



## Bakersfield Staff

TANF Director  
Selamawit Habtom

Site Manager  
Brian Shumway

TANF Program Assistant  
Trina Marie Regalado

Family Advocates  
Francisco Horta  
Vacant

Site Project Coordinators  
Monique Simmer  
Alisa Wall

Program Specialist  
Annette Hurtado

Family Literacy Manager  
Sheree Hibler

Family Literacy Coordinator  
Cesar Gonzalez

Academic Tutor  
Sarah Hinostro

Family Lit. Program Assistant  
Dale Heineman

Adult Ed. Instructor  
Celeste Travis

PACILA Instructor  
Veronica Martinez

Kern Language Coordinator  
Christina Contreras

Kern Language Specialist  
**Marlene "MO" Ortega**

Kern Language Teacher  
Ramona Guerrero- Rodriguez

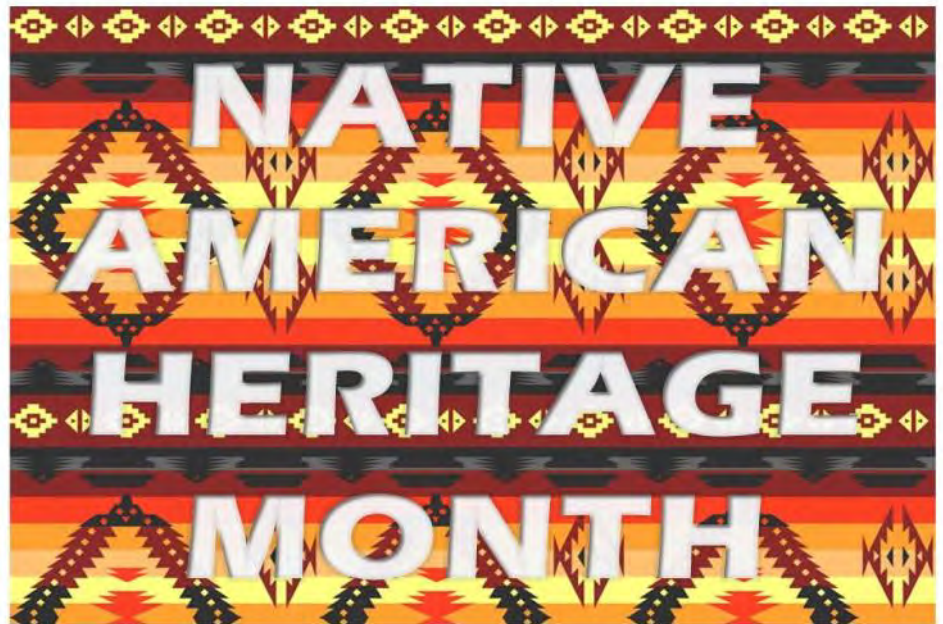
Kern Language Teacher  
Elaine Johnson

# Bakersfield

## Smoke Signal...

Volume 15 Issue 11

# NOVEMBER 2023



### Inside this Issue:

- TANF Updates, Reminders and Announcements
- AE Program
- PACT
- Native Youth Group
- Academic & Cultural Education
- NOVEMBER 2023 OVDC Bakersfield Site Calendar
- Dine /Navajo
- Preserving our language & culture
- Free tablet and internet
- Affordability Connectivity Program
- OVDC Non-Recurring Short Term Benefits
- OVDC Contact Info

# TANF UPDATES & REMINDERS

## From The Family Advocates

◆ All required documents to cash aid clients are mailed as a courtesy and a self addressed stamped envelope is provided to each client that has requested it.

◆ **However, it is always the client's responsibility to make sure that their Monthly Eligibility Report (MER) and any other documentation is received in the office.**

### Due Dates

◆ All MERs and **Supportive Service Requests** are due on the **1<sup>st</sup> of the month** and **no later than the 10th.**

◆ MER's **received after the 10<sup>th</sup>** are considered late and **will result in a late payment.** "Lost in the mail" or "late due to mail" will not be an acceptable excuse.

