
YOLO COUNTY HOMELESS SERVICES UPDATE FY 16/17

QUARTER 2: OCTOBER –DECEMBER 2016

Homelessness is a significant issue in Yolo County, with the most recent homeless census (conducted in January 2015) identifying 498 people experiencing homelessness in Yolo on a single night. The Homeless Services Team within the Yolo County Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) was created in FY 15/16 with the intended purpose of partnering with local agencies to address issues of homelessness in the Yolo community. The Homeless Services Team focuses on accomplishing four key goals as described below:

- **Goal 1:** Grow funding for homeless services in Yolo County.
- **Goal 2:** Develop a robust Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and coordinated entry system.
- **Goal 3:** Establish a full continuum of housing and services for people experiencing homelessness.
- **Goal 4:** Provide coordination for the overall homeless system in Yolo County.

The following report provides information on progress made towards each of these goals during the second quarter of FY 16/17.

GOAL 1: GROW FUNDING FOR HOMELESS SERVICES

Currently there is not sufficient funding for homeless services in Yolo County. A significant portion of Homeless Services Team staff time is dedicated to pursuing new funding opportunities (and maintaining existing funding sources) to address this issue. The table below provides a log of the grants coordinated and/or authored by the County Homeless Services Team during FY 16/17:

FY 16/17 Grant Log				
Grant	Role		Applied For	Received
Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)	Coordinator	Renewal	\$293,147 <i>(1-Year Period)</i>	\$293,147
Continuum of Care (CoC)	Coordinator, Author	Renewal	\$497,020 <i>(1-Year Period)</i>	\$487,950
Cooperative Agreements to Benefit Homeless Individuals (CABHI)	Author	New	\$2,399,328.57 <i>(3-Year Period)</i>	\$2,399,328.57
Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)	Coordinator, Author	Renewal	\$454,396 <i>(2-Year Period)</i>	\$454,396

GOAL 2: DEVELOP A ROBUST HOMELESS MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM (HMIS) AND COORDINATED ENTRY SYSTEM

Vulnerability Index and Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT)

The Vulnerability Index and Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT) is an evidence informed tool that combines both medical and social science research to quantify the vulnerability of people experiencing homelessness with a numeric score. The score allows workers to link clients with appropriate services and housing, and also assists with prioritization of limited homeless resources based upon the acuity of a person's needs.

The ultimate goal is to have all people experiencing homelessness in Yolo County assessed and scored using the VI-SPDAT. In FY 16/17, the County set a goal of having internal staff and contracted providers

complete 200 VI-SPDATs. From October to December local providers completed 137 assessments, including 110 single adults and 27 families. When adding this quarter's total to the previous quarter, providers in Yolo County have completed 229 assessments, exceeding the annual goal halfway through the year.

The Homeless Services Team has committed to making training on the VI-SPDAT available to local providers as needed. In October 2016, staff hosted a VI-SPDAT training for CalWORKs Housing Support program staff so they are able to begin using the tool when providing services to families experiencing homelessness.

Coordinated Entry Planning Grant

During the 2015 Continuum of Care (CoC) funding round the Yolo County Homeless and Poverty Action Coalition (HPAC) received a \$15,752 planning grant to establish and implement a permanent coordinated entry system. HPAC will use the money to hire the nonprofit consulting company, HomeBase, to facilitate an initial half-day planning session followed by two 2-hour sessions and ongoing technical assistance over a 3-month period. Given that the federal government recently published guidance requiring local communities to have a fully operational coordinated entry system established by January 2018, this process will be critical. Staff began coordinating conversations with HomeBase and the HPAC Technical Subcommittee during Quarter 2 to develop a scope of work for the project, and plans to begin implementation in Quarter 3.

Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR)

In December 2016, staff submitted local data for the federal government's Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR). Presented to the U.S. Congress, the AHAR provides national estimates of homelessness, including information about the demographic characteristics of homeless persons, service use patterns, and the capacity to house homeless persons.

Since the AHAR relies primarily on information from HMIS, communities must meet high data quality standards in order to have their local data incorporated into the report. This year marked Yolo County's first time participating in the AHAR. Out of 14 categories, the federal government used 8 of Yolo County's reports in its national projections.

GOAL 3: DEVELOP A FULL CONTINUUM OF HOUSING AND SERVICES

Extended Hope Project

Throughout the quarter, staff continued preparing for the implementation of the Extended Hope project by convening bi-weekly meetings with the primary subcontractor, Fourth and Hope. Funded by a Cooperative Agreement to Benefit Homeless Individuals (CABHI) grant, the project will provide intensive wraparound care to persons experiencing homelessness with co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders. HHS anticipates service delivery to begin by in late February.

