

DSS Vision:

A responsible and caring community:
Safe, Resilient and Healthy

DSS Mission:

We partner with the community to enhance self-sufficiency while ensuring that safety and basic human needs are met for the people of San Luis Obispo County.

DSS Guiding Principles:

We believe all people have strengths.

We work together to assist in removing barriers and finding solutions.

Services meet the unique needs of each community, family, and individual.

We strive to eliminate poverty.

We strive to eliminate abuse.



“Linkages”

Community Linked/Family Based

Preventative Services for families in

San Luis Obispo County

**PREVENTION-FOCUSED
COORDINATED SERVICES**

The goal of Linkages is to provide coordinated, community-based, preventative services for families in San Luis Obispo County.



San Luis Obispo County
Department of Social Services

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LINKAGES

A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN
CHILD WELFARE AND
CALWORKS

**ENSURING CHILD
SAFETY AND FAMILY
WELL-BEING**



What is Linkages?

Linkages is the term used in San Luis Obispo County to describe the working partnership between CalWORKs (including Medi-Cal & Food Stamps) and Child Welfare Services. Linkages will also enhance connections to community resources in order to provide a network of support for families.

CalWORKs provides cash aid and other resources, such as Food Stamps, Medi-Cal, childcare, transportation, employment services, and housing assistance. By providing these services earlier, families can achieve stability, which increases child safety and well-being.

Child Welfare Services can serve as a poverty prevention program by working with families to establish a safe and secure home for their children through links to CalWORKs and community-based resources.



Linkages will allow CalWORKs and Child Welfare Services staff to better work together with the community, for the benefit of the family.

How?

- Streamlined communication and coordination between CalWORKs and Child Welfare Services will result in less duplication and improved access to resources for families.
- Agency, community partners and families will have a common purpose of working together to improve child safety and well-being.
- Active partnerships with the community will enhance our ability to work together to improve how we deliver services for family well-being.

Why Linkages?

Linkages allows CalWORKs and Child Welfare Services to provide a community-based approach in working with families.

Benefits to the family will include:

- Quicker access to resources within the Dept. of Social Services (DSS) and in your community.
- Streamlined services, which will make efficient use of time and resources.
- Coordinated assessments and case plans that will be easier to understand and work with.
- Coordinated services for such things as childcare, housing, mental health, drug and alcohol, and domestic violence issues.
- Services to address the specific needs of the family, focusing on the family's strengths as well as their concerns.