◆ If your MER is turned in after the 10<sup>th</sup>, please remember to complete a 10-day waiver form.

◆ **MER'S WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED BEFORE THE 1ST DAY OF THE MONTH, NO EXCEPTIONS.**

### Reminder

◆ If you would like to have Direct Deposit, ask your Family Advocate or Program Assistant for a form to take to your bank. This will help you receive your TANF payments in a more timely manner.

### **ALL CHECKS ARE TO BE MAILED**

◆ Any and all events you see in this newsletter, that are facilitated by OVDC (TANF/Family Lit./KIEC), are countable participation hours if approved to be on your FSSP. If you're not sure you've been approved or would like to be approved, please make an appointment with your Family Advocate before participating.

◆ Please provide a **48 hour notice** when requesting a Benefit Summary or any other documents from your file.

◆ **When turning in Support Service Request, please read Disclaimer and remember to complete the budget on the back of the Support Service Request form.**

## From The Front Desk

### When Submitting

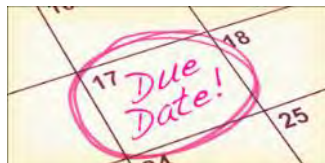
◆ PLEASE be sure to write your **first and last name on each receipt** you are turning in.

◆ Stamped envelopes are available to those who would prefer to mail in their monthly paperwork. Let Trina or your Family Advocate know if you'd like one mailed to you at the end of each month.

◆ **PLEASE FILL OUT and Sign** the MER Submission and Check List at the front counter. This form needs to be completed every time you DROP OFF your MER, SSR's and/or any other documents, this will help avoid miscommunication and be used as backup, should your paperwork be misplaced.

◆ If you need to make an appointment with your Family Advocate, you may speak to Trina and she will be happy to assist you with making that appointment.

# SSR DUE!



# Wednesdays by 5 pm







# FAMILYFORMATION THROUGHADULTED PROGRAMSFORLIFELONG LEARNINGOPTIONS



**NOVEMBER 2023**



**GED/HiSET test prep**

**Computer &**

**HSD assistance**

**Financial Literacy**

**CA Food Handler's**

**DMV prep for written tests**

**Vocational/College enrollment & tutoring**

**FAFSA, Grant & Scholarship assistance**

**Utilize Alison.com courses for Career**

**Exploration, Pathways and interest**

**College & other**

**Health &**

**Educational tours**

**Wellness**

**Life Skills/Goals**

**Cultural Enrichment**

**Educational Incentives!!**



**SURPRISE  
ME**

**Share & Tell Time: Please tell me about an important person or event that made contributions to Native American History**

**1001 Tower Way Ste. 225**

**Bakersfield, CA 93309**

**WWW.OVCDC.COM**

**For more information contact**

**Celeste Travis @661-323-1086 ext 336**







**NATIVE AMERICAN YOUTH  
CONFERENCE**

**YOUTH  
DAY**



**FREE  
ENTRY**

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4 AT  
6:00AM-5:00PM**

**FRESNO STATE CAMPUS**

**CONTACT ALISA WALL**

**661-323-1086 EXT  
341**

**1001 Tower Way Suite 225**

# Parent & Child Time

Strengthening Family Formation  
through Classroom & Outdoor  
Discovery



For more info  
please Contact:  
Veronica Martinez  
661.323.1086 ext 350

Starting October 25th  
Biweekly Sessions  
In class &  
Outdoor Activities  
Cultural Activities  
Parenting Workshops





Owens Valley Career Development Center

# NATIVE YOUTH GROUP

FOR PREGNANCY PREVENTION



NOVEMBER 1ST

NOVEMBER 15TH

NOVEMBER 29TH

5PM - 8PM

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES,  
ENTREPRENEURSHIP,  
FAMILY FORMATION,  
AND OTHER SKILL BUILDING ACTIVITIES

For more info please contact:

661.323.1086

Sarah Hinojosa or Cesar Gonzalez

ext. 385

ext. 349





# Academic & Cultural Education

## NOVEMBER

Afterschool Tutoring

Monday – Thursday

3pm – 5pm

Transportation Available

(first come first serve)

Computer lab available to  
homeschooling students

Monday – Thursday

10am – 2pm

Please Call before arrival

Transportation Unavailable



Tutoring will not be available

11/20 – 11/25

and will resume 11/27.



