

Health Services

Jennifer Vasquez – Director

Health Services 106-4700	FY 22/23 Adopted Budget	FY 23/24 CAO Recommended	Change
EXPENDITURES			
Salaries and Benefits	\$5,480,016	\$5,089,328	(\$390,688)
Services and Supplies	\$5,755,065	\$4,680,513	(\$1,074,552)
Other Charges	\$1,194,778	\$966,493	(\$228,285)
Fixed Assets			\$0
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$12,429,859	\$10,736,334	(\$1,693,525)
REVENUE			
Fed/State			\$0
Grant	\$5,135,669	\$6,300,965	\$1,165,296
Realignment	\$3,300,000	\$3,400,000	\$100,000
Fees/Misc	\$385,400	(\$1,237,100)	(\$1,622,500)
TOTAL REVENUE	\$8,821,069	\$8,463,865	(\$357,204)
FUND BALANCE	\$3,421,089	\$2,084,768	(\$1,336,321)
NET COUNTY COST	\$187,701	\$187,701	\$0

Program Description

Public Health (PH) is a division of the Yuba County Health and Human Services Department. Yuba County Public Health contains two components: Community Wellness and Public Health Nursing. The Community Wellness component includes the Housing and Stabilization, Health Education, and Vital Records Programs. The Public Health Nursing component contains the Communicable Disease, Foster Care and California Medical Services, Maternal Child Adolescent Health, Immunizations, and Emergency Preparedness Programs. The division supports the mission of Health and Human Services by *Promoting Health and Wellness* in order to be a catalyst for building a healthy and thriving community. This is achieved through ongoing efforts to promote healthy lifestyle choices and enhance quality of life through education, prevention, and intervention services for all Yuba County residents.

Health Services

Jennifer Vasquez – Director

Accomplishments

FY 2022-2023

- Implemented a vulnerability assessment tool to prioritize homelessness prevention services for households at risk of becoming homeless in collaboration with Hands of Hope, The Salvation Army, and the Sutter Yuba Homeless Consortium. Sixteen households retained housing as a result of this initiative.
- Estimated to permanently house 75 homeless households (44 housed in the first 7 months of the fiscal year).
- Estimated to provide Rapid Rehousing services to 992 individuals (579 individuals housed in the first 7 months of the fiscal year). Rapid Rehousing has several components including help locating a suitable housing unit, completing housing applications, conducting walk-through inspections, completing leases, subsidizing rental payments and deposits as well as case management to assist with obtaining and maintaining housing.
- Partnered with Yuba County Office of Education (YCOE) to open a Community Wellness Center at Lindhurst High School. The Wellness Center officially opened on January 3, 2023 and has been well-received by students and faculty, with 392 student visited in less than one month after opening. Students and families receive onsite counseling, linkage to Social Services and additional supports in collaboration with YCOE and Peach Tree Health staff located onsite.
- Implemented an STD Opt-Out Testing Program at the Yuba County Jail in collaboration with the Yuba County Sheriff Department and WellPath, the jail medical provider. From September 2022 to December 2022, a total of 139 inmates opted to get tested for chlamydia, gonorrhea, and/or syphilis.
- Coordinated with the state and other agencies to align efforts in the Local Oral Health, Tobacco Education, Bike and Pedestrian Safety, and Car Seat Safety programs to improve the health and safety of residents and enhance local initiatives.
- Conducted a communitywide Community Health Assessment (CHA) including a kick-off meeting, obtaining 996 community health surveys, ten key informant interviews and ten externally facilitated focus groups throughout the county. The full Community Health Assessment report will be distributed at the end of March 2023, in conjunction with a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) kick-off scheduled for March 29, 2023.
- Partnered with the Olivehurst Public Utility District (OPUD) to contribute funding support for the Olivehurst Community Pool. This unique partnership allowed the Department to provide health outreach and education to pool visitors. The Olivehurst Community Pool is a valued resource and provides outdoor exercise, free swimming lessons for youth, and recreational activities for the general public to enjoy.

