



COUNTY OF YOLO

Health and Human Services Agency

Community Services Action Board

2020-21 Yolo County Community Action Plan Summary

Background

Administered by the federal government, the Community Services Block Grant is dedicated to assisting local communities combat poverty. Yolo County receives approximately \$300,000 in Community Services Block Grant funding each calendar year. In order to receive the funds, a key stipulation is that local service areas must conduct a bi-annual needs assessment and develop an accompanying action plan for how the community will use the funds to better serve low-income individuals and families.

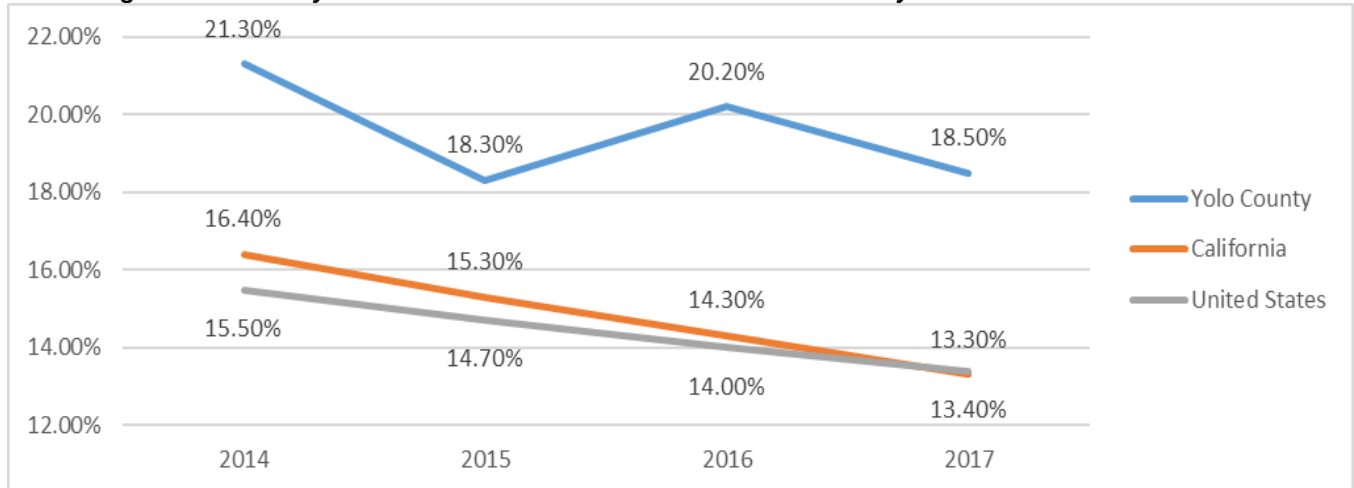
The following sections explain how the Yolo County Community Services Action Board with assistance from Yolo County Health and Human Services Agency staff conducted its 2020-21 needs assessment and developed its Community Action Plan.

Overview

Poverty in Yolo County

According to Census data, 18.5% (39,114 out of 211,305) of Yolo County residents live below the federal poverty level. Despite a decrease from 2016 to 2017, Yolo County's poverty rate continues to trend higher than both national and state percentages.

Percentage of Yolo County Residents with Incomes below the Federal Poverty Level over Time – 2014 to 2017



Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey

When comparing poverty rates among Yolo County's three largest cities, Davis has consistently experienced the highest rates, while West Sacramento experienced the largest one-year decrease (2.90%) from 2014 to 2015. One factor likely skewing Davis' poverty rate is the large population of University of California, Davis students who report little to no income.

