

Inside CACLMT



Welcoming our new Office and Program Administrative Assistant

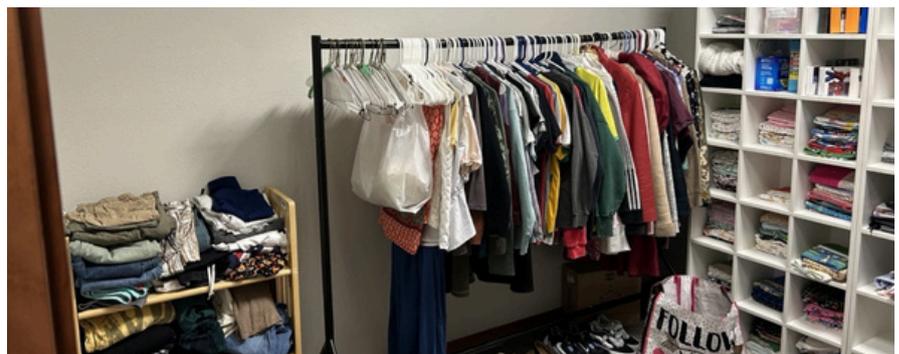
As a Xicano from Oceanside, CA, my upbringing in a Mexican community taught me the importance of family, resilience, and unity, inspiring me to advocate for others. For the past four years, I have worked as a Community Navigator with CIELO, helping families find resources and support. I am passionate about promoting dignity and justice for immigrant and refugee communities, believing that together we can create a brighter future for those who often go unnoticed.

Meeting with Representative Marie Glusenkamp-Perez's Office.

On Monday, July 21st, Monarch Children's Justice and Advocacy Center participated in a virtual meeting sponsored by CACWA with a staff member from Representative Marie Glusenkamp-Perez's office. It was an opportunity to bring greater awareness of the wonderful programs available in Lewis, Mason, and Thurston counties through Monarch.

We are excited to introduce Monarch's Resource Closet for clients of Monarch.

Inside this room our clients can find gently used clothes; personal hygiene products; handmade pillowcases; and new socks and underwear. We have an amazing, anonymous group of individuals from the community who have graciously donated many of these items. For anyone interested in contributing, we are most in need of gift cards we can give families, with gas and grocery store cards as the most desired at this time.



Monarch Mental Health Program Receives Grant to Expand Services

Monarch Children's Justice and Advocacy Center has been awarded a grant through the Washington JAG Priority Area initiative to expand its trauma-informed mental health services for child abuse victims and their families. This funding will support the work of Monarch's Clinical Supervisor, enabling Monarch to serve more children in need and enhance its internship program — building a pipeline of skilled mental health professionals dedicated to supporting vulnerable children.

"The current funding landscape for child-focused trauma therapy has impacted our ability to continue to serve the needs of the community in the same ways we have in past years. Getting the support from the JAG Priority Area Funding has been crucial in being able to plan to continue to serve the needs of child abuse survivors in our community as well as provide partnerships with local universities to continue to offer a space for training mental health providers new to the field."

– Erin Ward, Clinical Supervisor

This grant strengthens Monarch's commitment to healing, resilience, and community safety through evidence-based care and collaborative partnerships.



Saying Farewell

Last month we bid farewell to Jody Hawthorne and her amazing Facility Dog, Daze, who joined the Monarch Team in December of 2020. Since their arrival, Jody, frequently joined by Daze, conducting over 550 forensic interviews with children, and the pair has participated in countless community events. Jody retired on July 31. Her wisdom and compassion will be sorely missed, and her dedicated 38-years as a social worker always appreciated.

Community Court/Resource Hub

Our housing staff are partnering with Olympia's Community Court program and the Thurston County Resource HUB for outreach services! Staff are available to meet with clients who are enrolled in the therapeutic Community Court diversion program in downtown Olympia, as well as those community members seeking assistance at the drop-in based Resource Hub near the Superior Courthouse complex. By providing outreach services, our staff can collaborate with other service providers to meet the needs of our community members.



