

Strengthening 

**VC Families**

Ventura County Children & Family Services

### *Safe at Home*

**We believe** families can keep their children safe with support.  
*And if they can't...*

### *Caregiving*

**We believe** children and youth should be cared for in a familiar, nurturing, and safe environment.  
*And while they are in care...*

### *Child's Experience*

**We believe** every child and youth is entitled to thrive through stability, family connections, quality treatment, and a voice in planning.

### *Parental Support for Reunification*

**We believe**, through partnership and support, parents can grow and change in order to safely parent their children.

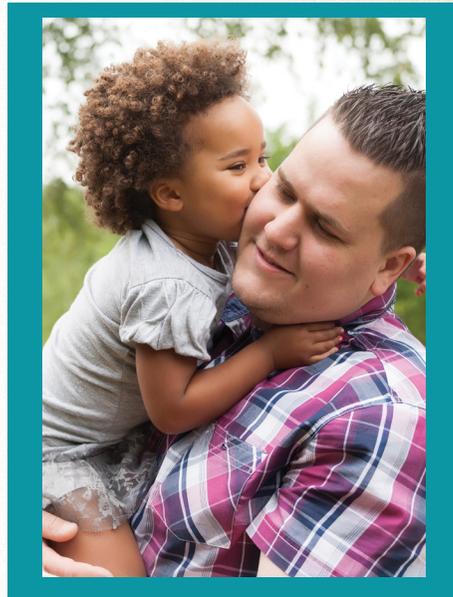
*And if the children cannot return home...*

### *Forever Connections*

**We believe** all children and youth deserve a sense of belonging and an unconditional commitment in a lifelong family, supported by their communities.

### *Relationships*

**We believe** in the power of human relationships to heal and grow. The people who serve and support children, youth and families are our greatest resource.



**T**he County of Ventura Human Services Agency provides public services that offer support, hope and opportunity for improved well-being. Our programs help ensure the protection of children, the elderly, and dependent adults, and provide a safety net for individuals and families who need assistance with basic necessities, such as food, housing and health care. Additionally, we help people secure employment through education, training, job search skills and job placement.

## Children & Family Service

### Office Locations

**Ventura** 805-654-3409  
4651 Telephone Road, Suite 300  
Ventura, CA 93003

**East County** 805-955-2290  
2900 N. Madera Road, Suite 200  
Simi Valley, CA 93065

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Call 2-1-1 to learn about resources in your community.



**COUNTY of VENTURA**  
Human Services Agency

Call toll-free: 866-904-9362  
TTY 800-735-2922 or 711  
Monday–Friday | 8 a.m.–5 p.m.  
vchsa.org

## Children & Family Services



Protecting children and youth by strengthening families



**COUNTY of VENTURA**  
Human Services Agency

## Keeping children and youth safe.

Early intervention is key to the long-term preservation of the family and the immediate safety of children and youth.



### What is Children & Family Services?

Children & Family Services is a department within the County of Ventura Human Services Agency. We work with families and community partners to prevent, respond to, and reduce child abuse and neglect. Our primary focus is to protect children and youth by strengthening families.

### How do we protect children by strengthening families?

It is our legal duty to respond to concerns about possible child abuse and neglect. Our highly trained staff engage with families to develop a plan and make decisions to keep children safe. We are guided by the following priorities:

- Provide services and support to help stabilize and preserve families to ensure the safety of children and youth.
- When a child or youth is removed from their home, provide loving care in a family setting until they can safely return with their family of origin.
- If unable to safely return home, create a plan for permanency and the development of lifelong relationships for every child and youth.

### How are families referred to us?

A community member calls the child abuse hotline to report a concern about a child or youth's safety. We review the report to determine what action, if any, needs to be taken to ensure they are safe. If you suspect a child or youth is being abused or neglected, please call 805-654-3200 or 800-754-7600.

### How does Children & Family Services respond to protect children?

If the concern doesn't rise to the level of abuse or neglect, a social worker may work with a community organization to connect the family with the services or support needed. When abuse or neglect appear to be involved, a social worker may speak with the child or youth, the parents, and possibly others to assess the child or youth's safety and the needs of the family. In some instances, the child or youth is able to remain at home while the family works to ensure a safer environment. In other cases, a child or youth may need to be removed from the home to ensure their safety, and the Juvenile Court becomes involved to monitor the situation.

Whenever possible, a child or youth removed from their home will be placed under the temporary care of a relative or family friend. If no relative or family friend is available who meets the required approval process, the child may be placed in a Resource Home (foster home). The ultimate goal is to return the child or youth to the care of their parent or guardian as soon as it is deemed safe.

Children & Family Services is dedicated to helping families protect children and youth from harm, safeguarding those who have been abused or neglected, and ensuring that children and youth have safe and permanent homes.

### Ensuring the safety of the child

Once involved with Children & Family Services, the parent or guardian together with a social worker, develops a behaviorally specific plan which may include counseling, substance abuse treatment, parent education, or other services to address the family's needs. When the parent completes the goals in the plan and the Juvenile Court determines the child or youth can safely live with the parent or guardian, involvement with Children & Family Services and the court can end.

If a child or youth cannot be safely returned to the care of their parent or guardian, an alternative permanent placement is arranged. Adoption by a relative is preferred, though if none is available, other possibilities include adoption by a non-relative, legal guardianship, or continued foster care.

Ensuring the privacy of children and youth served is of utmost importance. While information required to protect the child or youth is shared between the agencies responsible, including law enforcement and the courts, information about child abuse investigations cannot be disclosed to outside parties without a court order.

General inquiries about our services can be directed to Children & Family Services at 805-477-5312. Parents with questions about their open case are asked to contact their social worker directly.

We need to find loving families for children and youth in Ventura County. For more information on becoming a resource parent, contact Homes with Heart VC today!

[homeswithheartvc.org/svcf](https://homeswithheartvc.org/svcf)  
805-654-3220

