

# Youth Assistance Directory



**Merced County Office of Education**

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**Merced County Superintendent of Schools**

## **Introduction**

**This Resource Directory is designed to be used by young people ages 13 - 24 who are experiencing homelessness. It provides information about various agencies in the community who provide services you may need.**

**Homelessness does not always mean living on the street. Anyone without a regular, stable place to spend the night can be considered homeless. That includes anyone living in a vehicle, an abandoned building, a motel, or even crashing on a friend or family member's couch. If you are facing any of these situations, we hope that this Directory can connect you with help you might need.**

**The best way to access services and get assistance if you are homeless is to stay in school. By law, your public school must provide you with assistance if you are homeless. Your school must help you stay enrolled and be successful. Every school district has a Homeless Liaison who is in charge of making sure you get the services you need. Staying in school is one of the best ways to ensure your success in life. If you are not in the public school system, there are still many educational programs in the community that can help you achieve your goals and support you while you do so. Please see the "Education" section of the Directory for more information.**

**For questions or comments about this Directory, please contact:**

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**(209) 381-5918**

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## 24 Hour Hotlines

Free help available over the phone 24 hours a day.

<b>California Youth Crisis Line</b>		<b>Ages served: 12 - 24</b>
<b>1-800-843-5200</b>	<b><a href="http://www.youthcrisisline.org/index.html">http://www.youthcrisisline.org/index.html</a></b>	
Provides immediate links to local services. CYCL can help find homeless youth shelters, youth-serving medical clinics, on-going counseling services, and more.		

<b>The Boys Town National Hotline</b>		<b>All ages</b>
<b>1-800-448-3000</b>	<b><a href="http://www.yourlifeyourvoice.org">http://www.yourlifeyourvoice.org</a></b>	<b>Text VOICE 20121</b>
Boys Town is for youth of any gender identity/expression. Hotline staff can help youth who are depressed, abused, on the run, or facing any overwhelming challenge.		

<b>Valley Crisis Center</b>		<b>All ages</b>
<b>1-209-722-4327</b>	<b><a href="http://www.valleycrisiscenter.org">http://www.valleycrisiscenter.org</a></b>	
Provides victims and survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking access to advocates who are trained to provide assistance and links to local services.		

<b>Mental Health Services of Merced County</b>		<b>All ages</b>
<b>1-888-334-0163</b>	<b><a href="https://www.co.merced.ca.us/78/Behavioral-Health-and-Recovery-Services">https://www.co.merced.ca.us/78/Behavioral-Health-and-Recovery-Services</a></b>	
Provides 24/7 crisis intervention, counseling, and therapy for Merced County Youth.		

<b>National Suicide Prevention Lifeline</b>		<b>All ages</b>
<b>1-800-273-8255</b>	<b><a href="http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org">www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org</a></b>	
Confidential hotline available to anyone in suicidal crisis or emotional distress.		

<b>National Runaway Safeline</b>		<b>All ages</b>
<b>1-800-344-2785</b>	<b><a href="https://www.1800runaway.org/">https://www.1800runaway.org/</a></b>	
Help for youth who have run away due to conflict, crisis, abuse, or any other reason.		

## Shelter

A safe place to sleep, eat, and shower.

<b>D Street Shelter</b>		<b>18 years and older</b>
<b>1-209-725-8188</b>	<b>317 E 15th St., Merced</b>	<b>6pm - 7am, 365 Days a Year</b>
Self-declaration of homelessness is the only entrance requirement.		

<b>Tranquility Village</b>		<b>18 years and older (women only)</b>
<b>1-209-357-5200</b>	<b>559 Mendocino Ct., Atwater (office)</b>	
For women 18 and older (children ages 5 and under are also allowed to accompany their mothers). Specifically for women recovering from addiction.		

<b>Hobie House</b>		<b>18 years and older (men only)</b>
<b>1-209-722-6335</b>	<b>1301 Yosemite Parkway, Merced</b>	
For adult men recovering from addiction.		

<b>JMJ Maternity Homes</b>		<b>18 years and older</b>
<b>1-209-769-7092</b>	<b>Call for location</b>	
Shelter and assistance for pregnant and postpartum women and their young children.		

<b>Merced Rescue Mission</b>		<b>Individuals 18 years and older and families</b>
<b>1-209-722-9269</b>	<b>Call for locations</b>	
Offers several shelters, transitional housing programs, and a day warming center.		

