



FALL 2022

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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Remembering Evelyn Gutierrez Volunteer Extraordinaire

By Judy Hammond, RELAC Director and Newsletter Editor



Evelyn Gutierrez, former Director of Workplace Programs and Marketing of the Chief Administrative Office in 2003, and a member of the Quality and Productivity Commission (Q&P) for 18 years, passed away unexpectedly from natural causes on October 4, 2022. Gutierrez, 79, a 35-year County employee, was found unresponsive in her San Dimas home by a personal aide about 4 p.m. She had been in contact with the office manager of Retired Employees of Los Angeles County (RELAC) several times earlier in the day and had not indicated she was not feeling well.

Gutierrez was a devoted County volunteer since her retirement. She was a board member and secretary of the LA County Library Foundation, assisting with corporate fundraising for countywide programs like the Online Homework Help Line. Besides serving on the Q&P Commission, she was a volunteer at the East Los Angeles Library, where she worked in the bookstore and helped raise funds for children's programs, new books, and coordinated the Cesar Chavez educational program.

She was also a member of the RELAC Board of Directors, where she had served since April 2016 and recently reelected to a new term that would have begun January 1, 2023. Two years ago, the RELAC Board elected her to serve on the Executive Committee as secretary, and she was reelected again in 2022. She served as chair of the Special Events, Community Support, and Membership Outreach committees.

Gutierrez said when joining the RELAC Board that she wanted to become a director to promote membership, expand activities, and enhance awareness of County services that interest and benefit retirees.

"Los Angeles County and its employees are my second family. My dedication and loyalty to L.A. County has been at the core of my public sector career," she added. "I am honored for the opportunity to continue to serve Los Angeles County as a member of RELAC's Board of Directors."

"Evelyn was one of the hardest working and most dedicated people I have ever encountered," said RELAC President Brian Berger. "She leaves a tremendous void, both personally and professionally, within RELAC and within her many charitable endeavors at large." His comments were echoed by immediate past president Dave Muir. "Evelyn was one of our most dedicated and committed Board members. This is a great loss to our Board and retirees at large."

The Board of Supervisors honored her in 2021 after she resigned from the Q&P Commission, citing her role as first Vice Chair, Chair Of The Awards Program from 2013-2018. Gutierrez worked on the Productivity Investment Board, Leadership Conference, and Strategic Foresight Working Group. She was appointed to the Commission in 2003 by Supervisor Gloria Molina and later by the Chief Executive Office following Molina's retirement.

The Board of Supervisors adjourned in Gutierrez's memory on October 18, 2022.

Gutierrez graduated from East Los Angeles College; attended Cal State Los Angeles and Cal Poly Pomona. She is survived by her sister, Deborah Watts.

To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service

Calendar of Events

Ahmanson

2:22—A Ghost Story

Now through December 4, 2022

Look out for the clues to unlock the mystery in this brilliantly funny and intriguing play; it's an adrenaline-filled night where secrets emerge, and ghosts may or may not appear. What do you believe? And do you dare discover the truth?

For ticket information and more, please visit:

<https://www.centertheatregroup.org/tickets/ahmanson-theatre/2022/222-a-ghost-story/>.

Ain't Too Proud—The Life and Times of the Temptations

December 13, 2022 through January 1, 2023



This musical follows The Temptations' extraordinary journey from the streets of Detroit to the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. It tells the thrilling story of brotherhood, family, loyalty, and betrayal, as the group's personal and political conflicts threatened to tear them apart during a decade of civil unrest in America.

(Picture above): "Ain't Too Proud - The Life and Times of the Temptations" Production Photo.

For ticket information and more, please visit:

<https://www.centertheatregroup.org/tickets/ahmanson-theatre/2022/aint-too-proud/>.

Mark Taper

Clyde's

Now through December 18, 2022

The formally incarcerated staff of Clyde's truck stop diner are looking to start their lives over in the kitchen under the pressure of the fiery rule of the owner. In pursuit of the perfect sandwich, the chefs imagine a future they have been constantly told is out of reach.

For ticket information and more, please visit:

<https://www.centertheatregroup.org/tickets/mark-taper-forum/2021-2/clydes/>.

Natural History Museum

Spider Pavilion

Now through November 27, 2022

This one-of-a-kind seasonal pavilion gives a rare glimpse into the secret life of spiders. Stroll through the open air pavilion to see hundreds of orb weavers and their amazing webs all around you. Then enter the spider den to peer into enclosed habitats that house different species from tarantulas to jumping spiders. Along the way you will hear amazing stories and get answers to all your arachnid questions from Museum Educators.

For more information, please visit:

<https://nhm.org/experience-nhm/exhibitions-natural-history-museum/spider-pavilion>.

Visit <http://hr.lacounty.gov> for information on employment opportunities with the County of Los Angeles



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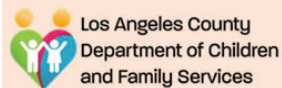
County DIGEST

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Meet the Execs



Department of Children and Family Services



Brandon Nichols, Director of the Department of Children and Family Services



Following a six-month nationwide search process, Brandon T. Nichols has been selected to serve as the new director of the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS).

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors appointed Mr. Nichols to the role of director during the June 14, 2022 Board meeting, with a start date of July 1, 2022. Director Nichols will lead a workforce of nearly 9,000 staff members in 20 regional offices who provide family-centered and child-focused protective services to more than 29,000 children.

