



November 29, 2021

Dear Members of the Yolo County American Rescue Plan Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present this proposal for the allocation of \$1,100,000 of American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds towards expanding crisis resources for our county's most underserved families. A **one-time investment** of ARP funds targeted toward building a larger, enhanced Crisis Nursery would meet a **clearly-demonstrated need** in our county, a need that grew substantially at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The pandemic significantly increased the need and the **urgency** to complete this building project. Indeed, **the Crisis Nursery served more children and families over the past fiscal year than at any time in our history**. In FY'21 we provided services for **67% more families** and **47% more children** than in FY'20. The fact is, the need for services is beginning to outpace our capacity to provide them. Even prior to the pandemic, our community was facing several stark realities:

- **Children ages birth to 5 make up over 47% of all substantiated cases of child abuse/neglect in our county.** These are the most critical years in a child's development.
- Over the past six years, **our county's rate of substantiated cases of child maltreatment have exceeded the State percentages in this age group in each year.**<sup>1</sup> These cases of abuse and neglect have devastating consequences in the present *and* in the future.
- **Yolo County has the highest poverty rate in California.** 20.9% of our county's families live in poverty and 15.3% of our children live in poverty.<sup>2</sup>

**Our clients have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic.**

**Now is the time** to address these critical issues that impact not only far too many children, but also the health and wellbeing of our community as a whole. This one-time investment of ARP funds would bring to fruition a project that already has strong community support and **addresses the needs of those most impacted by the pandemic at the moment when it is needed the most.**

A modest upstream investment of ARP funds in the Nursery's services will provide not only immediate protection for young children vulnerable to abuse, **but also prevent costly downstream consequences of unaddressed childhood trauma.** A broad and extensive body of research notes strong correlations between Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and harmful and persistent individual and societal issues, such as acute physical and mental health diagnoses, homelessness, unemployment, and involvement with the criminal justice system.

<sup>1</sup> Retrieved Aug 25, 2021, UC Berkeley California Child Welfare Indicators Project website. URL: <https://ccwip.berkeley.edu>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ppic.org/publication/poverty-in-california/>; <https://www.ppic.org/interactive/california-poverty-by-county-and-legislative-district/>

**The COVID-19 pandemic has laid bare some of the stark inequities that exist in our country and our communities.** The Crisis Nursery is the place where under-resourced families come when they have nowhere else to turn. Building a new Crisis Nursery serves the people most likely to experience crisis and the short and long-term economic, health, and socio-emotional impacts of the pandemic:

- **Over 60%** of the people we reached last year identify as members of the **historically underserved BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and/or People of Color) community.**
- **65%** of the children we serve come from families experiencing **homelessness** and housing insecurity and **62%** live with families at risk of or experiencing **domestic violence.**
- **99%** percent of the families we serve are Medi-Cal eligible, a top indicator of poverty.

**Building a new Crisis Nursery will be a transformational project.** The new Nursery's overnight respite care program will **meet a need for critical resources and transitional housing that would otherwise be unmet in our county.** With a new, larger, modern building, the Yolo Crisis Nursery will be positioned to implement trauma and toxic stress interventions on an increased level that responds to annual rises in community need. When completed, the new Nursery will offer **triple the number of beds for emergency respite space** and thousands of additional square feet of designated space for an expanded continuum of programs and wraparound supports.

**This is an unprecedented opportunity for Yolo County** to make a one-time investment that will dramatically change the outlook for children today and build a more healthy and resilient community for tomorrow. The Board and staff leadership at Yolo Crisis Nursery implore you to seize this moment. We believe **there is no better investment in the long-term vitality of the families of Yolo County than in preventing and treating childhood trauma.** Thank you for your careful consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Heather Sleuter, Executive Director



Jane Eadie, Chair, Brighter Tomorrows Campaign



# Yolo County - American Rescue Plan - Funding Request

This form is to be used by the Board of Supervisors and Department Heads (or their designee) to submit projects or proposals to be considered for funding utilizing the American Rescue Plan Stimulus funding. These submissions will be evaluated against the guidelines approved by the Board previously, federal rules related to this grant funding, and then be brought back for consideration before the Board of Supervisors.

Hi Richard, when you submit this form, the owner will be able to see your name and email address.

