

YOLO COUNTY HOMELESS SERVICES UPDATE FY 16/17
FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017 YEAR END REPORT

Homelessness is a significant issue in Yolo County, with the most recent homeless census (conducted in January 2017) identifying 459 people experiencing homelessness in Yolo on a single night. The Homeless Services staff within the Yolo County Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA), in partnership with the many local jurisdictions and homeless service providers, focus on accomplishing four key goals, including:

- **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 a year end status update on progress made towards each of these goals during FY 16/17. Please note that this report could not possibly capture all of the work that is completed in the local system to address homelessness. This report is meant to capture new and evolving efforts that the County is involved in, but please let us know if we are missing anything that we should consider including in a future report!

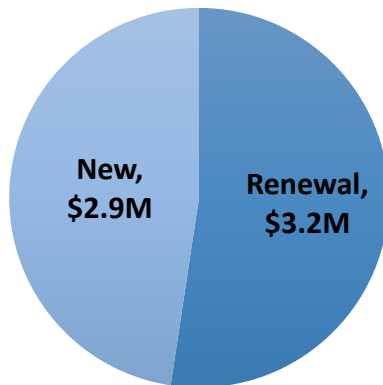
GOAL 1: GROW FUNDING FOR HOMELESS SERVICES

Currently there is not sufficient funding for homeless services in Yolo County. A significant portion of HHSA homeless 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 HHSA staff during FY 16/17:

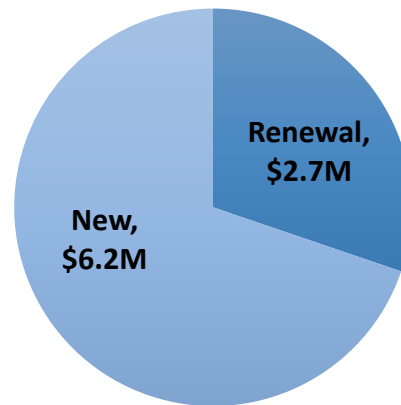
FY 16/17 Grant Log				
Grant	Role	Type	Applied For	Received
Bringing Families Home Grant	Co-Author	New	\$225,000 <i>(2.25-Year Period)</i>	\$225,000
CalWORKs Housing Support Program	Author	Renewal	\$2,200,000 <i>(1-year period)</i>	\$1,800,000
Community Services Block Grant	Author	Renewal	\$293,147 <i>(1-year period)</i>	\$293,147 <i>(1-year period)</i>
Cooperative Agreements to Benefit Homeless Individuals (CABHI) *Application submitted in FY 15/16, awarded in 16/17	Author	New	\$2,399,328.57 <i>(3-Year Period)</i>	\$2,399,328.57
2016 Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) *Application submitted in FY 15/16, awarded in 16/17	Coordinator, Author	Renewal	\$454,396 <i>(2-Year Period)</i>	\$454,396

2016 Continuum of Care (CoC)	Coordinator, Author	Renewal	\$495,065.52 <i>(1-Year Period)</i>	\$474,575
Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP)	Coordinator	Renewal	\$112,157	\$112,157
No Place Like Home Technical Assistance	Author	New	\$100,000	TBD
Proposition 47 Grant	Co-Author and Coordinator	New	\$5,962,139 <i>(38-Month Period)</i>	\$5,962,139

FY 15/16 Grants
\$6.1 Million



FY 16/17 Grants
\$8.9 Million



List of Funding Opportunities

In January of 2017, staff finalized and publicly shared a comprehensive list of opportunities to fund homeless services. The list includes detailed information about each recurring grant opportunity, such as due date, funder, eligible entities, match requirements, and purpose. Staff will update the list as needed to ensure the list remains current.

Proposition 47 Grant

In February 2017, HHSA staff worked in collaboration with the District Attorney’s Office, Probation Department, and Public Defender’s Office to submit an application to the Board of State and Community Corrections for Proposition 47 grant funds. In June 2017, staff learned that of 58 applicants, Yolo was among 23 selected for funding. The proposed project, called Steps to Success, will use \$6M over a 38-month period to provide wraparound services for individuals who are eligible for a criminal justice diversion program, but unlikely to succeed without supports due to their history of mental health issues and/or substance use disorders. Proposed supports include intensive case management, employment assistance, civil legal assistance, and permanent housing assistance.

Bringing Families Home Grant

In April 2017, staff worked with Yolo County Child Welfare Services on submitting a grant application to the California Department of Social Services for Bringing Families Home funding. In May 2017, staff

received notification that the application was funded in the amount of \$112,500. The County will provide matching funds of \$112,500, bringing the total funding for the project to \$225,000 over a two-year period. The proposed project will use Bringing Families Home funding to provide housing supports to families experiencing homelessness or at-risk of homelessness who are involved in the Yolo County Child Welfare system. The project will provide families with rental subsidies, deposit assistance and eviction prevention assistance when homelessness is the primary barrier to family reunification, and all other safety concerns have been addressed.

