Bakersfield Smoke Signal....

Volume 18 Issue 10
October 2026

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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 **1st of the month** and **no later than the 10th.**

♦MER's **received after the 10th** 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 10th, 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 OVCDC (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

Jane Doe

WAL★MART

Save money. Live better.

WE SELL FOR LESS
MANAGER NICHOLAS SALAZAR
(806) 793 - 2091
ST# 0861 OP# 00007000 TE# 67 TR# 09491
32 LCD HDTV 088277705060 558.00 X
YOUR PRODUCT HERE PRODUCT # HERE $ HERE X
ACIDOLPHILUS 030122017745H 7.96 N
SUBTOTAL SUBTOTAL HERE
TAX 1 8.250 % 50.89
TOTAL TOTAL HERE
DEBIT TEND TEND HERE
CHANGE DUE 0.00

EFT DEBIT PAY FROM PRIMARY
ACCOUNT : 2902
TOTAL HERE TOTAL PURCHASE
REF # 808400634510
NETWORK ID. 0071 APPR CODE 408972
DATE HERE 19:25:10

ITEMS SOLD 3

TC# 2987 0631 6532 9182 0054 1

New products. Latest rollbacks.
Sign up at Walmart.com/email
DATE HERE 19:25:12

Owens Valley Career Development Center
Tribal TANF Program

4300 Stine, Building 800
Bakersfield, CA 93313
Phone: 661-323-1086
Fax: 661-232-1746

Notice

TANF Participant Mandatory/Seasonal Support Meeting

September 15, 2026

Dear TANF Participant,

It is time for our semi-annual TANF Mandatory Informational Meeting. **All TANF adult recipients are required to attend.** Also, this meeting is mandatory for all participants in order to receive Seasonal Support incentives. If you do not attend, you will not be eligible for November or December food/gift payments. An additional requirement will need to be met for December Seasonal Support and will be discussed at this meeting. Please do not send someone else in your place. In a two-parent case, however, only one is required to attend.

Caretaker-Relative, Timed Out, SSI, Extended Case Management, and TANF Disqualified cases are encouraged to, but **not required** to attend this informational meeting. However, if you do not attend, you will not be eligible for Seasonal Support payment. Sanctioned and ECM cases are not eligible for Seasonal Support.

This meeting will cover important information and updates concerning processes and recipient requirements regarding the Tribal TANF cash aid program, as well as Seasonal Support information. As always, KIEC, Adult Ed, Family Literacy and Prevention will be speaking about their programs also.

You ***must call to reserve a seat*** for one of the following ***mandatory*** meetings which are scheduled as follows:

Tuesday October 27, 2026
6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Location for meeting: **Owens Valley Career Development Center**
4300 Stine Road, Bakersfield, CA, 93313
Suite 700 - Multi-purpose Room

TANF adult recipient's attendance is mandatory unless you are working for a verifiable wage and/or attending a verifiable college class. Failure to attend the meeting without verified 'Good Cause' could result in the placement of a sanction on your TANF grant which means a decrease in the amount of your cash aid. **If you are not able to attend because of work, college or other verifiable reason you will need to contact your case counselor before the meeting date.**

Please make childcare arrangements to accommodate your attendance ahead of time. Children will not be able to attend.

Please contact our Administrative Assistant to confirm your attendance at (661) 323-1086 as soon as possible and no later than Friday October 23, 2026.
Tribal TANF Family Advocate/s

OWENS VALLEY CAREER DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Family Night

4300 Stine Rd. Ste. 800

WEDNESDAYS 5:30PM-7:30PM OCT 2026

Dinner Provided 5:30pm - 6pm

Join us each Wednesday night in September for Family & Cultural Workshops.

Transportation Available
First Come First Serve

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Marlene Ortega, Language Specialist
Melissa Munoz, SPC / Sarah Hinostro, PACE
661.323.1086

Owens Valley Career Development Center
4300 Stine Road, suite 800
Bakersfield, CA 93313
661-323-1086

Diné Bizaad

Interested in learning a new language? Virtual Navajo language, history, and culture classes have started back up. We will be covering basic topics and everyday conversations as well as a zoo animal lesson that will be held towards end of year. Followed by a field trip to the zoo. Participants will need to attend 80% of classes in order to be eligible for field trip. Classes will be held every Tuesday and Thursday

Tuesday- 5:30pm-7:00pm
Thursday-4:00pm-5:00pm

To receive the Virtual link, Contact us at:
Mortega@ovcdc.com 661-323-1086 Ext.351
Ethornton@ovcdc.com 661-323-1086 Ext.382

Owens Valley Career Development Center

WORK EXPERIENCE (WEX)

PROGRAM ASSISTANT WEX ASSIGNMENT

BUILD EXPERIENCE • DEVELOP SKILLS • WORK TOWARD SELF-SUFFICIENCY

WEX IS DESIGNED FOR ELIGIBLE TRIBAL TANF PARTICIPANTS WHO WANT TO BROADEN THEIR WORK EXPERIENCE WHILE RECEIVING CAREER ASSISTANCE TO PREPARE FOR EMPLOYMENT.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

- This WEX opportunity is available to OVCDC Tribal TANF participants.
- You must maintain TANF eligibility to continue WEX training.

For More Information
Please E-mail
Career Development Specialist
VIMARTINEZ@OVCDC.COM

TANF UPDATES

OFFICE HOURS WITH CAREER DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST

Need help completing a resume or job search?

MEET WITH OUR CAREER DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST

we offer our TANF Participants support with resume writing, job search strategies, and both short-term and long-term career goals. Contact to schedule a one-on-one appointment.

CLARIFY CAREER GOALS:

Gain insight into your strengths, interests, and potential career paths.

