



USING BUILDING
BLOCKS TO BUILD
A FUTURE



www.KCDHS.org



100 E. California Ave.
Bakersfield, CA 93307
Tel 661.631.6000 • Fax 661.631.6631
TTY 800.735.2929



@kerncountyDHS

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KCDHS 802-FC (9/23)

COVENANT BUILDING BLOCKS

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM

KERN COUNTY DEPARTMENT
OF HUMAN SERVICES



WHAT IS BUILDING BLOCKS?

Building Blocks (BB) is a collaborative effort between the Kern County Department of Human Services (KCDHS), the Housing Authority of Kern (HACK), and Covenant Community Services Inc (Covenant).

Former (emancipated) foster youth who are between 18 and 21 years of age or current Non-Minor Dependents (AB 12) are eligible to apply for this comprehensive on-site program that teaches youth how to pursue educational and employment goals, get acclimated to the community, develop and maintain a budget, enhance daily living skills, and reach personal goals.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The housing complex itself is a rehabilitated residential facility in Southwest Bakersfield which can accommodate a maximum of 12 youth (6 female and 6 male), who each share a furnished apartment with a roommate. There is a laundry facility onsite, rent is subsidized, and youth are allowed to reside there for up to 24 months. Youth who successfully complete the program are provided with a section 8 voucher to assist them with affordable housing in the community.

REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for Building Blocks (BB) you must be at least 18 years old and have been placed in out-of-home foster care between your 16th and 19th birthday. Youth who were in a Non-Relative Legal Guardianship placement or a KinGap Guardianship placement between the ages of 16 and 18, may also be eligible for BB.

Participating youth will be required to work full or part-time and may attend school, either to obtain their high school diploma or to attend college.



GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

If youth are not working at least 20 hours per week, you are expected to complete 10 hours of volunteer work and 5 job applications per week, until you are employed. You must provide proof of compliance. Strikes will be issued for non-compliance with the rules or expectations. If a youth receives three (3) strikes, he or she may be terminated from the program. Please see the BB handbook for a complete list of rules, regulations, and expectations.

RULES

Suspected Drug Use

If drug use is suspected, you will be required to submit to a drug test prior to admittance to Building Blocks (BB). If the test results suggest recent drug use, you may be denied admittance to BB.

Program Acceptance

If you are accepted into BB, you will meet with BB Staff and the Transitional Housing Coordinator (THC) to review program policies and rules. You must attend a mandatory orientation with the Housing Authority of Kern County (HACK) and BB Staff prior to moving into your apartment.

Program Denial

Youth who are not accepted into BB will be notified as soon as possible so alternative housing can be arranged.

APPLICATION PROCESS

To be considered for admission, applicants need to complete a Transitional Housing Application obtained from the Independent Living Program Staff.

Applications can also be obtained at:

Dream Center
18011 9th Street
Bakersfield, CA 93301
(661) 636-4488

Please submit completed applications to:

Dream Center ILP Supervisor or
Transitional Housing Coordinator
(661) 636-4488

BENEFITS OF BUILDING BLOCKS

- Only housing program that issues a section 8 voucher upon completion
- Low rent- usually starting at \$50 (based on income)
- Case management and mentoring services
- Fully furnished apartments (newly re-modeled)
- Life Skills training classes
- Learn independence and interdependence
- On-site facility managers
- On-site laundry facility
- Greatly reduced utility bill
- 2 bedroom, 2 bath town houses