No Place Like Home Technical Assistance

In May 2017, staff submitted an application to the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) for No Place Like Home Technical Assistance funds in the amount of \$100,000. The funds may be used to fund a range of activities that support the planning, design and implementation of coordinated entry systems, permanent supportive housing and the accompanying supportive services for individuals with serious mental illness. The County will not develop a concrete plan for use of the funds until after they are received, as allowed by the funding application. If funding is approved, the County expects to receive notification in July or August of 2017.

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

HMIS Policies and Procedures Manual

HPAC formally adopted an HMIS Policies and Procedure Manual during a meeting of the full membership in August 2016. HPAC did not previously have a HMIS Policies and Procedures Manual, which made the community less competitive for federal funding. The Manual was developed by the HPAC Data Subcommittee, with support from the County's Homeless Analyst.

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.

HUD System Performance Report

In August 2016, staff successfully submitted Yolo County's first Systems Performance Measures Report (which included baseline data for 2015) to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The report is a new requirement that will be submitted on an annual basis, and contains seven metrics pulled directly from the local HMIS meant to quantify the overall impact of the region's homeless services system. In May 2017, staff had the opportunity to re-submit baseline data for 2015 (with some data quality improvements), as well as submitting the data for 2016.

Metrics on the report include:

1. The length of time individuals and families remain homeless
2. The extent to which individuals and families who exit homelessness return to homelessness

3. The overall reduction in the number of homeless individuals and families
4. Jobs and income growth for homeless individuals and families
5. Success at reducing the number of individuals and families who become homeless
6. Successful placement from street outreach
7. Successful housing placement to or retention in a permanent housing destination

The report is consistent with HUD's recent policy shift of viewing the local homeless response as a coordinated system rather than individual programs. While the baseline data did affect FY 2016 funding from the federal government, federal statute requires that HUD incorporate the system performance measure data as part of its selection criteria for future Continuum of Care (CoC) Program grants. Thus, this report will serve as a critical roadmap for future system goals and priorities.

Coordinated Entry

Coordinated entry is a system of accessing housing dedicated to homeless individuals that features several key components, including:

- Streamlined access and referral
- Fair and equal access
- Standardized tools and practices
- A Housing First approach
- Prioritization of those most in need of assistance

Coordinated entry is intended to maximize homeless resources by matching the highest need client with the most intensive resources. In 2016, the federal government published guidance that requires all local communities have a fully operational coordinated entry system established by January 23, 2018, as well as providing significant guidance on how the system must be structured.

In order to assist Yolo in developing and implementing a coordinated entry system that meets the federal requirements, the Yolo County Homeless and Poverty Action Coalition (HPAC) applied for and received a \$15,752 planning grant in the 2015 Continuum of Care (CoC) competition. The funds were used to hire HomeBase, a nonprofit consulting company, to facilitate an initial half-day planning session followed by two 2-hour sessions and ongoing technical assistance over a 3-month period. The initial half-day planning session occurred in May 2017. At that time, HPAC established a monthly Subcommittee meeting to continue the work of designing a local coordinated entry.

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

One of the initial steps towards developing a successful coordinated entry system involved selecting a universal assessment tool that will be administered on all people experiencing homelessness in a community to determine their vulnerability and need for services. Several local programs began piloting use of the Vulnerability Index and Services Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT) in July 2016. The 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, staff set a goal of completing 200 VI-SPDATs on Yolo County residents experiencing homelessness. Over the course of the year, staff and providers in Yolo County completed 477 assessments, including 411 individuals and 66 families. This exceeds our goal of 200 assessments by 239 percent.

GOAL 3: DEVELOP A FULL CONTINUUM OF HOUSING AND SERVICES

Bridge to Health and Housing

In December 2015, Yolo HHSA submitted a proposal for a social innovation grant from Partnership HealthPlan of California (PHC) to improve the health and well-being of medically vulnerable people experiencing homelessness through the Bridge to Health and Housing Project (B2HH). The proposal involved a collaboration of Fourth and Hope, Sutter Davis Hospital, Yolo Community Care Continuum, Yolo County HHSA and Woodland Memorial Hospital that aims to improve the well-being of medically vulnerable people experiencing homelessness in Yolo County. In March 2016 Yolo HHSA was awarded \$499,125 to fund the two-year project, and operations began in July 2016. The project includes three components aimed at better serving the medically vulnerable including (1) identification, assessment and triage, (2) case management, and (3) housing navigation. Staff continued to monitor the program during its first year, and the program is currently fully operational.

