

2023–2024
Yolo County Civil Grand Jury
June 12, 2024

Addressing the Issue of Homelessness
in Yolo County
WE WON'T BE LEFT BEHIND



Photo courtesy of juror, Daniel Gumpy

THE YOLO COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY

ADDRESSING THE ISSUE OF HOMELESSNESS IN YOLO COUNTY

WE WON'T BE LEFT BEHIND



- Photo by Juror Daniel Gumpy-

*“Don’t try to drive the homeless into places we find suitable.
Help them survive in places they find suitable”*

- Daniel Quinn

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The 2023-2024 Yolo County Civil Grand Jury (Grand Jury) had the opportunity to meet and interview many individuals who assist in the structure and administration of services related to the unhoused population, as well as individuals in Yolo County who receive services and those who want to receive services. The willingness and candor of those interviewed to provide an honest exchange concerning the challenges and successes of the homeless and associated issues provided the Grand Jury with an abundance of information for this report. The Grand Jury expresses sincere appreciation to everyone who contributed to this effort.

SUMMARY

The Grand Jury investigated the status of homelessness in Yolo County and found it to be a multifaceted problem that is being dealt with, and funded by, a myriad of federal, state, county, city, and private organizations. To gain a better understanding of some of the complexities of the homeless issue, the Grand Jury interviewed members of local government, service providers, and individuals who are currently or who have recently been homeless. The Grand Jury toured homeless shelters, transitional and permanent housing complexes and attended multiple governmental meetings.

The Yolo County Homeless and Poverty Action Coalition (HPAC) is a local non-profit organization that assists in coordination, strategy, and funding efforts. A second group, the Executive Commission to Address Homelessness, acts as an advisory commission to the City Councils, County Board of Supervisors, and other organizational bodies. It consists of one elected official from each of the four major Yolo cities, Davis, West Sacramento, Winters and Woodland, an elected County Supervisor, and a representative from HPAC.

These cities also deal with homelessness in their own unique ways. One such example is West Sacramento's Project Homekey, a success story in the eyes of many.

“Just weeks into the pandemic, Governor Newsom announced the first-in-the-nation Project Roomkey at a West Sacramento motel which will now be converted to a Homekey site for permanent housing...” [1]

The Grand Jury found, for the most part, the cities address the homelessness issue independently. Cooperation between the cities is not common. Each city has different approaches to the homeless situation.

Yolo County relies on the Point-in-Time Count (PIT Count), to determine the number of individuals experiencing one of the various types of homelessness (see Appendix A). The PIT Count is a federally mandated biennial report and is also the basis for federal funding.

Fourth and Hope, a non-profit organization, was formed in Woodland in the 1980s, and provides emergency and permanent housing and a place to shower and get a hot meal. It is Yolo County's largest such residence, and expansion to the facility is currently underway. The remoteness of the location on East Beamer Street makes transportation to and from Fourth and Hope problematic.

Websites are commonly utilized to provide online information for available homeless services. A comprehensive “Dashboard,” listing all services, locations, and hours of operation, would provide a valuable tool for service providers and the general public. For optimum use, it should be updated daily by the County and all involved organizations. It should list bed availability, resources available for the unhoused, and upcoming open meetings regarding homelessness issues.

Intake questionnaires and applications that must be completed in order to receive services are often difficult for those with educational or literacy challenges.

Lastly, because of the complexities, cost, and numbers of service providers involved, future Yolo County Grand Juries should consider some aspect of homelessness as a yearly enquiry, similar to what is currently done by grand juries with the County's detention facilities.

*“We must meet the challenge rather than wish it were not before us”
-William J. Brennan, Jr., Former Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court*

BACKGROUND

One sees homelessness every day. Unhoused individuals occupy storefront sidewalks or set up camps in parking lots. Emergency services are impacted. The reasons for homelessness are

varied: lack of financial resources, ill health, drug use, mental illness, ill fortune, and even choice. The road to homelessness is long, complex, and unique to each person.

The chief moral issue that confronts the community is the extent to which unhoused people suffer. They suffer disproportionately from early death, physical deprivation, isolation, and the disdain of established members of our society. What can be done, as a community, to alleviate this endless cycle of pain?

There are obvious challenges in addressing homelessness:

- **Funding and Resources:** Adequate funding is essential for implementing effective solutions, yet resources are often limited. This requires prioritization and efficient use of available funds.
- **Public Perception and Stigma:** Changing public perception and reducing the stigma associated with homelessness is crucial for gaining community support for solutions.
- **Coordination Among Services:** Effective response requires coordination among various services and agencies, which can be challenging due to differing priorities, capacities, and funding mechanisms.
- **Policy and Legislative Barriers:** Existing policies and laws can sometimes hinder efforts to address homelessness. Advocacy for policy change is often necessary to remove these barriers.

The Grand Jury examined some aspects of how this issue manifests itself in Yolo County. What is working well? What are the steepest barriers to mitigation? Can the problem ever be “solved” or is it an endemic part of modern life that needs to be managed as an ongoing process?

APPROACH

The investigation into the unhoused population in Yolo County involved interviewing many individuals. The Grand Jury interviewed county government employees, city government employees, non-profit organizations, faith-based organizations, police, and individuals who are or have recently been living on the streets. The Grand Jury also visited several of the County’s homeless shelters and transitional housing facilities.

In order to understand the gravity of the situation in our area, the Grand Jury reviewed information and statistics from newspaper articles, publications, county assessments, and PIT counts.

