



COUNTY OF YOLO

Board of Supervisors

District 1, **Oscar Villegas**
District 2, **Lucas Frerichs**
District 3, **Dr. Mary Vixie Sandy**
District 4, **Dr. Sheila A. Allen**
District 5, **Angel Barajas**

625 Court Street, Room 204 • Woodland, CA 95695
(530) 666-8195 • FAX (530) 666-8193
www.yolocounty.gov

County Administrator, **Michael Webb**
Sr. Deputy Clerk of the Board, **Julie Dachtler**

September 8, 2026

Honorable Tom M. Dyer
Presiding Judge
Superior Court of California, County of Yolo
1000 Main Street
Woodland, CA 95695

Yolo County Grand Jury
P.O. Box 2142
Woodland, CA 95776

Re: Response to Civil Grand Jury Report, “Unified Action: Strengthening the Yolo County Homelessness Response”

On behalf of the Yolo County Board of Supervisors (the “Board”), this document responds to the 2025–2026 Yolo County Civil Grand Jury (the “Grand Jury”) report, Unified Action: Strengthening the Yolo County Homelessness Response, released June 18, 2026 (the “Report”).

The Board appreciates the Grand Jury’s continued attention to homelessness in Yolo County and its recognition of the work performed by local service providers and public agencies. The Report highlights the work of Paul’s Place in Davis, Fourth & Hope in Woodland, and the Homeless Emergency Housing Program in West Sacramento, while also identifying ongoing challenges involving staffing, funding, public awareness, and countywide coordination.

Homelessness is a countywide issue that requires work across jurisdictional and organizational lines. Yolo County works with the cities of Davis, Woodland, West Sacramento, and Winters, as well as the Yolo County Homeless and Poverty Action Coalition (HPAC), the Yolo Executive Commission to Address Homelessness, nonprofit service providers, and other community partners. The County agrees that continued coordination among these entities is essential.

The Board also recognizes a distinction between whether public outreach is occurring and whether that outreach can be improved. The County currently communicates about homelessness programs and services through public meetings, its website and social media channels, stakeholder communications, and community presentations. The Board therefore does not agree with the Report’s characterization that County outreach has been inadequate. At the same time, the County agrees that homelessness programs, available services, system outcomes, and the role of HPAC can be better understood by the public. The County supports stronger coordination with local jurisdictions and partners toward that goal. The Report also raises broader questions concerning sustainable funding and the appropriate roles of

the County, cities, HPAC, nonprofit organizations, and other partners. The County will continue pursuing available state and federal resources while working with local partners to identify practical ways to strengthen the countywide homelessness response.

In the attachments, the Board addresses each finding and recommendation for which the Grand Jury requires a County response pursuant to Penal Code section 933.05.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Response to Findings
- B. Response to Recommendations

ATTACHMENT A. RESPONSE TO FINDINGS

The Report directs Findings F1–F5 to the Yolo County Board of Supervisors for response. The Board provides the following responses pursuant to Penal Code section 933.05.

Finding F1. Commendation of Service: The Grand Jury finds that Paul’s Place, Fourth & Hope, and the Homeless Emergency Housing Program are performing exemplary work. Their ability to maintain a standard of dignity, safety, and comprehensive case management—despite severe resource constraints—is a testament to the exceptional leadership and dedication exhibited by the staff at these locations.

Response. The Board agrees with this finding.

The Board recognizes the high-quality and compassionate services provided through Paul’s Place, Fourth & Hope, and the Homeless Emergency Housing Program. These organizations and programs provide critical housing, shelter, case management, and supportive services to people experiencing homelessness in Yolo County.

The County supports this work through coordination with service providers, local jurisdictions, HPAC, and other partners, including efforts to secure and administer Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention (HHAP) funding and other available resources.

Finding F2. A lack of sufficient staffing persists:

- a. **Fourth & Hope remains overly dependent on volunteer labor to fulfill essential maintenance and security functions, creating potential gaps in safety and upkeep.**
- b. **Paul’s Place struggles to provide the 24-hour staffing necessary to maintain care standards for its clients.**
- c. **The West Sacramento program is operated by the City and appears to be less impacted by staffing issues.**
- d. **While HPAC serves as the federally mandated "Continuum of Care" (CoC) body—essential for securing millions in grant funding—it operates with a severe staffing deficit that prioritizes administrative compliance over community engagement.**

Response. The Board disagrees partially with this finding.