\* Required

## 1. Proposer

Yolo County Supervisor, Jim Provenza, District 4

## 2. Initial Date of Submission

Friday, April 30, 2021

## 3. Project/Proposal Title

**Building a New Crisis Nursery to Transform Capacity to Meet County Needs**

## 4. What is your Funding Proposal?

Yolo Crisis Nursery (YCN) respectfully requests a one-time investment of \$1,100,000 in American Rescue Plan stimulus funding to address a critical and growing need for crisis intervention services for underserved families in Yolo County. **ARP funding will directly address a gap in our community safety net that grew substantially during the COVID-19 pandemic by allowing us to complete the construction of a larger, enhanced home for the Crisis Nursery.** This new home will **triple our capacity to provide emergency transitional housing for children in acute crises** through our trauma-informed overnight respite care program. The new, enhanced facility will also substantially **expand our ability to provide upstream interventions that both immediately protect young children susceptible to abuse, and also prevent costly downstream consequences of unaddressed childhood trauma.** Yolo Crisis Nursery's proposal directly addresses priorities outlined in the Treasury's Interim Final Rule to implement American Rescue Plan Funds.<sup>1</sup>

**There is no organization in Yolo County that provides a 24/7 safety net for families in crisis, as well as a continuum of ongoing resources that prevent recurring trauma and the profound downstream impacts of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs).** Thus, our Board and staff leadership recognized that it

had to begin a campaign to engage our community in supporting the building of a new, spacious, modern facility for Yolo Crisis Nursery.

One year ago, after completing a needs assessment survey and fundraising feasibility study in 2018-19, the Nursery began searching for a building site and was presented with an ideal location. Working in partnership with John Ott, a prominent local developer, and with the support of the City of Davis, the Nursery will receive a gift of a one-acre parcel of land adjacent to Mr. Ott's proposed development (Plaza 2555) in South Davis. This will be the site for our new ~ 9,000 square-foot home. In November 2020, the Davis City Council voted to approve a one-time exception to the Affordable Housing Ordinance, allowing for this land dedication to the Nursery in lieu of Plaza 2555's Affordable Housing requirements. Pending the City Council's approval of the overall Plaza 2555 and Nursery construction plans, this land dedication will save approximately \$1 million in total project costs, and is already providing great momentum for our project fundraising efforts.

The toll of the pandemic will be reverberating for years—particularly in the lives of young children. **An ARP investment in the Nursery's future home will enhance the entire county's infrastructure to help break the cycle of abuse and neglect in our most underserved communities.**

**YCN delivers a highly-regarded model of care and prevention, with a proven track record addressing the immediate and long-term impacts of childhood adversity.** Over the past year we provided **2,682 Safe Stays** (emergency respite care) for young children. At the same time, **our wraparound services prevented 99% of the families we serve from entering the child welfare system, avoiding traumatic separations and other costly and less effective interventions.** During the past year, the Nursery has also provided childcare for **essential workers and front-line workers** who had no alternative child care available.

Yolo Crisis Nursery's program model, collective staff and leadership experience, and deep and extensive collaborations in the community make it ideally suited to address key priorities outlined in the Department of the Treasury's Interim Final Rule to implement American Rescue Plan Funds. The Nursery and its planned expansion directly address the impact of COVID-19 on low-income populations<sup>1</sup> by "Promoting healthy childhood environments, including: child care, home visiting programs for families with young children, and enhanced services for child, welfare-involved families and foster youth.

#### Funding Need:

5. Please provide a Brief Description of the nexus to COVID-19 or its economic impacts?

The families we serve are often coping with more than one crisis that increases the likelihood of abuse or neglect—situations that can change the outlook for young children for the rest of their lives. In some cases, our services can truly make the difference between life and death for a child.

**The pandemic significantly increased the need and the urgency to complete the construction of a new Crisis Nursery.** Indeed, the Crisis Nursery served more children and families over the past fiscal year than at

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<sup>1</sup> Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Frequently Asked Questions, Section 2:11

any time in our history. **In FY'21 we provided services for 67% more families and 47% more children than in FY'20.** The fact is, **the need for services is beginning to outpace our capacity to provide them.** Even prior to the pandemic, our community was facing several stark realities:

- Children ages birth to 5 make up over 47% of all substantiated cases of child abuse/neglect in our county. These are the most critical years in a child's development.
- Over the past six years, our county's rate of substantiated cases of child maltreatment have exceeded the State percentages in this age group in each year. These cases of abuse and neglect have devastating consequences in the present and in the future.
- Yolo County has the highest poverty rate in California. 20.9% of our county's families live in poverty and 15.3% of our children live in poverty.

