

Att. A. Funding Proposal

Key Tenets of County ARP Roadmap Investment

Funding is intended to be used to leverage other, ideally ongoing, funding by supporting funding matches for other grants, leveraging other funds to maximize impact, or providing staffing to identify grants and ongoing funding sources.

Funding should attempt to address systemic inequities, whenever possible. This may mean focusing on targeted population groups or areas where poverty or inequity is deepest in the County. We focus our efforts on the children, youth, and families in greatest need.

Funding in general should be utilized to expand and develop additional resources, while sustaining core resources. Funds should be used to expand and increase benefit and service access wherever possible.

While some priority areas have significant identified needs, they are not under the County's direct purview and those needs and action steps should be referred to community experts to develop strategic approaches, as appropriate.

Funding Proposal

1) Childcare and Early Childhood Support – While there are still substantial childcare needs countywide, sizeable county investments have been made through ARP with positive childcare recovery impacts. The countywide and district-specific needs and action steps outlined in the roadmap related to childcare should be delegated to a working group via the existing and well-established Local Childcare Planning Council, which serves as "a forum to plan, promote, and support the childcare needs of families and providers in Yolo County." In regard to Early Childhood Support, the importance of early childhood screening, access, and linkage to mental health services remains clear, especially as it connects to both upstream prevention and early identification and intervention efforts and timely linkage to appropriate services and supports. To that end, the sustainability of Help Me Grow, Yolo County's early childhood screening, access, and linkage program is a critical component of the broader developmental and mental health continuum for children. This recommendation bridges Early Childhood Support and Mental Health as priority areas.

(A) \$263,530 of flexible funding for Yolo County HHSA and First 5 Yolo's Help Me Grow program with priority to sustainability efforts post Prop 1 implementation effective July 1, 2026 in order to transition any and all Medi-Cal billable services (specialty mental health, managed care billing, and any eligible services related to CalAIM) within the program and explore other funding sources for program components that are not eligible for Medi-Cal billing, for up to two (2) fiscal years. This would be accomplished through direct partnership with First 5 Yolo as the lead entity for the Help Me Grow program.

2) Mental Health – The K-12 School Partnerships project has been very successful and continues to provide significant benefits to children and youth in Yolo County schools by increasing access to mental health services on school campuses in all five school districts and the County Office of Education. Funding for ongoing K-12 School Partnership Project is finite (MHSA and MHSSA) and will be reduced significantly by July 1, 2026, due to the sunset of grant funds and impacts related to the implementation of Prop 1. Moving forward, the sustainability of the current model will take significant effort, coordination, and alignment.

(A) \$300,000 of flexible funding for the County's K-12 School Partnership Project with priority toward the ongoing coordination of the program and, most importantly, sustainability efforts, including applying for grants for ongoing funding and supporting the County Office of Education and local school districts with the implementation of the multi-payer fee schedule and assist providers to enroll in CalAIM ECM benefits where possible to create long-term, braided funding streams for the K-12 School Partnership Project.

(B) \$100,000 of matching funds to apply for grants where local, unrestricted match is required.

(C) \$100,000 of funding to provide staffing and backbone support for a pilot ASW/AMFT Supervision Program to hire social work and marriage and family therapy interns needing service hours for their internships and/or licensure to be placed on school campuses to receive needed internship or supervision hours to complete practicum or attain their license and who can also be a valuable asset providing boots on the ground support to students needing behavioral health services and supports.

3) Transportation and 5) Housing – Because there is shared investment in the Roadmap to the Future by our city, school district, and Office of Education partners, we recommend contributing \$100,000 toward the total cost of participation in the Transformational Change Partnership (TCP) cohort, to bring together leaders across the County to develop a strategic plan to address the needs identified throughout the Roadmap, including those related to transportation and housing, and to ensure that long-term vision on these needs and action steps is held at the forefront. The Transformational Change Partnership works with county agencies and other government and non-government partners to successfully implement initiatives and reforms in ways that improve operations, relationships, and results for the communities they serve. The partnership emphasizes human-centered design, community engagement, inter-agency collaboration, change management, and continuous improvement as essential to developing recovery-oriented, comprehensive, and cost-effective services that improve lives and reduce disparities in California communities.