Director Nichols previously served DCFS as Chief Deputy Director and Acting Director. Prior to that, Mr. Nichols served as an attorney for the Los Angeles County Counsel's Office where he represented and advised DCFS for a number of years.

Most recently, Mr. Nichols played a significant role in efforts to provide mental health services to inmates throughout Los Angeles jails, and worked as the Executive Director of the County's Jail Closure Implementation Team that focused on decarcerating and closing the Men's Central Jail.

Director Nichols, who had been serving in the role of interim director since April, indicated that his primary area of focus at the outset of his tenure will be ensuring child safety, advancing race equity efforts, and providing accessible, quality support to families.

"DCFS is charged with keeping children safe and making families strong," said Director Nichols, who has a background in child welfare, foster care, adoptions, and mental health. "As Director, I want to help my staff to make the best decisions they can, I want to work with communities to support families where they live, and I want to make sure we are confronting the problems of bias and racial disproportionality that have plagued child welfare programs."

A Los Angeles County employee for more than 25 years, Director Nichols has worked for several departments, including DCFS where he previously served as chief deputy director for three years. During that time, he led the county's implementation of *Continuum of Care Reform*, a multi-year, state-wide change designed to reduce the use of congregate care and ensure children live in family-like settings when they are unable to safely remain with their parents. Additionally, Director Nichols advocated on behalf of children at legislative hearings with local, state, and federal agencies and worked closely with a diverse network of community partners.

Director Nichols began his County career with the Office of County Counsel, where he represented the County in cases involving child abuse and neglect in the juvenile courts. He also has worked for the Probation Department and, most recently, the Chief Executive Office.

In his last position as the Executive Director of the County's Jail Closure Implementation Team, he played a significant role in efforts to develop mental health services and other supports for people incarcerated in County jails as part of Los Angeles County's commitment to decarcerating and closing the Men's Central Jail.

Director Nichols holds a bachelor's degree in Law and Society from the University of California at Santa Barbara and a Juris Doctor Degree from the California Western School of Law in San Diego.

Meet the Execs



Military & Veterans Affairs



Jim Zenner, Director of Military & Veterans Affairs



James (Jim) Zenner was chosen to be the new Director of Military & Veterans Affairs (MVA). Jim transitioned from the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (DMH), where he was responsible for the implementation and oversight of the Veteran Peer Access Network (VPAN) and the Veteran Suicide Review Team (VSRT), and was the lead program manager assigned to collaborate with the Veteran Healthcare Administration, CalVet, and other federal and local agencies regarding veteran programming for DMH. In addition, Jim was responsible for working with the philanthropic sector through a public private partnership with Southern California Grantmakers to bolster collective impact work through the Los Angeles Veteran Collaborative to help leverage private funding to expand social service capacity.

Jim's past experience also includes: Peer Support Coordinator for the Greater Los Angeles VA Medical Center, Director of Homeless Veteran Programs for Vets Advocacy; Associate Director of Community Programs for the Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic at the University of Southern California; Consulting for Volunteers of America (VOA) Inc.; and

Jim served in the United States Army from April 2004 to April 2008, completed one deployment in support of Iraqi Freedom as an All Source Intelligence Analyst from 2006 to 2007 with 1-14 Cav, 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division "Second to None". Jim went on to serve in the U.S. Army Reserve from April 2008 to May 2011. He possesses a Masters of Social Work from University of Southern California (USC) and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from St. Martin's University.



MVA Promotes Awareness of Veteran Claims Assistance Via Vet Day LA Campaign

The County of Los Angeles (County) Military & Veterans Affairs (MVA) has launched a media campaign to promote services provided by MVA's accredited Veteran Service Officers to assist veterans, National Guardsmen and military reservists throughout the County. The goal of the Vet Day LA campaign is to reach military veterans between the ages of 25-54, and encourage them to take advantage of benefits they are entitled to after serving in the US military. The campaign leading up to Veterans Day includes four media strategies to increase awareness of MVA services: radio, television, social media, and direct marketing.

Radio and television messaging is currently airing on KPWR-FM, KDAY-FM and KLOS-FM, and KDOC.



For more information about the Vet Day LA Campaign visit: <https://mva.lacounty.gov/vetdayla/> or call (877) 4-LA-VETS.

LA County Launches Pilot Program to Reduce Veteran Suicide



On September 29, 2022, the County of Los Angeles launched the **Veteran Suicide Review Team (VSRT)**, a collaborative between city, county, federal, and private agencies to reduce veteran suicide in the Los Angeles County.

The Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH) will serve as lead in the project, working closely with the Department of Public Health, Los Angeles County Department of Military and Veteran Affairs (LACDMVA), the Medical Examiner/Coroner, and the US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to implement a data-driven and a collaborative death review process to collect data, analyze veteran suicides, and identify gaps in service to enhance support structures.

The core team participating in the monthly reviews consists of multiple county agencies, VA VISN 22 and associated VA medical centers, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), CalVet, LA City, and suicide-specific veteran community organizations who will work together to review data brought in from each of their departments to best identify trends to shape future strategy.

The Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the pilot program based on recommendations of a study released last year. The study revealed a 16% increase in veteran suicide from 2017 to 2018 in LA County.