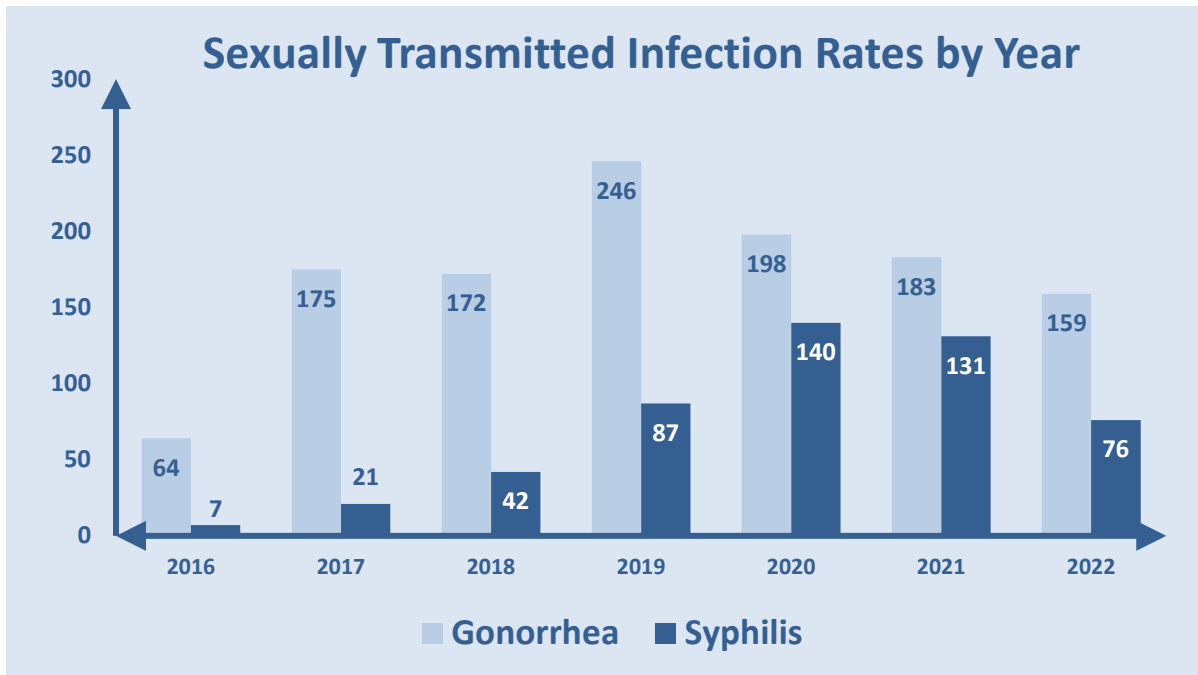
Health Services

Jennifer Vasquez – Director

- Contracted for a new Electronic Health Record (EHR) system that aligns with the unique needs of Public Health. Implementation of this new system will allow for streamlined medical record maintenance in the division.
- Coordinated the distribution of almost 20,000 COVID-19 antigen (self-administered tests) to Community Based Organizations and local health care partners through allocations provided by the State’s Testing Task Force.
- Maintained a case load of over 800 individuals through the California Children’s Services (CCS) program. The CCS program provides diagnostic and treatment services, medical case management, and physical and occupational therapy services to children under age 21 with eligible medical conditions.

Performance Measures FY 2022-2023

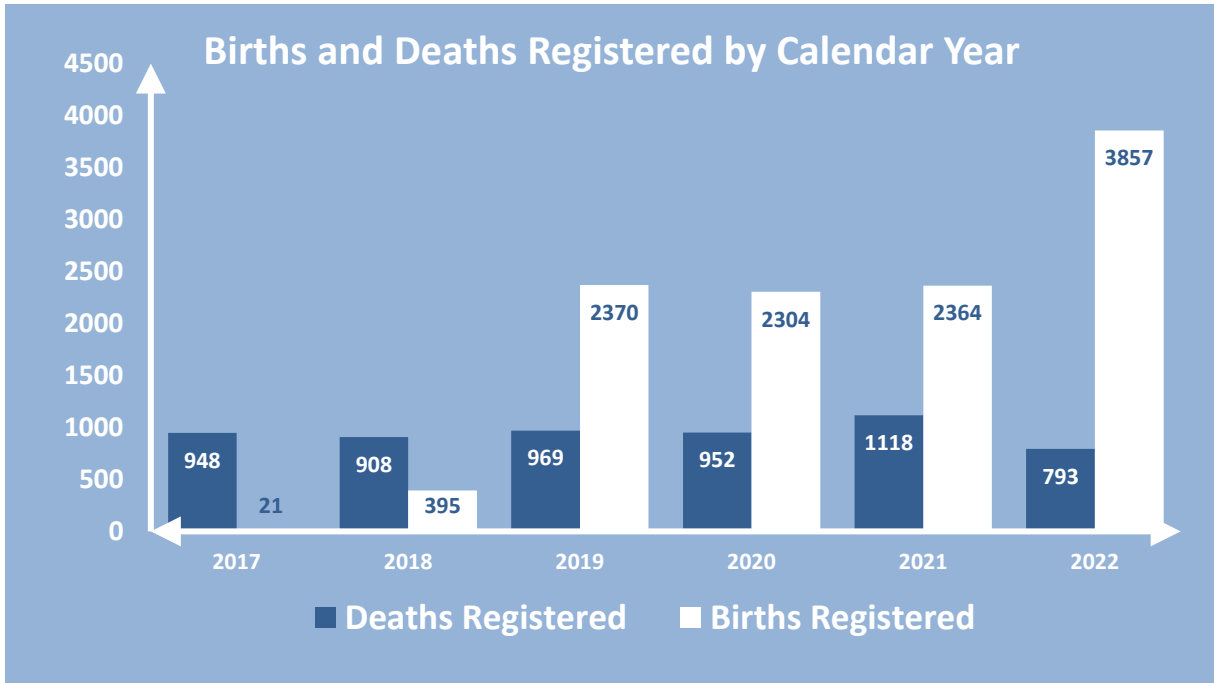
Sexually transmitted infection rates continue to be high throughout the state and the county. Using grant funds from CDPH, public health employees investigate cases and contacts more thoroughly to stem the rising numbers.