(A) \$100,000 contribution toward one-time costs of Yolo County-specific Transformational Change Partnership cohort

4) Expanded Learning and Leadership Development – We recommend funding support for Countywide Civic Engagement in partnership with the Yolo County Office of Education. This program will educate, activate, and empower youth across the County to mobilize and shape their own future. The funding support recommended will allow youth continued engagement in civic activities and allow YCOE to track the number of students registered to voice and take on leadership positions, evaluate students' understanding of government structures, rights and responsibilities, and monitor students continued civic involvement after high school.

(B) \$107,000 funding to support Countywide Civic Engagement

6) Food Access – We recommend the County make a concerted effort to support local food access for children, youth, and families through a two-pronged approach. First, through intentional coordination amongst the County, School Districts, and the Food Bank to ensure every Yolo County child, youth, and family that is eligible for CalFresh, WIC, and Free and Reduced Lunch or Breakfast has all three programs. Additionally, each family is made aware of Food Bank Distributions and has options to enroll in special delivery options at their schools or through local pickup. Ensuring that through collaboration and intentionality, every child has a "full shopping cart" – CalFresh for Groceries, WIC for formula and milk, Free and Reduced Meals at Schools, and staple food products through the Yolo County Food Bank – we call this the Full Shopping Cart Initiative. Yolo County regularly does not have enough general fund to draw down its entire CalFresh Allocation. For every \$100,000 in county funding that can be used as a match, we can leverage approximately \$1,000,000 in CalFresh Funding. We recommend the board allocate funding to hire additional staff to focus on CalFresh Access for children, youth, and families, to provide application assistance to Food Bank distributions, and staff coordination of the Full Shopping Cart Initiative.

(A) \$200,000 - \$100,000 per year for two (2) fiscal years to leverage \$2M of CalFresh Funding to hire staff to work on the above-described initiative, which includes outreach, application processing, and benefit issuance.

7) Thriving in Young Adulthood and Job Access – We recommend one-time funding to support the development, sustainability, and expansion of several initiatives led by the Yolo County Office of Education to support Transition Aged Youth, specifically focused on access to education and employment. These initiatives include (A) countywide early college credit offerings through dual enrollment opportunities; (B) increased countywide FAFSA completion rates through enhanced engagement and outreach to ensure access to financial aid; (C) Yolo County Work Ready certificate program to support readiness for employment after gaining essential skills such as communication, problem solving, and teamwork; (D) digital education and career navigation platforms to increase availability of work-based learning and ensure platform maintenance; and (E) Yolo County co-navigators network and whole family education to support resource navigation, education/career mapping, and success planning for Transition Aged Youth.

(A) \$52,500 one-time funding to support Countywide Early College Credit Offerings (Dual Enrollment)

(B) \$39,000 one-time funding to support Countywide FAFSA Completion Rates

(C) \$32,680 one-time funding to support Yolo County Work Ready Certificate

(D) \$35,450 one-time funding to support Digital Education and Career Navigation Platforms

(E) \$44,840 one-time funding to support Yolo County Co-Navigators Network and Whole Family Education

8) Community Navigation Systems – 211Yolo is a great basic information and referral system. Unfortunately, there is no stable, ongoing funding to operate 211. The current operating budget runs at a significant deficit, and the program is at risk of default. We propose two options. The first supports shoring up funding for 211 basic operations for the next three (3) fiscal years; the second is an optional, but much needed and strongly recommended, enhancement to 211Yolo operations with the possibility of developing and implementing a closed-loop referral system for Yolo County.

(A) \$250,000 for the next three fiscal years to shore up basic 211Yolo service delivery

(B) \$325,000 optional enhancement to 211Yolo service delivery that could include a closed loop referral system

Funding Summary

Needs	Funding Allocation	Duration
Childcare/Early Childhood Support	\$263,530	Up to Two Fiscal Years
Mental Health	\$500,000	Two Fiscal Years
Transportation and Housing	\$100,000	One-Time
Expanded Learning and Leadership Development	\$107,000	One-Time w/ Ongoing Benefits
Food Access	\$200,000	Two Fiscal Years
Thriving Young Adulthood Job Access	\$204,470	One-Time w/ Ongoing Benefits
Community Navigation System (Basic)	\$250,000	Three Fiscal Years
Optional: Enhanced Community Navigation System	\$325,000	Three Fiscal Years
	\$1,950,000	