



May 9, 2023

LA County Health Services is proud to share Community Connects, a monthly newsletter designed to inform our valued community partners. As you work to protect our diverse communities, and those most highly impacted by COVID-19 in particular, we will provide you with updates, information and resources.

We appreciate your continued partnership and efforts!

MAY IS ASIAN AMERICAN PACIFIC ISLANDER MONTH



Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month is observed in the United States during the month of May and recognizes the contributions and influence of Asian Americans and Pacific Islander Americans to the history, culture, and achievements of the United States. Learn more about AAPI Heritage Month origins, themes and populations in History [HERE](#). Find local events to celebrate AAPI Heritage month in Los Angeles [HERE](#).

MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH



Mental health awareness month is a celebration of humanity! In honor of Mental Health Awareness Month, the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health launched its *Take Action for Mental Health L.A. County* campaign this week. As part of the campaign, grant-funded community events will take place throughout May and June 2023 and include free community fairs, art festivals, after-school programs, yoga and 5K run/walk activities, professional conferences, mental health trainings, outreach campaigns, and much more.

Additionally, LACDMH will host free community fairs in each of the eight L.A. County service planning areas. Each event will provide free resources, connections, physical and mental well-being themed giveaway items, free meals in warm, celebratory atmospheres that will foster community and togetherness. All events will focus on decreasing stigma and discrimination, increasing help-seeking behaviors, awareness of and access to mental health services and resources. To learn more about the campaign, visit <https://takeactionlac.com>.

For a complete list of all May and June *Take Action for Mental Health L.A. County* events, visit takeactionlac.com/community-events.

Find LA County Resources: Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH)

MAY IS NATIONAL NURSES MONTH



Our nurses deserve to be recognized and celebrated for their contributions and dedication to the care of patients and families. The American Nurses Association has a toolkit for nurses divided into four weekly focus areas — Self-Care, Recognition, Professional Development, and Community Engagement through the month of May [HERE](#). Check out a list of freebies and discounts for nurses [HERE](#).

LAC+USC MEDICAL CENTER BECOMES LA GENERAL MEDICAL CENTER



It's official! The LAC+USC Medical Center will now be known as Los Angeles General Medical Center!

The community has taken ownership of the new hospital name! For years, residents and stakeholders wanted to see a name that speaks to the campus' history, resonates with the community, and can be easily understood in other languages. As the campus moves into the next step of expanding its world-class care by creating supportive housing and a comprehensive continuum of care, the Los Angeles General Medical Center will recognize the storied past of LA County while also launching us all into a very bright future.

A NEW COVID-19 STRAIN HAS ARRIVED IN LA COUNTY



The first cases of the newest Omicron strain have been confirmed in Los Angeles County and residents are being asked to watch out for possible new symptoms and take precautions. Reports of conjunctivitis, more commonly known as “pink eye,” are being attributed to XBB.1.16, also known as “Arcturus.” People infected with XBB.1.16 may also experience more traditional COVID symptoms, such as fever, cough, and shortness of breath.

Public Health is offering bivalent vaccines and boosters to eligible residents at no cost, regardless of their insurance or immigration status, at hundreds of locations throughout Los Angeles County. Vaccination locations and appointments can be found at

VaccinateLACounty.com or VacunateLosAngeles.com (en español) or by calling 1-833-540-0473.

COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEALTH TEAMS FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Community Public Health Teams Funding Opportunity

Rising Communities, formerly Community Health Councils, Inc. (CHC), a California non-profit organization, in partnership with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LACDPH), will host an informational session to provide an overview of the Community Public Health Teams (CPHT) funding opportunity on **Wednesday, May 10, 2023, 11am-12pm**. CPHTs will consist of coordinated, place-based, and community-driven health practitioners who will work together with community members to identify local health priorities, reduce gaps in health outcomes, and improve the conditions essential for overall health and well-being in high-need communities throughout Los Angeles County.

Please share this announcement with any staff or community partners that may be interested in applying or learning more.