The COVID-19 pandemic also laid bare in several ways the stark inequities that exist in our country and our communities. The Crisis Nursery is the place where under-resourced families come when they have nowhere else to turn. **We address inequity by serving the people most likely to experience crisis and the short and long-term economic, health, and socio-emotional impacts of the pandemic:**

- Over 60% of the people we reached last year identify as members of the **historically underserved BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and/or People of Color) community.**
- 65% of the children we serve come from families experiencing **homelessness** and housing insecurity and 62% live with families at risk of or experiencing **domestic violence.**
- 99% percent of the families we serve are Medi-Cal eligible, a top indicator of poverty.

#### 6. Project Category:

Pre-Existing Gap (Existed prior to Pandemic but exacerbated by it)

#### 7. How does this project/proposal support the Board of Supervisors' 2020-2025 Strategic Plan Strategies and Outcomes?

One of the 2021 Priorities of the Yolo County 2020-2025 Strategic Plan is the Thriving Residents Goal which supports the social, economic and physical environments which promote good health and protect vulnerable populations so that community members and future generations have the opportunity to learn and grow to their full potential.

Specifically, under the section designated for "Children" the County lists the following priorities:

- Increase the availability of evidence-based home visiting programs to build resiliency for children, youth, and families by June 30, 2021.

RESPONSE: Currently, our Mobile Client Navigator (MCN) works in collaboration with several local agencies, including RISE, to reach families where they are during an emergency. The MCN might be called to a local shelter, a hospital or even a grocery store parking lot where someone identifies a family in need. These in-community connections break down barriers to accessing the support of the Nursery and other critical resources.

- Become a trauma informed community through the provision of stakeholder training by June 30, 2022.

RESPONSE: Every staff member of the Yolo Crisis Nursery receives mandatory trauma informed care training prior to employment, as well as ongoing educational training as outlined by state licensing department.

- Pilot universal screenings for Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and referral to appropriate levels of treatment by June 30, 2022.

RESPONSE: The Nursery provides developmental screenings to every child and parent in our care including “Help Me Grow” developmental Screening. The Nursery plans to incorporate ACES Screening into our programming beginning January 2022. When screenings identify a concern or need, the Nursery refers that child to partner agencies for ongoing therapy, specialized treatment plans and parent training to address the concern.

- Partner with local stakeholders and communities to increase investment in upstream activities for children in vulnerable communities by June 30, 2023.

RESPONSE: The Nursery partners with agencies including the Yolo County Children’s Alliance, Empower Yolo, and Stanford Youth Solutions, and works with local hospitals such as Sutter and Dignity Health. The Dignity Health Partnership includes referrals to the Nursery from the NICU, birthing centers, and also provides family engagement programming, Cal Fresh and parent education classes.

- Partner with Foster Family Agencies, local caregivers, and community-based organizations to identify services and supports for families to care for children and youth with intensive needs and improve recruitment and retention strategies by June 30, 2023.

RESPONSE: In partnership with the County, the Yolo Crisis Nursery has been providing Foster Care Prevention and Retention Services since 2012. By providing childcare and services to foster children in our infant and preschool classes, our services enable foster parents to work and attend to other daily obligations.

## 8. Project Type:

This is a One-Time request to provide financial support to the Yolo Crisis Nursery to build a new home, which among other benefits, will **triple the current number of beds for providing emergency overnight respite care for children and triple our designated space for providing wraparound services**. The long-term impact of a new home will triple our ability to serve Yolo County.

## 9. Project Scope: County-wide Impact

Geographically, **Yolo Crisis Nursery reaches every corner of Yolo County, including unincorporated rural communities.** We provide prevention and family-preservation support, and essential resources via care packages, **to under-resourced families of all backgrounds, including our County’s migrant workers.**

**Our services make a lasting impact in Yolo County, breaking generational cycles of abuse and violence that impact the health and wellbeing of children, families and the community at large.** The trauma-informed services we offer young children at this important stage of their brain development **substantially improve the outlook for their health and wellbeing over the long term.**

10. Estimated Cost: \$1,100,000

ARP funding will be used to support one-time costs associated with completing the construction of the new Crisis Nursery and one-time, start-up costs.