<b>Merced County Human Services Agency</b>		<b>Individuals 18 years and older and families</b>
<b>1-209-385-3000</b>	<b>2115 W. Wardrobe Ave., Merced</b>	
Can provide motel vouchers and other emergency housing assistance.		

## Food

Get a free prepared meal or grocery items.

If you are a homeless student enrolled in public school, you are entitled to free school meals.

<b>Merced County Rescue Mission</b>	
<b>1-209-722-9269</b>	<b>1021 R St., Merced</b>
Breakfast served at 7:00 a.m. (every day except Thursday)	
Bag lunch handed out at 7:00 a.m. (every day except Thursday)	
Dinner served at 5:15 p.m. (every night except Friday)	

<b>Salvation Army</b>	
<b>1-209-383-4225</b>	<b>1440 W 12th St., Merced</b>
Breakfast served at 7:00 a.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays	

<b>Second Baptist Church</b>	
<b>1-209-723-4701</b>	<b>501 Q St., Merced</b>
Lunch served at 11:00 a.m. Mondays through Fridays	

<b>Merced Bethel Adventist Church</b>	
<b>1-209-383-5779</b>	<b>810 T St., Merced</b>
Breakfast served at 8:00 a.m. on Sundays	

<b>Catholic Charities</b>	
<b>1-209-383-2494</b>	<b>336 W. Main St., Merced</b>
Food pantry open from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays	

<b>Bethel Community Church</b>	
<b>1-209-827-0797</b>	<b>415 I St., Los Banos</b>
Food pantry open from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Fridays	

<b>Merced Community Action Agency</b>	
<b>1-209-723-4565</b>	<b>1235 W Main St., Merced</b>
Offers the WIC program, which provides food and other support to expectant mothers and families with children under age 5.	

<b>United Way Merced County</b>	
<b>1-209-383-4242</b>	<b>531 W Main St., Merced</b>
Provides referrals to community agencies who provide free food throughout Merced County.	

<b>Merced County Food Bank</b>	
<b>1-209-726-3663</b>	<b>2000 W Olive Ave., Merced</b>
Provides referrals to community agencies who provide free food throughout Merced County.	

## **Healthcare**

If you are enrolled in public school or college, you may be able to access some basic medical care through your school.

<b>Healthy House</b>		
<b>1-209-724-0102</b>	<a href="http://healthyhousemerced.org/index.html">http://healthyhousemerced.org/index.html</a>	<b>301 W. 18th St, Suite 101, Merced</b>
Provides healthcare referrals and enrollment services for Medi-Cal and Covered California.		

<b>Central California Alliance for Health</b>		
<b>1-209-381-5300</b>	<a href="http://www.ccah-alliance.org/index.htm">http://www.ccah-alliance.org/index.htm</a>	<b>530 W. 13th St., Suite B, Merced</b>
Provides healthcare services, Medi-Cal enrollment assistance, and transportation to medical appointments.		

<b>Merced County Human Services Agency</b>		
<b>1-209-385-3000</b>	<a href="http://www.co.merced.ca.us/458/Medi-Cal">http://www.co.merced.ca.us/458/Medi-Cal</a>	<b>2115 W. Wardrobe Ave. Merced</b>
Provides Medi-Cal and other health program enrollment assistance.		

<b>Merced County Department of Public Health</b>	
<b>1-209-381-1200</b>	<b>260 E. 15th St., Merced</b>
<b>1-209-710-7085</b>	<b>415 F St., Los Banos</b>
Provides vaccinations, disease testing, and other health services.	

<b>Planned Parenthood</b>	
<b>1-209-723-7751</b>	<b>3166 Collins Dr., Merced</b>
Provides family planning services and related health exams.	

<b>Golden Valley Healthcare</b>	
<b>1-209-383-1848</b>	<b>737 W Childs Ave., Merced</b>
Provides family and adolescent healthcare at numerous locations throughout Merced County.	

## **Mental Health**

If you are enrolled in public school or college, you may be able to access some mental health services through your school.

<b>Merced County Mental Health Services</b>		
<b>1-209-381-6800</b>	<a href="http://www.co.merced.ca.us">http://www.co.merced.ca.us</a>	<b>480 E. 13th St., Merced</b>
		<b>1471 B St., Suite N, Livingston</b>
		<b>40 W. G. St., Suite C, Los Banos</b>
Provides a variety of free mental health services to people of all ages, including group and individual counseling sessions and substance abuse prevention and treatment.		

