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Helping South Los Angeles Families

Each year, Los Angeles County's demographics change. We are becoming more diverse, and we are better off for it. Because Los Angeles County demographics have shifted, agencies providing services to communities must do so with a culturally sensitive approach.

SHIELDS for Families, incorporated in 1991, has spent the past 30 years providing a comprehensive continuum of services to South Los Angeles. We started by offering outpatient SUD (substance use disorder) services to mothers in South Los Angeles. We then added programs that focus on babies and youth, childcare, child welfare, vocational, and more. To this day, SHIELDS for Families offers over 30 programs.

For SUD treatment, we offer outpatient services to all folks in need. Whether you are a teen, parent, or single adult, we have a program that can meet your needs. And we are not limited to providing SUD services alone. When we find the need for policy change, we advocate for changes that benefit you on a local, state, and national level. For youth SUD treatment, we work for more family-centered SUD services. We advocate for this change because SUD services should be conscious of parents' needs, including childcare, transportation, home-based services, and other services that help families continue their daily lives.

Our child welfare services focus on keeping families together. We offer parenting classes, groups (including fatherhood groups), domestic violence courses, home visitation, and more child welfare services that help families strengthen and parents learn the skills they need.

Our behavioral health services stretch across a wide array of needs. We have behavioral health professionals at each of our adult-focused programs, schools, partner agencies, and in the community, so all South Los Angeles families have the opportunity to receive behavioral health services.

Our re-entry and vocational services not only help folks re-entering the community but anyone who seeks our services. Participants learn new job skills, build their resumes, and find new employment opportunities to better their lives and the families they support.

Our homeless/housing services help prevent families from experiencing eviction and homelessness. Additionally, we link families to resources that get them into new housing quickly, along with financial help to cover new furniture, rental deposits, and more.

And with keeping in mind what we offer, we understand the need for culturally sensitive services. That is why we provide all of our services in English and Spanish. According to the

United States Census Bureau, 39.2% of households are Spanish-speaking, and 48.5% of Los Angeles County's population is Latino.

SHIELDS focuses on public health in South Los Angeles. We believe all residents, documented or undocumented, deserve health care coverage. This coverage should provide access to behavioral health services, SUD services, primary care, and other public health services that will improve the health and well-being of our community's Latino population.

At SHIELDS for Families, we value the Latino community in South Los Angeles and are focused on helping these families thrive. In addition to our understanding of South Los Angeles's unique cultural needs, many of our employees are folks who have graduated or completed our programs. Because of our policy to encourage hiring folks already involved in SHIELDS, we have built an inclusive culture and understanding of South Los Angeles's needs. We have a 30-year investment in South Los Angeles and will continue to serve the community that makes us proud.

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