

2024 Merced County

Youth Resource Directory



— MERCED COUNTY —
**Office of
Education**

NURTURE • SERVE • LEAD

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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 that 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) 381-5156

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Hotlines and Virtual Assistance

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline		All ages	
1-800-273-8255 Or 988		https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/	
Available 24/7 to anyone in suicidal crisis or emotional distress. The caller is routed to the nearest crisis center to receive immediate counseling and local mental health referrals.			

Central Valley Suicide Prevention Hotline		All ages	
1-888-506-5991		http://www.centralvalleysuicidepreventionhotline.org/	
Confidential hotline available 24/7 to anyone in suicidal crisis or emotional distress.			

California Youth Crisis Line		Ages 12 - 24	
1-800-843-5200 Call or text		https://calyouth.org/cycl/	
Available 24/7 to youth experiencing any kind of crisis. Professional counselors provide intervention counseling and resource referrals to more than 5,500 free or low-cost service providers.			

Your Life Your Voice		Preteen through young adult	
1-800-448-3000	Text VOICE2021	http://www.yourlife yourvoice.org	Email through website
Trained hotline staff counsel youth who are depressed, abused, or facing any overwhelming challenge.			

Valley Crisis Center		All ages	
1-209-722-4357		http://www.valleycrisiscenter.org	
Provides victims and survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking with access to advocates who are trained; links to local services.			

Merced County Youth Warm Line		All ages
1-888-334-0163	https://www.co.merced.ca.us/78/Behavioral-Health-and-Recovery-Services	
Provides 24/7 non-emergency emotional support for Merced County Youth.		

CalHOPE Connect		All ages
https://www.calhopeconnect.org		
Offers live internet chat and virtual support groups for all California Youth with special groups focusing on Black, Latinx, Asian and Pacific Islanders, LGBTQ+ issues.		

National Runaway Safeline		All ages
1-800-RUNAWAY	Email and chat options through the website	https://www.1800runaway.org
Help for youth who have run away due to conflict, crisis, abuse, or any other reason.		

2-1-1 Mountain Valley		All ages
211	https://www.unitedwaymerced.org/211	
24/7 365 days a year, multilingual assistance for any Central Valley resident. Trained referral specialists connect callers to counseling, healthcare, emergency shelter, and other resources.		

National Domestic Violence Hotline		All ages
1-800-799-SAFE (7233)	https://www.thehotline.org	
Trained advocates are available 24/7/365 to talk confidentially with anyone experiencing domestic violence, seeking resources or information, or questioning unhealthy aspects of their relationship.		

The Trevor Project		All ages
1-866-488-7386	Text "START" to 678-678	https://www.thetrevorproject.org/
24/7 support and crisis intervention available by phone, text, or virtual chat for LGBTQ+ youth.		

Veterans Crisis Line		All ages
Dial 988, then press 1	Text "START" to 838255	https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/get-help-now/chat/
Confidential support is available 24/7		

Shelter

Merced County Navigation Center		18 years and older
1-209-726-2700	1411 B St., Merced https://www.countyofmerced.com/3613/Navigation-Center	365 days a year, 24 hours a day
Clients must be referred to the program, which offers shelter, meals, education, healthcare, and many other services. Call to find out how to obtain a referral.		

D Street Shelter		18 years and older
1-209-725-8188	317 E 15th St., Merced https://www.mercedcaa.com/our-programs/homeless-services/shelter/	365 days a year, 24 hours a day
Provides clients with three meals per day, showers, personal hygiene products, beds, case management services, and security to enable a restful place to sleep.		

Tranquility Village		18 years and older (women only; children under age 5 may accompany their mothers)
1-209-357-5200	559 Mendocino Ct., Atwater http://www.csmainc.org/	
Specifically for women recovering from addiction.		

Sierra Saving Grace		18 years and older
1-209-626-5660	https://sites.google.com/site/sierrasavinggraceorg/home	
Provides supportive housing and rental assistance, with a focus on medically fragile individuals.		

Another Way LLC		
1-209-354-4430		
Provides housing for men and women in recovery, ages 18+		

New Direction		18 years and older
1-209-205-3123	3333 M street, Merced, Ca 95348 https://www.tpcp.org/programs/new-direction/	
Provides referrals to housing services and other community service providers.		