Supervisors Kathryn Barger, Fifth District, and Sheila Kuehl, Third District, co-authored the [motion](#), which was adopted in February, 2022.

“Creating this team of experts to take a deep look at what can be done to mitigate veteran suicides is extremely important,” said Fifth District Supervisor Kathryn Barger. “The County has a big role to play when it comes to providing support services and being a resource for our veterans. I’m looking forward to hearing what the review team finds, and their actionable recommendations. It’s imperative that we step up to serve our veteran community and provide them with a security net so they can thrive.”

“It is a tragic fact that the incidence of veteran suicide continues to rise,” said Third District Supervisor Sheila Kuehl. “It is critical that we do more to understand this phenomenon so we can better meet the needs of veterans who have mental health issues and prevent these tragic deaths. This effort will inform future policy and programming changes so we can successfully reduce the number of veterans who take their own lives.”

“The Veteran Suicide Review Team is an important step on the path to end veteran suicide in Los Angeles County,” said Dr. Lisa H. Wong, Acting Director of LACDMH. “Working with our Co-Chairs for this pilot program—the Chief Executive Office (CEO), Office of Violence and Prevention, the Department of Medical Examiner-Coroner, and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Desert Pacific-Healthcare Network—we will have the facts and essential data to identify trends that will inform countywide strategies for suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention.”

Jim Zenner, Director of the LACDMVA and co-creator of the VSRT, said, “Los Angeles County is leading the way for the State of California through the commitment from our Board to address veteran suicide and unprecedented collaboration at the federal, State, and local level. The VSRT will not only lead to an understanding of the surrounding circumstances of our veterans lost to suicide and the collection accurate data, it will arm our departments with knowledge we can use to more effectively target our resources to disrupt veteran suicide in our County.”



Los Angeles County Establishes New Aging and Disabilities Department

The establishment of the Aging and Disabilities Department (AD) will enhance service delivery to older and dependent adults, persons with disabilities, and LA County's uniquely diverse communities. AD is fully dedicated to ensuring that everyone in LA County lives a life with dignity and independence.

The new website for the Aging and Disabilities Department is ad.lacounty.gov. AD is available on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram at @lacountyad.

The Board of Supervisors has appointed Dr. Laura Trejo as the new Director of AD. Dr. Trejo has played a central leadership role in the County's proactive efforts to establish a coordinated strategy and service delivery system for older adults and adults with disabilities. Prior to joining LA County, she served as the General Manager for the City of Los Angeles' Department of Aging. A nationally-respected expert and peer-reviewed author on aging, mental health, Alzheimer's Disease, and rehabilitation, Dr. Trejo brings a wealth of administrative and programmatic experience to this new department.

AD houses the Los Angeles County Commission for Older Adults and the Commission on Disabilities. AD also manages Los Angeles County's 14 Community and Senior Centers, which provide a wide range of in-person supportive services, including congregate meals, emergency food programs, computer access, adult and youth programming, educational resources, and much more.

Programs, Services, and Hotlines

- **Information & Assistance Referral Line for Older Adults:** provides a range of referrals to older adults ages 60 and older, including food resources, caregiver services, legal assistance, supportive services, and much more. Please call 1-800-510-2020, Monday-Friday from 8am-5pm.
- **LA FOUND:** offers a free tracking bracelet for families and caregivers of individuals living with Alzheimer's, Dementia, Autism, and other cognitive impairments that increase chances of wandering. Please call 1-833-569-7651, Monday-Friday from 8am-5pm.
- **Adult Protective Services' Elder and Dependent Abuse Hotline:** investigates elder and dependent adult abuse and neglect referrals. Please call 1-877-477-3645, 24/7; reporting abuse may be anonymous.
- **Volunteer Driver Mileage Reimbursement:** provides mileage reimbursements to volunteer drivers, including family members, when no other transportation services exist or when the client is too frail, ill, or unable to use public transportation. Please call 1-888-863-7411, Monday-Friday from 8am-5pm.
- **Dignity at Home Fall Prevention Services:** aims to assist eligible older adults and people with disabilities who are at risk of falling or institutionalization by providing information, education, referrals, in-home environmental assessments, and injury prevention equipment and installation. Income limits may apply. Please call 1-800-510-2020, Monday-Friday from 8am-5pm.
- **Adult Protective Services Home Safe 2.0:** provides older and dependent adults who are at risk of experiencing homelessness with a wide range of services necessary to maintain their current housing or find new housing. Clients can receive assistance on security or utility deposits, rental assistance, past due bills, legal fees, reunification services, and more. Please call 213-610-1589, Monday-Friday from 8am-5pm.
- **Disability Information and Access Line:** assists adults with disabilities in getting vaccinated and tested for COVID-19. This hotline helps disabled adults order free at-home tests, make vaccination appointments, and connects callers to other local services such as accessible transportation to overcome barriers to vaccination and testing. Callers can also receive information and referrals to services that promote independent living and address fundamental needs, such as food, housing, and transportation. Please call 888-677-1199, Monday-Friday from 6am-5pm. Deaf and hard-of-hearing callers using relay services may dial 888-677-1199. (Callers who use TTY relay may first dial 7-1-1, and then relay the 888-677-1199 number.)

WELLNESS RESOURCES

for County employees

THE COUNTY HAS SEVERAL EMOTIONAL AND MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO ALL EMPLOYEES AND THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS.

