



COUNTY OF YOLO

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 16, 2009

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Yolo County Homeless Census

(Woodland, CA) – The federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires that a point-in-time homeless count occur within specific guidelines in order to qualify for Continuum of Care/Supportive Housing Program (SHP) funding. Yolo County homeless service providers currently receive about \$415,000 in SHP funding. Additionally, the count provides information that allows service providers to target their services to meet the specific needs of the homeless in our communities.

The Yolo County Homeless & Poverty Action Coalition (HPAC) conducted a count of the homeless individuals in Yolo County on January 29, 2009. The count included a survey component and was a collaborative effort of community volunteers, including homeless and formerly homeless individuals, HPAC members and partner agencies. The survey included both sheltered and unsheltered homeless individuals and families. The survey of sheltered individuals occurred the night before the street count and included emergency shelters, transitional housing, and hotel/motel voucher programs. It did not include waiting lists or those staying in motels the night of the count. The unsheltered homeless count included those sleeping in places not meant for human habitation according to HUD guidelines.

Preliminary results are shown below. This is a point-in-time count, or “snapshot,” reflecting those persons identified as homeless on the day of the count during a limited timeframe. It is not an absolute number. Many individuals and families move in and out of homelessness over the course of a year. The Corporation for Supportive Housing estimates that 5 to 10 percent of low-income households in a community may experience homelessness at some point during a 12-month period. Applying this to Yolo County, and using data from the 2000 U.S. Census, it is estimated between 1,119 and 2,238 people in the Yolo County community may experience homelessness over the course of a year.

	Rural	Davis	West Sac.	Woodland	Total
Men	2	60	137	75	274
Women	0	31	67	35	133
Gender unknown	0	0	0	3	3
Children (under 18)	0	23	26	32	81
Total	2	114	230	145	491
Families with Children	0	9	16	16	41
Number of persons in families with children	0	32	45	49	126

The overall count was up by approximately 19% (or 77 individuals) from 2007. There was an increase in the number of homeless in Davis and West Sacramento. Davis was up by 28 individuals and West Sacramento was up by 92 individuals. However, in Woodland we saw a decrease of 36 individuals. This reflects changes in both the sheltered and unsheltered counts:

- In the unsheltered count there was an increase in the West Sacramento count from 107 to 201 individuals and in Woodland from 37 to 52 individuals.
- In the sheltered count, Davis increased from 53 to 80 individuals and Woodland decreased from 144 to 93 individuals. The primary reason for the decrease in the number of sheltered individuals in Woodland was program cuts due to reductions in funding for the transitional housing programs at the Yolo Wayfarer Center. There were 111 individuals counted in 2007 and 52 individuals in 2009. The following graph compares 2007 and 2009 sheltered totals.

West Sacramento City Council Member Mark Johannessen stated, “Participating in this year's homeless count was a real eye opener. These are folks, including families with children, who for a variety of unfortunate circumstances have lost their homes and have no other place to go. This count, and pushing forward with the ten-year planning process, will go a long way to educate people about our homeless situation and provide solid direction needed to address the problem that affects us all.”

The HPAC is an affiliation of public sector groups and private, non-profit agencies. Its mission is to provide leadership on homelessness and poverty in Yolo County with the vision to create and sustain a comprehensive, coordinated and balanced array of human services for homeless and low-income individuals and families within Yolo County.

The Yolo County Board of Supervisors and the cities of Davis, West Sacramento, Winters and Woodland are sponsoring a ten-year planning process for ending and preventing homelessness. The draft plan will incorporate homelessness prevention, housing and services innovations suitable to this community based on best practices and cost analysis. It will be available for public comment in the fall of 2009. A community working forum is being planned. For more information about the community working forum, contact Bridget Kurtt DeJong, e-mail: bridget@homebaseccc.org.

For more information on the HPAC and the homeless county, contact Janice Critchlow (916) 924-0534.

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