For More Information:

Sarah Hinostro

661.323.1086 ext. 385

shinostro@ovcdc.com



**TANF**

**MER IS DUE 11/01/2023**

**MER IS LATE**

**11/13/2023**

**Youth Day Sat..11/4/23**

**Language**

**Cultural Teaching**

**Mon. 13 & Weds. 15**

**From 5:30pm to & 7:30pm**

**Family Literacy**

**ACE Mon. – Thurs.**

**From 3pm-5pm**

**COMPUTER LAB OPEN TO  
HOMESCHOOLING STU-  
DENTS**

**Mon. — Thurs. 10am-  
2pm**

**OVCDC WILL BE CLOSED**

**Nov. Fri.10, Thurs.23 &  
Fri.24**

# NOV

| Sun | Mon                                     | Tue                                                                      |
|-----|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|     |                                         |                                                                          |
| 5   | 6                                       | 7 KIDS pak<br>11:00am-12:<br>Navajo clas<br>5:30-7:30 PM<br>IN THE OFFI  |
| 12  | 13 CULTURAL<br>TEACHINGS<br>5:30-7:30PM | 14<br>Navajo clas<br>5:30-7:30 PM<br>IN THE OFFI                         |
| 19  | 20                                      | 21 KIDS pak<br>11:00pm-12:<br>Navajo clas<br>5:30-7:30 PM<br>IN THE OFFI |
| 26  | 27<br>Blanket Making<br>5:30-7:30PM     | 28 Navajo<br>5:30-7:30 PM<br>IN THE OFFI                                 |



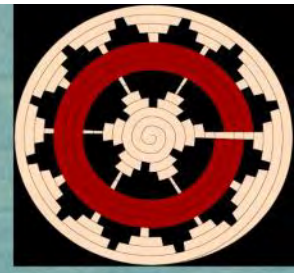


# NOVEMBER

|                                 | Wed                                         | Thu                                                                               | Fri                                                                                                                                                                                        | Sat                           |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
|                                 | 1                                           | 2 <b>Navajo Class</b><br>4-5pm virtual                                            | 3                                                                                                                                                                                          | 4 <b>YOUTH DAY</b><br>6am-5pm |
| panil<br>00pm<br>s<br>I<br>CE   | 8                                           | 9 <b>KIDS paka'anil</b><br>11:00am-12:00pm<br>Navajo class<br>4:00-5:00PM VIRTUAL | 10 <b>OVCDC CLOSED</b><br>HONORING ALL WHO SERVED<br><b>VETERANS DAY</b><br>UNITED STATES OF AMERICA<br> | 11                            |
| s<br>CE                         | 15 <b>CULTURAL TEACHINGS</b><br>5:30-7:30PM | 16<br>Navajo class<br>4:00-5:00PM VIRTUAL                                         | 17                                                                                                                                                                                         | 18                            |
| ka'anil<br>00pm<br>s<br>I<br>CE | 22                                          | 23 <b>OVCDC CLOSED</b>                                                            | 24 <b>OVCDC CLOSED</b>                                                                                                                                                                     | 25                            |
| class<br>I<br>CE                | 29                                          | 30                                                                                | <br><b>Happy Thanksgiving</b>                                                                          |                               |







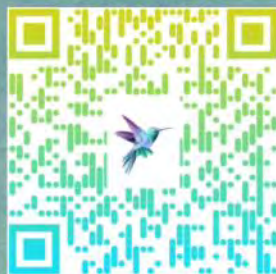
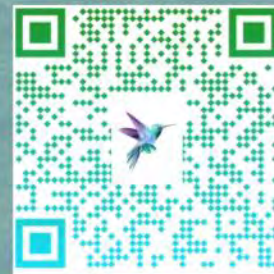
*Ghaaji'*  
*baa ahxééh hwiindzinháájí*

