



Screening for ACEs: ACEs Aware Ventura County



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Screening for Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

High doses of adversity and toxic stress have been known to lead to poor physical, mental, and behavioral health concerns.¹ For children, chronic stressors have been associated with sleep disruption, developmental delay, asthma, headache, abdominal pain, and difficulties with learning and behavior, to name just a few.^{2,3} Now more than ever, it is important to screen for ACEs in the primary care setting to identify, treat, and heal children at risk.

Effective January 1, 2020, the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) and the Office of the Surgeon General, rolled out a state-wide ACEs Aware initiative to train providers on ACEs screening and began payment to medical providers for the completion of an ACEs screening for patients enrolled in Medi-Cal (restrictions apply).

Watch the ACEs Aware Ventura County Welcome video here: https://youtu.be/nATt_ZLDzLO

Training Phase 1: ACEs Aware Online Training

As of July 1, 2020, Medi-Cal providers must complete a free, 2-hour online training and self-attest to completion to receive payment for screening. For details and requirements, please visit www.acesaware.org

Training Phase 2: ACEs Aware Ventura County- Supplemental Training

The Landon Pediatric Foundation received a grant from ACEs Aware to provide supplemental training to providers in Ventura County (and neighboring counties). Through this funding, the ACEs Aware Ventura County training initiative was launched in partnership with the American Academy of Pediatrics- Chapter 2, First 5 Ventura County (Help Me Grow Ventura County), and the Ventura County Health Care Agency. In the coming months, ACEs Aware Ventura will launch a training program to support the implementation of screening for ACEs. The training program will include a state-approved, self-paced online curriculum for CME/MOC hours as well as offer information about community resources and referrals. ACEs Aware Ventura County has also launched a website that provides information and additional resources for providers implementing ACEs screening. Please visit our website at www.acesawareventuracounty.org

For training information and technical assistance, please contact:

ACEs Aware Ventura County- acesaware@ventura.org

Help Me Grow Ventura County- helpmegrow@first5ventura.org

Follow our journey on social media!

- Instagram: @acesaware_vc; https://www.instagram.com/acesaware_vc/
- Twitter: @ACEsAwareVC; <http://twitter.com/ACEsAwareVC>
- Facebook: ACEs Aware Ventura County; <https://www.facebook.com/acesawarevc>

Building a System of Care: ACEs Care Network (Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo Counties)

In addition to training support, grants were awarded across the state to build care networks that can help link health care providers who are screening for ACEs to local networks that already exist to support children and families. In the tri-counties area of Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo counties, the KIDS Network (SB) received this grant and is working closely with the Partnership for Safe Families (Ventura) and the Center for Family Strengthening (SLO) to

create opportunities for providers to learn about local resources and intervention strategies. Goals for this Care Network include:

- Building care networks that are trauma-informed and resiliency-focused
- Facilitating strong connections between service providers and community partners
- Increasing knowledge of resources and tools for ACEs prevention and early intervention
- Inspiring, engaging, invigorating, and integrating the work force in every sector
- Improving life outcomes for children, youth and families throughout the Central Coast

To learn more about this network, please contact:

Help Me Grow Ventura County- helpmegrow@first5ventura.org

Or visit:

KIDS Network: <https://www.countyofsb.org/kidsnet/default.htm>

The Partnership for Safe Families: <https://www.partnershipforsafefamilies.org/>

Center for Family Strengthening: <https://cfsslo.org/>

References:

1. Felitti, V.J. et al. (1998). *Relationship of Childhood Abuse and Household Dysfunction to Many of the Leading Causes of Death in Adults*. American Journal of Preventive Medicine. 14 (4); 245-258.
2. Johnson, S.B. et al. (2013). *The Science of Early Life Toxic Stress for Pediatric Practice and Advocacy*. Pediatrics. 131 (2); 319-327.
3. Shonkoff, J.P. et al. (2012). *The Lifelong Effects of Early Childhood Adversity and Toxic Stress*. Pediatrics. 129: e232-246.