



School Readiness

Bright Futures
Start at Birth

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School Readiness is a three-month program for families with young children based at the The Priority Center. The Priority Center works with families helping to support them in fostering a safe and nurturing home environment for children. The School Readiness program assists families in Orange County with children ages 0-8, in reducing barriers to medical care and early childhood mental health services in order to provide them with the healthiest start in life.

This program focuses on identifying developmental delays and behavioral issues at the earliest age possible and then links families to appropriate services and support. Our highly trained staff will screen your child in your home and work with your family to provide an individualized plan of services to meet any needs that are identified.

Our program has built relationships with early childhood care and education providers, pediatricians, and community-based organizations. We partner with each other to work with families of young children. The School Readiness program also works in collaboration with Help Me Grow and utilizes approaches developed by the Early Developmental Screening and Intervention (EDSI) initiative and the organization zero to three.



CAST (Child Abuse Services Team)

CAST: Child Abuse Services Team opened in 1989 to “reduce the trauma for child victims during the investigation of their abuse. “Most of CAST’s clients are victims of sexual abuse, others have observed serious crimes, such as domestic violence, homicide, kidnapping and human trafficking.

CAST is a multidisciplinary, public/private collaboration of social workers, medical doctors and a nurse practitioner, a deputy district attorney, and therapists as well as child advocates from the Priority Center and a representative from Victim Witness. Children are brought to CAST from all 23 law enforcement agencies in Orange County, for forensic interviews, medical exams, and/or crisis intervention therapy. At present, there are 55 to 60 volunteer Child Advocates.

In addition to recruiting, selecting, training and supervising Advocates, the CAST staff is also responsible for generating everything needed to care for children in the CAST playroom including toys, stuffed animals, snacks and lunches and other special items needed by the team as a whole, in addition to relating with donors on a regular basis.



Adult In-Home Crisis Stabilization Program

Adult In-Home Crisis Stabilization Program

We serve suicidal and homicidal adults who can't be hospitalized, in order to diffuse the crisis, promote a healthy lifestyle and prevent suicidal and homicidal acts. This program has a field-based treatment team consisting of clinicians, case managers and peer mentors. The program is a three-phase model:

- 1) Assessment of the client and support network to identify short term needs and de-escalation
- 2) Individual and family therapy, outreach, peer mentor, and case management services
- 3) Prepare client and family/support network for progression towards long term resolution and treatment.



Infant In-Home Visitation Program

The Infant-Toddler Home Visitation Program

The Infant-Toddler Home Visitation Program provides up to two years of services for families with children 0-3 years of age. The program utilizes the Parents as Teachers (PAT) curriculum. PAT is an early childhood home visiting program designed to help parents learn more about parenting, support their child's development, and help with the challenges of parenting. Services also include connections to community resources, group connections with other parents, developmental screenings, and improvements in family well-being. Services are provided (at no cost) in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese.



Basic Needs

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Providing critically-needed household items to Orange County families

Our **Basic Needs** program provides critically-needed household items to Orange County families. It is our aim to provide the necessary items required by the Orange County Social Services Agency to allow a child to be placed with relatives and extended family members. The ability to obtain items such as dressers, linens, strollers, dining sets, small kitchen appliances and household items are crucial in this process.

You can make a difference in the life of a child in the following ways:

- Donate new or gently used furniture or household items & unexpired canned food
- Donate baby items, baby furniture, diapers, formula & wipes
- Give your time by volunteering (high school community service hours apply)
- Donate gift cards from Grocery stores, and major stores such as, Target, Wal-Mart, etc.

Visit our **[Donation](#)** page to make a monetary gift of any amount.



Children's In-Home Crisis Stabilization Program

Children's In-Home Crisis Stabilization Program

We serve suicidal and homicidal children who can't be hospitalized, in order to diffuse the crisis, promote a healthy family, prevent suicide, and keep the family unit together. The children served in the program are typically between 5-18 years of age, and referred to us through the County Contract of a Mental Health Program. Program requirements are that a child is experiencing a mental health crisis. This could mean a child has had active suicide attempts, suicidal thoughts and plans, or self-harming behavior. It could also mean a child has active homicidal ideation/plans and assaultive behavior. Most youths in this situation also exhibit self-medicating behavior. The Program Services provided are field based crisis services that include short term in-home therapy (individual and group), case management, mental health rehabilitation, with a focus on maintaining family stabilization and preventing hospitalization.



CalWORKS HVP

CalWORKS HVP (Home Visiting Program)

This program is derived from CalWORKS and provides resilient parenting and early learning connection services, including a minimum of monthly home visits for up to twenty-four months to families approved for participation by the Orange County Social Services Agency (SSA). The purpose of the program is to provide

voluntary, high-quality, home visiting service to support positive health, development and well-being outcomes for pregnant and parenting women, families and infants born into poverty.



Connected Care

Connected Care

The Connected Care Program complements and continues The Priority Center's short-term intervention/crisis programs. Serving as an aftercare program, The Priority Center provides ongoing supportive services, for no fee, to recently exited clients of our three-week crisis program. By continuing to support clients with resources and education, Connected Care aims to help them break the cycle of crisis and trauma – preventing the client from reentering the crisis programs again. This program is 100% privately funded by the community through corporate, foundation, and individual donations.