The Grand Jury attended several meetings of the County’s Executive Commission to Address Homelessness. The Commission is comprised of elected officials from Woodland, West Sacramento, Davis, Woodland, and the Executive Director of HPAC. The purpose of the Commission is to support countywide policy, strategy, and funding recommendations aimed at addressing homelessness and housing issues.



*Fourth and Hope, Woodland, California
- Photo by Juror, Daniel Gumpy-*

*“From the comfort of our own homes it’s hard to understand the complexities of something like poverty and homelessness.”
- Terence Lester*

DISCUSSION

The Grand Jury was tasked with investigating the current condition of homelessness within Yolo County. Homelessness is a national crisis and affects unhoused individuals and the community at large. For Yolo County citizens experiencing homelessness, it is a personal crisis which defines their lives. For the local community, it is a human, moral, and economic crisis.

Point-in-Time Count

The Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) mandates that jurisdictions receiving federal funds from HUD perform a biennial count, the PIT Count, of unhoused, sheltered, and unsheltered persons. Yolo County collects this data on a specific night, utilizing county employees, non-profit organizations, and the various city police departments.

According to the PIT Count taken on February 22, 2022, 746 individuals in Yolo County were experiencing homelessness on that particular day (See Appendix B). Teams of surveyors sought to include these individuals (comprised of single persons and families) in all the local jurisdictions and non-urban areas.

The most recent PIT count was taken in January 2024. As of the writing of this report, the results are still being tabulated and the report has not yet been released. Preliminary data, however, shows an increase in unhoused individuals and families in Yolo County.

County Plan to Address Homelessness

In 2022, the Yolo County Health and Human Services Agency (HHS), in conjunction with HPAC, developed and published the “2023 – 2026 Yolo County Plan to Address Homelessness” [2]. This document offers a complete and comprehensive assessment of the current (as of July 2022) homeless situation in Yolo County and detailed approaches to end homelessness in the county.

In establishing goals, the County used the model based on the Housing First principals:

1. Strengthen the homeless crisis response system and prevention services
2. Increase permanent affordable housing options for those experiencing or at risk of homelessness
3. Improve collaboration and coordination between physical and behavioral health care and housing and homeless services
4. Strengthen systems level coordination [3]

The Homeless and Poverty Action Coalition (HPAC)

The federal government has a program, designated as the Continuum of Care (CoC), that is designed to promote community-wide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness. HPAC is the Yolo County CoC. HPAC is a local non-profit agency that provides leadership and coordination on issues of homelessness and poverty in Yolo County. HPAC serves numerous roles and responsibilities, many of which fulfill federal, state, and local government mandates. Such activities include:

- Locally implementing the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act
- Locally implementing the region's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)
- Maintaining a coordinated response among service providers to ensure continuity of services
- Assessing needs and identifying gaps in services for persons facing homelessness in Yolo County on an ongoing basis
- Supporting the planning, funding and development of services to meet prioritized needs within Yolo County
- Planning, developing and sustaining options to meet the housing needs of people facing homelessness
- Promoting access to and effective utilization of mainstream human services programs [4]

Coordination and Communication Between Stakeholders

There are several county agencies, non-profit organizations and law enforcement entities that are involved in Yolo County's response to the local homeless crisis. Communication and coordination between these stakeholders can be difficult to manage and, as a result, shared information is often inaccurate or inconsistent.

Notification of Meetings

The Ralph M. Brown Act (Brown Act) is a California law that guarantees to the public the right to know in advance the location, date, time, and agendas of all legislative bodies. This information must be posted for public information at least 72 hours prior to the meeting time. In addition,

the Brown Act requires agencies with websites to post meeting information on the primary webpage in a prominent, direct link.

On more than one occasion, the Grand Jury found that meeting dates, locations, times, or agenda information for the Executive Commission to Address Homelessness was not posted as required. One meeting in particular, after several phone calls to inquire about the meeting specifics, several jurors showed up at the designated location only to find out after approximately 30 minutes of waiting, that the meeting had been rescheduled and the location changed. Again, this information was not posted anywhere on the website.

ADDRESSING THE ISSUES

Given the enormity of the issue, the Grand Jury determined a comprehensive investigation of the homeless crisis was far beyond the reasonable scope of the 2023-2024 Yolo County Grand Jury. This problem will exist past this Grand Jury's time of service but is worthy of future grand juries to investigate ongoing aspects of homelessness. Currently the only report that grand juries are required to investigate involve county detention facilities. The issue of homelessness is equally important and should warrant yearly investigations.

The Grand Jury decided to focus on measures that would have the timeliest impact:

- Access to Resources
- Housing Needs
- Transportation to Services
- Respite Centers
- Funding Streams
- Webpages
- Mapping of Services

Access to Resources

Generally, in order for an individual to inquire about available services, they must first complete an assessment form, typically at one of the County's Coordinated Points of Entry. At these Points of Entry, a staff person will assess the family's needs and connect them with services such as shelter, housing search help, and other basic needs.

