



## Community Service Funding Turns 40

Community Action Partnership of Kern is one of 1,000 Community Action Agencies across the United States that was created to work day-to-day in the neighborhoods of every state in the union to help people overcome poverty. On Monday, we celebrated the 40th Anniversary of the Community Services Block Grant program - one of the most powerful tools we have in the constant effort to move people out of economic distress and onto the path to sustainable, productive futures. This federal funding source helps power programs like Head Start, which provides high-quality pre-K education to low-income children in the first five years of life, the CAPK Food Bank, and Homeless Services. Learn more about the history of this program through the video below.



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## Ethical Leadership at CAPK

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CAPK's Chief Program Officer, Traco Matthews, was the featured speaker at this week's Kegley Institute of Ethics at California State University Bakersfield. Traco leads the teams that provide direct services to CAPK's more than 100,000 clients. He focused his discussion with Kegley Institute's leader and CSUB Philosophy Professor, Dr. Michael D. Burroughs, on how leaders can operate ethically and lead through trust and mentorship. Check out the video below for some great insights into how Traco and CAPK work to meet the call for servant leadership in our community.

The poster features the Kegley Institute of Ethics logo at the top. The main title is "Ethics in Leadership" in white text on a dark blue background. Below this, a photo of Traco Matthews is shown with a large white play button icon overlaid. To the right of the photo, the text reads "A Conversation with Traco Matthews" and "Chief Program Officer, Community Action Partnership of Kern". The date and time are "Wednesday, September 15, 2021" and "7:00 p.m. Pacific". Below that, it states "This Lecture is Free and Open to the Public Via Zoom" and "Event Link is Also Posted on KIE Website and Social Media Channels". The Zoom link is "https://csub.zoom.us/j/82677261604". A small disclaimer at the bottom left mentions accessibility accommodations. The "EVENT SPONSORS" section includes logos for Valley Strong, Advestia, Kaiser Permanente, and The Kegley Family. Social media handles for Facebook, website, Twitter, email, and Instagram are listed at the very bottom.

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## Student Leader, and CAPK Volunteer, earns CSU award

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Another CSUB story with a CAPK connection we're excited to share with you is that of Jazmin Barrita Barrita. Jazmin is a Cal State University Bakersfield student who has been awarded the 2021 CSU Trustees' Award for Outstanding Achievement. Only 23 of 500,000 students received the honor. Jazmin is the daughter of immigrants who has excelled in school and life. She's also served as a volunteer in



[Read Jazmin's story](#)

CAPK's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program for the past two years. Volunteers like Jazmin donate long hours of their time helping low-income individuals and families complete their income taxes and bring more than \$10 million back into the Kern County economy. They also help tax filers connect with ITIN numbers, as well as the Earned Income Tax Credit, a benefit that can help struggling individuals wipe out debt, secure transportation and improve their living conditions - creating transformative change in their lives and more prosperity for the community. Click the link to the right to read Jazmin's story "Un nina muy buena" as told by CSUB Public Information Officer Jennifer Self and photographed by Juan Rodriguez, whose photos we use here by courtesy of CSUB.

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## CAPK Head Start Centers earn their Stars

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All of CAPK's programs strive continuously to improve the quality of the work we do in service of our community. And that is very true of CAPK's Head Start Early Childhood Education Program. Head Start is CAPK's largest program and provides children in communities across Kern and San Joaquin counties with transformative education in their first five years that gives them an excellent foundation for success when they start kindergarten. We want to congratulate our Fairfax, Vineland, Primeros Pasos, Sterling, Shafter Early Head Start, and Broadway Head Start Centers for successfully earning their "Early Stars" through the Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS). QRIS is designed to:

- Increase quality of early care and education services.
- Increase parents' understanding of and demand for higher quality early care and education.
- Increase professional development opportunities, benchmarks, and rewards for a range of early care and education practitioners and providers.
- Create a cross-sector framework that can link standards, technical assistance, monitoring, finance, and consumer engagement.
- Develop a roadmap for aligning many pieces of the early care and education system, such as child care licensing, prekindergarten, and Head Start program oversight.

Special congratulations go out to our Vineland and Fairfax sites for earning the top mark of five full Early Stars!



## Fighting Homelessness with Housing

September 23, 2021

Free Conference

# CALIFORNIA LANDLORDS' SUMMIT ON HOMELESSNESS

How vouchers and missing middle housing can benefit your rental business and community

Presented by  
Income Property Association of Kern  
Community Action Partnership of Kern  
Kern County Superintendent of Schools  
Housing Authority of the County of Kern

Online | [CLSH21.EVENTBRITE.COM](https://CLSH21.EVENTBRITE.COM)

The key to homelessness is housing. Kern County is hosting a statewide, one-day virtual conference that will help empower landlords to help address homelessness in California at the same time they lock in consistent federal Housing and Urban Development income to their businesses. CAPK is supporting this year's Fourth Annual California Landlords' Summit on Homelessness which will launch virtually at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 23. This free event brings landlords and property owners



into conversation with homeless service providers to learn how they can help end homelessness in California. Industry experts will demonstrate how landlords can make sound business decisions by renting to individuals currently experiencing homelessness. Topics covered will include housing vouchers, rent guarantees, tenant support and more.

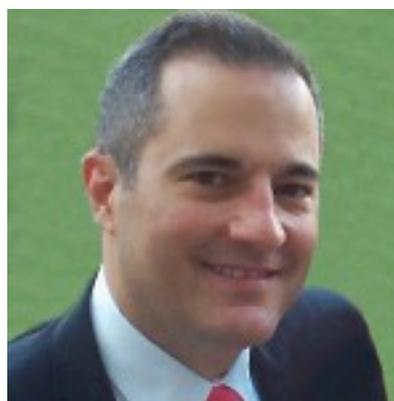
Topics and Speakers at this event include:

- Missing Middle Housing Keynote Address: Tony Perez, Director of Form-Based Coding, Opticos Design
- Housing Supply in the California Legislature: Greg Terzakis, Senior Vice President, California Apartment Association
- Call to Action: Arleana Waller, Founder and CEO, ShePower Global
- Housing Voucher Landlord Experience Panel
- Voucher Oriented Motel Conversion Panel

Tony Perez



Arleana Waller



Greg Terzakis

[Click here to Sign up for the California Landlords' Summit on Homelessness](#)

