

Potential Uses of the Juvenile Detention Facility in Yolo County
Community Input Discussions – July/August 2021
Summary and Poll/Survey Results

Two meetings were held to gather community input regarding potential use of the Juvenile Detention Facility in Yolo County on July 27 and August 11, 2021, on Zoom.

- 102 unique registrants, who had the chance to fill out the surveys
- 69 unique participants. Of those who responded to the in-meeting poll:
 - 4% have had direct involvement with the Juvenile Justice system (personal or immediate family member)
 - 22% work in law enforcement
 - 13% work in education
 - 33% work for an agency that provides treatment or other services to youth and/or families
 - 22% are concerned community members
 - 7% indicated ‘Other’

Polls run during the meetings show that after participating in the discussion, attendees were more likely to report a preference for using the Facility to serve children/youth in a different way.

“What is your preference for the Juvenile Detention Facility in Yolo County?”

	Start of meeting	End of meeting	Difference
Keep the Facility as-is, used for juvenile detention	7%	2%	
Re-allocate all of part of the Facility to serve children/youth in a different way	51%	73%	
Re-allocate all or part of the Facility for a different purpose (not children/youth)	20%	20%	
Undecided	22%	5%	

We received 28 responses to our follow-up survey, with input shared below.

“If the Board of Supervisors decides to repurpose all or part of the Juvenile Detention Facility, what ideas would you like to be considered?”

Most common responses:

- Youth Resource Center/Community Center (54% of responses)
- Recreation for Youth (31%)
- Mental Health resources (19%)
- Substance Abuse treatment (19%)
- Mentorship programs (19%)
- Vocational training (19%)
- Housing/Homelessness resources (15%)

“With the potential cost savings, how would you like to see those funds reinvested in the community?”

Most common responses:

- Resources for Youth (36% of responses)
- Schools/Education/Childcare (32%)

- Diversion/Prevention (24%)
- Recreation Programs for Youth (16%)
- Support other programs mentioned or newly created (16%)
- Mental Health services (12%)

“Is there anything else you’d like to share?”

Quotes from all 11 responses received:

- Maintain the current decline of youth incarceration in [Hispanic/Latino]
- Funding to support...social emotional development, empowerment, natural supports...is critical to the health development of youth as well.
- Contracting with another county will be very problematic and cause more harm for the families and community that may not have access to see the youth in a far-away detention.
- Formerly incarcerated youth I have spoken to expressed concern about juveniles arrested in the future being transferred to other locations, making it harder for family to visit.
- I think it would be a giant step backwards to keep the facility use as-is, or event to have a hybrid use...let’s make this a more positive, community space.
- Please continue offering these community forums to keep coming up with ideas, and then maybe a community-wide/county poll
- Please repurpose the facility, the current use is a waste of money.
- This is an opportunity to teach, model and support parents with small kids through hands on services instead of trying to “fix” a juvenile problem later.
- We need a dedicated mental health hospital for adults and adolescents in this underserved county.
- I remember from a [Board of Supervisors] meeting that holding kids in jail costs \$700-1000/day/person. So much cheaper and rewarding to have youngsters who can find meaning and purpose in their lives.
- Yolo County has a unique opportunity to address two important needs...With additional space the animal shelter could expand their volunteer program to incorporate youth.

County & Community-Generated Ideas for JDF/Gym Facility Use Separated by Jurisdiction of Oversight

Below are all the County-generated ideas for potential uses of the Juvenile Detention Facility and adjacent gymnasium, as well as ideas generated from the two Community Listening Sessions. These ideas are divided by the jurisdiction that might have oversight of these programs and services.

Probation-run

- Job/vocational training center for youth
- Detention for Yolo youth
- Pro-social activities for youth
- Mentoring programs for youth
- Placement/home and service provider for Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC)
- Programs that build connections to the community
- Community enrichment opportunities for youth
- Wraparound teen resource and respite center
- Detention services for other counties

Other County Department-run

- Detox center (for youth and/or adults)
- Resources/programs for TAY /CSEC
- Programs for victims
- Mental health programs
- Animal shelter
- Group home for foster youth/youth with special needs
- Substance use outpatient/residential treatment for youth or adults
- Specialized urgent care for youth in crisis
- Transitional Aged Youth (TAY) housing
- Transitional/re-entry program for adult offenders

Other government agency-run

- Cultural center/arts center/theater/creative arts space
- LGBTQ center
- Space for sports and movies for both youth and adults
- Homeless shelter, support programs and/or affordable housing
- Retreat space (for youth and elders)
- Youth transportation to get to the activities that benefit them
- Community pool/sports center/boxing program
- Community garden
- Gun prevention programs
- Day camp
- Countywide law enforcement training
- Woodland Community College and/or Woodland Joint Unified uses

JDF/Gym Reuse Options Evaluated by Probation

A Probation Department working group evaluated the below potential reuse options for Yolo County justice-involved youth, and in some cases, justice-involved youth from other counties. While these youth would certainly benefit from the following programs and services, providing them via the JDF/gym was determined to be impractical, even when services that could be combined are combined. This determination is in large part due to the low justice-involved youth population (4 in detention and 62 under the jurisdiction of Probation as of 7/1/21).

- Continuation as a detention facility (fiscally unsustainable)
- Youth job training/vocational center (population too low but could be combined with another service)
- Space for mentoring programs (population too low but could be combined with another service)
- Placement/home and service options for CSEC (population too low and facilities not suitable)
- Wraparound teen resource and respite center (population too low)
- Detention services for other counties (no interest from other counties)
- Youth Camp/Academy (no interest from other counties and facilities not suitable)
- Education/vocation collaborative with increased treatment services on site (population too low but could be combined with another service)
- Youth Day Treatment program (population too low)
- Day Treatment for TAY (population too low)