The Board agrees that staffing constraints affect homelessness programs and service providers in Yolo County and can limit their capacity to provide services, conduct outreach, and perform other functions.

The Board also recognizes the staffing challenges identified by the Grand Jury at Fourth & Hope and Paul’s Place. The County does not operate those facilities and relies on the respective providers for decisions concerning their staffing and operations. The Board does not have an independent basis to assess the Grand Jury’s comparison of staffing conditions within the City-operated West Sacramento program.

The Board agrees that HPAC would benefit from additional staffing resources to meet the scope of its work but does not fully agree with the characterization that HPAC operates with a “severe staffing deficit.” HPAC’s capacity has expanded in recent years. County funding provided in 2023 supported additional staffing and enabled HPAC to assume expanded responsibilities, including

serving as the Homeless Management Information System lead and administering HHAP funds. At the same time, the Board recognizes that HPAC has significant administrative responsibilities as the federally recognized Continuum of Care and that additional capacity for public communication and engagement would be beneficial.

Finding F3. Transit Accessibility: Transportation accessibility has seen a positive development; the Bee Line on-demand micro-transit service now directly serves the Fourth & Hope facility in Woodland. Staff and clients related positive experiences with the service, noting the reduced need for volunteers to transport residents and the availability of fare vouchers.

Response. The Board agrees with this finding.

Bee Line on-demand micro-transit service provides direct transportation access to Fourth & Hope and has improved transportation options for people receiving services there. The Board appreciates the work of the Yolo Transportation District and its partners to improve access to this important service.

Finding F4. Funding Stability: Funding remains fragmented. State and federal housing funding for Yolo County decreased, placing an even heavier burden on these high-performing local providers. The inadequate outreach of City and County to the general public has resulted in a lack of community awareness and understanding of the programs that address homelessness and the progress being made. This potentially limits public support for funding of these programs.

Response. The Board disagrees partially with this finding.

The Board agrees that funding for homelessness services is fragmented across federal, state, and local systems and that changes in available funding place added pressure on local programs and service providers. The County continues to advocate for stable and ongoing state and federal funding and to pursue available resources.

The Board disagrees with the Report's characterization that County outreach has been inadequate. The County communicates information concerning homelessness programs, services, and related work through public meetings of the Yolo Executive Commission to Address Homelessness, County websites and social media, HPAC stakeholder communications, and presentations by Health and Human Services Agency staff to community organizations.

The Board does agree that public awareness can be strengthened. Existing communication efforts do not necessarily produce widespread public understanding of the homelessness response system, the work occurring within individual communities, or the roles played by the County, cities, HPAC, and service providers. The County therefore supports continued improvement in its own outreach and greater coordination with local jurisdictions and partners, as discussed further in the response to Recommendation R2.

Finding F5. Yolo County Homeless and Poverty Action Committee (HPAC) remains largely invisible to residents, limiting its ability to act as a transparent and publicly recognized leader in addressing homelessness in Yolo County. Yolo County has inadequately informed County residents about HPAC and its role in addressing homelessness, undermining its ability to act as a transparent and publicly recognized coordinating organization. While HPAC serves as the federally mandated "Continuum of Care" (CoC) body—essential for securing millions in grant funding—it operates with

a severe staffing deficit that prioritizes administrative compliance over community engagement.

Response. The Board disagrees partially with this finding.

The Board agrees that HPAC's role as the federally recognized Continuum of Care is not widely understood by the general public and that greater public awareness of HPAC, its responsibilities, and its work would be beneficial.

The Board disagrees that the County has failed to support HPAC's transparency or public presence. The County has long collaborated with HPAC. County funding provided in 2023 supported staffing that allowed HPAC to assume expanded responsibilities, including serving as the Homeless Management Information System lead and administering HHAP funds. HPAC also maintains a public website and conducts multiple public meetings each month.