Counseling

LOS ANGELES COUNTY'S EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (EAP)

Free and confidential

County employees and a dependent can attend up to three free virtual sessions every six months. To schedule a confidential counseling session, call (213) 738-4200.

CIGNA'S LIFE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Free, anonymous, and confidential

The Life Assistance Program (LAP), offered by Cigna Behavioral Health, provides 24/7 EAP counseling services and 24/7 crisis intervention free of charge to all County employees and their families regardless of what insurance plan they are enrolled in. Call (800) 538-3543 for more information.

DISASTER DISTRESS HOTLINE

Disaster/tragedy helpline

This helpline, sponsored by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), provides immediate counseling for people affected by any disaster or tragedy. Call (800) 985-5990 to connect with a trained professional.*

NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE

24-hour confidential support

The lifeline provides toll-free, 24/7 confidential support to anyone in suicidal crisis or emotional distress. Call (800) 273-TALK (8255) to connect with a trained counselor at a crisis center in your area. Support is available in English and Spanish, and via live chat.*

VETERANS CRISIS LINE

Free and confidential

This helpline is a free, confidential resource for veterans. Call (800) 273-8255, press "1"; text 838255; or chat online at www.veteranscrisisline.net to connect with 24/7 support.*

DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH'S (DMH) ACCESS CENTER

24/7 services

The ACCESS Center, as part of DMH's Help Line, operates 24/7 as the entry point for mental health services in Los Angeles County. Call (800) 854-7771 or visit <https://dmh.lacounty.gov/our-services/disaster-services/access-hotline/>.

*Phone/text fees apply unless otherwise noted.

Resources

WELLBEING4LA

Anytime video sessions

The DMH + UCLA Public Partnership for Wellbeing offers videos focused on strategies to support and sustain your wellbeing while you work. Topics include: Strategies for Maintaining Wellbeing, Mindful Self-Compassion, and more. <https://learn.wellbeing4la.org/topic?k=supportyou>.

iPrevail

Customized support

DMH, in partnership with iPrevail, offers LA community members free access to a customized support program through self-guided lessons, one-on-one chats, and support groups. Visit <https://lacounty.iprevail.com> for more.

HEADSPACE

Wellness on the go

All County Employees have free access to the mindfulness and meditation app Headspace. <https://work.headspace.com/lacdmh/join>

KP.ORG/SELFCARENOW

Recorded resources

Contains written and recorded resources for managing stress, sleeping better, nurturing healthy relationships, and practicing self-compassion.

Kaiser members may also access the Calm app for meditation and sleep resources at kp.org/selfcareapps or at the Apple or Google App stores.

COUNTY HEALTH INSURANCE PLANS

Kaiser-Permanente members can access mental health and wellness services at (800) 900-3277. For Cigna, United Healthcare, and Anthem Blue Cross, call the number on your insurance card.

Los Angeles County Launches New Department of Economic Opportunity

In July, Los Angeles County launched the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO), uniting services previously performed by four different agencies within the County, including workforce development, strategic economic development and advocacy, and small business assistance and growth.

The Board of Supervisors appointed Kelly LoBianco as the new Director of the DEO. Ms. LoBianco has over 15 years of public sector experience, most recently serving as Chief Program Officer for the HOPE Program and Sustainable South Bronx in New York City, as well as executive roles with the New York City Department of Small Business Services.

DEO's vision is an equitable economy with thriving local communities, inclusive and sustainable growth, and opportunity and mobility for all. Its mission is to create quality jobs, help small businesses and high-road employers start and grow, and build vibrant local communities and spaces. DEO houses the Los Angeles County Workforce Development Board and the Small Business Commission, which leverage local leadership and expertise to develop and guide County programs and policies.

Our teams can help LA County residents and businesses:

- **Start or Grow a Career:** We operate 19 America's Job Centers of California (AJCC) that offer job preparation, job training, paid work experiences, supportive services and job connections for workers; and recruitment and training, layoff aversion, hiring incentives and high road training partnerships for businesses. Visit <https://ajcc.lacounty.gov> for more information.
- **Connect to County Careers:** We collaborate with the Department of Human Resources and other departments to implement pipeline programs – including Preparing Los Angeles for County Employment Program (PLACE), Countywide Youth Bridges, TempLA and others – that provide pathways for targeted populations with employment barriers into County jobs and careers, while helping departments address hiring needs.
- **Build and Grow a Business:** DEO runs the Office of Small Business, housed in the East LA Entrepreneur Center, to assist businesses in starting, growing, and thriving in LA County. Our resources and services include 1:1 counseling, workshops, referrals for legal assistance and financing; certifications and preference programs for County contracting; and technical assistance in competing for other public contracting opportunities.
- **Revitalize Commercial Corridors:** We partner with local small businesses in County unincorporated areas to reimagine and restore business facades to create an inviting environment for customers and residents.