Dr. Gilbert honored with 2025 Award for Outstanding Service

A big shout out and congratulations to our community partner Dr. Gilbert who was selected to receive the 2025 Award for Outstanding Service to Maltreated Children from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (COCAN). Thank you for all you do on behalf of children who have experienced abuse and neglect and the AAP!

Welcoming our Monarch Intern

Monarch's therapy program has a new clinical intern who has begun seeing therapy clients. His name is Paydrick and he is completing his masters in Social Work through the specialized MSW program at University of Washington Tacoma. His experience from previous careers and readiness to jump right into working with Monarch clients as well as supporting Monarch's mission as a whole has been refreshing introduction. He has been a great addition to our team and we look forward to working with him through the Spring of 2026.

COMMUNITY

Community Needs Assessment Underway – Help Us Shape the Future

Every three years, the Community Action Council of Lewis, Mason, and Thurston Counties conducts a Community Needs Assessment (CNA) — a comprehensive process that helps us better understand the strengths, challenges, and priorities of the communities we serve. The CNA guides our programs and services to ensure they are responsive, equitable, and impactful.

We're excited to announce that this year's CNA will be led by Faye, a Master of Social Work (MSW) candidate from the University of Washington Tacoma. In addition to her academic work, Faye brings a wealth of experience from her background in community mental health, adding valuable insight and expertise to this important project.

We'll be sharing opportunities for community members to participate and provide input through our website and social media channels. Your voice matters — stay tuned and get involved!

Courtside Apartments Weatherization Project: Phase 1 Complete!

We're excited to share that Phase 1 of the Courtside Apartments multi-family weatherization project has been successfully completed. As part of this initial phase, ductless heat pump units were installed in all 210 apartments — bringing much-needed air conditioning and improved comfort to Courtside residents. Looking ahead, Phase 2 will focus on enhancing indoor air quality and energy efficiency. Planned upgrades include new bathroom and whole-house ventilation systems, comprehensive air sealing, and attic insulation. Stay tuned for more updates as we continue working to create healthier, more energy-efficient homes for our community!



Keeping Cool This Summer: 160 A/C Units Distributed Across Three Counties

Our Energy Assistance team recently distributed 160 air conditioning units to households across Thurston, Mason, and Lewis counties. This effort helps ensure that vulnerable community members stay safe and comfortable during the hot summer months. We're proud to support our neighbors with resources that make a real difference in their daily lives.

Introducing our Residential Coordinator



Through a partnership with the property management company Ad-West, a new case management position has been created at two of our subsidized apartment complexes. Gracie has joined us as our Residential Coordinator at Tolmie Cove and Deschutes Cove. She will be providing case management, mediation, resource connection, and community engagement for the tenants residing at these properties.

Energy Assistance Program Year Opens Soon

Our new Energy Assistance program year is just around the corner!

Appointment scheduling will open on the following dates:

- **Lewis County:** September 24
- **Mason County:** September 29
- **Thurston County:** October 3

We look forward to helping households stay safe and comfortable through the seasons ahead.

CACLMT Learning Corner

What is the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)?

The Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) is a critical federal funding source that enables Community Action Agencies like ours to respond directly to the needs of our communities. It provides flexible support for services that reduce poverty, promote equity, and build long-term resilience.

Local Impact in Lewis, Mason, and Thurston Counties

Thanks to CSBG, we are able to:

- **Provide housing stability services**, helping individuals and families remain safely housed or transition out of homelessness.
- **Support Child Advocacy Services** that protect and uplift children who have experienced abuse or neglect, ensuring they receive the care and support they need to heal and thrive.
- **Invest in long-term solutions** such as education, workforce development, and mental health support.
- **Build and strengthen collaborative networks** with local partners to deliver more coordinated, effective services.

CSBG allows us to be **responsive, community-driven, and innovative** in how we serve.

How you can help keep CSBG funded

CSBG funding depends on continued public and legislative support. Here's how you can help:

- **Contact your elected officials** and express your support for CSBG and the work of Community Action Agencies.
- **Share your story** if you or someone you know has benefited from our services—real stories make a real impact.
- **Follow and engage with us on social media** to stay informed and help spread the word.
- **Encourage others to learn** about CSBG and its impact in our region.

To learn more and see how your voice matters, visit: www.ncaf.org/csbg#/5