<b>Valley Crisis Center</b>		
<b>1-209-725-7900</b>	<b><a href="http://www.valleycrisiscenter.org">www.valleycrisiscenter.org</a></b>	<b>1960 P. St., Merced</b>
		<b>545 J St., Los Banos</b>
Offers counseling/support group services for youth in crisis, including substance abuse education and treatment.		

<b>Merced Lao Family</b>		
<b>1-209-384-7384</b>	<b><a href="http://www.laofamilymerced.org/">http://www.laofamilymerced.org/</a></b>	<b>855 W 15th St., Suite A, Merced</b>
Offers counseling, crisis intervention, and substance abuse prevention services.		

<b>ACE Overcomers</b>	
<b>1-209-617-4688</b>	<b><a href="http://www.aceovercomers.com">http://www.aceovercomers.com</a></b>
Program to help teens and adults overcome the effects of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) by improving mental, physical, and spiritual health through education and intervention.	

## **Education**

Public schools must help their students remain enrolled in and be successful in school, even if their residence changes often. Every school district has a Homeless Liaison who can help you. Here are additional programs and resources.

<b>Merced County Regional Occupational Program</b>		
<b>1-209-381-6688 (high school program) 1-209-381-6684 (adult program)</b>	<b><a href="http://mcoe.org/deptprog/edservices/CaliforniaC/ROP/Pages/rop.aspx">http://mcoe.org/deptprog/edservices/CaliforniaC/ROP/Pages/rop.aspx</a></b>	<b>632 W. 13th St., Merced</b>
Provides vocational education and training to prepare students for employment. Also provides workplace learning experiences, hands-on training, and career counseling and education. Classes are available to high schoolers and adults.		

<b>EMPOWER</b>		
<b>1-209-381-5926</b>	<a href="https://www.mcoe.org/deptprog/edservices/CandC/empower/Pages/empower.aspx">https://www.mcoe.org/deptprog/edservices/CandC/empower/Pages/empower.aspx</a>	<b>632 W. 13th St., Merced</b>
<p>Provides educational assistance and job training to help out-of-school youth ages 18-24 succeed in school, then transition to college and/or a career. Youth that do not have a high school diploma are provided with basic education skills, tutoring, and study skills, in order to obtain a GED or high school diploma. EMPOWER youth are also provided work experience, support services, and comprehensive guidance and counseling.</p>		

<b>Cal-SOAP</b>		
<b>1-209-381-5919</b>	<a href="http://www.mcoe.org/deptprog/edservices/CandC/calsoap/Pages/calsoap.aspx">http://www.mcoe.org/deptprog/edservices/CandC/calsoap/Pages/calsoap.aspx</a>	<b>632 W. 13th St., Merced</b>
<p>Cal-SOAP provides services to in-school youth to help them prepare for college and career. Students can receive tutoring, information about applying for college, assistance in seeking financial aid, and many other services.</p>		

<b>Merced Adult School</b>		
<b>1-209-325-2800</b>	<a href="https://mas.muhsd.org/mas">https://mas.muhsd.org/mas</a>	<b>50 E. 20th St., Merced</b>
<p>Assists adult students in obtaining their high school diploma or GED. Also offers Career Technical Education courses, career planning, and help in applying for college financial aid.</p>		

<b>Cal-LEARN</b>		
<b>1-209-385-3000</b>	<a href="https://www.co.merced.ca.us/452/Cal-Learn">https://www.co.merced.ca.us/452/Cal-Learn</a>	<b>2115 W. Wardrobe Ave. Merced</b>
<p>Assists teen parents in completing their high school education.</p>		

<b>Gateway Adult Education Network</b>		
<b>1-209-325-2810</b>	<a href="http://www.mygaen.org">www.mygaen.org</a>	<b>50 E. 20th St., Merced</b>
<p>Provides information about adult education programs throughout the County</p>		

## Work

Find a job or receive job training.