The Board nevertheless recognizes an opportunity to make information about HPAC and the countywide homelessness response easier for residents to find and understand. The County supports continued work with HPAC, the Executive Commission, cities, and other partners to strengthen public communication and engagement.

ATTACHMENT B. RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS

The Report directs Recommendations R1–R4 to the Yolo County Board of Supervisors for response. The Board provides the following responses pursuant to Penal Code section 933.05.

Recommendation R1. Increased Dedicated Funding: The Yolo County Board of Supervisors should establish a permanent fund and should direct staff to identify subsidies and grants for the operation and staffing of homeless service facilities.

Response. The recommendation will not be implemented as to establishment of a permanent County fund because it is not reasonable under current fiscal conditions. The portion of the recommendation concerning identification of grants and subsidies has been implemented and is ongoing.

The Board cannot commit to establishing a permanent County funding source for homelessness programs at this time given competing fiscal demands and the absence of a dedicated ongoing revenue source for this purpose.

The County does, however, actively seek outside funding for homelessness programs and services. The County also advocates for permanent, ongoing HHAP funding at the state level. In collaboration with HPAC, the County has secured more than \$8 million in HHAP funding since 2020.

The Health and Human Services Agency has also received Behavioral Health Services Act housing intervention funding for people with qualifying mental health and substance use needs. This funding serves a defined population and is not a general homelessness funding source.

The County will continue identifying grants, subsidies, and other available funding sources that can support homelessness services and housing programs.

Recommendation R2. County-Wide Awareness Campaign: Yolo County and the cities of Davis, Woodland, and West Sacramento should initiate awareness campaigns. These campaigns could include:

- a. press releases,**
- b. articles in newsletters,**
- c. presentations at regularly scheduled public gatherings, and**
- d. social media.**

Response. This recommendation has not yet been fully implemented but will be implemented in the future.

The County already provides public information concerning homelessness programs and services through press releases, social media, public meetings, community presentations, and other communications. The Board agrees that stronger coordination across jurisdictions can improve public understanding of the homelessness response system and the work occurring throughout Yolo County.

County staff are engaging with the cities of Davis, Woodland, and West Sacramento regarding the recommendation and will work with interested jurisdictions and partners to identify a coordinated

approach to public information and outreach. This work may include shared or coordinated information concerning available services, homelessness programs, system outcomes, funding, and the roles of the County, cities, HPAC, and nonprofit providers.

The County expects to identify an initial coordinated outreach framework with participating jurisdictions and partners by December 2026. The framework may use existing communications channels, including press releases, newsletters, public presentations, websites, and social media, rather than creating a separate communications structure.

Recommendation R3. Community Fundraising Event: The County should sponsor events, in cooperation with public and non-profit organizations to educate the public and to raise funds to support ongoing efforts to address homelessness.

Response. This recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted.

The Board supports public education concerning homelessness programs, services, needs, and outcomes and supports collaboration with cities, nonprofit organizations, and other community partners on outreach and education. However, charitable fundraising events are generally the role of community-based organizations and foundations, not the County. The County will instead continue to pursue available federal and state funding and work with community partners to support public awareness and education.

Recommendation R4. The Yolo Executive Commission to Address Homelessness should provide direction and staff assistance for HPAC to take a stronger role in disseminating information to the general public about the status of programs that address homelessness and to increase the visibility and transparency of HPAC.

Response. This recommendation has not yet been fully implemented but will be implemented in the future as to actions within the County's authority.

The Board agrees that HPAC is well positioned to play a stronger public information role and supports continued efforts to increase the visibility, transparency, and public understanding of HPAC and the countywide homelessness response.

The Yolo Executive Commission to Address Homelessness includes representatives from multiple jurisdictions. The County will bring the Grand Jury's recommendation to the Executive Commission for consideration and will work with HPAC and participating jurisdictions to identify practical ways to strengthen regular public communication about homelessness programs, funding, services, and outcomes.

The County will also consider what staff support can reasonably be provided within existing resources. The County expects to bring the recommendation forward through the Executive Commission process by December 2026. This work will also inform the broader public outreach effort described in the response to Recommendation R2.