**Request Amount and Total Project Costs**

	<b>Yolo ARP request</b>	<b>Total Project</b>
Land (donated)	0	\$1,000,000
General Construction, Architectural Design, Site Fees, Permitting, and Engineering	\$900,000	\$4,100,000
Capacity Building (programs, staff recruitment/retention/training, future funding capacity)	\$100,000	\$ 200,000
Equipment, Moving and Start up, Contingency	\$100,000	\$1,200,000
<b>TOTAL REQUEST/ TOTAL PROJECT</b>	<b>\$1,100,000</b>	<b>\$6,500,000</b>

11. When can the project be started?

This funding can begin to be applied immediately, with ongoing expenditures for outlined expenses continuing over the next two years.

12. When would this project/proposal be completed after starting?

This project will be completed in 2 to 2.5 years.

13. What will any on-going obligations be after the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Funds conclude and how would these be addressed?

This request covers one-time costs related to construction of a new Nursery, fulfilling the critical need for a new, larger and enhanced Crisis Nursery in Yolo County.

14. Describe what long-term or on-going benefits the project/proposal will provide?

**There is no greater investment in the future than in the wellbeing of our children.** The new Crisis Nursery answers a call to action on behalf of our county’s most vulnerable children. **While substantially larger, our**

**new, innovative ~9,000 square foot building will retain the** comforting home-like feel that is so critical for the children and families we serve. The planned features include:

- Triple the current number of beds for housing children overnight
- Private offices for parent counseling and other wraparound services
- Designated rooms for preschool classes, training sessions, and meetings
- Space for medical assessments, targeted therapy, parenting training and expanded services
- Outside playground space for young children, with designated separate age-appropriate areas
- All the furnishings and comforts of a warm, welcoming home
- Improved facilities, amenities, and equipment to help serve our mission, ranging from an efficient, modern kitchen to critical security systems
- Administrative spaces, storage, and entry areas to provide more effective and efficient services
- The sustainability benefit of owning our home versus continuing to rent
- Many benefits for clients, including access to public transportation, proximity to a nearby grocery store and pharmacy, and a community park within walking distance. The site is in a quiet residential neighborhood and offers privacy to ensure the confidentiality of the home's location.

**An upstream investment of ARP funds in the Nursery's services provides not only immediate protection for young children vulnerable to abuse, but also prevents costly downstream consequences of unaddressed childhood trauma.** A broad and extensive body of research notes strong correlations between Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and harmful and persistent individual and societal issues, such as acute physical and mental health diagnoses, homelessness, unemployment, and involvement with the criminal justice system.

15. Are there options to partner with other agencies or organizations on this proposal?

Due to the pandemic-induced increased urgency to complete this project, Yolo Crisis Nursery has also submitted proposals for ARP allocations to the cities of Woodland and Davis. Proposals to these cities are for funds to support building construction, staff recruitment, training and expanded programs and services. Those funds would not duplicate those requested in this proposal. A combined investment of ARP funds from these cities as well as the county would ensure that this this essential community resource is built **at the moment when it is needed most.**

Moreover, collaboration is a core strategy of our work on behalf of children and families. Yolo Crisis Nursery maintains strong collaborations with a full spectrum of partners and providers throughout the county. These collaborations allow us to wrap families with all the services they need to address the intersecting issues that put them at risk for child abuse and neglect. Our current collaborations include, but are not limited to: Yolo County Children's Alliance, Yolo Family Resource Center, Yolo Family Service Agency, First 5 Yolo, Yolo County Child Welfare, Empower Yolo, CommuniCare, Pregnancy Support Group, Head Start, and the Yolo

County Homeless Coalition. Our work with these partners is key to our success in keeping 95% of the families we serve from referral to Child Welfare Services.

16. Are there other funding sources available (other than ARP funding) to address this need? If so, please describe,

The Brighter Tomorrows Campaign, established to build the new Nursery, will generate \$6,500,000 in funding through private philanthropy, in-kind support, and ARP funding to build, equip and start operations in a Yolo Crisis Nursery's new home. Our timeline calls for construction of this new home in early 2023 with move-in anticipated in early 2024.

The Brighter Tomorrows Campaign is quietly underway, and volunteer leaders are currently seeking support from key friends and long-time supporters before launching a public phase in 2022. Our Board of Directors have given generously with pledges totaling \$250,000; and a dozen major gifts have been confirmed at this early stage of the campaign. To date, nearly \$3 million has already been raised, including the donation of land, through the support of generous donors. Discussions are ongoing with additional potential leadership and major gift donors.

Support from the American Rescue Plan would make a profound difference in the lives of the most vulnerable children and families in Yolo County. At the same time, this funding would represent an important endorsement that would bolster interest and investment in the Nursery from others.