During its first year, the project enrolled 40 individuals, and secured permanent housing for 16 individuals (40%). The project successfully enrolled 100% of its participants in Medi-Cal (or another form of health insurance), and reduced the frequency of emergency room visits by 10.29% (from an average of 2.615 visits in the past 6 months, to 2.346).

CalWORKs Housing Support Program

The California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) Housing Support Program works to secure permanent housing for homeless families. Between July 2016 and May 2017, the program provided specialty case management services to an average of 96 families per month; provided temporary housing to an average of 31 families per month; assisted 124 adults in securing employment; and successfully secured permanent housing placements for 86 new families.

Davis Pathways

Many partners within the City of Davis have been working collaboratively to develop a range of homeless services called Davis Pathways, which includes the following components:

- ***New Pathways Short-Term Supported Housing:*** New Pathways is a partnership of the City of Davis, County of Yolo, Davis Community Meals and Housing (DCMH), Yolo Community Care Continuum (YCCC) and Yolo Housing to provide short-term housing and intensive services. The project aims to permanently house the most vulnerable individuals experiencing chronic homelessness in Davis, as well as to improve their physical and behavioral health, increase income, and reduce involvement with the criminal justice and emergency healthcare systems. The partners began working to develop the project in fall 2015, and funding for the project was approved by the City and County in December 2015. The project began operating in February 2016 and was approved for continued funding in FYs 16/17 and 17/18.

- ***Pathways to Employment Project:*** In March of 2017, the City of Davis, Davis Community Meals and Housing (DCMH), the local faith community, Davis businesses and HHSA launched the Pathways to Employment project. The project employs five (5) people experiencing homelessness to complete various jobs such as landscaping, sidewalk cleaning, trash removal, and other tasks related to beautification in downtown Davis. The project pays participants \$12 per hour and anticipates a workload of approximately 12 hours per week. DCMH employs a supervisor to provide guidance, teach job skills, and assist with establishing permanent employment opportunities for the project participants.
- ***Getting to Zero Vouchers:*** The City of Davis secured funding from Sutter Health to provide bridge housing subsidies to homeless residents while participants wait for a Housing Choice Voucher from the Housing Authority. The program will also offer robust case management for participants when they are placed in permanent housing. Yolo Housing has developed the infrastructure necessary to launch the program, which will begin operating in July.
- ***Davis Homeless Coordinator:*** The Davis City Council approved funding to hire a full time Homeless Coordinator housed in the police department, beginning in July 2017.

Extended Hope

In March 2016, Yolo County Health and Human Services (HHS) submitted an application to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) for a Cooperative Agreements to Benefit Homeless Individuals (CABHI) grant. The application proposed to provide intensive wraparound care to people experiencing homelessness with co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders through the Extended Hope Project. In July 2016, staff received notification that the application was funded in the amount of \$2,399,328 over a three-year period (\$799,776 annually).

In February 2017, staff executed a three year contract with Fourth and Hope, to provide the service delivery components of the project. The key components include: (1) identification, assessment and triage, (2) intensive case management and treatment, and (3) housing navigation and permanent placement. Fourth and Hope officially began providing services to clients in April. During its first two months of operating, the program enrolled 32 individuals, of which 18 (56%) meet the federal definition of chronically homeless. All 32 participants have a mental health condition, while 16 (50%) also have a substance use disorder.

I SEE YOU Art Engagement

I SEE YOU is a partnership between Yolo HHS, the Yolo County Library and YoloArts that provided 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 conducted free weekly art workshops (over a 10-week period) for people experiencing homelessness in each of our major cities. The workshops were held in Davis, West Sacramento and Woodland over the past year, with evening I SEE YOU Art Exhibits hosted at the local libraries after each round of workshops.

GOAL 4: PROVIDE SYSTEM-WIDE COORDINATION

2017 Homeless Count and Housing Inventory Count

In January 2017, HPAC conducted its annual homeless count and housing inventory count. The count conducted this year required both a sheltered and unsheltered count. Staff convened five planning

meetings to establish an organizational structure, select a methodology, and develop a survey instrument. In addition, this year staff created an instructional guide meant to serve as a training resource. The guide featured messaging points for count organizers and step-by-step instructions for count enumerators. In April 2017, staff released a final report summarizing the homeless count data, which is posted on the County's Homeless Services webpage.

Sutter Health Getting to Zero Initiative

Between the months of February and May, the governing bodies for many local jurisdictions (including the Davis City Council, West Sacramento City Council, Woodland City Council and Yolo County Board of Supervisors) each passed a resolution in support of the Sutter Health Getting to Zero initiative. The initiative aims to align public, private, and philanthropic resources with the goal of attaining functional zero in Placer, Sacramento, and Yolo counties within the next three years. The initiative also embraces the principles of a Housing Crisis Resolution System that utilizes coordinated entry, low/no barrier housing, the Housing First model, a continuum of housing options, and supportive services.