Hobie House		18 years and older (men only)
1-209-722-6335	1301 Yosemite Parkway, Merced http://www.csmainc.org/	
Specifically for men recovering from addiction.		

JMJ Maternity Homes		18 years and older
1-209-769-7092	Call for location https://www.jmjmaternityhome.org/index.html	
Shelter and assistance for pregnant and postpartum women and their young children.		

Merced Rescue Mission		18 years and older
1-209-722-9269	Call for locations https://www.mercedcountyrescuemission.org/	
Offers numerous shelters for men, women, and families throughout Merced County. Provides respite for homeless individuals recovering from surgery.		

Merced County Human Services Agency		18 years and older
1-209-385-3000	2115 W. Wardrobe Ave., Merced https://www.countyofmerced.com/74/Human-Services-Agency	
Can provide motel vouchers and other emergency housing assistance.		

Merced County Human Services Agency		18 years and older
855-421-6770 800-292-8349	1920 Customer Care Way, Atwater, CA 95301 415 F Street, Los Banos, CA 93635	
Can provide motel vouchers and other emergency housing assistance.		

Dr. Jennifer M. Jones Foundation		
209-947-0494	DrJenniferJones@LProject.org	
14-Point Program that offers case management, job skill building, mental health, and substance use services. An Enhanced Care Management and Community Supports services provider. Alliance/Medi-Cal recipients can receive supportive services for housing or health needs.		

Aspiranet - Transitional Housing Program Plus Foster Care		Ages 18 - 21
209-725-2125	https://www.aspiranet.org/foster/merced Transitional Housing Program Plus Foster Care	
Provides housing for non-minor dependents (NMDs) aged 18-21 who wish to stay in Extended Foster Care. Must consult with County Social Worker or Probation Officer for eligibility and referral.		

Aspiranet		
209-725-2125	www.aspiranet.org/find-program Transitional Housing Plus Program	
Provides housing for youth aging out of foster care aged 21-24.		

Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF)		
209-662-6073	https://www.va.gov/homeless/ssvf/supportive-services/	
Provides housing support for Veterans.		

Housing Authority of Merced County		18 years and older
1-209-722-3501	405 U St., Merced http://www.merced-pha.com/	
Provides housing vouchers and other forms of housing assistance.		

Food

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

Salvation Army		
1-209-383-4225	https://merced.salvationarmy.org/	1440 W 12th St., Merced
Food pantry opens 9:00am-noon and 1:00pm-3:00pm on Monday-Friday.		
Breakfast served 7:00am-8:30am Tuesday-Thursday.		

UC Merced
https://sustainability.ucmerced.edu/initiatives/food
Offers numerous programs and initiatives to distribute food throughout the community, including pop-up food pantries, community fridges, and just-in-time distribution of leftover food. Dates, times and locations vary. Check the website for details.

LOVE Inc.	
(209) 383-1265, ext. 100	https://loveinmerced.com/services.html
Provides food, baby formula, and other necessities.	

United Methodist Church	
1-209-722-5777	899 Yosemite Parkway, Merced
Drive thru food pantry Noon on Thursdays.	

Catholic Charities		
1-209-383-2494	https://ccdof.org/merced/	336 W. Main St., Merced
Cal-Fresh (Food Stamps) application center open 8:30am-noon and 1:00pm-3:45pm Monday-Friday		
Food pantry is open from 8:30am-noon and 1:00pm-3:30pm Monday-Friday.		

Merced County Community Action Agency		
1-209-723-4565	https://www.mercedcaa.com/	1235 W Main St., Merced
Offers the WIC program, which provides food and other support to expectant mothers and families with children under age 5.		

Apostolic Tabernacle	
1-209-723-0545	2745 E. Highway 140, Merced
Operates a food pantry from Noon-1:00pm Monday and Fridays.	

Merced County Food Bank-Emergency Food Assistance Program	
1-209-726-5092	2000 W. Olive Ave., Merced, CA https://mmcfb.org/
Provides monthly food packages to individuals and families who meet income guidelines set by the federal government. Call to see if you qualify and get the address of your nearest distribution site. At the site you will be asked to give your name and address; self-certify that you meet the household income guidelines and state the number of people living in your household. <u>Documentation is not required to register for the program.</u>	

St. Matthew Church	
1-209-749-5092	1057 N Street, Merced, CA 95348
Free showers Saturday mornings from 10:00AM – 1:00PM. They supply everything needed to shower. Clothing and meals are available also.	

