

2022 MERCED COUNTY

# *Youth Assistance* **Directory**



— MERCED COUNTY —

**Office of  
Education**

NURTURE • SERVE • LEAD

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## 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

<b>National Suicide Prevention Lifeline</b>		<b>All ages</b>	
<b>1-800-273-8255</b> Beginning July 16, 2022 you can also reach the hotline by simply dialing 988		<a href="https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/">https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/</a>	
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.			

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

<b>California Youth Crisis Line</b>		<b>Ages served: 12 - 24</b>	
<b>1-800-843-5200</b> Call or text		<a href="https://calyouth.org/cycl/">https://calyouth.org/cycl/</a>	
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.			

<b>Your Life Your Voice</b>		<b>Preteen through young adult</b>	
<b>1-800-448-3000</b>		<b>Text VOICE2021</b>	
		<a href="http://www.yourlifeyourvoice.org">http://www.yourlifeyourvoice.org</a>	<b>Email through website</b>
Trained hotline staff counsel youth who are depressed, abused, or facing any overwhelming challenge.			

<b>Valley Crisis Center</b>		<b>All ages</b>	
<b>1-209-722-4357</b>		<a href="http://www.valleycrisiscenter.org">http://www.valleycrisiscenter.org</a>	
Provides victims and survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking with access to advocates who are trained to provide assistance and links to local services.			

<b>Merced County Youth Warm Line</b>		<b>All ages</b>
<b>1-888-334-0163</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>	
Provides 24/7 non-emergency emotional support for Merced County Youth.		

<b>CalHOPE Connect</b>		<b>All ages</b>
<a href="https://www.calhopeconnect.org">https://www.calhopeconnect.org</a>		
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.		

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

<b>2-1-1 Mountain Valley</b>		<b>All ages</b>
<b>211</b>	<a href="https://www.unitedwaymerced.org/211">https://www.unitedwaymerced.org/211</a>	
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.		

<b>National Domestic Violence Hotline</b>		<b>All ages</b>
<b>1-800-799-SAFE (7233)</b>	<a href="https://www.thehotline.org">https://www.thehotline.org</a>	
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.		

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

## Shelter

<b>Merced County Navigation Center</b>		<b>All ages</b>
<b>1-209-726-2700</b>	<b>1411 B St., Merced</b> <a href="https://www.countyofmerced.com/3613/Navigation-Center">https://www.countyofmerced.com/3613/Navigation-Center</a>	<b>365 days a year, 24 hours a day</b>
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.		

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

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

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

<b>AIM HIGH Transitional Housing</b>		<b>18-24 years (women only)</b>
<b>1-209-349-8355</b>	<b>1840 T Street, Merced</b>	
Eighteen month transitional housing program for women experiencing homelessness. Provides mentoring, self-sufficiency training, and assistance with education and job training.		

<b>New Direction</b>		<b>All ages</b>
<b>1-209-205-3123</b>	<b>200 East 15th Street, Merced</b> <a href="https://www.tpcp.org/programs/new-direction/">https://www.tpcp.org/programs/new-direction/</a>	
Provides referrals to housing services and other community service providers.		

<b>Hobie House</b>		<b>18 years and older (men only)</b>
<b>1-209-722-6335</b>	<b>1301 Yosemite Parkway, Merced</b> <a href="http://www.csmainc.org/">http://www.csmainc.org/</a>	
Specifically for 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> <a href="https://www.jmjmaternityhome.org/index.html">https://www.jmjmaternityhome.org/index.html</a>	
Shelter and assistance for pregnant and postpartum women and their young children.		

<b>Merced Rescue Mission</b>		<b>18 years and older and families</b>
<b>1-209-722-9269</b>	<b>Call for locations</b> <a href="https://www.mercedcountyrescuemission.org/">https://www.mercedcountyrescuemission.org/</a>	
Offers numerous shelters for men, women, and families throughout Merced County.		

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

<b>Housing Authority of Merced County</b>		<b>18 years and older</b>
<b>1-209-722-3501</b>	<b>405 U St., Merced</b> <a href="http://www.merced-pha.com/">http://www.merced-pha.com/</a>	
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.

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

<b>UC Merced</b>
<a href="https://sustainability.ucmerced.edu/initiatives/food">https://sustainability.ucmerced.edu/initiatives/food</a>
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.

<b>LOVE Inc.</b>	
<b>(209) 383-1265, ext. 100</b>	<a href="https://loveinmerced.com/services.html">https://loveinmerced.com/services.html</a>
Provides food, baby formula, and other necessities.	

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

<b>Catholic Charities</b>		
<b>1-209-383-2494</b>	<a href="https://ccdof.org/merced/">https://ccdof.org/merced/</a>	<b>336 W. Main St., Merced</b>
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.		