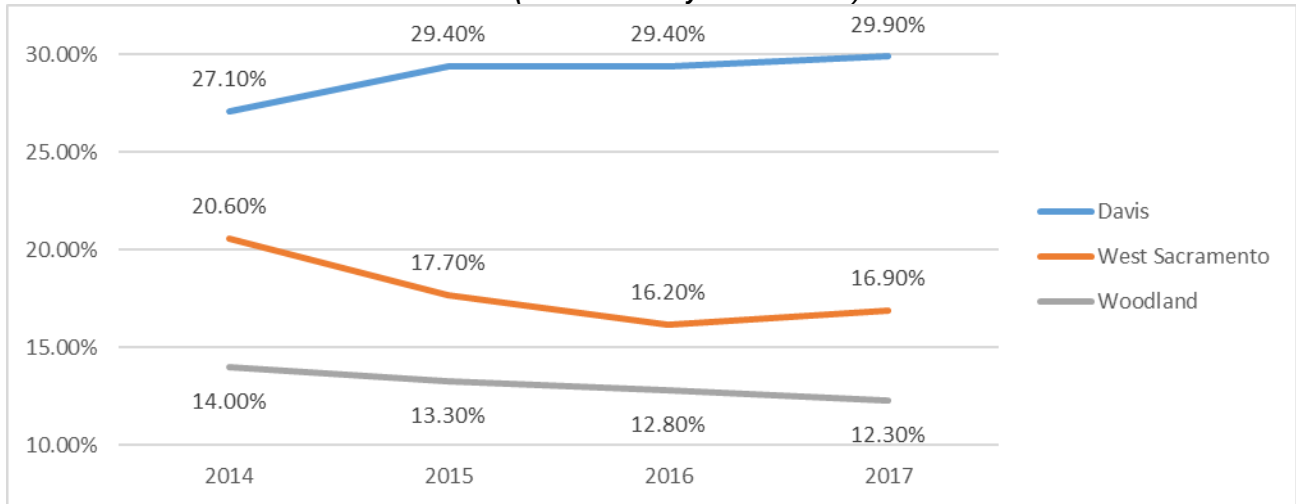


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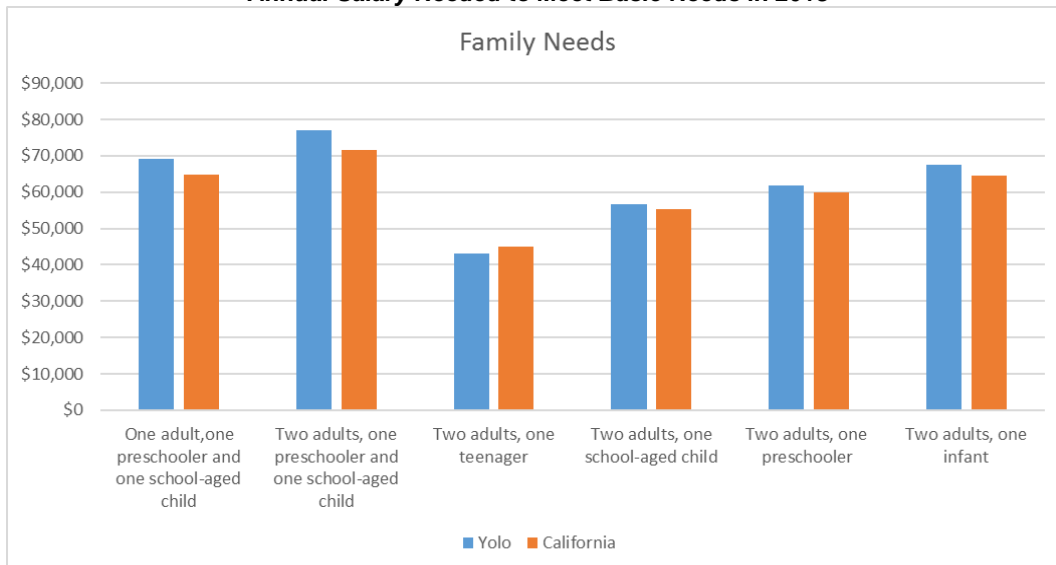
Percentage of Yolo County Residents with Incomes below the Federal Poverty Level by City over Time – 2014 to 2017 (based off five-year estimates)

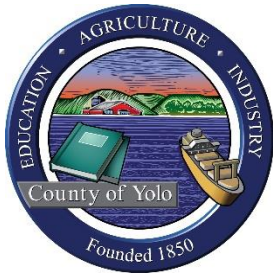


Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey

As an alternative to the federal poverty level, the Family Needs Calculator (formerly the Self-Sufficiency Standard) represents the estimated amount of money a family needs to adequately meet its basic needs (housing, food, child care, health care, transportation and taxes) without public or private assistance. In Yolo County the annual salary needed in 2018 to meet these basic needs is shown below for a sampling of family types.

Annual Salary Needed to Meet Basic Needs in 2018





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Data Source: Center for Community Economic Development, "2018 Family Needs Calculator." Retrieved from: <https://insightcced.org/2018-family-needs-calculator/>

Community Needs Assessment Methodology

HHSA/CSAB used a two – pronged methodology to conduct its Community Needs Assessment consisting of community input at public forums and through a Low-Income Needs Survey. The following sections explain each approach in more detail.

Public Forums

To ensure HHSA/CSAB received input from all geographic areas within its service area, staff convened six public forums in the cities and/or unincorporated areas of Davis, Esparto, Knights Landing, West Sacramento, Winters, and Woodland. HHSA/CSAB publicly noticed the meetings by disseminating a County press release, posting the information at its County service centers, advertising in local newspapers, and distributing the information to all of its County stakeholder email distribution groups.