<b>Employment Development Department</b>		
<b>1-209-726-5405</b> <b>1-209-826-0420</b>	<b><a href="http://www.caljobs.ca.gov">www.caljobs.ca.gov</a></b>	<b>1205 W. 18th St., Merced</b> <b>1075 H St., Los Banos</b>
<p>Offers job placement, disability, and unemployment insurance information. Also provides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Job Corps for youth ages 16-23, which gives young people career and academic training so they can pursue their chosen careers.</li><li>• The Youth Employment Opportunity Program, which provides special services to youth between the ages of 15 and 25 to assist them in achieving their educational and vocational goals.</li><li>• The AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps, which is a full-time residential program for men and women, ages 18-24, that strengthens communities while developing leaders through direct, team-based national and community service.</li><li>• Apprenticeship Programs for youth ages 16 and up which result in Apprenticeship Completion Certificates which are recognized job credentials..</li></ul>		

<b>EMPOWER</b>		
<b>1-209-381-5926</b>	<b><a href="https://www.mcoe.org/deptprog/edservices/CandC/empower/Pages/empower.aspx">https://www.mcoe.org/deptprog/edservices/CandC/empower/Pages/empower.aspx</a></b>	<b>632 W. 13th St., Merced</b>
<p>Provides educational assistance and job training to help out-of-school youth ages 18-24 succeed in school, then transition to college and/or a career. Youth that do not have a high school diploma are provided with basic education skills, tutoring, and study skills, in order to obtain a GED or high school diploma. EMPOWER youth are also provided work experience, support services, and comprehensive guidance and counseling.</p>		

<b>Central Valley Opportunity Center</b>		
<b>1-209-357-0062</b>	<b><a href="http://www.cvoc.org">http://www.cvoc.org</a></b>	<b>6838 Bridget Ct., Winton</b>
<p>Provides vocational training and education to prepare young people for in-demand careers.</p>		

<b>Goodwill Industries</b>		
<b>1-209-384-2586</b>	<b><a href="http://www.goodwill.org/">http://www.goodwill.org/</a></b>	<b>32 W. Olive Ave., Merced</b>
<p>Provides employment and skills training opportunities.</p>		

<b>WORKNET Employment Resource Center</b>		
<b>1-209-724-2000</b> <b>1-209-710-6140</b>	<b><a href="https://www.co.merced.ca.us/92/Workforce-Investment">https://www.co.merced.ca.us/92/Workforce-Investment</a></b>	<b>1205 W. 18th St., Merced</b> <b>800 7th St., Los Banos</b>
Provides programs for young adults 16 to 24 years of age through partnerships with education, community colleges and vocational training facilities.		

## **Other Services**

<b>Family Resource Council</b>		
<b>1-209-381-5980</b>	<b><a href="http://www.mcoe.org/deptprog/earlyed/frc/Pages/frc-default.aspx">http://www.mcoe.org/deptprog/earlyed/frc/Pages/frc-default.aspx</a></b>	<b>1573 W. Main St., Merced</b>
Provides an array of programs, support, and referrals for families facing challenges.		

<b>C.U.B.E</b>		
<b>1-209-381-6800</b> <b>Ext. 3609</b>	<b><a href="http://www.co.merced.ca.us">http://www.co.merced.ca.us</a></b>	<b>480 E. 13th St.,</b> <b>Building 3, Merced</b>
Provides a safe drop-in center for youth ages 16 - 25 to enjoy recreational activities and to access supportive services such as counseling, employment assistance, and housing assistance. Open from 10am - 5pm, Monday - Friday.		

<b>Merced Community Action Agency</b>		
<b>1-209-723-4565</b>	<b><a href="http://www.mercedcaa.org/">http://www.mercedcaa.org/</a></b>	<b>1235 W Main St.,</b> <b>Merced</b>
Offers a wide array of services to people in need, including nutrition programs, housing assistance, and referrals to other resources.		

<b>LOVE, Inc.</b>	
<b>1-209-383-7034</b>	<b><a href="http://www.loveinmerced.com">http://www.loveinmerced.com</a></b>
Offers a wide-array of resources to people in need, including clothing, diapers, household goods, and transportation assistance.	

**LifeLine Community Center**

**1-209-358-6939**

**<http://monika-grasley.square-space.com/winton/>**

**7081 N. Winton Way, Winton**

Offers youth computer classes, emergency food, a Kids Club, a community garden, and youth leadership training.

**Central California Legal Services**

**1-800-464-3111**

**<http://centralcallegal.org/>**

**1640 N St., Suite 200, Merced**

Provides free legal assistance to individuals and families.

