

## 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.

## 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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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.

[www.shieldsforfamilies.org](http://www.shieldsforfamilies.org)

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.

Eden



SHIELDS' Eden Co-Occurring Program was developed for women who have lost custody of their children or who are at risk of losing custody of their children due to the impact of both mental health and substance abuse disorders.



The Eden Program is unique in that it provides clients with **extensive case management and mental health assistance** while they are in treatment for substance abuse in order to re-engage in daily life and maintain or reunify the family unit. The staff is comprised of a dynamic group of professionals who provide comprehensive services such as **counseling, therapy, child care during treatment hours, therapeutic nursery for toddlers that need special care, vocational/educational services as well as supportive services such as low cost housing and transportation and/or bus tokens** that reduce barriers that may exist that prevent the engagement in the recovery process. Whether it be advocating for clients in court for the safe return of their children, or assisting the women in accessing permanent housing and educational/vocational opportunities, the program consistently produces a wide variety of success stories.

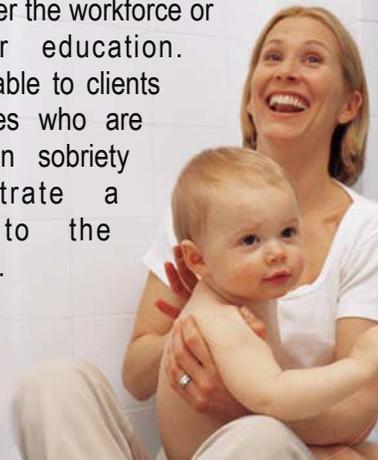


Funded by the Department of Mental Health and the Department of Public Health's Substance Abuse Prevention and Control Office, Eden is a family-centered day treatment program designed to provide a combination of **individual, family and group mental health and substance abuse services** including counseling, therapy, and vocational and educational services. In addition, **parenting and Mommy & Me classes** are provided in order to work with the mothers on reunifying and/or preserving their families. Each client has a treatment team consisting of a therapist, case manager, substance abuse counselor, psychiatrist, and child development specialist, as well as others as needed.



On a monthly basis, women from the Eden program are reunified with their children, enrolled in educational/vocational training and have moved into long-term, stable housing due to staff linking the women to resources in the community and providing the necessary guidance and support throughout their recovery process.

The average length of treatment is 12 months, during which time the women are provided with the necessary supports to gain stability in order to re-enter the workforce or continue their education. Housing is available to clients and their families who are able to maintain sobriety and demonstrate a commitment to the recovery process.



### Program Highlights

- Eden accepts women with Axis I substance abuse/dependence along with a co-occurring Axis I mental health condition.
- Successful completion rates have remained at over 70% for the past five years.
- Program alumni continue to receive ongoing mental health services through the program's Aftercare Therapist and Case Manager after program completion.
- Collaborates with the Therapeutic Nursery to provide a parent-child interaction group to increase the positive parent-child bond as well as providing in-vivo coaching and modeling to help parents practice new parenting skills with support from Nursery staff.
- Provides comprehensive services for children ages 0-5, including developmental assessments, case management, early education activities, home visits, and early literacy skills via the Child Development Center located onsite.