I SEE YOU Art Engagement Project

I SEE YOU is a partnership between Yolo HHS, the Yolo County Library and YoloArts that provides experimental art classes to people experiencing homelessness in Yolo County. The James Irvine Foundation provided \$68,000 in funding for the project over a 24-month period, with YoloArts as the grant administrator. The Project conducts free weekly art workshops (over a 10-week period) for people experiencing homelessness in each of our major cities. The second round of workshops was hosted in West Sacramento from September to December 2016, and the art exhibit was scheduled for January 6, 2017. The final round of workshops will be scheduled for Woodland beginning in April 2017.

GOAL 4: PROVIDE SYSTEM-WIDE COORDINATION

2017 Homeless Count

The Homeless Count Subcommittee began meeting in October of 2016 to assist with planning for the 2017 point-in-time count. Yolo County is required to complete both a sheltered and unsheltered count in 2017. Staff convened several planning meetings during Quarter 2, to establish an organizational structure, select a methodology, and develop a survey instrument. In addition, staff created an instructional guide meant to serve as a training resource for participants of the count. The guide featured messaging points for count organizers and step-by-step instructions for count enumerators. The subcommittee selected a count date of January 23, 2017. Staff expects to complete the count and begin analyzing the data in Quarter 3, and will share a report summarizing the final count results once they have been tabulated.

HPAC Policies and Procedures Manual

Throughout the quarter, staff continued its efforts to expand HPAC's Policies and Procedures Manual. In addition to being a helpful local resource, the manual satisfies numerous state and federal government mandates requiring written policies and procedures. Staff worked with Policies and Procedures Subcommittee of the Homeless and Poverty Action Coalition (HPAC) to develop new sections pertaining to the HPAC election process and the federal government's final rule on gender identity.

WHAT'S COMING UP IN QUARTER 3?

The Homeless Team's intended next steps are outlined in the FY 16/17 Work Plan (Appendix C). Several of the highest priority activities during Quarter 3 will include:

- Conduct the Homeless Count and Housing Inventory Count and submit the data to the federal government
- Implement a coordinated entry system planning process
- Begin service delivery for the Extended Hope project
- Execute an HMIS infrastructure improvement contract with Sacramento Steps Forward

APPENDIX A: MEETING/TRAINING LOGS

Public Presentations and Networking Meetings Log		
Meeting	Date/Frequency	Purpose
Yolo County Board of Supervisors Strategic Planning Session	10/4/16	Present
Commission on Aging Presentation	10/19/16	Present
HPAC Homeless Count Subcommittee	10/19/16	Coordinate
Sacramento Region Homeless Coordinators Meeting	10/21/16	Participate
City of Woodland Homeless Subcommittee Meeting	10/25/16	Participate
HPAC General Meeting	10/26/16	Coordinate
Getting to Zero Initiative Meeting	11/1/16	Participate
Davis City Council/Board of Supervisors 2x2	11/4/16	Present
Partnership HealthPlan Social Determinants of Health Webinar	11/8/16	Present
Community Services Action Board	11/8/16	Coordinate
Proposition 47 Stakeholder Input Meetings	11/14 & 11/18/16	Coordinate
Yolo County Provider Stakeholder Workgroup	11/17/16	Present
HPAC Policies and Procedures Subcommittee Meeting	11/17/16	Coordinate
HPAC Homeless Count Subcommittee	11/17/16	Coordinate
City of West Sacramento Motel Survey Meeting	11/18/16	Participate
Meet-and-Greet with Catholic Charities	11/18/16	Participate
Yolo Healthy Aging Alliance Collaboration Committee Meeting	11/28/16	Present
HPAC General Meeting	11/30/16	Coordinate
SACOG Government Affairs Working Group Meeting	11/30/16	Participate
Northern California Homeless Roundtable	12/1/16	Present
Sutter Health Getting to Zero Initiative Meeting	12/7/16	Present
Community Services Action Board	12/13/16	Coordinate
HPAC Technical Subcommittee Meeting	12/15/16	Coordinate
Sutter Davis Coordination Meeting	12/15/16	Participate
Homeless Count Subcommittee Meeting	12/15/16	Coordinate

Conference/Training Log	
Topic	Host Agency
EDGE Issue Immersion Day: Homelessness in Sacramento – EDGEucate Yourself	Metro EDGE, Sacramento Metro Chamber
Social Determinants of Health Conference — Improving the Health and Homeless Populations Through Innovation and Collaboration	Partnership HealthPlan of California