At each public forum, staff provided an overview of the Community Services Block Grant and the Community Needs Assessment process. Thereafter, staff invited attendees to provide testimony as to the needs of low-income residents. Staff recorded the testimony and coded the qualitative information into categories, which staff presented to CSAB as part of its Community Needs Assessment results. In total, 30 people provided testimony at the public forums. Many community members and community based organizations were represented. The top three priority needs identified at the Public Forums were housing/homeless services, emergency assistance and disability related or elderly services.

Survey

In an effort to collect quantitative data, HHSA/CSAB also administered a Low-Income Needs Survey. The survey, available in electronic and paper formats as well as in English, Russian, and Spanish, allowed HHSA/CSAB to seek more standardized responses. Similar to the public forums, HHSA/CSAB publicly advertised the survey by disseminating a County press release (sent to media contacts, posted online to the County's website, general Facebook and Twitter feeds), posting the information at its County service centers, and distributing the information to all of its County stakeholder email distribution groups. Individual CSAB members also distributed the surveys further to community based organizations, local governing body representatives (i.e. County Board of Supervisors, City Council Members) and local advocacy committees.

In total, HHSA/CSAB received 545 responses, including a wide range of stakeholders. Out of 545 surveys received, the majority of respondents (302) self-identified as a "low-income resident of Yolo County". Additionally, of the 44 people who self-identified as "other", 24 specified affiliations that would be considered low-income such as homeless, SSDI recipient, social security recipient, student, etc.

Community Needs Assessment Findings

Based on both the qualitative and quantitative data collected, HHSA/CSAB identified housing/homeless services, employment/income assistance, and emergency assistance as key causes and conditions of poverty that need to be addressed.

As depicted in the figure below, 302 survey responses rated housing/homeless services as the most pressing need for low-income individuals and families in Yolo County. Income assistance received the second highest rating with 70 responses, followed by 65 responses for employment assistance and 59 responses for emergency assistance.

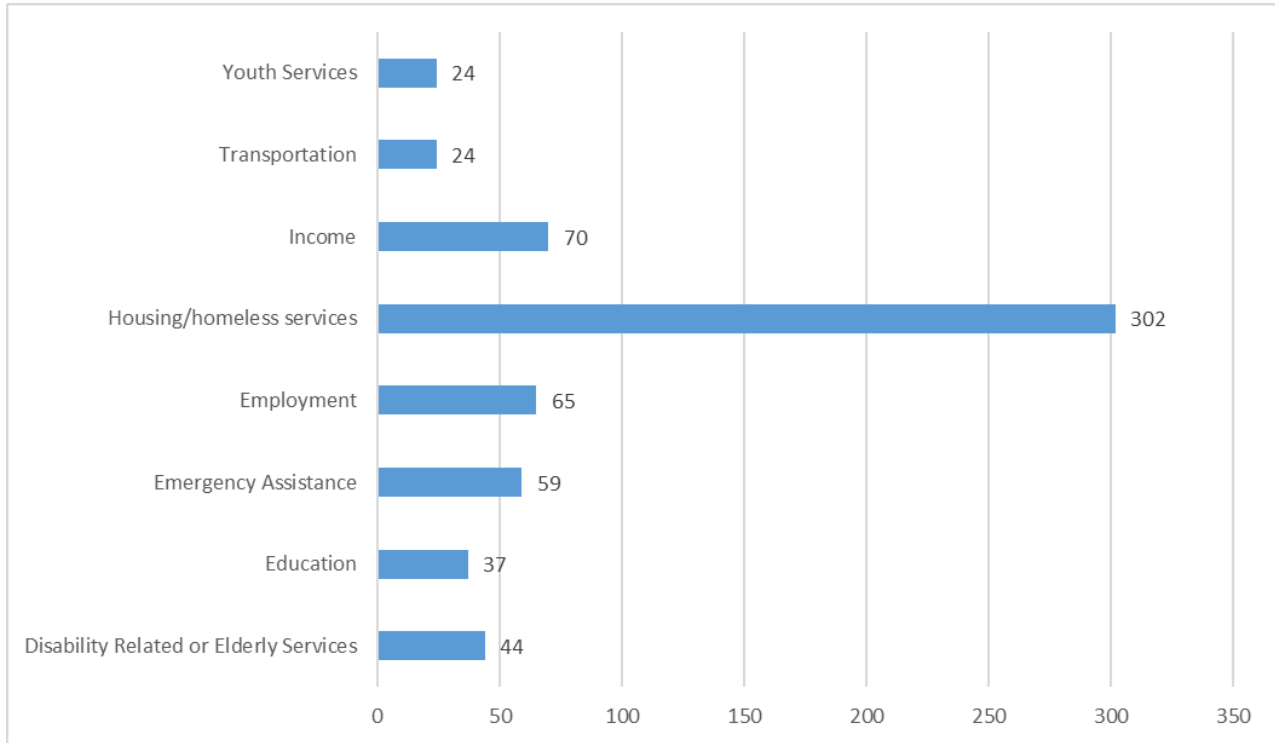


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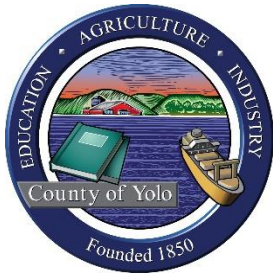
Survey Question—Which of the following do you think is the most pressing need for low-income individuals and families in Yolo County? Please mark one, most pressing need only.



