

NEWS

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Department of Children's Services Receives National Award

The San Bernardino County Department of Children's Services has received the prestigious National Association of Counties (NACo) award for its Adolescent Specialized Unit (ASU). The annual award is presented to counties in recognition of outstanding and innovative programs.

The Adolescent Specialized Unit, conceived and developed by line staff, allows social workers the opportunity to spend time and build relationships with the often difficult, and emotionally troubled teens who seem to drift through the child protective system without any adult attachments or role models. This investment in children's futures has resulted in a trend reversal whereby rather than the typical move to group homes and higher levels of care, teens move to less restrictive levels of care and, in some cases, return home. Teens with little or no hope of success suddenly begin to experience adults taking a real interest in them and making an investment in their success. For these teens, it can be the beginning of a successful transition into adulthood.

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