

May 14, 2026

Yolo County Board of Supervisors
625 Court Street
Woodland, CA 95695

Re: Do Not Reduce YoloWorks! Capacity as New CalFresh Work Requirements Take Effect

Chair and Members of the Board,

I am writing to urge the Board not to reduce YoloWorks! and Employment Services staffing at the very moment new CalFresh work and community-engagement requirements are scheduled to take effect on **June 1, 2026**.

This timing matters.

Beginning June 1, more residents will be required to demonstrate qualifying work, training, education, volunteering, or other approved activities to maintain food assistance. Whether or not the federal government saves money by reducing benefits, the practical burden of implementation will fall on local communities. Yolo County residents will need help understanding the rules, finding qualifying work or training opportunities, documenting participation, identifying exemptions, and staying connected to employment services.

That is exactly what YoloWorks! and Employment Services staff do.

Reducing these positions now would create a predictable bottleneck. The County would be cutting workforce capacity at the same time more residents are being pushed toward the workforce system. That does not save money in any meaningful long-term sense. It simply shifts the burden onto residents, employers, eligibility workers, community partners, and the broader safety-net system.

If people lose food assistance because they cannot navigate the new requirements, document participation, or access job-search and training support quickly enough, the County has not solved the problem. It has created a bigger one.

YoloWorks! is the bridge between public benefits and employment. These staff help residents move toward self-sufficiency by providing job-search assistance, career navigation, workshops, training referrals, employer connections, and support during layoffs or economic disruption. They also help local employers find workers and maintain a stronger labor pipeline.

This is not simply about preserving County jobs. It is about preserving the County's ability to help residents get jobs.

The County may be under pressure to reduce costs, but cutting Employment Services capacity just as work requirements expand is the wrong cut at the wrong time. A short-term budget reduction could lead to more confusion, fewer successful transitions into work, more benefit disruptions, and greater pressure on other County and nonprofit services.

I respectfully ask the Board to preserve core YoloWorks! and Employment Services staffing, or at minimum delay any reductions until the County has evaluated the workload and service-demand impacts of the June 1 CalFresh work-requirement changes.

If the policy goal is to move people from benefits to work, then Yolo County should not cut the staff who help make that possible.

Thank you,

Rick A. Hart

Rick A. Hart

Vice President, Yolo County Workforce Innovation Board

Rick@HartRE.net

(916) 417-8406