To further define the need, the table below features survey participants weighted answer when asked to rate the need for each service within each larger category. The services are arranged in order of weighed average from highest to lowest.

Survey Question—Within each category, please rate the need for each service on a scale of 1 to 3 with 1 being rarely needed and 3 being very needed.

Answer Options	Rating Average
Housing/Homeless Services - Help Finding Housing	2.78
Emergency Assistance - Food	2.73
Employment - Job Skills Training	2.72
Housing/Homeless Services - Help Paying Rent	2.72
Housing/Homeless Services - Permanent Supportive Housing	2.70
Emergency Assistance - Emergency Shelter	2.69
Employment - Job Placement Assistance	2.67
Education - Career/Technical Education	2.65



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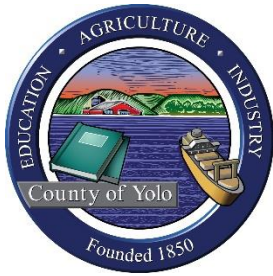
Housing/Homeless Services - Help Paying Utilities	2.64
Disability Related or Elderly - Advocacy for Disability Benefit	2.63
Youth Services - Childcare Services	2.63
Youth Services - Affordable Extracurricular/After School Programs	2.63
Housing/Homeless Services -Transitional and Bridge Housing	2.62
Income - Public Benefits Enrollment	2.61
Disability Related or Elderly - In-Home Support Services and Care	2.59
Employment -Employer Engagement and Recruitment	2.58
Transportation - Transportation Assistance	2.57
Youth Services - Parenting Support and Child Development Classes	2.56
Emergency Assistance - Protection from Violence	2.54
Housing/Homeless Services - Legal Services to Overcome Housing Barriers	2.54
Housing/Homeless Services - Eviction Prevention	2.53
Youth Services - Mentoring Programs (i.e. life skills, crime prevention)	2.53
Education - Life Skills Training	2.52
Emergency Assistance - Clothing and Other Weather Appropriate Items	2.52
Income - Money Management and Credit Repair	2.51
Youth Services - Tutoring Assistance	2.45
Disability Related or Elderly - Meal Delivery	2.41
Education - Adult Education Programs	2.38
Education - ESL Classes	2.29
Education - Literacy Classes	2.28
Income - Tax Preparation and Tax Credit Classes	2.26

Housing/Homeless Services

Consistent with past findings, the recent assessment substantiated the overwhelming need for housing and homeless services. This was the top priority need identified both at the public forums and through the low-income needs survey. According to the assessment results, priorities within this category include housing navigation assistance, eviction prevention assistance such as help paying rent and/or utilities, supportive services to assist persons maintain their permanent housing, and transitional/bridge housing.

Income and Employment

The assessment also revealed the need for assistance with income and employment. Although not identified as a priority need at the public forums, these received the 2nd and 3rd highest score when survey respondents were asked to rate the single most pressing need. Since these are so closely related, CSAB chose to combine them. Priorities within these categories include helping persons find and secure



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permanent employment, providing job skills training and assistance enrolling in public benefit programs such as CalWORKs, CalFresh and General Assistance.

Emergency Assistance

Another need identified by the assessment was emergency assistance in the form of shelter, food, supplies, and protection from violence. This category was identified as the 2nd highest need when discussed at the public forums, and the 4th highest need when survey respondents were asked to rate the single most pressing need. Priorities within this category include emergency shelter beds for persons and families experiencing homelessness, meals for food insecure persons and families, as well as safety from crime and domestic violence.

Disability Related or Elderly Services

This category of need received the 4th highest score when survey respondents were asked to rate the single most pressing need, and the 3rd highest need when discussed at the public forums. Priorities within this category include providing assistance to obtain disability benefits and assistance with in-home support services and care. CSAB recognized that the elderly and disabled are disproportionately represented in the local homeless population and chose to include this as a fourth category of priority need. This is consistent with an increased awareness of the growing aging homeless population, as reflected in this report by the Actionable Intelligence for Social Policy initiative: <https://www.aisp.upenn.edu/aginghomelessness/>