center

Individuals and families across Ventura County who are in need of transitional housing as they begin their path to independence can find help at the RAIN Transitional Living Center in Camarillo. Home to more than 275 people each year, RAIN features 14 rooms for families, six single rooms and several beds for people recovering from illness or injury following hospitalization.

The average length of stay at RAIN is 10 to 12 months. However, some stay for more than a year while they pursue their path to self-sufficiency.

RAIN provides intensive case management and counseling services to assist the residents in meeting their goals for emotional and economic stability. RAIN also provides a clean and sober living environment, nutritious meals, and transportation for job searches and employment.

Life Skills classes cover such areas as parenting, budgeting, and housing search skills in order to help prepare residents for success as they move into rental housing.

RAIN provides a host of activities for children to ensure that they have the same learning, cultural, academic and artistic experiences as their peers. They can participate in on-site programs such as art, outdoor recreational activities, music, performing arts and sports, all within the safety of their backyard. Children may also go on field trips, such as picnics at the beach, trips to the zoo, or afternoons at the movies. RAIN also offers children's counseling and parenting classes for their parents.

The safety of the children at RAIN is always the number one consideration. They are supervised at all times by their parents or staff, and all people who enter RAIN must undergo an extensive background check.

For more information about RAIN, or to schedule an intake interview, call (805) 987-6712 and ask to speak to the on-duty social worker. You can also call with questions about other ways the Human Services Agency helps people who are homeless.