**Preserving Our Language & Culture Through Family Formation**

*October*  
*Begins Diné New year*

*Ghaaji' is a critical time of reflection*

**Grownup Navajo on  
YouTube helps to  
explain our teachings**



For additional information contact  
the Language Department  
(661)323-1086  
Marlene or Ramona  
or by emailing [mortega@ovcdc.com](mailto:mortega@ovcdc.com)  
[rgrodriguez@ovcdc.com](mailto:rgrodriguez@ovcdc.com)





# Preserving our Languages & Culture through Family Formation

Both Classes will resume in September

## paka' anil Language

Tuesdays and Thursdays

4:00 - 5:00 pm

## Conversational Navajo Language

Tuesdays at office 5:30 - 7:30 pm

Thursday Virtual 4:00 - 5:00 pm

Let's learn about our rich history, cultures, and the seasons as they change!!

A variety of other Cultural and Seasonal activities will be added to both classes. All supplies will be provided.

Contact us for additional information

661.323.1086

mortega@ovcdc.com

rgrodriguez@ovcdc.com



BAKERSFIELD OVDC SMOKE SIGNAL

## Generations Cultural Teachings

Preserving Our Language & Culture Through Family Formation

5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

August 14 & 15, 2023



September 11 & 13, 2023

October 16 & 18, 2023



November 13 & 15, 2023

December 11 & 13, 2023

Space is limited

ALL SUPPLIES

PROVIDED

For additional information contact the Language Dept.

@ (661)323-1086 or email

mortega@ovcdc.com

rgrodriguez@ovcdc.com



IN-PERSON & VIRTUAL



MUST SIGNUP BEFORE AUG. 4TH!

Change of activity may occur if necessary.







# FREE TABLET & INTERNET

SCAN OR CLICK ON QR CODE TO APPLY



Public Wireless is committed to providing no cost tablets and internet to as many families as possible.

Here are a few ways you can qualify:




Lower income, government program participants (SSI, Medicaid, WIC, SNAP, FPHA, Lifeline, etc.) K-12 students attending schools that are CEP recipients or on Free or Reduced lunch programs, and College students with a Pell Grant. There are many other ways to qualify.

\*There is no risk or obligation to apply.\*

You will never receive a bill for the internet service.  
The tablet is yours to keep forever with no obligations or commitments.

## FRIENDS & FAMILY ARE WELCOME TO ENROLL



-  **NO COST** 10.1 inch Tablet with a Hardcase Cover and Screen Protector.
-  **NO COST** SIM Card that provides 24/7 LTE Broadband Internet Service. Does NOT need WIFI access.
-  Both SIM Card and 10.1 inch Tablet are FREE with NO Strings Attached for Qualified ACP (Affordable Connectivity Program) Applicants.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS PLEASE CALL  
1.800.286.5380







# AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM

## WHAT IS IT?

The Affordable Connectivity Program is an FCC program that helps connect families and households struggling to afford internet service.

### The benefit provides:

- Up to \$30/month discount for internet service;
- Up to \$75/month discount for households on qualifying Tribal lands; and
- A one-time discount of up to \$100 for a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet purchased through a participating provider.

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

**A household is eligible for the Affordable Connectivity Program if the household income is at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, or if a member of the household meets at least one of the criteria below:**

- Participates in any of the following assistance programs: SNAP, Medicaid, Federal Public Housing Assistance, Veterans Pension or Survivor Benefits, SSI, WIC, or Lifeline;
- Participates in any of the following Tribal specific programs: Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance, Tribal TANF, Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations, or Tribal Head Start (income based);
- Participates in the Free and Reduced-Price School Lunch Program or the School Breakfast Program, including through the USDA Community Eligibility Provision;
- Received a Federal Pell Grant during the current award year; or
- Meets the eligibility criteria for a participating broadband provider's existing low-income internet program.