Health Services

Jennifer Vasquez – Director

Yuba County Public Health registers all births occurring at Adventist and Rideout Hospital, as well as home births that occur in the county.



Goals and Objectives FY 2023-2024

- Increase participation in Community Wellness Centers as additional centers are implemented at school sites to assist families with connecting to social services programs provided through HHS and other local resources.
- Increase interim shelter bed and permanent housing unit capacity.
- Implement strategies in response to Opioid overdoses, including Collect Data and conduct surveillance, develop a PH workforce that supports linkage to care, increase overdose awareness among providers and community members, and support cross-sector collaboration and partnerships.
- Partner with Adventist Health and Rideout to expand its street nursing capacity to test for sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), coordinate expedited referral for treatment and follow up, and partner tracing.
- Initiate and monitor through the next three to five (3-5) years progress made through the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), which is a long-term systematic effort to address the health needs identified through the Community Health Assessment process. Create a dashboard to monitor the progress of the Community Health Improvement Plan.

Health Services

Jennifer Vasquez – Director

Pending Issues/Policy Considerations

FY 2023-2024

- Some pandemic-related funding sources are expiring, but additional funding sources are expected to be made available.
- The shortage of Public Health staff throughout the state will require an increased focus on workforce recruitment, retention, and professional development.
- The Governor’s budget proposal requires increased outcomes for housing and homelessness funds, likely resulting in an additional workload.

Human Services

Jennifer Vasquez – Director

Human Services 100-5200, 5300,5400	FY 22/23 Adopted Budget	FY 23/24 CAO Recommended	Change
EXPENDITURES			
Salaries and Benefits	\$27,191,984	\$29,420,166	\$2,228,182
Services and Supplies	\$18,158,036	\$21,278,882	\$3,120,846
Other Charges	\$31,208,960	\$35,532,792	\$4,323,832
Fixed Assets			
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$76,558,980	\$86,231,840	\$9,672,860
REVENUE			
Fed/State	\$41,778,668	\$49,605,051	\$7,826,383
Grant			
Realignment			
Fees/Misc	\$31,728,135	\$32,892,490	\$1,164,355
TOTAL REVENUE	\$73,506,803	\$82,497,541	\$8,990,738
FUND BALANCE	\$2,932,177	\$3,614,299	\$682,122
NET COUNTY COST	\$120,000	\$120,000	\$0

Program Description

The Yuba County Health and Human Services Department (HHS) administers Public Health, Human Services, and Veteran’s programs to meet the needs of Yuba County residents. There are a number of major divisions within the department including Child and Adult Protective Services, Public Assistance, Employment Services, Public Health, Veterans Services and Administration and Finance. The mission of HHSD is to be a catalyst for building a healthy and thriving community.