DEO is also spearheading more than \$156 million in American Rescue Plan programming to help build an equitable economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Key programs launched to date include:

- **Economic Opportunity Grants:** Streamlines access to \$60 million in financial relief and technical assistance (TA) for small businesses, microentrepreneurs, and nonprofits. We anticipate launching applications in January 2023; businesses and nonprofits can complete an [online interest form](#) now to get the TA process started and be the first to know when the application opens.
- **Pandemic Relief Rapid Reemployment:** Connects small businesses and job seekers to immediate support including work readiness training, transitional employment opportunities, streamlined hiring, reduced payroll costs, and more.
 - Job Seekers can visit bit.ly/GetCareerReady.
 - Businesses can visit bit.ly/HireLocalTalent.
- **Youth@Work Elevate:** Our Youth@Work Program provides paid work experience, mentorship, and trauma-informed personal enrichment training to 10,000 youth annually. Through Elevate we are expanding the program to 500 additional opportunity youth, with increased paid hours (up to 400) in high growth sectors linked to permanent employment opportunities. Interested youth can [apply here](#) and employers who would like to host youth can [apply here](#).

DEO is excited to expand partnerships with County departments to advance economic opportunity for our residents and businesses. We offer infrastructure for scale, consistent funding, a focus on quality jobs and mobility as primary outcomes, robust engagement with industry, labor, and community agencies, and more! We look forward to engaging on how economic opportunity fits into your mission so we can determine how best to partner.

Please contact us at deo@opportunity.lacounty.gov and visit our website at opportunity.lacounty.gov or our social media accounts at [@EconOppLA](#).

Did You Know?

November 2022

Discover resources and information from across our six wellness focus areas – physical, emotional, social, financial, occupational, and intellectual – that relate to key observances in November.

SOCIAL

Each November, Caregiver Action Network (CAN) spearheads **National Family Caregivers Month**, which recognizes and honors the essential contributions of family caregivers to their loved ones in need. Family caregivers are the primary source of support for older adults and people with disabilities. Many caregivers must balance the demands of work with their caregiving responsibilities. The goals of this observance include raising awareness of caregiving issues, providing education to communities, and increasing support for caregivers. Providing resources and education for caregivers has been shown to decrease their levels of stress, depression, and anxiety and allows them to provide care longer. Find tips and resources on family caregivers at the CAN website: <https://bit.ly/3TGhG3l>.



SOCIAL

Help your neighbors in need during **Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week**, November 12-20, 2022, and **National Homeless Youth Awareness Month**. During this time, people across the United States come together to raise awareness of the problems of hunger and homelessness by providing education, advocacy, and fundraising. Learn more about how you can volunteer or help end hunger and homelessness at the Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week website: <https://bit.ly/3SB6ALB> or the National Child Traumatic Stress Network's website: <https://bit.ly/3gFSF9X>. Make an impact by supporting organizations that combat hunger and homelessness through the County's Charitable Giving Campaign at: <https://bit.ly/3D9De1l>.



Los Angeles County
DEPARTMENT OF

Human Resources



PHYSICAL

EMOTIONAL



The County of Los Angeles salutes the courage, dedication, and service of our Veterans and Active Military Reservists this **Veteran's Day**, November 11, 2022. Veterans and Active Military personnel may experience unique challenges. The Department of Human Resources, through its Military and Veterans Employee Assistance Program (MVEAP), offers free assessment, referral, short-term counseling, and work/life consultation to County Military & Veteran employees and their families. For more information or to schedule an appointment, contact the MVEAP at (213) 433-7202 or EAP@hr.lacounty.gov.

Through the Los Angeles County Department of Military & Veterans Affairs (MVA), veterans, their dependents, and survivors can also receive education regarding federal and State benefits such as compensation, pension, education, medical treatment, and home loans. For more information, visit: <https://bit.ly/3N2xU4o> or call 1-877-4LA-VETS.



PHYSICAL

November is **National Diabetes Awareness Month**. Did you know that having diabetes puts you at a greater risk of serious health conditions? Diabetes affects 1 in 9 American adults and children, and 90% of individuals with prediabetes are unaware of their condition. To learn more about diabetes, symptoms, and risk factors, visit Diabetes Basics at: <https://bit.ly/3D7almj>, and take your diabetes risk test on the American Diabetes Association website at: <https://bit.ly/3CAiqQd>. You can also find out 5 key ways to prevent diabetes by attending this live webinar on November 3, 2022: <https://bit.ly/3EFF4JG>.



PHYSICAL

EMOTIONAL

More than 6.2 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's disease. Alzheimer's is a form of dementia that affects memory, thinking, and behavior, eventually leading to the inability to accomplish daily tasks. Women, Black Americans, and Hispanics/Latinos are more likely to develop Alzheimer's but less likely to be diagnosed in a timely manner. When diagnosed late, the cost of care may be higher, and the options may be limited. For **Alzheimer's Awareness Month**, help raise awareness and learn more about the disease, risk factors, and treatments by visiting the Alzheimer's Association at: <https://bit.ly/3EK1kSO>.





New LA County Department of Youth Development Aims to Transform Youth

Youth Will Be at the Heart of the Department's Strategic Plan

Los Angeles County, guided by its Board of Supervisors' commitment to reimagining the juvenile justice system, took a major leap forward this week as a new Department of Youth Development (DYD) officially launched. While the nation as a whole has been shifting toward a model of rehabilitation versus punishment, the County's new DYD goes a step further, with a goal of transforming the way County systems treat youth and invest in their development, well-being and safety.

"Youth justice is not simply about making sure we provide equitable alternatives to arrest and system involvement," said Vincent Holmes, the DYD's newly named Interim Director. "It also means ensuring that every young person in LA County has access to youth development and care-first opportunities they deserve."