## TWO STEPS TO ENROLL

# 1

Go to **AffordableConnectivity.gov** to submit an application or print a mail-in application

# 2

Contact your preferred participating provider to select an eligible plan and have the discount applied to your bill.

Some providers may have an alternative application that they will ask you to complete.

Eligible households must both apply for the program and contact a participating provider to select a service plan.

## LEARN MORE

 Call **877-384-2575**, or

 Visit **fcc.gov/acp**







# Non-Recurring Short Term Benefits

Have you recently experienced an emergency crisis or natural disaster situation? If so, OVCDC, may be able to assist in the short term.

## In order to be eligible, families must meet the following criteria:

- Be an American Indian/Alaska Native family residing in Fresno, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Mono, Tulare or Ventura counties.
- Have monthly income at or below 300% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines:

| Family Size | Monthly Income |
|-------------|----------------|
| 1           | 3,645          |
| 2           | 4,930          |
| 3           | 6,215          |
| 4           | 7,500          |
| 5           | 8,785          |
| 6           | 10,070         |
| 7           | 11,355         |
| 8           | 12,640         |
| 9           | 13,925         |
| 10          | 15,210         |

2023 Federal Poverty Guidelines

- Provide verification of the need being requested. Examples include:
  - Short term mortgage or rental assistance
  - Short term utility or energy assistance
  - Clothing allowance
  - Other assistance that may be necessary due to your crisis situation

Please visit our [website](#) to download a TANF intake application or call [1-800-924-8091](tel:1-800-924-8091) for further assistance.



# Owens Valley Career Development Center



OVCDC is a Tribal organization providing Career Education, Family Literacy, Indigenous Language, Early Head Start and Temporary Assistance services in seven California Counties: Inyo, Mono, Kern, Tulare, Kings, Fresno and Ventura. We are a dedicated Tribal Organization operating under a consortium of Sovereign Nations providing the opportunity for improvement in the quality of life by focusing on education and self-sufficiency while protecting, preserving and promoting our cultures.

**For current OVCDC Employment Opportunities,  
RFP and Contract Opportunities Visit:**

**[www.ovcdc.com](http://www.ovcdc.com)**

**Or Contact us:**

**[1-800-924-8091](tel:1-800-924-8091)**

**Employment and Job Descriptions:**

**[hr@ovcdc.com](mailto:hr@ovcdc.com)**

**RFP's and Contracts:**

**[contracts@ovcdc.com](mailto:contracts@ovcdc.com)**



Indian preference shall apply pursuant to the prevailing Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance and the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act 25 U.S.C § 45, § 46, & §§ 450, et seq, see also 25 CFR 276.13 and other relevant laws.

Follow us on  
**facebook**





# Our Mission

Owens Valley Career Development Career Development Center is a Native American organization operating under a consortium of Sovereign Nations that promotes self-sufficiency through education, community enrichment and cultural empowerment.

# Our Vision

Owens Valley Career Development Center envisions a future where all Native American Communities are culturally revitalized, empowered and self sufficient.

# Core Values

- Professionalism - We will maintain a positive attitude, be supportive and strive to exceed standards.
- Integrity - We will work in an ethical and transparent manner at all times.
- Teamwork - We will work unselfishly to create a collaborative culture.
- Leadership - We will have the courage to lead by example, work through adversity and inspire others.
- Respect - We will respect all individuals, cultures and traditions.
- Compassion - We will engage with every participant and community with compassion.
- Native Culture - We will honor and promote the sovereignty, culture and traditions of all Native American Tribes.



Bakersfield OVDC  
Tribal TANF  
1001 Tower Way Ste. 225  
Bakersfield, CA 93309



HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

**VETERANS DAY**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



**OVDCDC OFFICE CLOSED!**  
**FRI. 11/10 THURS. 11/23**  
**& FRI. 11/24/2023**

*"Service with Compassion, Courtesy, Dignity and Respect"*