  

Dear Pantry Supervisor,

A collaboration of the Ventura County Area on Aging Agency, the VCSSTF and members of many of social service facilities in the county have taken on the task to address the growing issue with Seniors and Dependent or Disabled adults regarding their inability to get the food and support services they need. This group has created a process to help assess the needs of the at-risk-of-homelessness seniors and Dependent or Disabled adults and get them referrals to the services they may not currently be receiving.

This is a volunteer program and not required by any facility. As a pantry in the Ventura County, we are hoping that you will add this form to your current pantry distribution process. The Part A portion asks about the possible dietary restrictions and cooking capabilities of your clients. The Part B portion is more for referral services. This can be filled out to help you establish a need for your clients and assist them in receiving all the services they are qualified for.

Please assure your clients that none of this information given will inhibit them from services or deny them access to as many pantries as they currently visit. It is strictly to help your pantry identify the needs of your clients and hopefully be able to better serve those needs.

Forms can be facilitated within your own pantry or forwarded to the West County referral Agent, Project Understanding. If only pantry services are needed and provided, you may fax the food sheet to Project and we will forward the information to Food Share for you. If your facility offers the needed services, you can fill out the forms and fax to Project with notes stating what referral(s) were made. If you do not offer these services you can forward the application and refer the client to Project Understanding for an intake appointment and we will follow through with appropriate referrals or enter them into one of our programs. These forms will be kept at Project Understanding as a centralized location for ease of managing the data. Project Understanding, VCSSTF, Agency on Aging or any other facility within the collaborating group will in no way be overseeing or monitoring your facility. Project Understanding is solely a centralized office to keep the records of services provided or referred.

We are currently establishing a drop off service for those who cannot find other means to get their food or it has become a burden to find transportation. These clients can be referred to Project Understanding and we will assess their need and set up delivery for them on a monthly or bi-monthly basis if they qualify.

You may have already been sent the attached form for Food Share. If you are using it, we appreciate it greatly. Hopefully you can fax us the client forms for those you have already provided services to. If not, I have enclosed a copy for your review and hope you will be able to implement it into your pantry service. If you have any questions or would like more information on the program or the attached forms, please feel free to contact me. My information is listed below.

Sincerely,

Janine Dykstra

Project Understanding Panty Manager

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Ventura CA 93001

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