

**From:** [courtney\\_akey](#)  
**To:** [Clerkoftheboard](#)  
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Good morning Chair and Members of the Board,

My name is Courtney and I'm here to speak about agenda item 29 specifically regarding the proposed elimination of 4 Employment Services Specialist positions within Yolo County's Health and Human Services Agency.

I want to respectfully clarify something important: our roles go far beyond assisting individuals who receive public assistance. At YoloWorks, we serve the broader Yolo County community. We help job seekers build resumes, prepare for interviews, and connect with employers. We organize and staff job fairs that bring local businesses and residents together. We administer WIOA funding, which helps individuals access education, training programs, and career pathways that lead to long-term self-sufficiency.

When you eliminate these ESS positions, you're not just reducing staff—you're reducing access. Access to employment. Access to training. Access to upward mobility for Yolo County's economy.

Through programs like WIOA, we fund training that leads directly to employment. The people you see out there every day—the ones picking up your trash for Waste Management—where do you think they got their Class A license? Who do you think helped them get into that training program and into that job? We did.

The person checking you out at the grocery store, the worker you pass at a job site, the parent who can now provide for their family—there's a good chance YoloWorks had a hand in that success.

When you eliminate 4 ESS positions, you're not just cutting staff—you're cutting those connections. You're making it harder for local businesses to hire. You're making it harder for residents to gain skills, find work, and become self-sufficient.

This doesn't just impact individuals—it impacts the entire economy of Yolo County. Fewer trained workers. Fewer successful placements. More strain on systems that are already stretched.

And for those of us doing this work, it's personal. We don't just process paperwork—we build relationships. We watch people go from struggling to stable, from uncertain to confident. Cutting these positions means fewer of those stories. Fewer chances for people to change their lives.

When residents are supported in finding stable, higher-paying jobs, they contribute more to the tax base, rely less on public assistance, and spend more in our local businesses. Our work

helps move people from surviving to thriving—and that benefits all of Yolo County.

Cutting these positions will increase caseloads for remaining staff, reduce the quality and availability of services, and ultimately slow down the pipeline that connects residents to the workforce.

I understand the budget challenges the County is facing. But I urge you to consider that investing in workforce development is not an expense—it's an economic strategy.

Please reconsider the elimination of these positions and the long-term impact it will have on our community.

Thank you for your time.

Courtney Scott  
Employment Services Specialist II