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**Child Support Back to School Backpack Project 2014**

Children are our future. Eastern Sierra Department of Child Support Services strives to increase the well-being of children. The child support department does more than provide financial security for families, the agency also assists with obtaining health insurance orders, cost sharing for child care, medical expenses, and more. Child support increases family self-sufficiency, reduces child poverty, and has a positive effect on children’s educational achievement.

July 2014 marks the second annual Back to School Backpack Project which targets cases managed by the agency with school-aged children “We know that child support payments positively impact a child’s personal and educational success,” said Director, Susanne Rizo. As a new school year approaches, families need money to purchase clothing, school supplies, and more. “One thing we see families struggle with is the cost of back to school items for their children. We want to help children obtain the school supplies needed for a successful education.”

The agency serves over 1,300 children under the age of 18. While parents are encouraged to make child support payments every month, under this project, cases with payment received during the month of July will qualify to win a backpack filled with school supplies. In addition, the agency is offering two (2) super passes to the 2014 Tri County Fair (donated by the Eastern Sierra Tri County Fairgrounds) to one lucky winner. Be sure to get your child support payment in by the end of July to qualify to win.

Last year, Eastern Sierra Department of Child Support Services staff members made donations to purchase two backpacks full of school supplies for two of the families within their caseload. The hope is to expand the project this year, and the agency is seeking partners within the community to contribute towards this cause. “This year, our goal is to give away 20 backpacks with school supplies to children in our caseload,” Rizo said. “We have seen tremendous support in the business community thus far and want to thank and acknowledge Wave Rave, Value Sports, Wilson’s Eastside Sports, Vons, K-Mart, Rite Aid, J. Rousek Toy Company, and the Eastern Sierra Tri County Fair who have already pledged their support and made contributions to this project.”

For more information, or to make a donation or child support payment please stop by our Bishop and Mammoth Lakes offices or, contact us at (760) 873-7988 or visit the Inyo or Mono Child Support websites at www.inyocounty.us or [www.monocounty.ca.gov](http://www.monocounty.ca.gov)

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