<b>Merced Community Action Agency</b>		
<b>1-209-723-4565</b>	<a href="https://www.mercedcaa.com/">https://www.mercedcaa.com/</a>	<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>Apostolic Tabernacle</b>	
<b>1-209-723-0545</b>	<b>2745 E. Highway 140, Merced</b>
Operates a food pantry from Noon-1:00pm Monday and Fridays.	

## **Healthcare**

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

<b>Medi-Nurse Line</b>	
<b>1-877-409-9052</b>	
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.	

<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 and Medi-Cal enrollment assistance.		

<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>1-209-710-7085</b>	<b>260 E. 15th St., Merced</b> <b>415 F St., Los Banos</b>
<a href="https://www.countyofmerced.com/82/Public-Health">https://www.countyofmerced.com/82/Public-Health</a>	
Provides vaccinations, disease testing, and other health services.	



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

<b>Golden Valley Healthcare</b>	
<b>1-866-682-4842</b>	<a href="https://www.gvhc.org/">https://www.gvhc.org/</a>
Provides family and adolescent healthcare at numerous locations throughout Merced County.	

**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.

<b>Merced County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services</b>		
<b>1-209-381-6800</b>	<a href="https://www.countyofmerced.com/78/Behavioral-Health-Recovery-Services">https://www.countyofmerced.com/78/Behavioral-Health-Recovery-Services</a>	<b>Multiple locations</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>	<a href="http://www.valleycrisiscenter.org">www.valleycrisiscenter.org</a>	<b>1960 P. St., Merced 545 J St., Los Banos</b>
Offers counseling services for youth in crisis, including substance abuse education and treatment.		

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

<b>ACE Overcomers</b>	
<b>1-209-626-5446</b>	<a href="http://www.aceovercomers.com">http://www.aceovercomers.com</a>
<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>	

<b>All Dads Matter</b>		
<b>1-209-385-7521</b>	<a href="https://www.countyofmerced.com/981/All-Dads-Matter">https://www.countyofmerced.com/981/All-Dads-Matter</a>	<b>3376 N. HWY 59, Suite D Merced</b>
<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/deptprog/edservices/CandC/Pages/homeless-needs-services.aspx>

Here are additional programs and resources.

<b>Merced County Regional Occupational Program</b>		
<b>1-209-381-6607</b>	<a href="http://mcoe.org/deptprog/edservices/CandC/ROP/Pages/rop.aspx">http://mcoe.org/deptprog/edservices/CandC/ROP/Pages/rop.aspx</a>	<b>632 W. 13th St., Merced</b>
<p>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>		

<b>EMPOWER</b>		
<b>1-209-381-5926</b>	<a href="https://www.mcoe.org/empower">https://www.mcoe.org/empower</a>	<b>732 W. 13th Street W12 Merced</b>
<p>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>		

<b>Cal-SOAP</b>		
<b>1-209-381-5917</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>732 W. 13th Street W9 Merced</b>
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.		

<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>
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.		

<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>
Provides information about adult education programs throughout the County		

<b>Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program</b>		
<b>1-209-381-5110</b>	<a href="https://www.mcoe.org/deptprog/edservices/CandC/fys/Pages/fosteryouth.aspx">https://www.mcoe.org/deptprog/edservices/CandC/fys/Pages/fosteryouth.aspx</a>	<b>732 W. 13th Street, W9</b>
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.		

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

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

<b>Merced College Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS)</b>		
<b>1-209-386-6693</b>	<a href="https://www.mccd.edu/resources/eops/index.html">https://www.mccd.edu/resources/eops/index.html</a>	<b>3600 M St., Merced 22240 CA-152, Los Banos</b>
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.		

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

## **Employment**

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

<b>EMPOWER</b>		
<b>1-209-381-5926</b>	<a href="https://www.mcoe.org/empower">https://www.mcoe.org/empower</a>	<b>732 W. 13th Street W12 Merced</b>
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.		

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

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

<b>New Direction</b>		
<b>1-209-205-3123</b>	<a href="https://www.tpcp.org/programs/new-direction/">https://www.tpcp.org/programs/new-direction/</a>	<b>200 E. 15th St., Merced</b>
Offers employment and training services to individuals experiencing or at risk of homelessness.		

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

## **Other Services**

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

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

<b>C.U.B.E</b>		
<b>1-209-381-6800 Ext. 3608</b>	<a href="https://www.countyofmerced.com/DocumentCenter/View/12277/CUBE-Brochure?bidId=">https://www.countyofmerced.com/DocumentCenter/View/12277/CUBE-Brochure?bidId=</a>	<b>490 E. 13th St., Building 3, Merced</b>
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.		

<b>Merced Community Action Agency</b>		
<b>1-209-723-4565</b>	<a href="http://www.mercedcaa.org/">http://www.mercedcaa.org/</a>	<b>1235 W Main St., 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>	<a href="https://loveinmerced.com/">https://loveinmerced.com/</a>
Offers an array of resources to people in need, including clothing, diapers, household goods, and transportation assistance.	

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