Along with a volunteer Board and Campaign Cabinet, the Nursery has recruited an Honorary Committee which includes the mayors of Davis, Woodland, Winters and West Sacramento as well as additional community and county leaders. Each mayor supports and understands the benefits that the Nursery brings to their communities as well as the growing need for our services.

The Campaign Cabinet, comprised of prominent community volunteers is working under the leadership of Campaign Chair, Jane Eadie and Director of Development, Becky Heard. Campaign guidance is being provided by The Weiss Group. A feasibility study was conducted to assess the Nursery's readiness to undertake this effort, and with a strong planning process and the development of a strategic campaign plan, the campaign is well-positioned for success.



**Demographics  
FY 2018-2021**

	<b>2018-2019</b>	<b>2019-2020</b>	<b>2020-21</b>
<b>Total Children Served</b>	<b>740</b>	<b>969</b>	<b>1018</b>
<b>Total Families Served</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>499</b>	<b>832</b>
<b>Safe Stays</b>			
Crisis Nursery Total Safe Stays	2735	2682	2429
Overnight Safe stays	40	38	42
Foster Care Slots	320	441	151
Care Packages Distributed	1232	2714	3874

<b>Demographics</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>
Children from low-income, Medi-Cal Eligible families	98%	99%	99%
Single Parent Families	62%	70%	95%
Families headed by Women	91%	89%	98%
Homeless families or families at risk of experiencing homelessness	54%	58%	65%
Experiencing Domestic Violence	64%	72%	62%
Respite Care Families NOT entering child welfare	98%	98%	99%

<b>Ethnicities</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>
Alaska Native/American	3%	1%	1%
Asian	0%	4%	0%
Multi-racial	31%	42%	25%
Hispanic	25%	28%	20%
Russian/Ukrainian	0%	1%	0%
Caucasian	32%	12%	18%
African American	9%	11%	15%
Native American	0%	1%	1%
Unspecified/Prefer not to answer	0%	0%	20%

<b>Geographic</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>
Woodland	54%	46%	40%
Davis	19%	39%	30%
West Sacramento	16%	10%	20%
Winters	8%	1%	1%
Unincorporated Areas/ Other	3%	4%	1%
Unspecified/Prefer not to answer	--	--	8%

# Brighter Tomorrows Budget

9,000 sq. ft. building on 1-acre lot

Item	\$
Land	\$1,000,000 (Donated)
Design and Construction	\$6,500,000
Equipment and Furnishings	\$ 500,000
Contingency/Campaign/Moving	\$ 500,000
Building Maintenance Fund	\$ 200,000
Program Expansion/Enhancements	\$ 800,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$9,500,000</b>

**Y♥LO CRISIS NURSERY**



Brighter  
Tomorrows  
Campaign

3/28/22

NUMBER OF GIFTS	NUMBER OF ACTUAL GIFTS	AMOUNT	SUBTOTAL	ACTUAL SUBTOTAL	%	GRAND TOTALS	
<b>Leadership Gifts</b>							
1	1	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000*	100%		
2	1	\$1,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$1,000,000	50%		
4	2	\$500,000	\$2,000,000	\$1,000,000**	50%		
3	0	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$750,000	0%		
8	6	\$100,000	\$800,000	\$725,000	91%		
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>Gifts Goal</b>		<b>\$8,050,000</b>
12	10				<b>Gifts Actual</b>		<b>\$5,225,000</b>
<b>Major Gifts</b>							
12	11	\$50,000	\$600,000	\$560,000	93%		
15	10	\$25,000	\$375,000	\$265,506	71%		
30	14	\$10,000	\$300,000	\$152,500	51%		
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>Gifts Goal</b>		<b>\$1,275,000</b>
57	35				<b>Gifts Actual</b>		<b>\$978,006</b>
<b>General Gifts</b>							
25	9	\$5,000	\$125,000	\$47,500	38%		
50	7	\$1,000	\$50,000	\$15,000	30%		
		< \$1,000		\$900.00			
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>Gifts Goal</b>		<b>\$175,000</b>
75	16				<b>Gifts Actual</b>	<b>\$63,400</b>	
<b>Gift Grand Total</b>						<b>GOAL TOTAL</b>	<b>\$9,500,000</b>
						<b>ACTUAL TOTAL</b>	<b>\$6,266,406</b>

\* Verbal pledge

\*\* City of Davis \$500,000 in ARP funding