

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
VENTURA COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY'S
CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES DEPARTMENT
AND
ASSISTANCE LEAGUE OF VENTURA COUNTY
CARE CLOSET PROGRAM

The County of Ventura ("County"), on behalf of its Human Services Agency and Children & Family Services Department, and Assistance League of Ventura County ("ALVC"), have the shared goal to provide support to County children and youth living in out-of-home care, resource families, reunited families, and family preservation. This Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") is intended to establish a mutual agreement between the County and ALVC to establish the Care Closet Program.

I. OBJECTIVE:

The primary objectives of this partnership are to develop and maintain the Care Closet Program designed to support County children and youth living in out-of-home care, resource families, reunited families, and family preservation. The Care Closets are located throughout Ventura County but are not limited to locations where Children & Family Services (CFS) staff are located. The County staff has immediate access as needed. All referrals are made to the Care Closet come from the County; no private or individual referrals are accepted.

A. Care Closet Support:

Care Closets are located throughout Ventura County. The Care Closets include items to strengthen children, youth, and families affiliated with the County. Items include new and gently used clothing, shoes, jackets, backpacks, diapers, blankets, bedding, household, hygiene supplies, and gift cards. County staff refer families for Care Closet support when a need for additional support has been determined. The quantity and type of items provided to the families are based on need. All referrals are made by the County. No private or individual referrals are accepted.

B. Emergency Support:

Emergency requests for furniture or other equipment such as beds, cribs, mattresses, dressers, strollers, pack-n-plays, car seats, booster seats, baby gates, highchair, strollers, carts, and gift cards. All referrals are made by the County. No private or individual referrals are accepted.

C. Bargain Box:

The County may refer young adults who have aged out of care and may be living on their own for the first time, to the ALVC's Bargain Box resale store where they may select clothing and household items to get them started. The same services are offered to resource families, reunified families, and families in family preservation. Youth and families

may shop at no cost. All referrals are made by the County. No private or individual referrals are accepted.

II. ALVC RESPONSIBILITIES:

ALVC responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

1. Furnish items in above paragraphs A,B, and C for distribution by County staff as needed.
2. Assume all financial obligations relative to the provision or purchase of the items in paragraph A, B,C.
3. Maintain adequate liability insurance coverage for this program.
4. Evaluate the program every three years and ask for input from the County.
5. Not share confidential information such as name, location, and other identifying factors associated with children, youth, and families.

III. COUNTY RESPONSIBILITIES:

County responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

1. Appoint a contact person to interface with ALVC.
2. Screen, determine need, and distribute goods to children and families.
3. Maintain a sign out sheet for staff to identify items removed from the Care Closet.
4. Track inventory that is in high demand and share the information with ALVC.
5. Coordinate with ALVC to transfer supplies for the Care Closet to the County sites.

IV. MUTUAL RESPONSIBILITIES:

Because the County of Ventura commits to developing, nurturing and sustaining an equitable community; pledges to amplify the voices of under-represented communities or those who were historically excluded by removing barriers that result from racial and social injustice and inequities; strives to ensure that equity, diversity and inclusion practices are embedded at all levels of Ventura County programs, departments, service providers and stakeholders through acknowledging, analyzing and addressing the root causes of inequities; and strives to create an inclusive environment where every community member feels welcome, parties agree that all individuals providing or receiving services or support under this Agreement shall enjoy equal treatment and that no individual shall be subjected to different treatment on the grounds of race, color or national origin, religious affiliation or non-affiliation, sex, age, disability or political affiliation, or be subjected to discrimination under this Agreement.

V. PUBLIC RELATIONS:

- A. ALVC shall have prominent identification with Care Closet.
- B. ALVC shall receive approval from the County with any publicity connected with the Care Closet Program, including press releases and written material developed by ALVC.
- C. The County shall receive approval from ALVC with any publicity connected with the Care Closet Program, including press releases and written material developed by the County.
- D. Photos and names of recipients shall not be used without written permission of those directly involved.

VI. CONFIDENTIALITY

Any reports, information, data, statistics, forms, procedures, systems, studies and any other communication or form of knowledge given to or prepared or assembled by County under this MOU which ALVC requests in writing to be kept confidential, will not be made available to any individual or organization by ALVC without the prior written approval of the County.

VII. INSURANCE:

Parties recognize each have customary insurance policies, self-insurance and/or excess insurance policies for the purposes of this MOU.

VIII. MUTUAL IDEMNIFICATION:

ALVC shall defend, indemnify and hold harmless County, its Board of Supervisors, officers, directors, agents, employees, volunteers and subcontractors, including, without limitation, from and against all third-party demands, claims, actions, liabilities, losses, damages and costs, including reasonable attorney's fees, arising out of or resulting from the performance of the MOU, caused in whole or in part by the negligent or intentional acts or omissions of ALVC, officers, directors, agents, employees, volunteers or subcontractors.

County shall defend, indemnify, and hold harmless ALVC, its officers, directors, agents, employees, volunteers and subcontractors from and against all demands, claims, actions, liabilities, losses, damages and costs, including reasonable attorney's fees, arising out of or resulting from the performance of the MOU, caused in whole or in part by the negligent or intentional acts or omissions of County or its Board of Supervisors, officers, directors, agents, employees, volunteers or subcontractors.

It is the intention of ALVC and County that the provisions of this section be interpreted to impose on each party responsibility to the other for the acts and omissions of their respective officers, directors, agents, employees, volunteers and subcontractors. It is also the intention of ALVC and County that, where applicable, principles of comparative fault will be followed and each party shall bear the proportionate cost of any damage attributable to the fault of that party, its officers, directors, agents, employees, volunteers or subcontractors.

IX. TERM:

The term of this MOU shall be from February 1, 2024 to June 30, 2024, unless earlier terminated as provided herein. This MOU shall automatically renew each Fiscal Year (i.e., July 1 to June 30) thereafter for subsequent one-year periods, unless terminated by either party pursuant to section X below.

X. TERMINATION:

The County and ALVC may terminate this MOU at any time for any reason by providing 60 days written notice to the other party. In the case of termination, if requested by ALVC, all remaining items in Care Closets shall return to the rightful owners as set forth in this agreement and neither party shall have any further obligation thereafter.

WHEREFORE, this MOU has been entered into by the undersigned as of the Effective Date.

Assistance League of Ventura County	County of Ventura Human Services Agency
Lori Nasatir, ALVC President	Melissa Livingston, HSA Director
_____ Signature	_____ Signature
_____ (Date)	_____ (Date)
Pam Eichele, ALVC Recording Secretary	
_____ Signature	
_____ (Date)	
Martha Flournoy, ALVC 3rd Vice President Philanthropic Programs	
_____ Signature	
_____ (Date)	