Human Services

Jennifer Vasquez – Director

Accomplishments

FY 2022-2023

Administration & Finance

- Continued to collaborate with the Auditor’s Department to support a new countywide financial system.
- Implemented the use of a new Learning Management System to manage both online and instructor-led trainings for all Health & Human Services staff.
- Increased the department’s presence on social media to improve and increase communication with the community.
- Improved video productions, community presentations and interactive engagements in order to promote a safe, healthy, and self-sufficient community while spotlighting HHS activities that encourage a healthy and thriving Yuba County community.
- Collaborated with community partners on prevention and awareness campaigns to expand public knowledge of available resources.
- Hosted multiple education-networking opportunities with community partners to connect, share resources, and build relationships.
- Developed multiple HHS spotlight campaigns featuring department services.
- Promoted National Awareness Months, Weeks, and Days highlighting department services.
- Successfully created opportunities for staff to participate in community events and projects through outreach activities which support the HHS mission and Yuba County priorities.
- Began maintaining the public HHS website calendar to keep residents informed of the many outreach events and activities hosted by and promoted by HHS in Yuba County.
- Assigned a department lead for care and shelter disaster response. The lead works closely with the Yuba County Sheriff’s Department and Yuba County OES to ensure procedures are in place to serve the residents of Yuba County when displaced during a disaster. The Disaster Response Team has been activated multiple times for wildfire evacuations and a cooling center.
- Executed several contracts with Community Based Organizations (CBO’s) to assist with basic needs during mass county evacuations.
- The Yuba County Care and Shelter Team purchased a 16 ft. disaster response trailer, which will be filled with supplies and can be readily deployed in case of a disaster response in which a temporary evacuation point (TEP) or evacuation shelter needs to be opened.

Human Services

Jennifer Vasquez – Director

Child and Adult Protective Services

- Processed over 1,140 reports of alleged child abuse and or maltreatment.
- Processed over 600 referrals for alleged elder or dependent adult neglect, abuse, or deprivation of income through exploitation.
- Managed over 1,062 In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) cases which allow recipients to live safely in their own homes and avoid the need for out-of-home care.
- Collaborated with the Yuba County Child Abuse Prevention Council (YCCAPC) in order to complete a countywide needs assessment. The assessment will assist the YCCAPC in developing a strategic plan to identify resource gaps and address current county trends to prevent child abuse.
- Established a Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) in order to collaborate amongst agencies to ensure vulnerable seniors and dependent adults have a coordinated approach to case planning.

Employment Services

- Processed 1,112 CalWORKs applications.
- Assisted a monthly average of 78 Welfare-to-Work families with subsidized childcare. This supports working parents and parents participating in Welfare-to-Work activities.
- Partnered with 22 local employers to serve as Expanded Subsidized Employment work sites. Successfully assisted 17 Welfare-to-Work parents with gaining employment through the Expanded Subsidized Employment program.
- Expanded the Subsidized Employment program to include Welfare-to-Work parents enrolled in the Housing Support program. This program expansion increases access to employment for Welfare-to-Work parents while safeguarding their ability to secure and retain stable housing.
- Successfully completed a business process redesign to improve customer service and fully resolve customer needs in the first interaction which increases worker capacity, improves accuracy and ensures timeliness of program benefits.
- Expanded the Home Visiting Program to include Cal-Learn families. This Home Visiting service will help increase positive birth outcomes, reduce incidents of child abuse and neglect, improve a child's readiness for school and increase parent high school graduation rates.
- Implemented Assembly Bill 153, which allows parents to continue receiving cash assistance for up to six months when children have been placed in out-of-home care, during which time parents complete the child welfare reunification process.

