



COUNTY OF YOLO

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Yolo County Homeless Census

(Woodland, CA) – The Yolo County Homeless & Poverty Action Coalition (HPAC) (formerly the Yolo County Homeless Coalition) is conducting a point-in-time street count of the homeless throughout Yolo County on January 30, 2007. The countywide count will occur from 7:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and will include a survey component. This biennial homeless count is a collaborative effort of community volunteers, including homeless and formerly homeless individuals, and HPAC member and partner agencies.

The federal Department of Housing and Urban Development requires that a point-in-time homeless count occur within specific guidelines in order to qualify for Continuum of Care/Supportive Housing Program (SHP) funding. Yolo County homeless services providers currently receive about \$330,000 in SHP funding. Additionally, the count provides information that allows service providers to target services to meet the specific needs of the homeless in our communities.

“The cities, as well as the county, recognize that this count is essential to our funding and to the services we provide to our homeless population,” said Yolo County Board of Supervisors Chair Mariko Yamada. “I appreciate the collaboration leading up to this biennial census and look forward to participating as one of the volunteers. The results will be a valuable tool to assist all of us in allocating our services.”

The count will include both sheltered and unsheltered homeless individuals and families. The count of sheltered individuals will occur the night before the street count and include emergency shelters, transitional housing, and hotel/motel/apartment voucher programs. It will not include waiting lists or those staying in motels the night of the count. The unsheltered homeless count will include those sleeping in places not meant for human habitation according to HUD guidelines.

Since the count includes a survey component, it is estimated that numbers will be released within about two weeks of the count and additional survey data will be available for the annual Homeless Summit, scheduled to take place Wednesday, March 14, 2007 at the West Sacramento Civic Center.

HPAC is an affiliation of public sector groups including the County of Yolo and private, non-profit agencies. Its mission is to provide leadership on homelessness and poverty in Yolo County with the vision to create and sustain a comprehensive, coordinated and balanced array of human services for homeless and low-income individuals and families within Yolo County.

For more information, contact Bill Pride, HPAC Chairperson, at (530) 756-4008.

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