If you have any questions prior to the informational sessions, please email us at DPH_CPHT@risingcommunities.org

The informational sessions will be recorded and sent out to those that have registered [HERE](#)

FREE LEGAL CLINIC FOR VETERANS – REGISTRATION REQUIRED

LACBA Council for Justice
Veterans
Legal Services
Project

Sponsored by
SheppardMullin

PRESENTS
A FREE LEGAL CLINIC FOR VETERANS

CLEARING OUTSTANDING TICKETS AND WARRANTS

This free workshop is open to any veteran in need of help with:

- Tickets for minor offenses (infractions) such as jaywalking, running a stop sign, etc.
- Failure to Appear charges & warrants stemming from tickets.
- We are unable to assist with parking tickets.

CLEANING CRIMINAL RECORDS

This free workshop is open to any veteran in need of help with:

- Information regarding what convictions can be expunged.
- The criteria to qualify for expungement.
- Forms need to be completed.
- Where to file for expungement.

We are unable to assist with Federal convictions, or, convictions outside of the State of California.

Wednesday, May 17, 2023

3:00pm—4:00 PM: Self-Help Workshop
4:00pm—6:00 PM: Volunteer attorneys will be available to provide one-on-one assistance and consultation. **You must attend the workshop in order to receive one-on-one assistance.**

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

You must complete and return an intake form to reserve your spot.

Call (213) 896-6537 or email inquiries-veterans@lacba.org to sign up.
We look forward to assisting you.

Visit our website for more information: www.counselforjustice.org/veterans-1

This is a Virtual Legal Clinic. No driving required. Registered participants can call in or join us online via ZOOM to participate.

*Meeting number, link, and password will be provided upon completion of registration.

Wednesday, May 17th, at 3:00pm

Veterans get help with failures to appear, clearing outstanding tickets, warrants and criminal records. **REGISTRATION REQUIRED.** Please Call (213) 896-6537.

For more info email inquiries-veterans@lacba.org

RECEIVE FREE SUPPORT WITH THE CALWORKS HOME VISITING PROGRAM



CalWORKs parents who are pregnant or parenting a three-year old or younger child, can receive FREE home-based support to help keep your family healthy and prepare your child to start school. Learn more and sign up by calling 800-427-8700 (Press 4, Option 2).



GAS ASSISTANCE FUND

THE GAS ASSISTANCE FUND (GAF) OFFERS A ONE-TIME GRANT TO HELP CUSTOMERS PAY THEIR NATURAL GAS BILLS WITH MORE CUSTOMERS NOW ELIGIBLE

SoCalGas has made available \$10M in funding to support low-income families, older adults, and small businesses who need help paying their gas bills. If you're having difficulty paying your natural gas bill, the Gas Assistance Fund (GAF) may be able to provide you, or someone you know, with a **one-time grant** for the amount of the gas bill, not to exceed \$400.00. If the eligible applicant is age 55+ or has an older adult (55+) living in the household, an additional \$100 is available for a maximum grant of up to \$500. Additionally, those facing certain financial hardships may be eligible for extra grant funding.

[More Info](#)

MAY HOMELESS CONNECT DAY – LEGAL, GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING ASSISTANCE



Newhall Community Center

22421 Market St.

Newhall, CA 91321



This one-day event is a collaboration between Bridge to Home and the City of Santa Clarita, the County of Los Angeles, and local non-profit agencies in SPA 2 to provide free one stop services to families and individuals experiencing homelessness.

Thursday, May 18, 2023
9am-1pm

More Info

SOCAL GAS COMPANY ONE-TIME GRANTS TO LOW-INCOME FAMILIES



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[More Info](#)

LA COUNTY HELPFUL RESOURCES:

- [Community Vaccine Resource Page](#)
- [COVID-19 Testing](#)
- [Get Ahead - LA Financial Resources](#)
- [Vaccine Locator Tool](#)
- [COVID-19 Resources for Parents and Guardians](#) (Spanish: ph.lacounty.gov/covidinfopadres)
- [One Degree Community Resources](#)



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