

## **COUNTY OF YOLO**

Office of the County Administrator

Sharon Jensen County Administrator

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## **Transitional Housing Program-Plus Provides Housing and More**

(Woodland, CA) – The Yolo County Department of Employment and Social Services (DESS), in partnership with the City of Davis and Davis Community Meals, is helping six former foster and probationary youth transition to adulthood via the Transitional Housing Program Plus (THP+). This two-year program, which began in August 2008, provides housing, utilities, a stipend for food and a savings account to help participants become self-sufficient and productive young adults in our community. Participants also receive furnishings for their homes and a means of transportation to get to and from school and work via bus passes or bicycles.

"The focus of the Transitional Housing Program Plus is on helping former foster and probationary youth develop job skills, money management techniques, and other life skills they need in order to be successful, independent adults once they transition out of the program," said Pam Miller, Yolo County Department of Employment and Social Services Director. "This guidance and support is offered via weekly intensive case management services with social workers. Once participants become successfully employed, 30 percent of their income is put into a savings account so they have the funding necessary to acquire their own living space once the program ends."

Another aspect of this program is that participants of THP+ work with other youth still in foster care, by sharing their personal experiences and helping current foster youth understand the possibilities that await them as they emancipate from the system. Teaching foster youth how to take responsibility for themselves, their actions and their lives is accomplished by including them in decision making, providing opportunities for leadership, and having them experience success.

THP+ currently has six participants. DESS is hopeful that the state will increase the program's funding in order to increase the number of participants in the next program year. DESS provides income support, food stamps and other aid to eligible low-income individuals and families; employment and training services to increase workforce participation and decrease dependency; and protective and supportive services for both children and vulnerable adults. For more information on THP+ contact Tanya Provencher, Employment and Transitional Services Division Manager, Yolo County Department of Employment and Social Services at (530) 661-2702 or email: tanya.provencher@yolocounty.org.