



# COUNTY OF YOLO

Office of the County Administrator

*Patrick S. Blacklock*  
County Administrator

Beth Gabor  
Manager of Public Affairs

625 Court Street, Room 204 • Woodland, CA 95695  
(530) 666-8195 • FAX (530) 666-8193  
[www.yolocounty.org](http://www.yolocounty.org)

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Contact: Beth Gabor, Manager of Public Affairs  
(530) 666-8042 [w] • (530) 219-8464 [c]

## **Yolo Receives Technical Assistance Grant for Criminal Justice & Social Systems**

**(Woodland, CA)** – Yolo County is one of three counties in California that has been awarded a Justice Reinvestment Initiative technical assistance grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance.

The Justice Reinvestment Initiative is a system-wide process designed for local leaders who want to rethink how they allocate resources throughout their criminal justice and social service systems. It is for those aiming not just to contain criminal justice costs, but also achieve a greater public safety impact with current resources.

Justice reinvestment is a multi-staged, ongoing process whereby local stakeholders collaborate across city and county systems to identify criminal justice cost drivers and then develop and implement new ways of reinvesting scarce resources – both in the community and within the jail system. Technical assistance provided by the Bureau of Justice through this grant will include performing data analysis to identify system-wide cost saving initiatives and yield greater positive impacts on public safety.

The economic downturn and associated budget reductions at the state and local levels have placed Yolo County's criminal justice system in a tenuous position. At the same time, local government officials have been concerned about the steady escalation in costs associated with public safety that appear to be utilizing an increasing share of discretionary local funds. Adding to these issues, in June 2011, Governor Brown signed the Public Safety Realignment Act which is the policy mechanism that reduces the state prison population by approximately 30,000 prisoners. As a result, this policy shifts jurisdiction for many "low level" offenders to local authority for correctional intervention, both in detention and in the community.

"While Yolo County has made recent efforts to implement evidence-based practices to reduce the number of prison commitments that result from probation violations, there is still work that can be done to provide high standards of public safety and justice, as we deal with increasing workloads and decreasing resources," said Yolo County Board of Supervisors Chair Jim Provenza. "This technical assistance grant will help us identify how best to absorb the new workload associated with this realignment while maintaining public safety in a sustainable way."

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