While previous reforms and interventions have reduced the number of young people involved in the justice system, with fewer than 450 youth in County juvenile halls and camps, thousands of children are arrested or cited in LA County annually. Evidence shows that their lives are disrupted by even first-time contact with the justice system and that negative outcomes increase exponentially with deeper system involvement.

Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell, who chairs the Board of Supervisors, sees the DYD's mission as a necessary step towards improving community safety and equity in LA County.

"DYD will further extend the County's ability to meaningfully invest in and improve the lives of young people who are counting on us to do so. Our Black and Brown youth continue to be disproportionately represented in our justice system that isn't truly serving them. The DYD is one of the tools we have to change this," she said. "Intentionally working with youth and equipping them with the skills and resources to succeed is how we fulfill our goal as a County of shifting from failed systems built solely on punishment to proven solutions for youth development that strengthen the overall vitality and safety of our communities."

Black youth and other youth of color are increasingly and disproportionately impacted by the negative effects of justice system contact at every stage.

Roughly 80% of arrests or citations of minors are for alleged "status offenses," like violating curfew, or involve alleged non-serious, non-violent misdemeanors or felonies that are legally eligible for referral to community-based diversion and development services that better support positive outcomes for both youth and community safety.

The DYD will centralize the County's response to this miscarriage of justice, guided by research on equity and adolescent development and in collaboration with young people with lived experience and other County partners.

"We say our youth are our future, so we must protect their future, in collaboration with their family and support systems, in a care-first environment that prioritizes their well-being and supports their growth instead of penalizing them as they progress into adulthood," said Supervisor Hilda L. Solis. "The establishment of the County's DYD is the commitment we are making to not only their future, but also the County's future."

Holmes brings over 32 years of public sector experience with the County and the Los Angeles Superior Court, including extensive work in building innovative programs serving justice-involved populations through the ATI Incubation Academy, Measure J/Care First Community Investment (CFCI), the Gang Violence Reduction Project and My Brother's Keeper Initiative, among others. Since 2017, he has helped advance the collaborative planning and design of the County's innovative Youth Diversion and Development model upon which the new DYD will build. He has built relationships with justice system partners and is well respected by local leaders, community and youth who will be needed to support the department's transformative youth development agenda.

As it launches, the DYD also has the advantage of leveraging work by the County's Youth Justice Reimagined Initiative. Holmes is excited to continue to work alongside youth advocates with lived experience who helped inspire the Board's bold vision of youth justice.

Supervisor Sheila Kuehl said the work is innovative, but well grounded in research.

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“Historically, youth justice systems have emphasized incarceration which often means just giving up on youth instead of investing in prevention, rehabilitation and second chances. The County is following the successful example of other local jurisdictions like San Francisco, Houston, and St. Paul in being bold and innovative—thinking outside the box in creating and reforming youth justice,” she said. “The DYD is a great step forward for reimagining LA County’s criminal justice system because we know and data shows that we have more success in helping young people thrive as well as improving community safety by providing rehabilitative, health-focused and care-first programming.”

Offering early and equitable access to resources that assist young people as they grow and develop can change the trajectory of their lives. Expanding youth diversion and development programs to continue to equitably reduce youth justice system involvement, building additional capacity for youth centers and youth development, and supporting credible messengers in schools and other youth-serving systems are just some of the key elements of the DYD’s initial vision.

“Supporting our youth means reaching them with resources to help them thrive before they are ever at risk of coming in contact with the justice system, from mental health services to good-paying jobs when the time is right,” said Supervisor Janice Hahn. “With this new department, we’re stepping up our commitment to make those resources available to all young people, in every neighborhood.”

Supervisor Kathryn Barger emphasized the importance of other County departments’ support of this work.

“We must help the youth in our system realize their full potential so they can be successfully integrated into our workplaces and communities,” she said. “In order to holistically meet the needs of justice-involved youth, all our County departments must work together to equip them with every tool to succeed physically, academically, mentally and emotionally. As Dr. D’Artagnan Scorza, our Executive Director of Racial Equity, has emphasized time and time again, it’s crucial that we engage with our youth as soon as possible and set them on the best path forward to thrive.”

This historic moment is possible thanks to the incredible vision and tireless efforts of a wide range of partners, including youth leaders like Jacob Jackson.

“It is important to center youth who are impacted through every portion of the process, making young people’s health and wellness the department’s core values,” Jackson said. “Don’t be scared of change. The DYD should be the home and support that some folks currently lack whether they’re homeless, in foster care, incarcerated or system impacted.”

Moving forward, the DYD hopes to engage an even larger group of young people in shaping the strategy of the department through community convenings and other interactions. Anyone interested in following the DYD’s life-changing work can sign up for updates at dyd.lacounty.gov.



Get **\$30** off per month Fast Home Internet with ACP

The federally funded Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) offers \$30 a month off High-Speed Home Internet for qualifying households. Now everyone can get online at the same time for less. Those with Lifeline mobile benefits can also get ACP.



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Choose how you want to apply and submit all necessary documents. Call **866-696-8748** or apply online at internetforallnow.org/applytoday.