Human Services

Jennifer Vasquez – Director

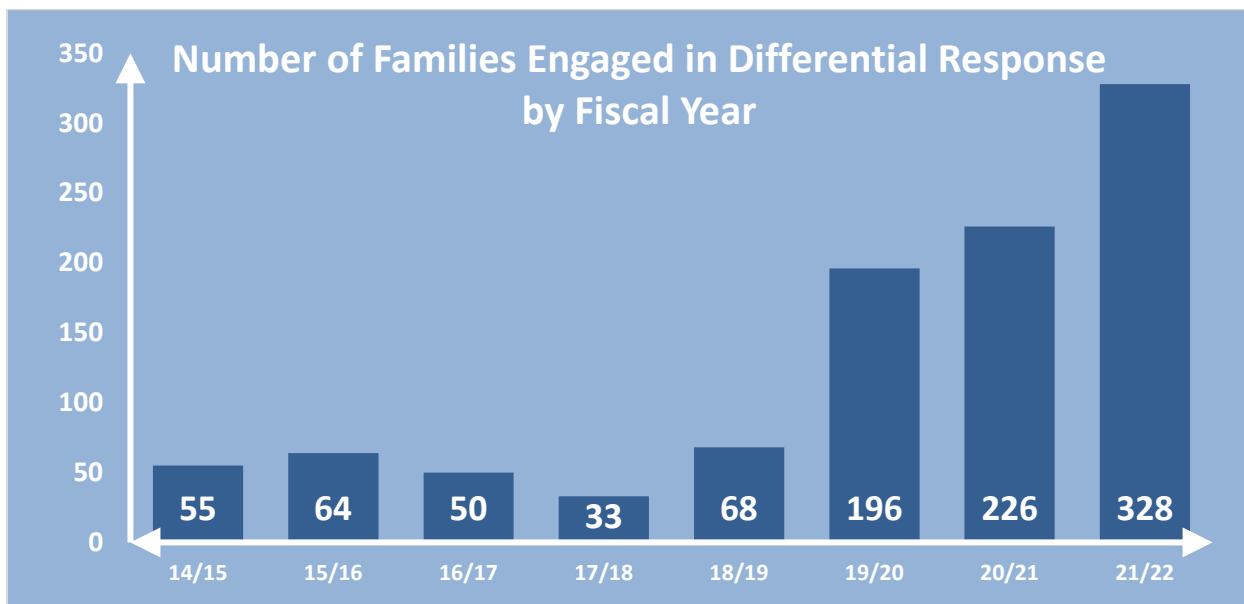
Public Assistance

- Implemented postpartum full-scope Medi-Cal coverage, extending coverage from six months to 12 months.
- Implemented the expansion of full-scope Medi-Cal coverage to all adults 50 years and above regardless of immigration status.
- Promoted customer self-service options resulting in approximately 200 new BenefitsCal online accounts each month and a 344% increase of online applications.
- Successfully trained 16 new Eligibility Technicians on public assistance programs.
- Expanded the Customer Service Call Center capability by adding licenses for all staff to assist with handling calls.

Performance Measures

FY 2022-2023

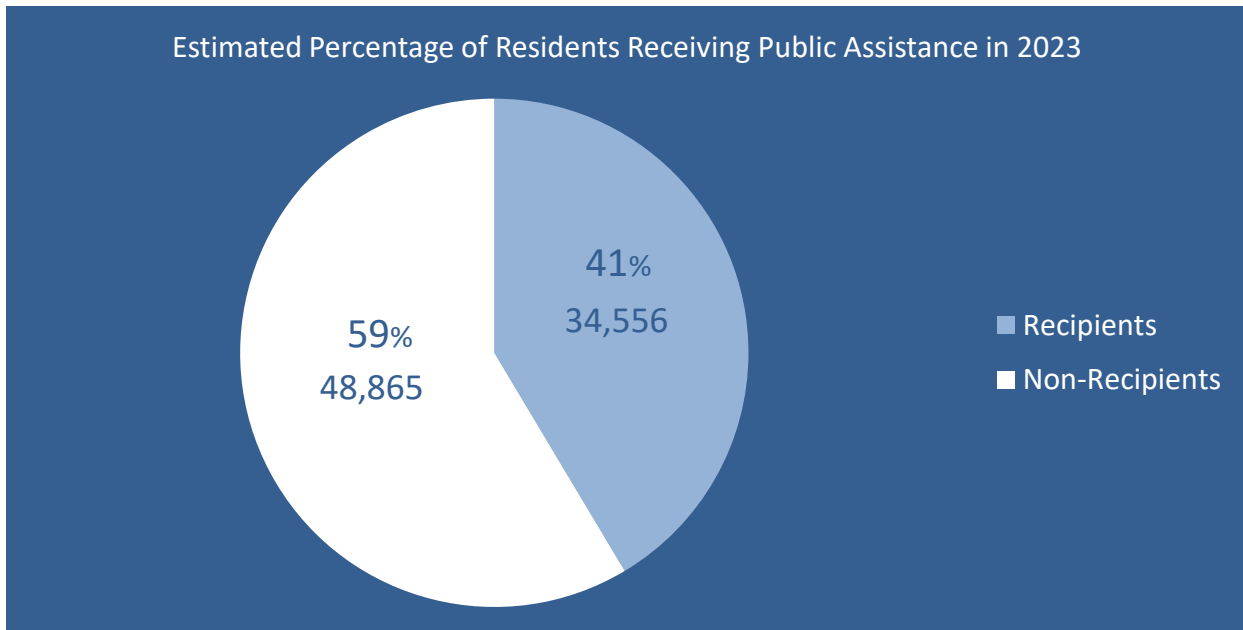
Differential Response (DR) is a prevention and early intervention-based program designed to engage at-risk families and provide a broad array of community-based services and supports to prevent entry into the child welfare system. In fiscal year 21/22 there were 328 families participating. Current statistics show families that maintain engagement with these voluntary services have a 99% success rate of avoiding further CPS interventions while actively participating.



