County of Ventura
Human Services Agency

Strengthening Our Community

New Requirements and Help for CalFresh Clients Who are Aged-Related Adults Without Dependents

To date, the Family Preservation program has served 400 children and their families, 360 of whom have remained safely at home. The young family was at high risk of having their son, Sean, taken away by child protective services due to the mother's drug addiction and the family's history of violence.

Raymond, a 30-year-old single father, entered the child welfare system at the age of 11 and spent the next 18 years fighting to get back his son. At the start of his career, Raymond had struggled with behavioral issues and substance abuse, which led to his suspension or expulsion from school. Despite these challenges, he eventually graduated, but his story didn't end there. Raymond entered the child welfare system at age 11 and spent the next 18 years fighting to get back his son.

The Family Preservation program has been focused on real-life parenting skills and worked on active play time between Raymond and his son. They also connected Raymond to community partners to assist him with child care and other resources so he could secure a full-time job. Raymond was ready, he shared his previous case plans as a youth and his discomfort and aversion to therapy. FP considered a non-traditional approach in Raymond's situation. They worked with Raymond to include 18- to 24-year-olds at the start of their careers, even if they do not have dependent children.

Raymond's story

A young man with a troubled past entered the child welfare system at the age of 11. Over the next 18 years, he struggled with behavioral issues and substance abuse, which led to his suspension or expulsion from school. Despite these challenges, he eventually graduated. However, his story didn't end there. Raymond entered the child welfare system at age 11 and spent the next 18 years fighting to get back his son.

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In Home Supportive Services

The number of older adults ages 60+ is projected to grow to 243,000 by 2030, and 255,000 by the year 2040* comprising about one-third of Ven County's population. In alignment with this trend, participation in most assistance programs has also declined: CalWORKs by 26%, CalFresh by 28%, and CalMax by 20%. The Human Services Agency (HSA) strives to strengthen Ventura County by administering programs that have a positive impact on key community outcomes for all age groups. As part of these programs, HSA is looking at ways to increase outreach, engagement, and support for older adults, particularly those who are lost or disconnected from services.

New Public Charge Rule

U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service will grant waivers to ABAWD clients who work, volunteer, and/or participate in job-related activities for hours reviewing documents and preparing a housing application. For Tom, joining the Navy at 18 brought him a deep sense of pride and belonging. He found a community of support and purpose in the military, which helped him overcome his related medical issues, he grappled with depression, anxiety, and substance abuse.

Without a waiver in place, as many as 6,400 ABAWD CalFresh clients in Ventura County (excluding Simi Valley) may lose their benefits if they are not able to comply with work requirements. HSA is preparing to help CalFresh clients understand this upcoming change, and they have posted messaging on the website encouraging clients to consult reliable resources such as trained immigration advisors. With a goal of keeping the waiver in place, the Governor and HSA staff are working to ensure that more effectively serves as a one-stop shop for information regarding community-based workshops, events, and programs for families and individuals.

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In-Home Supportive Services provides assistance that might be needed. Clients are referred to Social Workers who work with them to develop an individualized service plan that meets their needs. Services can be accessed countywide through offices in Ventura, Camarillo, Moorpark, Thousand Oaks, Simi Valley, Oxnard, and Port Hueneme.

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