

Empowering Ventura County's Residents

The County of Ventura Human Services Agency provides public services that promote self-sufficiency, health and well-being. Our programs help ensure the protection of children, the elderly, and dependent adults, and provide a safety net for individuals and families who need assistance with basic necessities, such as food, housing and health care. Additionally, we help people secure employment through education, training, job search skills, and job placement.

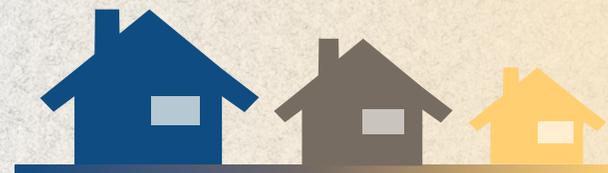


COUNTY of VENTURA
Human Services Agency



VENTURA COUNTY
**CONTINUUM OF
CARE ALLIANCE**

ENDING HOMELESSNESS
IN VENTURA COUNTY



Service providers
joining together to
coordinate services
offered to people
experiencing
homelessness.

Preventing and ending homelessness for our community is a challenging task. But thanks to many organizations who have committed to doing just that, we are seeing steady and measurable progress. The resources and services needed to fully address the state of homelessness are extremely limited. However, with coordination and commitment from advocates and service providers, we can maximize efforts to engage and serve those in most need of assistance. The Ventura County Homeless Management Information System (VC HMIS) facilitates this coordination and improves outcomes for those experiencing homelessness.



What is the VC HMIS?

The VC HMIS is a database of those in Ventura County who are experiencing homelessness. Service providers use this system as an integrated network to collect, track, and report uniform information on client needs and services. The VC HMIS can organize data and run reports, increase service delivery efficiencies and, with client's consent, provide a mechanism to share client needs for service among partnered agencies. The VC HMIS is also an invaluable tool for organizations in terms of data tracking, analysis, and reporting that can assist with fund development and performance management.

Why would my organization want to use the VC HMIS?

Organizations who receive federal funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to provide homeless services are mandated to use HMIS. However, all organizations whose primary focus is to serve those experiencing homelessness are highly encouraged to also use HMIS. By doing so, your organization contributes to understanding the needs in the community and further fosters collaboration. For all organizations who use the VC HMIS, collecting critical data that identifies trends, the types of services being offered, and the outcomes of the households we are attempting to serve is significant.

Who currently uses the VC HMIS?

Those using the VC HMIS range from county programs to faith-based, nonprofits to small grassroots, as well as volunteer-based organizations. One thing they all have in common is a desire to serve the most vulnerable in our community, those who are experiencing homelessness or are at risk of homelessness.



Who administers the VC HMIS?

The VC HMIS is administered by the Ventura County Human Services Agency on behalf of the Ventura County Continuum of Care Alliance (VC CoC), who are also mandated by HUD. The VC CoC is a collaborative dedicated to promoting a safe, desirable and thriving community by ending homelessness in Ventura County. They also provide funding for efforts by nonprofit providers and state and local governments to quickly rehouse homeless individuals and families while minimizing the trauma and dislocation caused by homelessness.



What is the Coordinated Entry System?

The Coordinated Entry System (CES), called Pathways to Home in Ventura County, is a system where service providers work together to coordinate services and information on behalf of individuals and families experiencing homelessness. It is a community-wide system that HUD recommends for standardizing access and streamlining the process of finding housing for those experiencing homelessness with the goal of housing the most vulnerable people first. The VC HMIS database facilitates this approach.

How do we become a participant or user of VC HMIS?

Visit venturacoc.org for information on how to become a user of VC HMIS and to be a member of the Ventura County Continuum of Care Alliance.