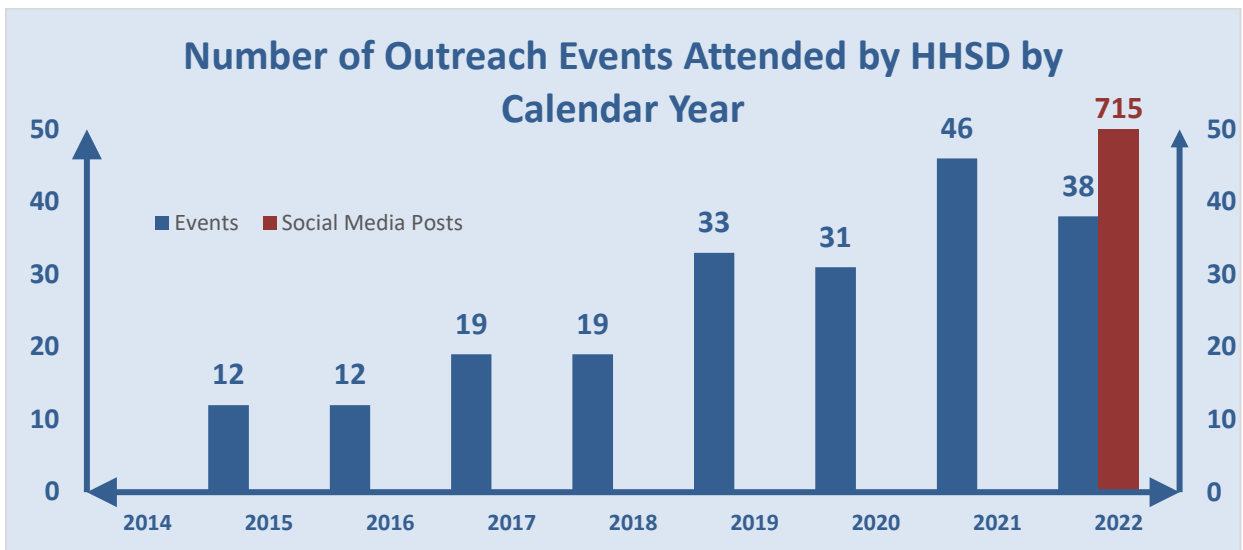
HHS administers public assistance programs that many Yuba County residents rely on. In 2023 the estimated percentage of residents receiving at least one public assistance program is 41%.

Human Services

Jennifer Vasquez – Director



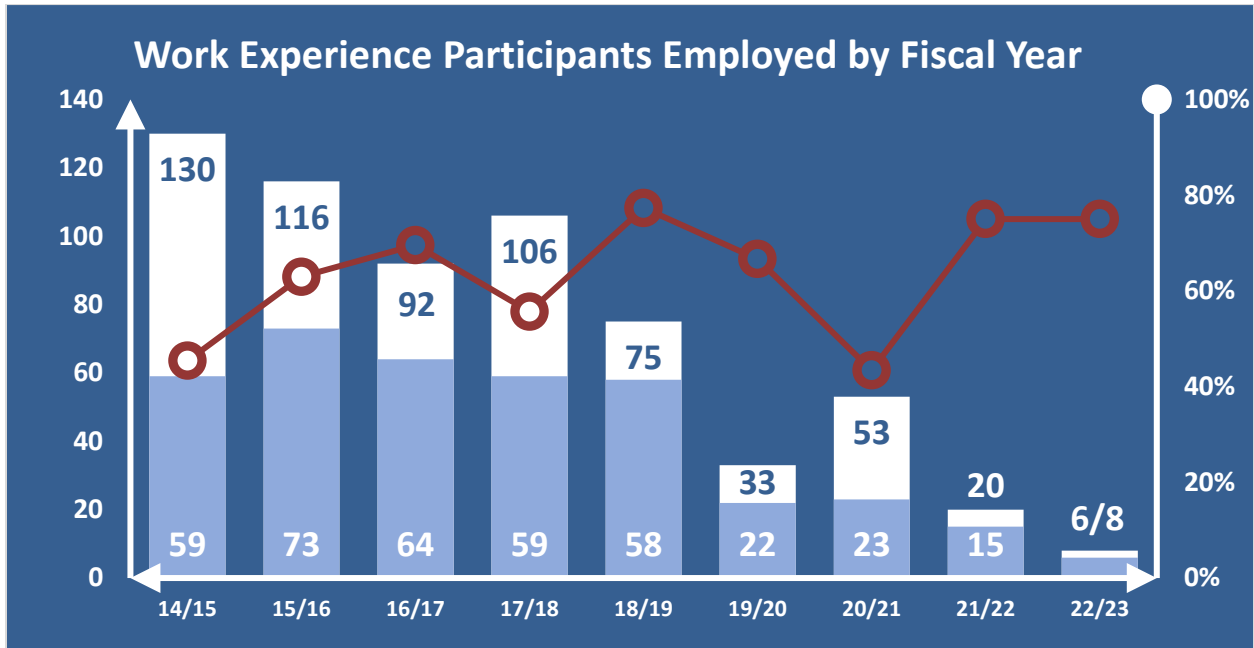
The mission of the Health and Human Services Department is to be a catalyst for building a healthy and thriving community. Emphasis is placed on having an active presence in the community. The number of events attended by HHSD has steadily increased since 2015. Additionally, HHS has begun tracking the number of posts made to social media accounts to build presence online.



