

COMMUNITY RESOURCES



EMERGENCY

POLICE, FIRE, AMBULANCE 911

EMERGENCY SHELTER

PORTEVILLE WOMEN'S SHELTER (559)784-0192
 DAYBELL BROOKS (MEN) (559)783-8870
 FAMILY SERVICES OF TULARE COUNTY
 VISALIA (559)732-5941
 TULARE (559)685-9515
 OPEN GATE MINISTRIES (559)591-1263
 (MEN, WOMEN, FAMILIES)
 VISALIA GOOD NEWS (559)734-6470
 (FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN)
 VISALIA RESCUE MISSION
 (MEN'S PROGRAM) (559)733-2231
 (WOMEN & CHILDREN) (559)635-9553

HOUSING

HOUSING NAVIGATOR FOR
KINGS/TULARE COUNTIES (559)584-1536

EMERGENCY FOOD

EL GRANITO FOUNDATION (559)784-2893
 HELPING HANDS (559)784-0553
 PORTEVILLE COORDINATING COUNCIL (559)783-0213
 PORTEVILLE RESCUE MISSION (559)789-9588
 SAINT VINCENT DEPAUL (559)781-5555

HOTLINES

ADULT ABUSE REPORTING (877)657-3092
 (PUBLIC GUARDIAN)
 BATTERED WOMEN SHELTER (559)732-5941
 CHILD ABUSE REPORTING (800)331-1585
 FAMILY VIOLENCE 24-HR (800)448-2044
 NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (800)799-7233
 RAPE CRISIS 24-HR (559)732-7273
 SUICIDE PREVENTION (800)320-1616

MEDICAL

MEDI-CAL (800)541-5555
 CENCAL PROVIDER LIST (800)421-2560
 COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER (559)635-6198

TRANSPORTATION

COUNTY-WIDE TRANSPORTATION INFO (559)624-7000
 VISALIA TRANSIT (559)713-4100
 PORTEVILLE TRANSIT (559)791-7800

MORE INFORMATION

SCHOOL DISTRICT HOMELESS LIAISON

For the current list of District Liaisons,
please visit:

WWW.TCOE.ORG/FOSTERYOUTH

CONTACT

Beth Wilshire

Foster & Homeless Youth Services Coordinator

bethw@tcoe.org

(559) 730-2910
Ext. 5131

LOCATION

Tulare County Office of Education

6200 S. Mooney Blvd.
Visalia CA 93277

Tulare County
Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools



FOSTER & HOMELESS
YOUTH SERVICES
TULARE COUNTY

*IMPROVING THE EDUCATION OUTCOMES
FOR CHILDREN PLACED IN FOSTER CARE
THROUGH EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT*

Tulare County
Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

WHAT IS FOSTER CARE?

Foster care is a system by which adults care for minor children who are not able to live with their biological parents. When parents are unable, unwilling or unfit to care for a child, the child must find a new home. In some cases, there is little or no chance a child can return to their parents' custody, so they need a new permanent home. In other situations, children only need a temporary home until their parents' situation changes. In any case, the children need somewhere to stay until a permanent home is possible.

Foster care is intended to be a temporary living situation for children. The goal of foster care is to reunify with their parent or guardian or find another suitable permanent living arrangement. This may include an adoptive home, guardianship, or placement with a relative.

WHAT IS FOSTER YOUTH SERVICES?

Foster children and youth often experience multiple changes in placement and interruptions in school. The emotional adjustments of these changes combined with the stress of falling behind in school can be overwhelming. In order to support foster children academically and emotionally, the FYS program was established to meet these needs.

Program Goals:

- Improve academic achievement
- Improve school attendance
- Improve graduation rates for foster youth
- Remove obstacles preventing appropriate and timely educational placements.

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES:

- Professional development for school staff
- Training for care providers
- Assistance with school enrollment/ checkout
- Transfer of education records
- Resource and referral

WHO IS HOMELESS?

If due to a lack of housing, you must live in any of the following situations, then according to the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act, you are considered homeless:

- Lack a regular, fixed and adequate nighttime residence
- Living in a shelter, motel or hotel
- Living in an unsheltered nighttime residence such as a car, campground or park
- Living doubled up with family or friends due to economic hardship
- Unaccompanied youth

WHAT ARE YOUR RIGHTS?

Children's Rights

Under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act, your child has the following rights:

- **School Stability:** No matter where you live, your child may continue to attend the school they were enrolled in prior to becoming homeless.
- **Transportation:** The school district must offer transportation to and from school for the duration of homelessness.
- **Immediate Enrollment:** You may enroll in and attend a new school without giving a permanent address.
- **Continued Services:** Services continue to the end of the school year or for the duration of homelessness. Services also continue while you and the school seek to resolve any disputes over enrollment.

With:

- Bus passes
- School supplies
- Counseling
- Help getting back into school
- Community resources

WHEN YOU MOVE:

Moving to a New Place

- Try to plan your move at a time that will be least disruptive to your child's education
- Inform your child's school of your plans to move
- Contact your School District's Homeless Liaison
- If moving to a new school district, enroll your child as soon as possible
- Contact the Homeless Liaison in the new district
- Allow your child time to say goodbye
- Ask for a copy of all school records to facilitate your child's enrollment in the new school

Other Helpful Tips

- Keep a copy of birth certificates and school records for yourself
- Keep health immunization records
- Know your child's teacher
- Help with school activities
- Support your children at home and at school
- Read to your children
- Encourage your children to read
- Establish a regular time for doing homework
- Set high expectations for your children
- Encourage your children to participate in learning activities outside of school
- Become a partner with school staff

DID YOU KNOW?

There are 1100 children in out of home care in Tulare County

53% Live in foster homes

36% Live with relatives

7% Live in other types of placements such as tribal homes and supervised independent living

4% Live in group homes