HPAC Policies and Procedures Manual

This year 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. Throughout the year, staff worked with HPAC Policies and Procedures Subcommittee to develop new sections pertaining to the HPAC election process and the federal government's final rule on gender identity.

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN FY 17/18?

The HHS homeless services staff's intended next steps are outlined in the FY 17/18 Work Plan (Appendix C). Several of the highest priority activities for Quarter 1 will include:

- Coordinating several upcoming renewal funding competitions, including Continuum of Care, Emergency Solutions Grant and Mental Health Block Grant.
- Partnering with the local cities to apply for new funding from Partnership HealthPlan of California through their Housing Initiative.
- Continue development planning efforts for the local coordinated entry system.
- Recruit and hire a new Housing Coordinator at HHS, whose roll will be to work on the following key activities in support of strengthening our system-wide homeless efforts:
 - Landlord recruitment and engagement
 - Rental unit procurement and assistance with leasing for clients
 - Training on eviction prevention strategies for staff
 - Serving as a consultant on complicated housing cases
 - Coordinating and distributing routing housing inventory information (such as rental availabilities) countywide

APPENDIX A

Public Presentations and Networking Meetings Log		
Meeting	Date/Frequency	Purpose
One-Time Meetings/Presentations		
West Sacramento City Council- Homeless Coordination Contract	8/19/15	Present
Meet-and-Greet with West Sacramento Mercy Coalition	7/14/16	Present
Meet-and-Greet with Davis Interfaith Group	7/19/16	Present
Advocacy Meeting with Congressman Doris Matsui	7/26/16	Present
Advocacy Meeting with Congressman John Garamendi	7/27/16	Present
I SEE You Art Exhibition- Davis	9/9/16	Participate
Yolo County Board of Supervisor Homeless Update	9/13/16	Present
10-Year Plan Executive Commission	9/14/16	Present
SACOG Government Affairs Working Group- Homelessness	9/28/16	Participate
Board of Supervisors Strategic Planning Session- Homeless Update	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
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
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
SACOG Government Affairs Working Group Meeting	11/30/16	Participate
Sutter Health Getting to Zero Initiative Meeting	12/7/16	Present
Sutter Davis Coordination Meeting	12/15/16	Participate
Homeless Count Subcommittee Meeting	12/15/16	Coordinate
Whole Person Care Webinar	1/27/2017	Participate
Whole Person Care Learning Collaborative Call	1/31/2017	Participate
Cal Humanities Grant Kick Off Meeting	1/31/2017	Participate
Yolo County Board of Supervisors- Adoption of Getting to Zero Resolution	2/21/2017	Present
Sutter Health Getting to Zero Initiative- Data and Outcomes Tracking	3/1/3017	Participate
Homeless Discussion with Congressman Garamendi's Office	3/17/2017	Participate
Davis Social Services Strategic Plan Community Meeting	3/27/2017	Participate
Community Services Block Grant Public Forums	4/3 – 4/7/2017	Coordinate
Woodland 2x2	4/4/2017	Present
Homeless Count Subcommittee	4/5/2017	Coordinate
10-Year Plan to End Homelessness Executive Commission	4/19/2017	Present
Davis Chamber of Commerce Lunch and Learn	4/26/2017	Present

Woodland Interfaith Council	5/2/2017	Present
HUD Technical Assistance- On Site Visit	5/9/2017	Coordinate
West Sacramento City Council	5/10/2017	Attend
Health Council	5/11/2017	Present
Coordinated Entry Kick Off Session	5/30/2017	Coordinate
Binning's Community Listening Session	6/7/2017	Present
HPAC 10-Year Plan Subcommittee	6/7,6/14,6/21	Coordinate
Housing First Workshop	6/27/2017	Coordinate
HUD Technical Assistance- On-Site Visit	6/27/2017	Coordinate
Davis Social Services Strategic Plan Report Out Meeting	6/29/2017	Participate
Recurring Meetings/Presentations		
Community Services Action Board (CSAB)	Monthly	Coordinate
Regional Homeless Coordinators Gathering	Quarterly	Participate
Northern California Valley Regional Homeless Roundtable	Quarterly	Participate
Homeless and Poverty Action Coalition	Monthly	Coordinate
HPAC Technical Subcommittee	Quarterly	Coordinate
HPAC Data Subcommittee	Quarterly	Coordinate
No Place Like Home Technical Subcommittee Conference Calls	Monthly	Participate

Training and Conference Log	
Topic	Host Agency
National Alliance to End Homelessness Annual Conference- Washington D.C.	National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH)
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
Coordinated Entry System Planning Workshop	California Department of Housing and Community Development