Bethel Community Church	
1-209-827-0797	415 I Street, Los Banos, CA 93635
Fruit and vegetable box distribution on Tuesdays at 9:00AM; food box, homeless bag distribution and shower trailer on Fridays at 9:00AM; hot meal distribution on Fridays at 11:00AM.	

Healthcare

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

Medi-Nurse Line
1-877-409-9052
Nurses available to provide free health advice and referrals 24/7, 365 days a year. For anyone without health insurance or who is on Medi-Cal but does not have a regular doctor.

Central California Alliance for Health		
1-209-381-5300	http://www.ccah-alliance.org/index.htm	530 W. 16th St., Suite B Merced, CA 95340
Provides healthcare services and Medi-Cal enrollment assistance.		

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

Merced County Department of Public Health		
1-209-381-1200 1-209-710-7085	260 E. 15th St., Merced 415 F St., Los Banos	
https://www.countyofmerced.com/82/Public-Health		
Provides vaccinations, disease testing, and other health services.		

Planned Parenthood		
1-209-723-7751	3166 Collins Dr., Merced	
https://www.plannedparenthood.org/health-center/california/merced/95348/merced-health-center-2526-90130		
Provides family planning services, gender affirming care, and other health services.		

Golden Valley Healthcare	
1-866-682-4842	https://www.gvhc.org/
Provides family and adolescent healthcare at numerous locations throughout Merced County.	

Alpha Pregnancy Help Center		
1-209-381-4700	https://alphaphc.com	700 Loughborough Dr. Ste A Merced, CA 95348
Pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, and parenting classes.		

Mental Health

For crisis care, see the “Hotlines and Virtual Assistance” (pg 2)

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

Merced County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services		
1-209-381-6800	https://www.countyofmerced.com/78/Behavioral- Health-Recovery-Services	Multiple locations
<p>Merced County BHRS Community Access to Recovery Services Crisis Programs - Triage Staff respond to local emergency rooms within Los Banos and Merced for crisis intervention.</p> <p>Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) - Open 24/7 and provides services to any resident/non-resident of Merced County needing psychiatric care.</p> <p>Mobile Crisis Response Team (MCRT) - Evaluates community member’s needs and prioritization is based on imminent danger and crisis need.</p>		

Valley Crisis Center		
1-209-725-7900	www.valleycrisiscenter.org	1960 P. St., Merced 545 J St., Los Banos
Offers counseling services for youth in crisis, including substance abuse education and treatment.		

Westcare - San Joaquin Valley Veterans		
1-209-233-3550	westcare.com/services/	2995 R Street, Ste. 103 Merced, CA 95341
<p>SSG Fox Hope and Wellness Program Community-based suicide prevention efforts to meet the needs of Veterans and their families.</p>		

Student Resiliency Center		
1-209-381-6800 ext 3061	1640 N Street, Ste. 100 Merced, CA 95340	Ages 12-17
<p>Provides case management, peer to peer support, grief support group, employment assistance, social skills groups, recreational activities, skills to cope with stress, and behavioral health services. A safe space for youth to socialize.</p>		

Merced Lao Family		
1-209-384-7384	http://www.laofamilymerced.org/	1748 Miles Ct., Suite B, Merced
<p>Offers an array of mental health services and social adjustment services.</p>		

ACE Overcomers		
1-209-626-5446	http://www.aceovercomers.com	
<p>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.</p>		

All Dads Matter		
1-209-385-7521	https://www.countyofmerced.com/981/All-Dads-Matter	3376 N. HWY 59, Suite D Merced
<p>Provides the opportunity for fathers to access a variety of community resources and tools to improve parenting skills and receive support.</p>		

Education

Public schools must help their students remain enrolled in and be successful in school, even if they are homeless or their residence changes often. Every school district has a Homeless Liaison who can help. Information about the Homeless Liaison for each district is available through the Merced County Office of Education by calling 209-381-5156, or by accessing the MCOE website:

<https://www.mcoe.org/departments-programs/educational-services/college-career/homeless-youth-services>

Here are additional programs and resources:

Merced County Regional Occupational Program		
1-209-381-6607	http://mcoe.org/deptprog/edservices/Can/dc/ROP/Pages/rop.aspx	632 W. 13th St., Merced
<p style="text-align: center;">Provides vocational education and training to prepare high school students and adults for employment. Also provides workplace learning experiences, hands-on training, and career counseling and education.</p>		
EMPOWER		
1-209-381-5926	https://www.mcoe.org/empower	658 W. Main Street Merced
<p style="text-align: center;">Provides educational assistance and job training to help out-of-school youth ages 16-24 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. Participants are also provided work experience, support services, and comprehensive guidance and counseling.</p>		
Cal-SOAP		
1-209-381-5917	http://www.mcoe.org/deptprog/edservices/CanC/calsoap/Pages/calsoap.aspx	658 W. Main Street Merced
<p style="text-align: center;">Provides services to in-school youth to help them prepare for college and career. Students receive tutoring, assistance in applying for college and seeking financial aid, and many other services.</p>		

Merced Adult School		
1-209-325-2800	https://mas.muhsd.org/mas	50 E. 20th St., Merced
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.		

Gateway Adult Education Network		
1-209-325-2810	www.mygaen.org	50 E. 20th St., Merced
Provides information about adult education programs throughout the County		

Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program		
1-209-381-5110	https://www.mcoe.org/deptprog/edservices/CandC/fys/Pages/fosteryouth.aspx	732 W. 13th Street, W9
Provides educational advocacy, case management, training and workshops relevant to laws and educational needs of foster youth, advocacy at Individualized Educational Plan meetings, collaboration with the child welfare agencies to minimize changes in school placement; and collaboration between schools, foster care providers, and social workers.		

Come Back Charter School		
1-209-386-6025	https://www.mcoe.org/deptprog/edservices/students/CBCS/Pages/default.aspx	350 W. Yosemite Ave Merced
Offers a rigorous high school program that is flexible and customized to help students ages 18+ to successfully earn a high school diploma.		

Merced Scholars Charter School		
1-209-381-5165	https://www.mcoe.org/deptprog/edservices/students/MCScholars/Pages/charter.aspx	1850 Wardrobe Ave, Building H Merced
Serves grades TK-12th with personalized instruction designed to prepare students for college/career.		

NextUp Center at Merced College	
1-209-384-6077	https://www.mccd.edu/student-support/support-programs/nextup-current-former-foster-youth/
<p>Extends tailored support to students who have experienced foster care, KinGap, or family maintenance after their 13th birthday. Eligible students can receive academic counseling, financial grants, meal cards, gas cards, and various other resources. Students must submit their applications prior to turning 26 years old.</p>	

Merced College Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS)		
1-209-386-6693	https://www.mccd.edu/resources/eops/index.html	3600 M St., Merced 22240 CA-152, Los Banos
<p>Encourages the enrollment, retention, and transfer of students challenged by language, social, economic, and educational disadvantages, and facilitates their successful completion of goals and objectives. Also offers academic and support counseling, financial aid, and other support services.</p>		

UC Merced Basic Needs Center		
1-209-891-9781	https://basicneeds.ucmerced.edu/	5200 N. Lake Rd., Merced
<p>Assists UC Merced students in obtaining food, housing, and other services.</p>		

Education for Homeless Children and Youth		
1-209-381-5156	https://www.mcoe.org/departments-programs/educational-services/college-career/homeless-youth-services	658 W. Main Street, Merced
<p>Provides advocacy and supportive services for children and youth enrolled in a public school and experiencing homelessness, ages 0-24 years.</p>		

Employment

WorkNet		
1-877-267-9675 1-209-710-6145	https://www.careeronestop.org/	1205 W. 18th St., Merced 800 7th St., Los Banos
Offers education, job training, career preparation, job placement, and other services to assist youth in achieving their educational and vocational goals.		

EMPOWER		
1-209-381-5926	https://www.mcoe.org/empower	732 W. 13th Street W12 Merced
Provides educational assistance and job training to help out-of-school youth ages 16-24 succeed in school, then transition to college and/or a career. Youth are also provided work experience, support services, and comprehensive guidance and counseling.		

Employment Development Department		
1-209-726-5407	https://edd.ca.gov/	1205 W. 18th St., Merced
Provides job services and training as well as access to unemployment benefits.		

