

Youth Assistance Directory



Merced County Office of Education

Steve M. Tietjen, Ed.D.

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:

Daphne Post

Merced County Office of Education

dpost@mcoe.org

(209) 381-5918

This document was produced with funding from the California Department of Education

24 Hour Hotlines

Free help available over the phone 24 hours a day.

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

The Boys Town National Hotline		All ages
1-800-448-3000	http://www.yourlifeyourvoice.org	Text VOICE 20121
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.		

Valley Crisis Center		All ages
1-209-722-4327	http://www.valleycrisiscenter.org	
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.		

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

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline		All ages
1-800-273-8255	www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org	
Confidential hotline available to anyone in suicidal crisis or emotional distress.		

National Runaway Safeline		All ages
1-800-344-2785	https://www.1800runaway.org/	
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.

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

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

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

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

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

Merced County Human Services Agency		Individuals 18 years and older and families
1-209-385-3000	2115 W. Wardrobe Ave., Merced	
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.

Merced County Rescue Mission	
1-209-722-9269	1021 R St., Merced
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)	

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

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

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

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

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

Merced Community Action Agency	
1-209-723-4565	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.	

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

Merced County Food Bank	
1-209-726-3663	2000 W Olive Ave., Merced
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.

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

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

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	260 E. 15th St., Merced
1-209-710-7085	415 F St., Los Banos
Provides vaccinations, disease testing, and other health services.	

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

Golden Valley Healthcare	
1-209-383-1848	737 W Childs Ave., Merced
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.

Merced County Mental Health Services		
1-209-381-6800	http://www.co.merced.ca.us	480 E. 13th St., Merced
		1471 B St., Suite N, Livingston
		40 W. G. St., Suite C, Los Banos
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.		

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

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

ACE Overcomers	
1-209-617-4688	http://www.aceovercomers.com
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.

Merced County Regional Occupational Program		
1-209-381-6688 (high school program) 1-209-381-6684 (adult program)	http://mcoe.org/deptprog/edservices/CaliforniaC/ROP/Pages/rop.aspx	632 W. 13th St., Merced
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.		

EMPOWER		
1-209-381-5926	https://www.mcoe.org/deptprog/edservices/CandC/empower/Pages/empower.aspx	632 W. 13th St., Merced
<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>		

Cal-SOAP		
1-209-381-5919	http://www.mcoe.org/deptprog/edservices/CandC/calsoap/Pages/calsoap.aspx	632 W. 13th St., Merced
<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>		

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

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

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

Work

Find a job or receive job training.

Employment Development Department		
1-209-726-5405 1-209-826-0420	www.caljobs.ca.gov	1205 W. 18th St., Merced 1075 H St., Los Banos
<p>Offers job placement, disability, and unemployment insurance information. Also provides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Job Corps for youth ages 16-23, which gives young people career and academic training so they can pursue their chosen careers.• 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.• 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.• Apprenticeship Programs for youth ages 16 and up which result in Apprenticeship Completion Certificates which are recognized job credentials..		

EMPOWER		
1-209-381-5926	https://www.mcoe.org/deptprog/edservices/CandC/empower/Pages/empower.aspx	632 W. 13th St., Merced
<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>		

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

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

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

Other Services

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

C.U.B.E		
1-209-381-6800 Ext. 3609	http://www.co.merced.ca.us	480 E. 13th St., Building 3, Merced
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.		

Merced 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	http://www.loveinmerced.com
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.

