the village family services

Policy Priorities

2026

Funding and Sustainability

Our clients depend on our organization to provide them with critical resources during times of crisis. Effective service delivery requires stable, adequately resourced services and programming that isn't subject to bureaucratic funding cycles. Targeted, multi-year investments in youth-specific housing, full-cost reimbursement, and streamlined systems are essential to prevent clients from aging into chronic homelessness.

High-Quality Care

Effective service to clients, whether they are exiting foster care, need supportive services or experiencing homelessness, requires coordinated systems, equitable policies, and funding models that reflect the true cost and complexity of care. Local and state agencies must prioritize cross-system coordination, regulatory parity, inclusive and culturally competent services in program design and evaluation.

Recruitment and Retention

Workforce shortages are an ongoing threat to the stability and effectiveness of services for critically-vulnerable populations. Without immediate, coordinated action at the local, state, and federal level, such as sustained investment in competitive compensation, workforce pipelines, and retention strategies—including loan forgiveness, tuition support, and incentives for high-need placements—providers will be unable to meet growing demand or maintain quality of care.

LOCAL PRIORITIES

Funding and Sustainability

- Advocate for youth-specific funding and integration of youth service providers in planning and creation of the newly established LA County Department of Homeless Services and Housing.
- Expand housing initiatives with dedicated funding for transitional age youth.
- Secure higher reimbursement rates for service providers to reflect true service costs that reflect the operational realities of Los Angeles.
- Push for multi-year contracts with county agencies to ensure service continuity for youth as they navigate particularly vulnerable transitions.
- Promote streamlined contracting processes to reduce administrative burdens.
- Advocate for scalable, low-barrier shelter models and service centers with full, adequate funding.
- Strengthen tenant protections and eviction prevention through legal aid and increased rental assistance for youth.

High-Quality Care

- Improve coordination between DCFS and the Homeless Services Department for housing support for youth exiting foster care.
- Transition to a needs-based, full-cost rate model for care that covers all expenses and increases payments for higher-need youth.
- Ensure compliance parity between Foster Family Agencies (FFA) providers and county foster families for client stability.
- Promote equity for LGBTQ+ youth by ensuring programs are gender-affirming and inclusive, with required cultural competency training for providers.
- Involve young people with experiences of homelessness or foster care in the design and evaluation of programs for continuous quality improvement.
- Advocate for performance metrics focused on youth voice, lived experience, and equity rather than just output measures.

Recruitment and Retention

- Secure continued multi-year investments in programs that invest in the future workforce, workforce retention efforts and competitive compensation via grants or stipends

Founded in 1997, **The Village Family Services** provides culturally responsive, bilingual family wellness services, including mental health care, foster care and adoption, housing, and support that promote safety and permanency for children and youth who have experienced abuse or neglect.

STATEWIDE PRIORITIES

Funding and Sustainability

- Advocate for continued investment in Homekey, Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) and other housing programs that reflect the realities of providers' operations in a highly-competitive real-estate market.
- Increase higher reimbursement rates for providers that better reflect the true cost of effective high-quality service to foster youth and unhoused youth, particularly for those youth with higher-acuity cases.
- Expand Medi-Cal reimbursement for street outreach, peer support, and drop-in center services.
- Create a state-administered risk-pool or stop-loss mechanism and offer transitional grants for rising liability insurance premiums so Foster Family Agencies (FFAs) remain insurable and operational.
- Advocate for streamlined contracting, reducing duplicative reporting. Push for simplified RFPs and reporting, so that administrative burden does not detract from direct service.
- Support the creation of a state-funded Youth Employment Tax Credit for employers hiring unhoused youth.
- Improve data collection on youth homelessness and publish annual youth dashboards.
- Ensure youth representation in statewide working groups and governance bodies.

High-Quality Care

- Invest in statewide FFA training hubs, standardized implementation guidance, and funding to reduce time-to-approval for safe, well-trained caregivers.
- Parity for state-licensed FFAs for regulations with regulations not exceeding those for county agencies.
- Better tracking of census data for population for more adequate funding and care, level of training.

Recruitment and Retention

- Fund workforce pipelines (tuition reimbursement, loan forgiveness clinicians), increase reimbursement for in-home therapeutic services, and provide hazard pay or retention bonuses for high-need placements.

FEDERAL PRIORITIES

Funding and Sustainability

- Increase federal funding for the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA), Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP), and McKinney-Vento grants.
- Advocate for a federal youth homelessness block grant for stable funding.
- Support flexible rental subsidies for transition-age youth in prevention strategies.
- Improve coordination among federal agencies addressing youth homelessness.
- Boost investment in foster care agencies to meet the needs of youth in care and transitioning out of care.

High-Quality Care

- Advocate against any prohibitive restrictions that prevent culturally-competent care for clients (LGBTQ+, unaccompanied minors)

Recruitment and Retention

- Return professional degree designation to clinical degrees and ensure eligibility for loan forgiveness programs such as public student loan forgiveness

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SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

Foster Care
Intensive Services Foster Care (ISFC)
Adoption
Wraparound Services
Enhanced Care Management (ECM)
Extended Hours Drop-In Center for At-Risk and Homeless Youth
Bridge and Permanent Supportive Housing

BEHAVIORAL AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Individual Therapy for Children & Youth
Group Therapy
Family Therapy
Full Service Partnership (FSP)
Parenting Groups
Infant Massage Groups

EVIDENCE BASED PRACTICES

Incredible Years (IY)
Functional Family Therapy
Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TFCBT)
Child-Parent Psychotherapy (CPP)
Parent-Child Interactive Therapy (PCIT)
Positive Parenting Program (Triple P)
Seeking Safety (SS)
Managing and Adapting Practice (MAP)
Individual Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (ICBT)
Crisis Oriented Recovery Services (CORS)
Making Parenting a Pleasure (MPAP)
High Fidelity Wraparound (HFW)

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