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List of eligible schools are available in the application

CalFresh or SNAP

Medi-Cal or Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

Pell Grant

WIC (Women, Infants & Children)

Or has a Household Income of \$53,000 or less for a family of 4 (add \$9,000 per additional family member)

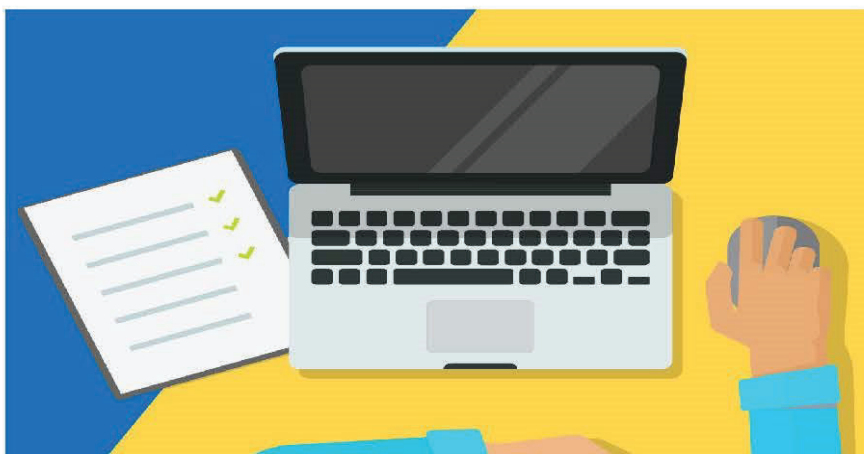
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Call **866-696-8748** to apply today!





SPENDING ACCOUNTS – WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

On January 1, 2023, the County's spending account administrator will change from HealthEquity to BenefitWallet. You can view your spending account information, file claims, and check your account balances by visiting mylacountybenefits.com or using the BenefitWallet mobile app.

2022 EXPENSES

HealthEquity will continue to process claims for participants enrolled in a Health Care Spending Account (HCSA) and Dependent Care Spending Account (DCSA) in 2022. For participants enrolled in a HCSA in 2022, your HealthEquity Visa card will no longer be active after December 31, 2022. HealthEquity representatives are available through June 30, 2023, at 877-924-3967, Monday through Friday, 5 a.m. to 5 p.m.

2023 EXPENSES

BenefitWallet will process claims for participants enrolled in a HCSA and DCSA in 2023. A new BenefitWallet Visa card will be mailed to participants who are enrolled in a HCSA in 2023. You can speak with a BenefitWallet representative starting January 3, 2023, at 866-225-0067, Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

UNUSED SPENDING ACCOUNT FUNDS

For your 2022 HCSA, you can carry over up to \$550 of unused funds to 2023, if you are an active participant on December 31, 2022. Any remaining balance above \$550 will be lost.

For your 2023 HCSA, you can carry over up to \$570 of unused funds to 2024, if you are an active participant on December 31, 2023. Any remaining balance above \$570 will be lost.

For your 2022 and 2023 DCSA, any unused funds not claimed by December 31, will be lost.

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

Remember these dates so you don't lose any funds.

2022 Expenses

June 30, 2023: Last day to submit claims and receipts for all eligible expenses incurred in 2022. HealthEquity will not pay claims submitted or postmarked after this date.



2023 Expenses

December 31, 2023: Last day to incur 2023 expenses.

June 30, 2024: Last day to submit claims and receipts for all eligible expenses incurred in 2023. BenefitWallet will not pay claims submitted or postmarked after this date.

Common Eligible Expenses

HCSA	DCSA
Over the Counter Medication	Summer Day Camp
Prescription Glasses & Sunglasses	After-School Care
Orthodontia	Child Day Care



DPSS Newscast Celebrates Seven Years of Keeping Staff Informed

The saying, “The show must go on,” is often used to suggest that no matter what happens, the show must continue. That is exactly what the Be Informed Be Heard Network (BBN) did during the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic by continuing to produce the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) award-winning newscast for the agency’s 14,000 employees.

Observing the County’s strict health protocols, BBN quickly pivoted from an in-studio production to a virtual newscast from remote locations in the summer of 2020. According to Video Production Specialist and co-producer, David Nguyen, the production had to continue because it provided a sense of normalcy for many employees.

In 2015, BBN debuted as a prerecorded newscast designed to promote open communication, share inspiring news, information, and valuable resources within the Department. Nearly seven years later, the newscast has earned awards from the National Association of Counties and the American Society for Public Administration. Since the first broadcast, the team has visited locations throughout the Department to gather footage of employees and customers. The BBN anchors, Staff Development Specialist, Carlos E. Perez-Carrillo, and Eligibility Worker II, Belinda Payne, have provided energy and smiles, delivering information about the Department’s countywide initiatives, program and policy changes, staff, customer interviews, and more.

2022 Charitable Giving Campaign Needs Your Support



The employees of the County of Los Angeles (County) have generously supported local charitable organizations that help underserved residents across the County’s diverse communities. In 2021 through the Charitable Giving Campaign (CGC), County employees donated and fundraised over \$1,000,000 to support those in need. These funds were used to provide our communities with economic resources and health, environmental and educational benefits.

In the spirit of community, we recognize the life challenges our County family has faced. Yet, we continue to demonstrate our dedication to others through service and giving. Consider supporting the campaign and your community by donating through payroll deduction. A donation of \$5.00 per month can make a big difference for thousands of lives in Los Angeles County.