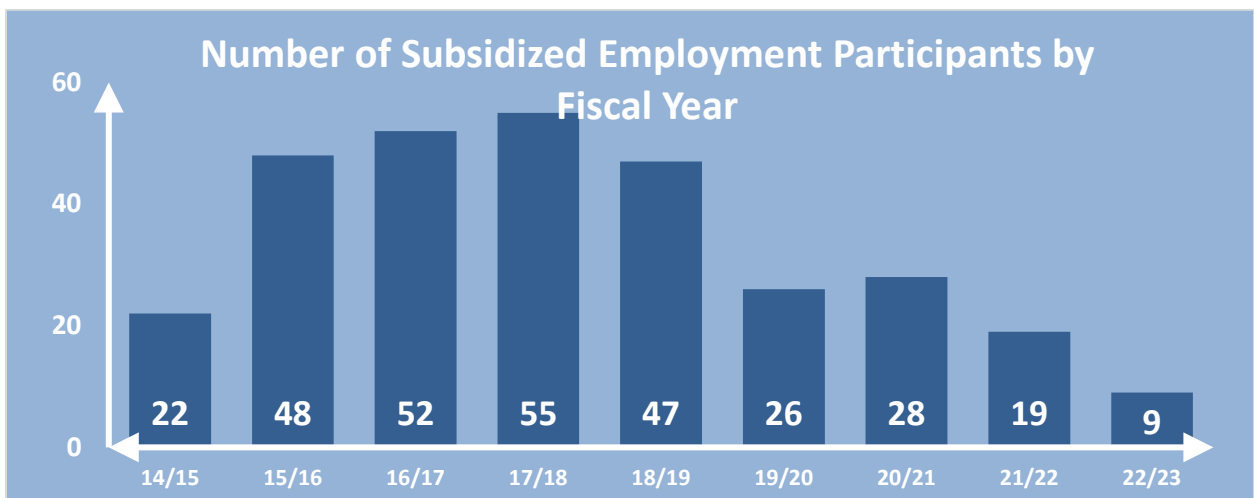
Welfare to Work assists CalWORKs parents to remove barriers and acquire the skills needed to obtain gainful employment. The Work Experience program, accompanied with coaching from CalWORKs staff, allows participants to enhance their soft skills while receiving the hands-on training needed to reach their employment goals. In fiscal year 22/23, 75% of Work Experience participants moved on to become employed. Ongoing program exceptions for Welfare-to-Work participants due to the Public Health Emergency have created a lower labor force participation rate for Work Experience Programs.

Human Services

Jennifer Vasquez – Director



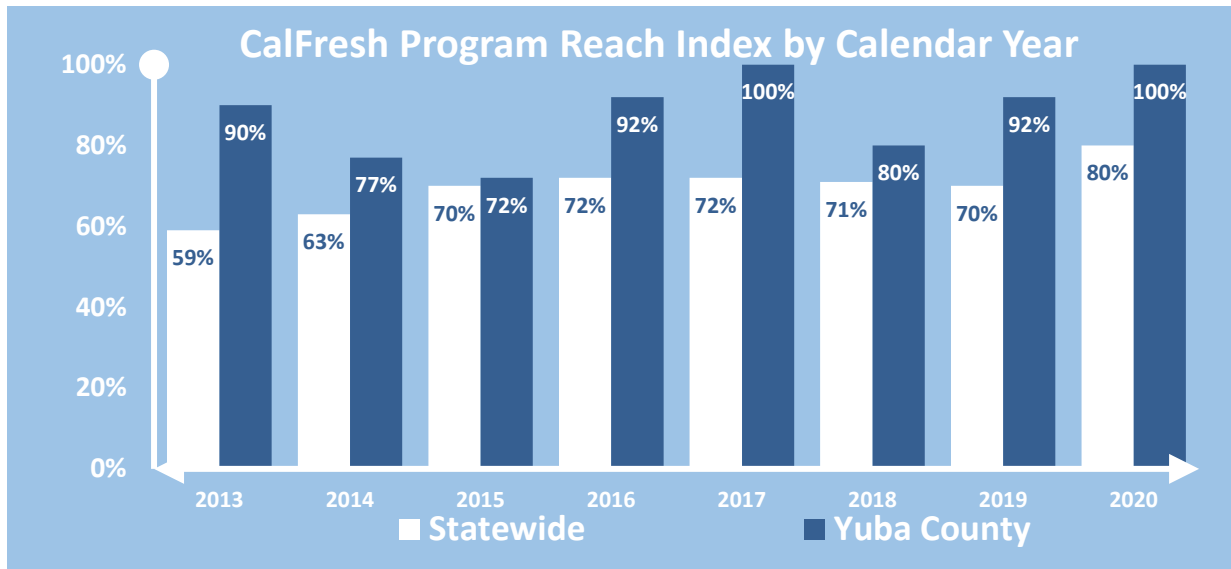
The Expanded Subsidized Employment program is designed to create a partnership between local businesses and the County. This program matches a viable Welfare-to-Work participant’s skills, experience, and interests with a compatible employer. Employment through this program is at 100% for all Subsidized Employment participants. The success rate for this program is a direct result of relationship building with employers to hire a pre-screened candidate, while the County provides wage reimbursement along with collaborative support for both the participant and the employer. With the economic downturn over the last few years and increased business expenses caused by inflation, local employers have experienced the need to strategize to avoid revenue losses. These strategies have included a decrease to their workforce through the reduction of non-essential staff. This reduction has affected our Expanded Subsidized Employment program, as fewer employers with entry level positions are available.



