



Program Wish Lists and Guidelines

One great way to partner with ECS is to collect items - on your own or with a group – to benefit our clients. Below are ideas for collections as well as guidelines to ensure your efforts match the needs of the adults and families we serve.

Homeless Adults with Mental Health Disorders

- *Friend to Friend – homeless outreach program serving over 900 adults per year*
- *Uptown Safe Haven – transitional home serving 50 homeless adults each year*

Collection ideas: pop-top canned soup & “on the go” snacks, new men’s and women’s socks & underwear, jackets, gloves, gift cards (i.e. Subway, Rubios, healthier food preferred), blankets, thumb drives, professional clothes for job interviews, hygiene items, books, art supplies, household items for clients moving into permanent housing (kitchen accessories, cleaning supplies, towels, beddings, curtains)

Children & Families

- *Head Start – child development program serving 2,300 children ages 0-5 and their families per year*
- *Para Las Familias – therapeutic program for preschool children serving 250 families each year*

Collection ideas: toys, family games, children’s books, art supplies, baby clothes/items, hygiene items, diapers, holiday gifts, maternity clothes, school uniforms, gift cards for gas, haircuts, groceries, Payless or other shoe stores, restaurants, hotels, or pre-paid phone cards.

Adults in Recovery

- *Central East Regional Recovery Center – recovery program serving over 200 adults each year*
- *ACCORD - DUI education and counseling program serving over 4,000 people per year*

Collection ideas: gift cards (i.e. Walmart, Target); clothing (i.e. hats, scarves, gloves, socks, sweaters), gift bags with toiletries including wipes/hand sanitizer, food/snacks

Notes and items to avoid:

Hygiene Items - Both travel size for homeless clients and larger-sized items for residents of our transitional housing program are useful.

Canned Goods and Softer Foods - Please avoid donating canned goods that require a can opener (pop tops or flip tops are more accessible for people on the streets). Also, softer foods can be helpful for people with bad teeth (chewy granola bars instead of crunchy, etc.).

Socks, Underwear, and Cosmetics - Please do not donate used socks, underwear, or cosmetics, and note that we do greatly appreciate new socks and underwear of all sizes for both men and women. Also, black or dark socks are great, as they don’t look dirty as quickly as white socks.

To learn more about our programs, visit ecscalifornia.org

To learn about engaging with our work, contact Deann Rios, Community Engagement Coordinator, at drrios@ecscalifornia.org, 619.694.9892 (cell), or 619.228.2840 (direct line).