Pledge your support today by visiting <https://employee.hr.lacounty.gov/charitable-giving-2/> where you can review information on the seven agencies your donation could directly support. Select all listed charities or choose one that fights for a cause that speaks to you. These organizations spend at least 80 cents of every dollar donated toward direct services to LA County residents, so you know your donation will make a difference.

Please feel free to contact Workplace and Community Programs at Workplaceprograms@hr.lacounty.gov if you have any additional questions about the CGC program.

“Fall” In Love *with Eric*



The Fall season is upon us and as the leaves and weather change, it is also a time when we reflect on the things that we are most grateful for such as family, home, and friends. Here in LA County, there are hundreds of children who don't have a family to call their own. If you have a place in your heart and your home, consider adding to your family by adoptions. Meet Eric and see if, like us, you end up “falling” for him!



Twelve year old Eric is a charming and engaging boy, full of curiosity! Eric is genuinely interested in learning about people and the world around him so he is also talkative and asks a lot of questions.. Eric has a mechanical aptitude in that he loves to take things apart and put them back together and he wants to know how things work. Eric is also athletic and loves basketball, baseball, soccer, and riding his bike. Keeping active and engaged in activities is very therapeutic for Eric and helps him retain his focus. Eric is extremely loyal to those he cares about and he has some biological family connections he would like to maintain.

Eric hopes to have a parent or parents that would allow him to help cook meals and build things. If you have pets, that's a plus for him – particularly cats. If you can envision adding wonderful Eric as a permanent part of your family or want to consider adopting a child, please contact us at <http://heartgalleryla.org> or call (888) 811-1131.

Photo Credit – “I Belong” Project



Families of All Kinds Qualify for Money Under the Expanded Child Tax Credit

You can receive money from the federal government to help with the cost of raising kids even if you have not filed taxes before.

To learn more visit www.getctc.com/DPSSCTC22



RETIREES



Thank you for your many years of service!

50+ Years

HEALTH SERVICES: Helen L. Love, Sheila L. Nash

45+ Years

CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES: Diane Fetter

HEALTH SERVICES: Estella Alegria, Lucille Diaz, Jerri L. Flowers, Daisy E. Hoggro, Glenda H. Johnson, Kevin P. Lee, Henry Mageno, Shirley Thompson

PUBLIC DEFENDER: Penelope F. Floyd

PUBLIC HEALTH: Dina R. Saucedo

PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Norman L. Moutra Jr., Hollis C. Roberts

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, AGING & COMMUNITY SERVICES: Maria E. Mata

40+ Years

ASSESSOR: Edwin Hadnott, Heang Kar, Yvonne Mitchell

CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES: Connie R. Rex

CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES: Clementene Adams

COUNTY COUNSEL: Mazie Go

FIRE: Richard J. Ward

HEALTH SERVICES: Laura J. Adlersberg, Lupe Alvarado, Hugh A. Amato, Elisa Aquino, Delfina Blandford, Gloria J. Cruse, Claressa D. Epps, Elisa Estrella, Judy Finnikin, Merle S. Johnston, Sherley R. Joy, Bernard Lim, Jose Mendoza, Jane M. Minami, Eddie Moore, Emma Naparan, Raydavid Villa, Yvonne Walker

HUMAN RESOURCES: Cecilia C. Ochoa

INTERNAL SERVICES: Dolores S. Gonzales, Elizabeth M. Howard, Rita C. Powell

LACERA: Mary S. Ortiz

MEDICAL EXAMINER-CORONER: Clarissa De La Torre

MENTAL HEALTH: Paula B. Eldred

PARKS & RECREATION: Edgar Tom

PROBATION: Michael G. Allen, Jose M. Escobedo, Graciela Garcia, Albert P. Montellano

PUBLIC DEFENDER: Winston A. Peters

PUBLIC HEALTH: Olga Yolanda Murga-Rodri, Leticia Romero, Manuela Romo

PUBLIC LIBRARY: Shirley Hubbard

PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Janice H. Cho, Cheryl Earl, Doris J. Fleming, Vanna M. Jones, Deborah L. Lopez, Alejandrin Lotfi-Rezvan, Cynthia J. Schmidt, Lynne R. Spencer, Huang Nancy Ta, Loto M. Taufi, Loretta Taylor, Binh Tran, Jearlene Walker

PUBLIC WORKS: James C. Bagnell, Leslie A. Cozby, Richard S. Kellogg, Bobbyetta M. Williams

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WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, AGING & COMMUNITY SERVICES: Christine M. Salgado

35+ Years

ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL: Jorge S. Aquino

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INTERNAL SERVICES: Mark W. Carlson

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MUSEUM OF ART: Kimball Garrett

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WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, AGING & COMMUNITY SERVICES: Nilda C. Anthony, Lan T. Ficht

25+ Years

BEACHES AND HARBORS: Rumena R. Piperkov

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LACERA: Julieta Bryan

MENTAL HEALTH: Douglas A. Day

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PUBLIC HEALTH: Terese G. Brookins, Robert M. Brunkalla, Ernesto B. Castulo, Mark M. Fadem, Lucy Felix, Xiomara Fonseca, Lilia J. Gordon, Yvornia Horton, Anna F. Rochin, Karen Y. Scott, Sergio Valencia

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SUPERIOR COURT: Maria Elsa Cardenas-Mca, Benigno Delbarrio