The Points of Entry in Yolo County are:

City of Davis:

- Davis Community Meals and Housing
- City of Davis Respite Center

City of Woodland

- Empower Yolo
- Fourth and Hope

City of West Sacramento

- Former Rodeway Inn
- Yolo County Children’s Alliance (YCCA) Family Resource Center

The assessment form is referred to as the Vulnerability Index – Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT). The VI-SPDAT is used to evaluate each individual’s specific situation and services from which they might benefit. Individuals are given a score and their information is added to the Continuum of Care Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) database. Recently, the use of the VI-SPDAT form has come under criticism for being inconsistent, inaccurate, and racially biased. In an article by the Washington Post, the VI-SPDAT was noted as “...a survey that was designed as a tool to gauge vulnerability but has been disowned by its co-creator after studies showed it disadvantaged minorities” [5]. Many counties are starting to utilize assessment tools other than the VI-SPDAT [6].

Housing Needs

The needs of unhoused persons in Yolo County are many and varied. In conversation with several individuals, the need most often mentioned was for permanent affordable housing. Unfortunately, even when housing might be an option, individuals often encounter a variety of barriers. Applications are often cumbersome for both the unhoused persons and the service providers to fill out. Even a requirement to fill out a form with a specific color ink can be problematic to some. Accessing services can often be bureaucratic in nature and difficult to navigate. When support is available to help individuals with the application process, it often requires the applicant to travel to where the help is provided. For many this presents an additional barrier to securing housing.

Transportation to Services

The Fourth and Hope facility sits on approximately five acres of land near the intersection of County Road 102 and East Beamer Street in Woodland. Due to the remote location from downtown Woodland, a 10-passenger van was donated by the City of Woodland in an effort to mitigate the distance problem. Due to staffing issues or lack of staff with required licenses, the van is generally not in use.

During the development of Fourth and Hope, there was also an effort made to establish a bus stop close to the facility, as the closest stop is currently 1.5 miles away. An attempt was made to provide funding for a Yolobus stop close to the facility.

The Yolo County Transportation District (YCTD) submitted a request to the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) for approval of the bus stop. SACOG ruled that there were no unmet transportation needs in this case. They cited the availability of the aforementioned van and the low total transport demand as reasons as quoted in the following:

“YCTD has received numerous requests to provide public transit service to the newly relocated East Beamer Way campus, which was built by the City of Woodland in 2020 (prior to turning over the building and land to the Friends of the Mission nonprofit) and occupied in 2021 by shelter operator Fourth & Hope. The East Beamer Way campus includes an emergency shelter, and will also include permanent supportive residences, a

community center and a substance use treatment facility. The East Beamer Way campus is currently connected to the YoloBus fixed route bus system via a shelter-operated van service, which operates Monday through Friday 8:30AM to 3:30PM (Walmart pick-up/drop-off at 8:30AM, 12:30PM, 3:30PM; other locations by appointment only). Shelter Client Care Team staff drive the one (1) vehicle in the fleet. The vehicle is a 10-passenger van that was provided by the City of Woodland. Fourth & Hope staff estimates that 75% of the approximately 100 individuals served daily at the East Beamer Way campus use the van for transportation and 15-25 individuals have personal vehicles at any given time. In 2022, consistent with the YoloGo Study, YCTD will be restructuring Woodland fixed route bus routes in coordination with the launch of new intracity microtransit service in Woodland. When those service changes are planned, YCTD will work with City of Woodland and Fourth & Hope staff to determine whether any additional YCTD support or service is needed to adequately serve the needs at the East Beamer Way campus.

This is not an unmet transit need that is reasonable to meet.” [7]

Respite Centers

Respite centers offer daytime locations with services to unhoused individuals. These are services such as laundry facilities, meals, showers, and indoor spaces to just get out of the weather. The number of respite centers in Yolo County, however, is limited, and often they are only open during limited daytime hours and generally not open on the weekends. Yolo County respite centers include:

- The Davis Homeless Respite Center is currently only open from 8 – 1, M-F (2/28/2024).
- Fourth and Hope (Woodland) has emergency shelter facilities including 100, 24-hour beds for individuals (men and women). It offers respite services.

Funding Stream

The County receives funding from myriad sources including multiple federal and state programs. The costs for homeless services, however, continue to escalate, so a lot of time is spent seeking additional funding. This requires staffing, and because the funding sources are in constant flux, local governments often need to hire limited term staff rather than permanent positions.

In addition, with so many funding streams, the money the County receives for the service providers is often delayed in getting to the programs due to departmental policies regarding money transfers. It is common for funds to take 10 to 11 months before distribution.

In regard to additional funding, Yolo County should look at approaches taken by other jurisdictions to gather revenue. One example of a successful source of revenue is demonstrated by the City of West Sacramento. In 2016, the City passed Measure E, which was a 0.25 percent sales tax to assist in the funding of homeless services.

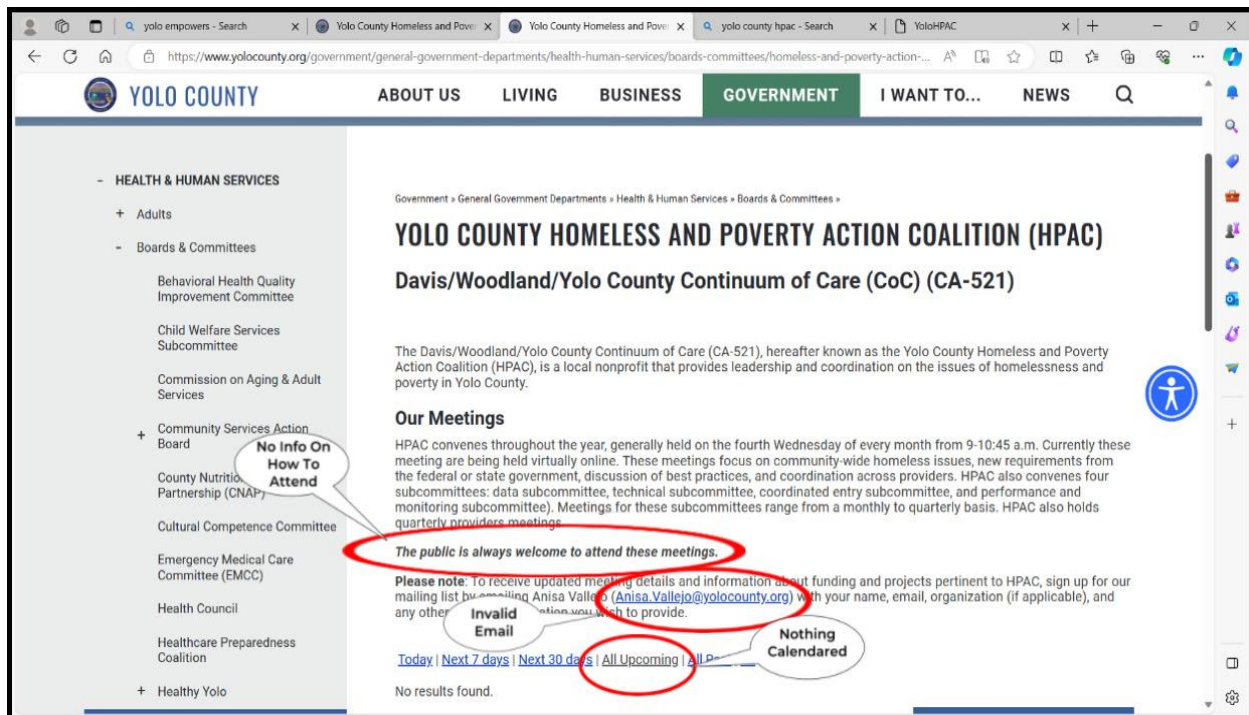
Web Pages

Web pages are an integral part of today’s online environment. When the primary reason for a web page is to convey to the reader, helpful and specific information on a centralized platform,

it is critical that measures are in place to ensure that the information listed on the webpage is accurate, complete, and up to date.

The Grand Jury found multiple instances of web pages that were missing key information, such as addresses or telephone numbers, pages that had not been updated for several years, broken links, and other inaccuracies.

Below are just a few examples of inaccurate web pages that the Grand Jury encountered through the course of the investigation:





Yolo County Homeless and Poverty Action Coalition (HPAC)

Davis/Woodland/Yolo County Continuum of Care (CA-521)

2021 Board Members

New Organization Seats

Jeneba Lahal

Sarah Danley

Helen Roland

Daniel Walker

Legacy Seats

Alysa Meyer

Lynette Irlmeier

James McLeod

Bill Pride

Doug Zeck

Ex Officio Seats

Ian Evans

Deanne Machado

Mark Sawyer

Dan Sokolow

Sandra Sierist

Outdated Member
List. No Contact
Information Listed.



Winter Warming Centers

Warmth in multiple dimensions

**Information is Out of Date
and Lists No Contacts**

NOTE: Due to covid-19 and the inherent risk in congregate settings, the Winter Warming Centers will not be operating in 2020-21. We very much regret this development and expect the WWCs to return in December of 2021. In the meantime, our staff and volunteers are committed to keeping safe as many of our clients as possible through our partnering efforts with Project Roomkey and the Homekey Program.

Mapping of Services

The County, in an effort to provide service information, has developed a 'Street Sheet' (see Appendix C) which lists many of the resources and services available in Yolo County. While this pamphlet lists addresses, telephone numbers and operating hours of the services available, it is a static document. When new services are established, when existing services end, or when any other information changes, the pamphlet loses its overall effectiveness.

The County, in conjunction with HPAC, is developing a Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping tool that can provide dynamic online service provider information. Most unhoused individuals own cellphones which would allow them access to this information. Among the design goals of the GIS mapping tool are:

- Bus Routes: With emphasis on travel to service providers
- Homeless shelters: addresses and telephone numbers
- Food banks

- Affordable Housing
- Dental offices accepting Medi-Cal/Medicaid
- Migrant centers
- An inventory of available housing spaces
- Emergency Services: Police, firefighters, hospitals, etc.

The GIS mapping web application represents a significant investment in improving overall knowledge of homeless services in Yolo County. While challenges exist, the project is on track to deliver a valuable tool that will improve the coordination and delivery of critical services.

One significant challenge is to get commitments from service providers to participate in the project. The County has requested providers to supply their service information, but to date, there is a large percentage of providers that have not fully responded or have not provided any service details. If the listing of information is not complete, the residents of Yolo County who are seeking information may not be able to access needed services.

FINDINGS

The Grand Jury makes the following findings:

- F-1 The plight of individuals experiencing homelessness is a complex and difficult issue that will affect Yolo County for the foreseeable future. Although services and funding have increased, so have the numbers of those needing services. With so many service providers, funding streams, organizational structures, and administration of programs, it is essential that public oversight of the “homeless industrial complex” be continued.
- F-2 The VI-SPDAT form is used to evaluate an individual’s situation and from what services they might benefit. They are given a “Vulnerability Index” score and the information is added to the Continuum of Care’s database. When housing opportunities arise, those with a higher index score and who meet the housing criteria, are given preference for placement. Inconsistencies in the administration of the form results in flawed scoring, may not be reliable, and may perpetuate racial inequities.
- F-3 County websites, including the Health and Human Services and Homeless Services webpages, have outdated links, missing phone numbers, and incorrect employee and contact links. Effective availability of services information is negatively impacted when the websites are incomplete or incorrect.
- F-4 Yolo County has not consistently posted meeting information for the Executive Commission to Address Homelessness. This is a violation of the Brown Act. As a consequence, the public is frequently unable to obtain information for scheduled public meetings or participate in deliberations.
- F-5 Residents of shelters and respite centers may often require support with housing options, application submittals, and other services. Without this support many individuals’ needs go unmet.

- F-6 The Fourth and Hope property is difficult for its intended clientele to access by bus. The closest bus stop is approximately 1.5 miles away at the intersection of East Main Street and Yolo Polo Plaza. The transportation vans at Fourth and Hope, which initially were donated to alleviate the transportation issues, run irregularly or not at all due to a variety of factors.
- F-7 Yolo County would benefit from a dynamic GIS mapping application to provide help to anyone needing to access information regarding available services, locations, and hours. Although the development of this type of application is in progress, the county has had difficulty obtaining relevant information from service providers. This results in an incomplete and inaccurate application.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Grand Jury recommends the following:

- R-1 Yolo County Grand Juries should conduct a yearly investigation regarding the issue of homelessness, similar to the current requirement that Grand Juries must follow with annual reporting of some aspect of Yolo County Detention Facilities.
- R-2 Yolo County Health and Human Services, in conjunction with the Homeless and Poverty Action Coalition, need to evaluate alternate screening tools to assess individuals experiencing homelessness. The Grand Jury is requesting an evaluation and determination if another form of assessment would be an improved screening tool to replace the VI-SPDAT form. This evaluation should be completed by October 31, 2024.
- R-3 The information on all County webpages pertaining to homeless services, need to be updated by September 30, 2024. Web pages need to be updated annually, or more frequently if appropriate.
- R-4 Yolo County should ensure public meetings are always posted as mandated by the Brown Act.
- R-5 Yolo County Health and Human Services Agency should develop a routine schedule for employees to visit various shelters and respite centers around the County, be available to assist individuals who might need help filling out applications, and to answer questions they might have about accessing services. This schedule should be posted on the Health and Human Services webpage listing locations with days and hours staff will be available to provide assistance. The schedule and its online posting should be implemented by October 31, 2024.
- R-6 The City of Woodland and the Yolo County Transportation District should renew efforts to establish bus service in the northwest industrial area of Woodland. The request for a bus stop should be included in the next SACOG Unmet Transportation Needs report submission.
- R-7 The Health and Human Services Agency should include in the service providers' grant applications, a requirement that they provide timely information for the GIS mapping

project and commit to updating the information as needed. This statement should be included in the applications prior to the next grant submission cycle.

COMMENDATION

Residents who told their stories regarding their homeless experiences: The Grand Jury interviewed several Yolo County residents who are or have been homeless and commends them for agreeing to be interviewed and to speak about their individual experiences. They shared details of their struggles in finding shelter, both emergency shelter and more permanent housing. They described times on the street when they didn't feel safe. They spoke of help they received along the way that sustained them during very tough times. They were forthright and open-hearted in speaking about their lives. They spoke honestly about experiencing homelessness. Their openness reminded the Grand Jury that, amidst the complexities regarding funding and issues of communications, homelessness is really about people in our community, and their day-to-day challenges.

City of West Sacramento: The Grand Jury commends the City of West Sacramento for developing and implementing a multi-level approach to the City's concerns regarding homelessness. In 2016, the residents of West Sacramento passed Measure E which permanently increased the sales tax by one-quarter (0.25) percent. These funds are allocated to projects including "homelessness initiative" and "reducing community impacts of homelessness" [8]. With this tax revenue, the City is able to make significant and positive changes for its unhoused residents. This can be a model for other Yolo County jurisdictions to consider in their own communities.

HPAC/HHSA GIS Mapping Project: The Grand Jury commends the Yolo County Health and Human Services Agency and HPAC for undertaking the GIS Mapping project. The GIS Mapping initiative aims to create a centralized, interactive web application to streamline access to vital information for both homeless clients and service providers in Yolo County.

REQUIRED RESPONSES

Pursuant to Penal Code sections 933 and 933.05, the Grand Jury request responses as follows within 90 days:

- Yolo County Board of Supervisors F-2, F-3, F-4, F-5, F-7; and R-2, R-3, R-4, R-5, R-7
- Yolo County Transportation District Board of Directors F-6 and R-6

INVITED RESPONSES

The Grand Jury also invites responses from the following individuals within 90 days:

- Yolo County 2024 – 2025 Grand Jury F-1 and R-1

- Yolo County Health and Human Services F-2, F-3, F-4, F-5, F-7; and R-2, R-3, R-4, R-5, R-7
- City of Woodland F-6 and R-6
- Yolo County Transportation District F-6 and R-6

ACRONYMS/GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Brown Act: Officially known as the Ralph M. Brown Act, is a California law that guarantees the public the right to be informed, attend, and participate in local legislative bodies.

Some of the basics of the Brown Act include:

- Agendas and Meeting Notification must be posted seventy-two (72) hours prior to the meeting. Special meetings require twenty-four (24) hours prior.
- Must be posted on local website and at the meeting location
- Meetings of public bodies must be open and public.
- Public comment before or during agenda items

CoC – Yolo County: Yolo County’s Continuum of Care is known as Homeless and Poverty Action Coalition (HPAC). HPAC is a non-profit organization responsible for providing leadership and coordination for homeless and poverty issues.

Coordinated Entry System: Coordinated Entry System is the process of establishing locations for individual experiencing a housing crisis to get assistance in acquiring services.

Executive Commission to Address Homelessness: Yolo County based advisory commission comprised of four elected city officials from the cities of West Sacramento, Davis, Woodland, and Winters, one elected County Supervisor and one elected representative of HPAC.

GIS: Geographic Information System. GIS connects data to a map with information to various services.

HEARTH: Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Act.

HHS: Yolo County Health and Human Services Agency is a county agency that provide services to children, families, and individuals with focus on housing, mental health treatment and economic programs.

HMIS: Homeless Management Information System is the county database used to collect housing and services needs for individuals

HPAC: Homeless and Poverty Action Coalition is a non-profit organization responsible for providing leadership and coordination for homeless and poverty issues.

HUD: U. S Department of Housing and Urban Development is a federal agency that administers programs addressing housing needs.

Low/no barrier shelter: Low/no barrier shelters require minimal entry requirements for access to shelters such as sobriety or substance use.

Measure E: West Sacramento Measure E was a 0.25 percent sales tax ballot measure in West Sacramento and passed in 2016. A portion of the collected sales tax goes to fund homeless programs.

PIT: Point-in-Time Count is a count on sheltered and unsheltered individuals on a single night and conducted every two years

Project Roomkey/Project Homekey: Administered by the California Department of Housing and Community Development and used to secure hotel rooms to provide shelter for individuals affected by COVID-19.

SACOG: Sacramento Area Council of Governments oversees the regional transportation plan for the Sacramento region.

VI-SPDAT: Vulnerability Index – Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool is a screening tool used to evaluate an individual’s situation and from what services they might benefit. Individuals are given a “Vulnerability Index” score and their information is added to the County database.

YCCA: Yolo County Children’s Alliance

YCTD: Yolo County Transportation District provides public transportation services to residents of Yolo County

ENDNOTES

- [1] Office of Governor Gavin Newsom
<https://www.gov.ca.gov/2020/10/29/at-west-sacramento-motel-where-he-launched-project-roomkey-in-april-governor-newsom-announces-the-site-will-become-a-home>
- [2] 2023 – 2026 Yolo County Plan to Address Homelessness, July 2022, Yolo County Health and Human Services Agency
- [3] Yolo County 2017 General and Strategic Plan to End Homelessness:
<https://www.yolocounty.org/Home/ShowDocument?id=55468>
- [4] Yolo County Homeless and Poverty Action Coalition (HPAC)
<https://www.yolocounty.org/government/general-government-departments/health-human-services/boards-committees/homeless-and-poverty-action-coalition-hpac>
- [5] The Washington Post, May 18, 2022, Justin Wm. Moyer, A survey was meant to help the homeless. Some say it hurts Black people.
- [6] National Alliance to End Homelessness, May 3, 2022, Marybeth Shinn, Moving Beyond the VI-SPDAT: Integrating Your System’s Values into Prioritization, endhomelessness.org.

- [7] SACOG FY 2022 – 2023 Unmet Transportation Needs, Board of Directors meeting, February 17, 2022

- [8] Ballot information, West Sacramento, California, Sales Tax, Measure E (November 2016)

Reports issued by the Civil Grand Jury do not identify individuals interviewed. Penal Code Section 929 requires that reports of the Grand Jury not contain the name of any person or facts leading to the identity of any person who provides information to the Civil Grand Jury.

APPENDIX A

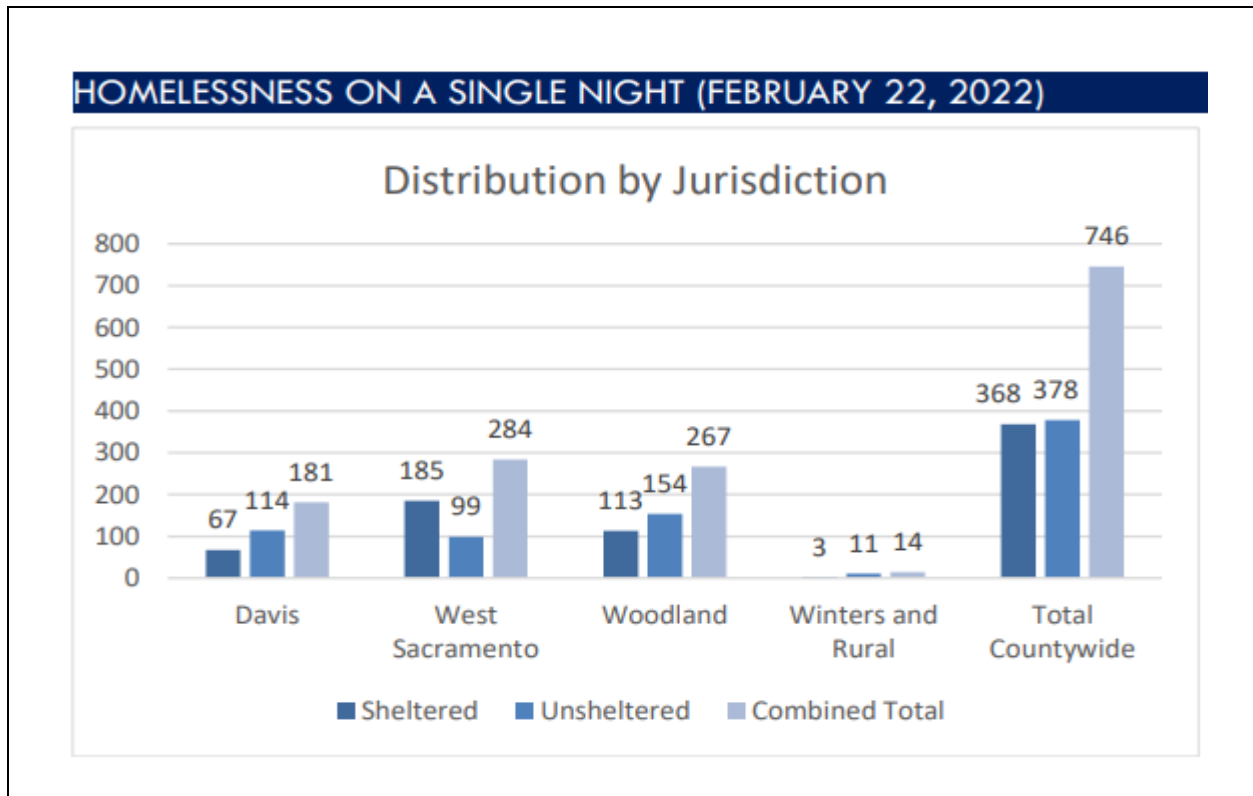
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD) DEFINITION OF HOMELESSNESS

A person is considered homeless only when he or she is:

- living in places not meant for human habitation, or
- living in an emergency shelter, or
- living in transitional housing for the homeless but originally came from the streets or an emergency shelter, or
- staying in a motel paid for by a public or private agency because the person or family is homeless.

APPENDIX B




YOLO COUNTY POINT-IN-TIME COUNT – FEBRUARY 22, 2022



Yolo County Homeless Count 2022 -Yolo County Homeless and Poverty Action Coalition

APPENDIX C

YOLO COUNTY STREET SHEET

<p style="text-align: center;">Veterans Services</p> <p>CA Dept of Veterans Affairs: Connects veterans & families to state & federal benefits & services. M-F 8am-5pm, 1227 O St., Sacramento. 800-952-5626</p> <p>Nation's Finest: Case management for homeless/individuals at risk of homelessness. M-F 8am-5pm, 7270 East Southgate Dr. Sacramento. 916-393-8387</p> <p>US Department of Veterans Affairs: Benefits, health care, & cemetery services. M-F 5am-6pm, 5650 Sunrise Blvd Ste. 150 Citrus Heights. 800-827-1000</p> <p>VA Northern California Health Care System: Drop-in center for homeless veterans. M-F 9am-3:30pm. 10535 Hospital Way Bldg. 650 Mather. 877-424-3838</p> <p>Volunteers of America Veteran Housing: Supportive services for homeless/households at risk of homelessness. M,Tu,Th,F 8am-4:30pm; W noon-4:30pm. 10636 Schirra Ave. Mather. 916-228-3153</p> <p>Yolo County Health and Human Services: Assists veterans, their dependents, & survivors with claims & obtaining benefits. M-Th 7:30am-4pm. 25 N. Cottonwood St. Woodland. 530-406-4850</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Youth Services</p> <p>Empower Yolo: Advocacy & support services for youth who are underserved or victims of crime. M-F 8:30am-4:30pm, 175 Walnut St. Woodland. 530-207-0895</p> <p>Woodland Joint Unified School District, Homeless & Foster Youth Services: Social and academic support for homeless & foster youth. M-F 8am-5pm. 435 6th St. Woodland. 530-406-3266</p> <p>Yolo Crisis Nursery: Support services for families with children under 6 years. M-F F 7am-7pm. 1107 Kennedy Pl. Davis. 530-758-6680</p>	<p>Empower Yolo: Advocacy & support services for youth who are underserved or victims of crime. M-F 8:30am-4:30pm, 175 Walnut St. Woodland. 530-207-0895</p> <p>Shores of Hope: Assistance to at risk/homeless foster youth ages 18-24. M-F 8:30am-4pm. 916-372-0200</p> <p>*Yolo County Children's Alliance: M-F 8:30am-4:30pm. 1200 Anna St. West Sacramento. 916-572-0560</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Crisis Support</p> <p>CA Youth Crisis Line: 24/7. 800-843-5200</p> <p>Empower Yolo Crisis Line: 24/7. 530-662-1133</p> <p>Meeting Seniors Needs Hotline: For seniors (55+), veterans, persons with disabilities, & their caretakers M-F 9am-5pm. 866-960-9261</p> <p>My Sister's House: For survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, & human trafficking. 24/7. 916-428-3271</p> <p>988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline: 24/7. Dial 9-8-8 or 800-273-8255</p> <p>Yolo County Mental Health Access Line: 24/7. 888-965-6647</p> <p>Yolo Crisis Nursery: 24/7. 530-758-6680</p> <p>National Runaway Safeline: 24/7. 800-786-2929</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Prevention</p> <p>Downtown Streets Team: Case management, system navigation & employment placement services. 916-823-1297</p> <p>*Yolo County Children's Alliance: M-F 8:30am-4:30pm. 1200 Anna St. West Sacramento. 916-572-0560</p> <p>*Former Rodeway Inn: M-F Noon-4pm. 817 W. Capitol Ave. West Sacramento. 916-375-6200</p> <p>*Each resource marked with an (*) asterisk is part of the Coordinated Entry System*</p>	 <p>YOLO COUNTY Street Sheet</p> <p style="background-color: #003366; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Informational Resource Guide</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;">   </div> <p style="font-size: small; text-align: right;">Last updated January 2024</p>
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<p>Emergency Shelter</p>	<p>Food Pantries/Food Banks</p>	<p>Clothes & Hygiene</p>
<p>*Empower Yolo: For anyone escaping domestic violence. 24/7. 530-662-1133 *Fourth & Hope: Nightly Shelter: Check-in M-F at 6pm, 1901 E. Beamer St. Woodland. 530-661-1218</p>	<p>Yolo Food Bank: Call for locations. M-F 8:30am-5pm. 530-668-0690 Shores of Hope: M-F 7am-3:30pm. 110 6th St. West Sacramento. 916-372-0200 Manna House: 1st & 3rd Th. 9am-10:30am. 9493 Mill St. Knights Landing. 530-735-6227</p>	<p>Davis Community Meals and Housing: Showers, clothing, hygiene products & laundry facilities for homeless & low-income individuals/families. M-F 8am-2pm. 1111 H St. Davis. 530-756-4008 *Fourth & Hope: Showers, laundry, phone use, & mail access for people in need. M, W, F noon-3pm. 1901 East Beamer St. Woodland. 530-661-1218</p>
<p>Transitional Housing</p>	<p>Woodland Volunteer Food Closet: M-F 3pm-4pm. 420 Grand Ave. Woodland. 530-662-7020</p>	<p>Shores of Hope Clothes Closet: M-F 7am-3:30pm. 110 Sixth St. West Sacramento. 916-372-0200</p>
<p>Davis Community Meals and Housing: M-F 8am-Noon, & by appointment. 1111 H St. Davis. 530-753-9204</p>	<p>RISE, Inc. Food Closet: F 2pm-5pm. 17317 Fremont St. Esparto. 530-787-4110</p>	<p>Transportation</p>
<p>Saint John's Square Transitional Housing Program: For women experiencing homelessness with/without children. M-F 9am-5:30pm; Sa, Su 9am-4:30pm. 916-453-1482</p>	<p>Short Term Emergency Aid Committee: Tu, W 9am-10am, F 4pm-5pm, 642 Hawthorn Ln. Davis, 530-758-8435</p>	<p>Davis Community Meals and Housing: Offers transportation arrangements. M-F 8am-2pm. 1111 H St. Davis. 530-753-4008 Dignity Health: Bus vouchers for disabled seniors 60+. M-F 8am-4pm. 20 N. Cottonwood St. Woodland. 530-669-3700</p>
<p>Respite/Daytime Shelters</p>	<p>Pole Line Road Baptist Church: Th 9am-11am. 770 Pole Line Rd. Davis. 530-753-4315</p>	<p>Shores of Hope: Transportation for individuals with disabilities and women with children for health services, employment, & to/from adult day programs. M-F 6am-4:30pm 110 6th St. West Sacramento. 916-372-0200</p>
<p>*Davis Respite Center: M-F 7:30am-4pm; Sa 7:30am-3:30pm. 530 L St. Davis. 530-758-0354</p>	<p>Salvation Army: 2nd & 4th W. 10am - noon. 413 Main St. Woodland 530-661-0141</p>	<p>Substance Abuse</p>
<p>Davis Community Meals and Housing: M-F 8am-2pm. 1111 H St. Davis. 530-753-4008</p>	<p>Congregate Meals</p>	<p>*Fourth & Hope: Alcohol & drug treatment program. M-F 8:30am-5pm. 285 4th St. Woodland. 888-965-6647 Cache Creek Lodge Inc.: Alcohol & drug treatment for men. M-F 8am-5pm. 435 Aspen St. Woodland. 530-662-5727</p>
<p>Rapid Rehousing</p>	<p>*Fourth & Hope: Dinner daily at 5pm. 1901 East Beamer St. Woodland. 530-661-1218</p>	<p>2-1-1 Yolo is a 24/7, one-stop source for information on community, health, and social services for Yolo County. With a database of 2,000+ services, callers receive personalized information to match their needs. Bi-lingual specialists and access to a 24/7 interpreting service are available. Dial 2-1-1 today.</p>
<p>Shores of Hope: Assistance to at risk/homeless foster youth ages 18-24. M-F 8:30am-4pm. 916-372-0200</p>	<p>Davis Community Meals and Housing: Meals served Tu,Th 5:45pm-6:30pm; Sa 11:30am-12:15pm. 640 Hawthorn Ln. Davis. 530-753-9204</p>	
<p>*Empower Yolo: M-Th 8:30am-4:30pm, F 8am-4pm. 530-661-6336</p>	<p>Meals on Wheels: Meals to seniors 60+, W 11am. 664 Cummins Wy. West Sacramento. & 2001 East St. Woodland. 530-662-7035</p>	
<p>Permanent Supportive Housing</p>	<p>*Fourth & Hope: Housing for chronically homeless families & individuals. M-F 9am-5pm. 1901 East Beamer St. Woodland. 530-406-0844</p>	

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