IMPROVE RESUMES:

Receive expert feedback to tailor your application materials for specific roles.

ENHANCE INTERVIEW SKILLS:

Practice mock interviews & strategies to confidently answer common and challenging questions.

STAY ACCOUNTABLE:

Work with our CDS to keep you on track and focused on your career goals.

VIRTUAL APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

For More Information Contact your Family Advocates!

Victor Martinez

vimartinez@OVCDC.com | (661) 323-1746

OVCDC Bakersfield | 4300 Stine Rd. Suite 800 | Bakersfield, CA 93313

TANF

MER is DUE 10/1 & is LATE by 10/11

Seasonal Support Meeting 10/27 6-8pm

FAMILY LITERACY

Virtual Book Club

Thurs. 6-7pm

ACE

Mon.-Thurs. 3:30-6:30pm

LANGUAGE

Virtual Language Nights

Tues. 10/6th, 13th, 20th, 27th

5:30-7pm

Thurs. 10/1st, 8th, 15th , 22th & 29th

4-5pm

Family Nights

Weds 10/7th, 14th, 21st, 28th

5:30-7:30pm

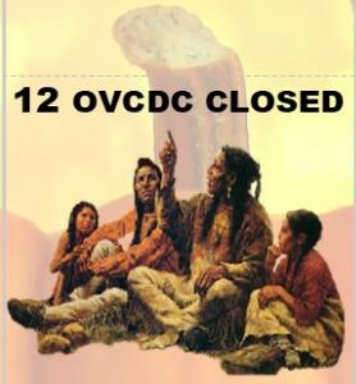
OVCDC CLOSED: Monday Oct. 12, 2026

Indigenous Peoples

OWENS VALLEY CAREER DEVELOPMENT CENTER

OC

Sun	Mon	Tue
4	5 ACE	6 ACE Dine Bizaad 5:30-7pm virt
11	12 OVCDC CLOSED	13 ACE Dine Bizaad 5:30-7pm virt
18	19 ACE	20 ACE Dine Bizaad 5:30-7pm virt
25	26 ACE	27 ACE Dine Bizaad 5:30-7pm virt Seasonal Sup 6-8pm



CTOBER

	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 ACE Dine Bizaad 4-5pm virtual Book Club Virtual 6pm	2	3
ual	7 ACE Family Night 5:30-7:30	8 ACE Dine Bizaad 4-5pm virtual Book Club Virtual 6pm	9	10
ual	14 ACE Family Night 5:30-7:30	15 ACE Dine Bizaad 4-5pm virtual Book Club Virtual 6pm	16	17
ual	21 ACE Family Night 5:30-7:30	22 ACE Dine Bizaad 4-5pm virtual Book Club Virtual 6pm	23	24
ual pport	28 ACE Family Night 5:30-7:30	29 ACE Dine Bizaad 4-5pm virtual Book Club Virtual 6pm	30	31

FAMILY FORMATION THROUGH ADULT EDUCATION AND LIFE SKILLS

Adult

EDUCATION PROGRAM

GED/ HiSET Test Prep
College Enrollment Assistance
FASFA Application Assistance
Scholarship Assistance
Food Handler License
Typing Certificate
DMV Test Prep
Life Skills
Cultural Enrichment

SCAN HERE!

Veronica Ramirez
661-323-1086 EXT 347

4300 Stine Road, Building 800
Bakersfield CA 93313

JOIN US NOW

BAKERSFIELD
RECREATION & PARKS

Discounted Pediatric CPR & First Aid Training

Thanks to a grant from American Red Cross, the City of Bakersfield is now offering $5 Pediatric First Aid, CPR/AED & Water Safety courses.

Course Information

- **Dates: Sept. 19, Oct. 3, Nov. 7**
- **Location: Silver Creek Community Center, 7011 Harris Rd**
- **Registration opens Sept. 1 @ 8a.m., choose one class to attend**

American Red Cross

Must register in person at McMurtrey Aquatic Center. Participants must be 12 years and older to participate. American Red Cross Certification will be issued upon passing the class.

For more information, please contact the McMurtrey Aquatic Center or visit our website:

(661) 852-7430

www.bakersfieldparks.us

Academic and Cultural Education for Pregnancy Prevention

Tutoring Back in session

Monday - Thursday

OVCDC Bakersfield Site

03:30pm- 06:30pm

September 14th,2026- May 13,2027

For More Information Contact Andromida Patterson
661.323.1086 EXT 386

TARGET AUDIENCE: 18-28

NextGen

Employer Registration

2026 JOB FAIR FOR Young Adults

OCTOBER 6, 2026
MARRIOTT HOTEL

01 TRUXTUN AVE | BAKERSFIELD | 93301

Must register online at
Linktree.com/KernCountyETR

1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

*Setup is from **12:00 - 1:00 PM** (Lunch will be provided) A confirmation with instructions and details will be emailed closer to the event date.*

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT GRANT WONG AT (661) 747-6335 | WONGG@KERNCOUNTY.COM

KERN COUNTY EMPLOYERS' TRAINING RESOURCE
A proud partner of America's Job Center

EPIC
ENVISION · PLAN · INNOVATE · CONNECT

TYM4C
Transitional Youth Mobilizing for Change

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Equal Opportunity Employer/Program is funded by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. For full federal funding disclosure details visit employerstrainingresource.com/wdb/federal-funding-disclosure. Auxiliary aids and services available upon request.

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 at 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

Or Contact us:

1-800-924-8091

Employment and Job Descriptions:
hr@ovcdc.com

RFP's and Contracts:
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 OVCDC
Tribal TANF
4300 Stine Rd Bldg. 800
Bakersfield CA, 93313

OVCDC OFFICE CLOSED!

Monday October 12th 2026

"Service with Compassion, Courtesy, Dignity and Respect"