

From: [Maria Vargas](#)
To: [Clerkoftheboard](#)
Subject: Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget
Date: Tuesday, May 5, 2026 7:45:34 AM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)

My name is Maria Vargas, program supervisor with Yolo county. I'm speaking about the proposed budget recommendation to close the Winters HHSA office.

The Winters office may look like a location the county can afford to close because we have the lowest foot traffic. The numbers do not reflect the importance of the critical services we provide. We offer the full range of eligibility services available at the main offices. We process Medical, CalFresh, CalWORKs, General Assistance, and assist with IHSS applications. We issue EBT cards, accept over issuance payments, and issue MediCal BIC cards on site; services that are essential.

We serve residents who lack reliable transportation, internet access, or the ability to navigate online or phone systems. Winters serves a large elderly population that relies heavily on face-to-face support, and many of which are already struggling with the new reporting requirements under HR1. Most live on fixed incomes and traveling to Woodland, Davis, or West Sacramento simply isn't feasible. Without a car, there is no reliable way to reach another HHSA office. Winters lacks accessible public transportation the Yolo-Bus Route 220 hasn't operated since before COVID. Even a special request bus ride would cost at least four dollars and is out of reach for many of our clients.

This matters even more now because of new federal requirements under HR1. Public analyses show that HR1 expands CalFresh work requirement enforcement up to age 55 and adds new reporting and verification demands. Beginning in 2027, similar requirements will apply to certain MediCal populations. Research on similar policies in other states shows that many people lose benefits not because they are ineligible, but because they cannot meet the increased paperwork and reporting demands.

We are a lifeline.

Clients will need more support—not less. They will need access to computers, help uploading documents, and staff who can guide them through new rules. If the Winters office closes, the very people most affected by HR1's changes will lose their only accessible place to get help. And we will see more residents lose food assistance and health coverage simply because they cannot reach us.

No nonprofit or CBO can replace these county level services.

Closing the Winters office would create real hardship and cause people to fall through the cracks. I urge the Board to preserve this essential service point for the residents who depend on it.

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