

## Youth and Community Services



The Energy Program assists income-eligible Kern County residents with utility bill payments, weatherization, and energy education at no cost. Weatherization services include but are not limited to: repair or replacement of windows and doors, heating/cooling units, and appliances. These services also include weather stripping, insulation installation, and other energy-saving measures.



The VITA program provides year-round tax preparation and e-filing for low to moderate-income individuals and families at NO-COST. All VITA services are offered by trained, IRS-certified staff and volunteers to maximize refunds and take advantage of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). VITA staff are Certified Acceptance Agents certified to assist with ITIN (Individual Tax Identification Number) new and renewal processing.



The Friendship House Community Center (FHCC) serves as a vital hub in Southeast Bakersfield, providing essential resources and programming for youth (ages 6–18) and families. The center features a computer lab, sports field, covered playground, and indoor gymnasium. FHCC offers free afterschool and summer programs, recreational and educational activities, and mentoring services. The site also hosts the California Violence Intervention and Prevention (CalVIP) Program, which works to reduce crime and gun violence throughout Kern County—helping to build a safer, stronger community.



Located in Mojave, the East Kern Family Resource Center supports individuals and families throughout Eastern Kern County, from surrounding desert communities to Tehachapi. Through First 5 Kern, the center offers comprehensive services including case management, Play and Learn programs, Summer Bridge, emergency clothing, referrals, food pantry access, open laundry, and utility assistance. The center also provides a diaper program and critical housing support services to help prevent homelessness. As a Rural Drop-in Center, we provide housing assistance that includes rental assistance and housing navigation to help individuals secure safe and stable housing while working toward long-term stability.



Serving the East Kern community from Ridgecrest, the Oasis Family Resource Center offers a welcoming space where families can access vital support. Through First 5 Kern, services include case management, Play and Learn programs, Summer Bridge, referrals, emergency clothing, food pantry access, and utility assistance. The center also offers a diaper program and mandated parenting classes. Oasis FRC is dedicated to strengthening families and connecting them to the resources they need to thrive in Ridgecrest.

## Housing and Supportive Services



California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) is a statewide initiative focused on improving the health and well-being of Medi-Cal members by meeting their needs in real-world settings. Through CalAIM's Community Supports, individuals facing complex barriers receive wraparound care that extends beyond traditional medical settings. Support includes rental assistance, housing and furnishing deposits, and personalized services such as case management and landlord engagement, all aimed at helping clients secure and maintain stable housing. The program also offers day habilitation opportunities, including financial literacy classes, to equip individuals with essential life skills that foster long-term independence.



CAPK operates a 147-bed Low-Barrier Navigation Center in partnership with the County of Kern. This 24-hour shelter offers housing, meals, and an array of mental health, medical care, and economic resources to unsheltered individuals with pets and partners. The site also developed an alternative to congregate sleeping to better serve homeless individuals that are shelter resistant through the Safe Camping and Parking programs.



CAPK's Adult Re-entry Grant Program aims to reduce homelessness for those who have been recently released from incarceration. CAPK proposes an intervention strategy that takes into account factors such as housing, employment, and mental health services.



In partnership with the Continuum of Care, the Coordinated Entry System in Kern County serves as the direct link between people experiencing homelessness to the services and shelter they need.

**For services, dial 2-1-1 or 1(800)273-2275**

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**You can also visit [www.capk.org](http://www.capk.org)  
For administration, call (661)336-5236**

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2-1-1 Kern is a 24/7 information and referral service that provides residents with comprehensive information and links to community health and human services at no cost. The 2-1-1 staff are ready to connect callers to a database of over 1,200 social service resources that are available to the public through the 2-1-1 Kern

Online Resource Directory at [www.211KernCounty.org](http://www.211KernCounty.org). The program also administers application assistance with LIHEAP, CalFresh, and Medi-Cal.



Veteran and Supportive Services helps Veterans facing homelessness regain stability and secure permanent housing. Through the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program, we provide short-term support, including homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing to ensure long-term stability. CAPK also operates the Covey Cottage housing units, offering safe, temporary housing for Veterans in need. Services also extend to youth ages 18- 24 with dependents.



Head Start provides high-quality, early childhood education to children ages zero to five years old through part-day, full-day, and home-based options.

The program has a holistic approach, not only addressing the needs of the child but teaching parents to become advocates and skilled providers for their children through its Parent Policy Council and Family Engagement programs. CAPK offers Head Start and Early Head Start services throughout Kern and San Joaquin counties.



The Home Visiting Program works with enrolled CalWORKS new parents who face poverty and connects them with trained staff. These staff members visit their homes to connect them with resources, prenatal services, and build skills that will help parents create a strong future for themselves & their children.



Central Kitchen prepares and delivers breakfast, lunches, and snacks for children enrolled in CAPK's Head Start/State Child Development Programs which includes over 26 sites across Kern County.



The Migrant Childcare Alternative Payment (MCAP) provides a childcare subsidy to families working in agriculture. Families can apply for childcare services in six entry counties: Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, Tulare, and Fresno. Once a family is enrolled in the program, the family can migrate anywhere in California to follow agricultural work and maintain their childcare services. The childcare services are tailored to reflect the family's needs and serve children from birth to 12 years of age.



The CalFresh Healthy Living program provides nutrition education, physical activity education, and training that helps build a healthy, knowledgeable community. Through direct education classes, indirect education materials, and Policy System and Environmental Change efforts (PSE).



The Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program operates in Kern & San Bernardino counties. They assist eligible pregnant, postpartum women, infants, & children under age 5 obtain important skills & resources. Services include breastfeeding support, access to quality food, referral to health & community services and nutrition education that helps families make healthier choices.



The Wonderful Community Food Center at The CAPK Food Bank provides food assistance to families and individuals through a network of more than 200 partnering food distribution sites throughout Kern County. The Food Bank also offers the monthly Senior Food Program in which low-income seniors over the age of 60 are provided a 30-lb box of healthy food items.



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