Human Services

Jennifer Vasquez – Director

The CalFresh Program Reach index is a methodology used to measure neighborhood access to CalFresh in California counties. The program reach increased in 2019 because Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients became eligible for CalFresh in June. Other factors contributing to the increase included promoting the expansion to the community, educating and training staff on the new guidelines, and preparing for the increase in applications.



Goals and Objectives FY 2023-2024

Administration & Finance

- Install a monument sign at the corner of Lindhurst Avenue and Packard Avenue to ease the challenge of clients locating the facility from the main thoroughfare.
- Partner with Child Support Services and the Information Technology Division to modernize the shared training space within the departments.
- Develop and implement parking improvements, safe walkways, and a vehicle enclosure at Health & Human Services. This will improve parking for both staff and visitors, create a pedestrian path around the entire building and minimize vandalism to the fleet of County vehicles.
- Implement a new policy management system to support the effort of providing relevant and up to date policy and procedures to all Health & Human Services employees.
- Implement a new timekeeping system to streamline the time reporting process and minimize the errors associated with the current manual process.
- Implement a new inventory system to automate the tracking of hardware, software, and consumable assets at Health and Human Services, reduce the amount of manual work associated with tracking and re-inventorying items, and ensure the right goods are in the right places when needed.

Human Services

Jennifer Vasquez – Director

- Provide four quarterly reports to the Board of Supervisors about HHS activities routinely throughout the year.
- Train certified CPR trainers at Health and Human Services, who will in turn train the remaining employees at Health and Human Services to be CPR certified.
- Develop and pilot a hybrid telework policy to provide more flexibility to employees and Yuba County residents, and attract and retain the best talent in an increasingly challenging job market.
- Achieve Blue Zones certification at Health and Human Services to ensure employee wellness is a focus within the workplace and maintain a work environment that helps employees provide the best service to Yuba County residents.
- Start an organizational data transformation project to focus more on management by metrics and data informed decision making to ensure the residents of Yuba County are receiving quality services.
- Develop new policies and procedures for Care and Shelter needs. These policies will include activation guidelines for opening and operating an evacuation shelter and a cooling/warming center.
- Focus on skimming and scamming welfare benefits to assist with the investigation and prosecution of welfare fraud cases. Additional work will include conducting a 4-part training series focused on fraud awareness and prevention.

Child and Adult Protective Services

- Develop a comprehensive prevention plan that will be submitted to California Department of Social Services (CDSS). This plan will create a prevention services program that addresses mental health, substance use, and parenting skills to families at imminent risk of entry into foster care.
- Conduct a County Self-Assessment (CSA), including a peer review and the development of a five-year System Improvement Plan (SIP), which outlines how the county will improve the system of care for children and families.
- Collaborate with local community partners, including FREED, the Sutter County Health and Human Services Department and the Agency on Aging Area to develop a Local Playbook that is designed to assist state and local government, communities, and private and philanthropic organizations in building environments that promote an age and disability friendly communities.
- Enhance the training program provided to new Social Workers to incorporate a more robust field training component.
- Provide digital literacy training to disabled adults and adults over the age of 60. Digital Literacy classes will empower participants to connect with their families, make online transactions and access health care through technology.
- Provide operating subsidies to existing licensed eligible residential adult and senior care facilities to preserve and avoid their closure and to increase the acceptance of new qualified residents.

Human Services

Jennifer Vasquez – Director

Employment Services

- