

YOLO COUNTY HOMELESS SERVICES UPDATE FY 16/17

QUARTER 1: JULY-SEPTEMBER 2016

Homelessness is a significant issue in Yolo County, with the most recent homeless census (conducted in January 2015) identifying 498 people experiencing homelessness in Yolo on a single night. The Homeless Services Team within the Yolo County Health and Human Services Agency (HHS) was created in FY 15/16 with the intended purpose of partnering with local agencies to address issues of homelessness in the Yolo community. The Homeless Services Team focuses on accomplishing three 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 information on progress made towards each of these goals during the first quarter of FY 16/17.

GOAL 1: GROW FUNDING FOR HOMELESS SERVICES

Currently there is not sufficient funding for homeless services in Yolo County. A significant portion of Homeless Services Team 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 County Homeless Services Team during FY 16/17

FY 16/17 Grant Log				
Grant	Role		Applied For	Received
Continuum of Care (CoC)	Coordinator, Author	Renewal	\$495,065.52 <i>(1-Year Period)</i>	TBD
Applied for in FY 15/16- Awarded in FY 16/17				
Cooperative Agreements to Benefit Homeless Individuals (CABHI)	Author	New	\$2,399,328.57 <i>(3-Year Period)</i>	\$2,399,328.57 <i>(3-Year Period)</i>
Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)	Coordinator, Author	Renewal	\$454,396 <i>(2-Year Period)</i>	\$454,396

Yolo County Homeless Spending Inventory

Staff revised the Yolo County Homeless Spending Inventory in July 2016. The inventory indicates that the County has seen a nearly \$2M increase in annual spending on homeless services since fiscal year (FY) 14/15. The County spent \$3M on homeless services in FY 14/15, \$4.3M in FY 15/16 and a projected \$5.9M in FY 16/17.

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

HUD System Performance Report

In August 2016, the Homeless Team successfully submitted a Systems Performance Measures Report to HUD. A new requirement this year, the report contains seven metrics meant to quantify the overall impact of the region's homeless services system. Metrics 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 submitted report will not significantly affect FY 2016 funding, federal statute requires that HUD incorporate the system performance measure data as part of its selection criteria for future CoC Program grants. Thus, this report will serve as a critical roadmap for future system goals and priorities.

HMIS Policies and Procedures Manual

HPAC formally adopted an HPAC 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.

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

Several local programs began implementing use of the VI-SPDAT as their initial vulnerability assessment tool for people experiencing homelessness 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, the County set a goal of completing 200 VI-SPDATs. From July to September local providers completed a total of 92 assessments (46% of the targeted assessments for the year), including 77 single adults and 15 families.

GOAL 3: DEVELOP A FULL CONTINUUM OF HOUSING AND SERVICES

Cooperative Agreements to Benefit Homeless Individuals (CABHI) Grant

In March 2016, Yolo County Health and Human Services (HHSA) 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 we received notification that the application was funded in the amount of \$2,399,328 over a three-year period (\$799,776 annually).

The service delivery for the project will be contracted with Fourth and Hope, and will provide three key components including: (1) identification, assessment and triage, (2) intensive case management and treatment, and (3) housing navigation and permanent placement. The project will fund a total of 9 full-time positions, including: 1 Clinical Supervisor, 1 Program Manager, 1 Outreach Worker, 2 Case Managers, 2 Peer Support Specialists, 1 Housing Navigator, and 1 Employment Specialist.

The project is expected to begin operating towards the end of the 2016 calendar year.

Roommate Matching BBQ

On July 6th the Housing Now Network at Yolo Community Care Continuum (YCCC), in partnership with Yolo County HHSA and Shores of Hope, hosted its first ever "roommate matching event" in West Sacramento.

The event was designed as an opportunity for people experiencing homelessness on a limited income to learn about available services, meet other people in similar situations and possibly identify a potential roommate. The innovative idea was developed as a response to the fact that people attempting to live on social security income or a single minimum wage income can no longer find one-bedroom units within their price range in Yolo County. Living with a roommate has become the most viable option for these individuals. The event was well attended (with 46 participants), and will likely be repeated in other communities in the near future.

I SEE YOU Art Engagement

I SEE YOU is a partnership between Yolo HHSA, the Yolo County Library and YoloArts that provides 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 conducts free weekly art workshops (over a 10-week period) for people experiencing homelessness in each of our major cities. The first round of workshops was hosted in Davis from May to August 2016, and the art exhibit was held on September 9th, 2016.

The second round of workshops began at the West Sacramento Library in October. Workshops will occur each Friday from 1:00pm to 4:00pm, running from October 7th, 2016 through December 30th, 2016. The West Sacramento I SEE YOU Art Exhibit will be scheduled during January 2017.

GOAL 4: PROVIDE SYSTEM-WIDE COORDINATION

2017 Homeless Count Subcommittee

Yolo County will be required to conduct its next sheltered and unsheltered homeless point-in-time count and housing inventory count in January of 2017. HPAC formed a Homeless Count Subcommittee to begin planning for the event, with its first meeting scheduled in October 2016.

WHAT'S COMING UP IN QUARTER 2?

The Homeless Team's intended next steps are outlined in the FY 16/17 Work Plan (Appendix C). Several of the highest priority activities during Quarter 2 will include:

- Submit Yolo's first Annual Housing Assessment Report (AHAR) to the federal government
- Hold a facilitated community engagement process to develop a coordinated entry system in Yolo County
- Work with Fourth and Hope to begin offering services through the CABHI grant

APPENDIX A: MEETING/TRAINING LOGS

Public Presentations and Networking Meetings Log		
Meeting	Date/Frequency	Purpose
Meet-and-Greet with West Sacramento Mercy Coalition	7/14/16	Present
Meet-and-Greet with Davis Interfaith Group	7/19/16	Present
HPAC Data Subcommittee	7/21/16	Coordinate
HPAC Technical Subcommittee	7/22/16	Coordinate
Advocacy Meeting with Congressmember Doris Matsui	7/26/16	Present
Advocacy Meeting with Congressmember John Garamendi	7/27/16	Present
HPAC General Meeting	8/24/16	Coordinate
HPAC Technical Subcommittee	9/8/16	Coordinate
I SEE You Art Exhibition- Davis	9/9/16	Participate
Yolo County Board of Supervisor Homeless Update	9/13/16	Present
Community Services Action Board Meeting	9/13/16	Coordinate
10-Year Plan Executive Commission	9/14/16	Present
HPAC General Meeting	9/28/16	Coordinate
SACOG Government Affairs Working Group- Homelessness	9/28/16	Participate
Northern California Homeless Roundtable	9/29/16	Participate
Board of Supervisors Strategic Planning Session- Homeless Update	10/4/16	Present

Conference/Training Log	
Topic	Host Agency
National Alliance to End Homelessness Annual Conference- Washington D.C.	National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH)

APPENDIX B: FY 16/17 WORK PLAN

Yolo County Homeless Team- FY 16/17 Work Plan Yolo County Health and Human Services, Adult and Aging Branch													
GOAL/ACTION	STATUS	TIMELINE											
		JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE
Grow Funding													
Develop comprehensive list of homeless funding opportunities	● IN PROGRESS												
Coordinate Continuum of Care (CoC) Grant	● COMPLETED												
Coordinate Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)	○ UPCOMING												
Update Yolo County Homeless Spending Inventory	● COMPLETED												
Coordinate Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) Grant	○ UPCOMING												
Coordinate PATH Grant	○ UPCOMING												
Coordinate Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)	○ UPCOMING												
Apply for 3 new funding sources, totaling \$1M	○ UPCOMING												
Develop HMIS and Coordinated Entry													
Submit first system performance measures report to HUD	● COMPLETED												
Establish ongoing VI-SPDAT trainings for service providers on "as needed" basis	● COMPLETED												
Develop HMIS policies and procedures manual for the Yolo HMIS system	● COMPLETED												
Implement use of HMIS and Coordinated Entry for internal County programs (CalWORKS)	● IN PROGRESS												
Work with providers on improving HMIS data quality in preparation for AHAR	● IN PROGRESS												
Establish contract with Sacramento Steps Forward for HMIS system-building (Using CABHI Grant)	● IN PROGRESS												
Submit first Yolo County Annual Housing Assessment Report (AHAR) to HUD	● IN PROGRESS												
Convene coordinated entry system planning group and develop implementation plan	○ UPCOMING												
Write use of HMIS and VI-SPDAT in all County homeless contracts at renewal	● IN PROGRESS												
Continuum of Housing and Services													
Work with Fourth and Hope/YCCC to implement Bridge to Health and Housing Project	● COMPLETED												
Implement I SEE YOU Artist Engagement Project, Phase I, Davis	● COMPLETED												
Develop Bridge to Housing 2.0 project in Woodland	● IN PROGRESS												
Work with Fourth and Hope to implement Extended Hope Project (CABHI Grant)	● IN PROGRESS												
Establish employment specialist position for homeless population (Using CABHI Grant)	● IN PROGRESS												
Implement I SEE YOU Artist Engagement Project, Phase II, West Sacramento	● IN PROGRESS												
Study case management to client ratio for homeless population and determine deficit	○ UPCOMING												
Convene workgroup to explore options for ensuring that free cell phone are accessible	○ UPCOMING												
Implement incentive program for engagement of homeless in system planning efforts	○ UPCOMING												
Implement I SEE YOU Artist Engagement Project, Phase III, Woodland	○ UPCOMING												
Convene workgroup to identify options for reducing exclusionary screening among landlords	○ UPCOMING												
Establish local outreach programs that cover all jurisdictions in Yolo County	● IN PROGRESS												
Monitor New Pathways Supported Housing Project in Davis	● IN PROGRESS												
Conduct VI-SPDAT assessments on 200 homeless individuals in Yolo County	● IN PROGRESS												
Participate in Stepping Up Initiative to strengthen criminal justice interactions with homeless	● IN PROGRESS												
Establish emergency shelter program for GA clients in West Sacramento using motels	✳ ON HOLD												
System Coordination													
Analyze compliance with CSBG Organizational Standards, and Report to State	● COMPLETED												
Develop HPAC Policies and Procedures Manual	● IN PROGRESS												
Assist with revision of 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness	● IN PROGRESS												
Complete sheltered and unsheltered point-in-time count (PIT)	● IN PROGRESS												
Complete housing inventory count (HIC)	● IN PROGRESS												
Develop FY 17/18 Work Plan	○ UPCOMING												