Central Valley Opportunity Center		
1-209-357-0062	http://www.cvoc.org	6838 Bridget Ct., Winton
Provides skills training, education, and emergency services to improve the quality of life for underserved community members.		

New Direction		
1-209-205-3123	https://www.tpcp.org/programs/new-direction/	2808 Park Ave., Ste. C, Merced
Offers employment and training services to individuals experiencing or at risk of homelessness.		

Goodwill Industries		
1-209-384-2586	http://www.goodwill.org/	32 W. Olive Ave., Merced
Provides employment and skills training opportunities.		

Job Corps		
1-800-733-5627	https://www.jobcorps.gov/	
Provides housing, meals, basic medical care, a living allowance, hands-on training, and preparation for a career. Tuition-free to eligible youth ages 16-24.		

Restore Merced		
1-209-580-5791	https://restoremeced.org/	419 W 19th St., Merced
Work transitional program, community training and volunteer opportunities.		

Other Services

Family Resource Center		
1-209-381-5980	https://www.mcoe.org/deptprog/earlyed/frc/Pages/frc-default.aspx	1573 W. Main St. Building H, Merced
Provides an array of programs, support, and referrals for families facing challenges.		

All Dads Matter		
1-209-385-7521	https://www.countyofmerced.com/981/All-Dads-Matter	3376 N. HWY 59, Suite D Merced
Provides the opportunity for fathers to access a variety of community resources and tools to improve parenting skills and receive support.		

The C.U.B.E		
1-209-381-6800 Ext. 3608	https://www.countyofmerced.com/DocumentCenter/View/12277/CUBE-Brochure?bidId=	490 E. 13th St., Building 3, Merced
Provides a safe drop-in center for youth ages 16-21 to enjoy recreational activities and to access supportive services such as counseling, employment assistance, and housing assistance.		

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

LOVE, Inc.	
1-209-383-7034	https://loveinmerced.com/
Offers an array of resources to people in need, including clothing, diapers, household goods, and transportation assistance.	

Central California Legal Services		
1-800-675-8001	http://centralcallegal.org/	1640 N St., Suite 200, Merced
Provides free legal assistance to individuals and families.		

Student Resiliency Center		
1-209-381-6800 ext. 3061		1640 N St., Suite 100, Merced
Provides case management, peer to peer support, grief support group, employment assistance, social skills groups, recreational activities, skills to cope with stress, and behavioral health services. A safe space for youth to socialize.		

St. Matthew Church		
1-209-749-5092	1057 N Street, Merced, CA 95348	
Free showers Saturday mornings from 10:00AM – 1:00PM. They supply everything needed to shower. Clothing and meals are available also.		

Salvation Army		
1-209-383-4225 1-209-827-4945	https://merced.salvationarmy.org/	1440 W 12th St., Merced 1231 4th Street, Los Banos
Food pantry opens 9:00am-noon and 1:00pm-3:00pm on Monday-Friday. Showers provided every Thursday from 7:00 AM to 10:00 AM.		
Breakfast served 7:00am-8:30am Tuesday-Thursday.		

Homeless Court Program		
1-805-975-3787	jromig@missionmerced.org	
Aids in addressing legal barriers for individuals experiencing homelessness.		

Project Sentinel		
888-324-7468 800-339-6043 800-735-2929 or 711	https://www.housing.org/	1231 8th Street, #425 Modesto, CA 95354
Provides services for housing discrimination, tenant-landlord dispute resolution and housing counseling programs.		

Social Security Administration		
1-800-772-1213	https://www.ssa.gov/	3185 M St., Merced
Obtain social security card, eligibility determination for Social Security benefits.		

Merced County Office of Education Child Care Resource & Referral		
1-209-381-4585	http://www.rrnetwork.org	1850 Wardrobe Ave., Merced
Assistance with finding childcare.		

Merced County Office of Education A.C.C.E.S.S.		
1-209-381-6790 1-209-827-5694	https://www.mcoe.org/departments-programs/early-education/early-education-support-programs/for-families/child-care-subsidy-programs	1850 Wardrobe Ave., Merced 110 W. G Street, Ste C Los Banos
Provides subsidized childcare and education services to eligible parents.		

Merced County Office of Education Head Start Program		
1-209-381-5170	1840 Wardrobe Ave., Merced	https://www.mcoe.org/departments-programs/early-education/head-start
Provides subsidized childcare and education services to eligible parents.		