

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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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

Community Assessment Services Center (CASC)



The Community Assessment Service Center provides comprehensive assessments to individuals of any age in order to refer them to appropriate resources and services that meet their specific needs within SHIELDS and/or other community based organizations.



As a partner within the Community Assessment Service Center (CASC) system, SHIELDS provides an entry point for individuals seeking treatment for alcohol and drug treatment, mental health and/or domestic violence services. The CASC works closely with a network of contracted alcohol and other drug treatment agencies, mental health providers, domestic violence agencies and other community based organizations to **provide linkage to services, as well as information and referrals on a wide variety of supportive services including job development, literacy training, temporary housing, referrals to food banks, health care** and other needed services. In addition, SHIELDS has full time assessment staff located in the Los Angeles County Juvenile Dependency Court, the Kenyon Juvenile Justice Center and the Compton Superior Court.



SHIELDS CASC provides **screening, clinical assessment and referral services** to any individual (of any age), that are suffering from substance abuse and/or mental



health and domestic violence issues, along with serving as a specific referral source for categorically funded clients such as CalWORKs (AFDC), General Relief (GR), TANF and SSI recipients. Ancillary service referrals include **vocational rehabilitation, education, public social services, housing, health, legal and mental health services**.

SHIELDS' CASC provides the community with resource information for all mental health, domestic violence and alcohol and other drug treatment providers in Los Angeles County as well as maintains collaborative and cooperative linkages with

public, private, social, economic, health care, legal, housing and vocational service providers. In addition, SHIELDS provides out-stationed, co-located assessment services to residents involved with the child welfare system, as well as the juvenile and adult criminal justice system. SHIELDS has full time assessment staff located in the Los Angeles County Juvenile Dependency Court, the Kenyon Juvenile Justice Center and the Compton Superior Court that will assist individuals through assessment and linkage to services.



Utilizing the Behavioral Severity Assessment Program (BSAP), each participant who accesses SHIELDS CASC receives an initial evaluation and is then matched to SHIELDS' programs or programs within the community that meet their specific needs. Transportation is provided to and from appointments when necessary.

Program Highlights

- CASC provides face-to-face comprehensive clinical assessments, employing a computerized/automated assessment instrument.
- No appointments are necessary to access CASC services.
- Approximately, 80 assessments are conducted on a monthly basis.
- Onsite child care is available for individuals receiving services from the CASC.
- CASC provides the scheduling and coordination of regular meetings with alcohol and other drug agencies, mental health programs and other human service agencies.
- All services are provided at no cost to the participant.