

MISSION STATEMENT

SHIELDS for families is a non-profit community-based organization dedicated to developing, delivering, and evaluating culturally sensitive, comprehensive service models that empower and advocate for high-risk families for over 20 years.



We believe that with education, access to appropriate services and caring guidance, families can rebuild their lives and become productive members of the community, nurturing parents and achieve all of their dreams.

HISTORY

SHIELDS was formed in 1987 in response to high incidence of infants born prenatally exposed to drugs at Martin Luther King Hospital in South Central Los Angeles.

SHIELDS began providing services to this unique population and has since grown to provide over 30 comprehensive, family-centered, wrap-around programs addressing issues facing high-risk families in South LA.



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11705 Deputy Yamamoto Place
Suite B
Lynwood / CA 90262
ph 310.603.1098
fx 323.357.3866

TTD/TTY (English) 800.735.2922
TTD/TTY (Spanish) 800.855.3000

ask@shieldsforfamilies.org

Additional Locations

AADAP, Inc.
2900 S. Crenshaw Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90016
(323) 293-6284
www.aadapinc.org

**Avalon-Carver
Community Center**
4920 Avalon Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90011
(323) 232-4391
www.avalon-carver.org

West Angeles CDC
3045 Crenshaw Blvd
Los Angeles, CA 90016
(323) 733-8300
www.westangelescdc.org



www.shieldsforfamilies.org

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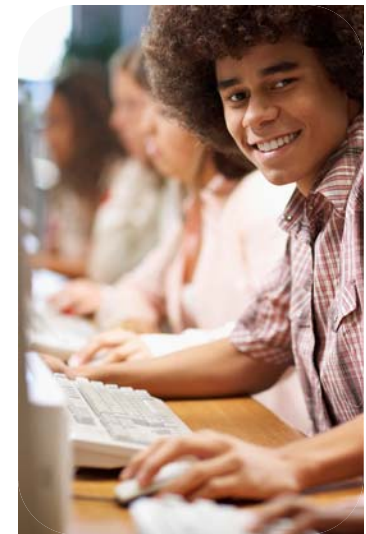
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SHIELDS for Families is an equal opportunity service provider that does not discriminate against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, political affiliation or belief, citizenship/status as a lawfully admitted immigrant authorized to work in the United States, or participation in any WIA Title I-financially assisted program or activity. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

ASK (Ask, Seek, Knock) Program: Prevention Initiative Demonstration Project (PIDP)



The Prevention Initiative Demonstration Project (PIDP): ASK (Ask, Seek, Knock) Program provides services through four ASK/PIDP Family Resource Centers using a strength-based approach to empower families and provide accessibility to resources in order to strengthen families and individuals residing in SPA 6



The Prevention Initiative Demonstration Project (PIDP): ASK (Ask, Seek, Knock) Program is SHIELDS newest program that collaborates with community partners to provide a comprehensive network of **social services, occupational, scholastic and legal resources offered through four Family Resource Centers**. Implemented in 2008, The PIDP/ASK's preventative design is one of its more innovative aspects in that families are able to receive services on a walk in basis before any involvement with the child welfare system. However DCFS families are also welcome to engage in the services provided.



SHIELDS for Families has had a long-standing positive relationship with both DCFS and the community in general within SPA 6. Through collaboration with partners with similar credibility in the community and DCFS, SHIELDS has been able to address the various needs of families who not only have problems including employment, legal issues, child care, personal counseling and other health needs but who have had difficulty navigating through the system in which these services can be obtained. The Prevention Initiative Demonstration Project (PIDP): ASK (Ask, Seek, Knock) Program offers four community drop-in Family Recourse Centers (FRC) with English and Spanish speaking navigators that **provide linkages and referrals to community resources**. The FRCs also provides direct service through **vocational and educational services, supportive services, transportation assistance and legal referral**. In addition, in the fall of 2010, ASK opened Visitation Centers at each FRC site for families in need of monitored visitation with their children. Visitation Centers offer a safe and nurturing environment that allows families to practice reunification skills.



The ASK Family Resource Centers provide **full-service referrals** to help and support the entire community; classes on a broad range of topics including **parenting, domestic violence, life skills, basic skills and employment training**. Resource Center navigators work with DCFS cases as well as clients referred and recruited from other community sources. There is no differentiation of services for DCFS-referred or walk-in clients.

One of the options for families to improve their economic success is implemented through a **vocational certification program, high school equivalency program, financial literacy workshops,**



entrepreneurial education, job readiness / development, legal services, and job placement.



The latter services are offered to both DCFS-referred families and non-DCFS referred families free of charge. SHIELDS for Families, Inc. supplements all related costs (computers, books, notebooks, instructors, test materials, etc.) associated with the latter services to provide families with access to skill building/educational attainment to secure livable wages for economic stability.

The ASK Program has engaged the services of a Legal Services Coordinator to help link families with attorneys and legal aid entities in the community that offer pro-bono or sliding scale counseling. In addition, through an expansion of their partnerships, they have been able to secure a part-time attorney to assist families with Immigration Law issues. In the fall of 2010, this partnership will expand with the addition of a full-time attorney to assist families in the community with a range of legal needs.

Program Highlights

- Collaborates with the Institute for Maximum Human Potential (IMHP), Wings of Refuge, Avalon-Carver Community Center, Asian American Drug Abuse Program (AADAP), West Angeles Community Development Corporation, Public Counsel Law Center, and People Who Care Youth Center.
- ASK Navigators have worked with over 5,000 families.
- In total, over 19,000 linkages were made in 32 different categories of services.
- In SPA 6, ASK Resource Centers have engaged over 1,200 adult students in employment-oriented workshops and classes.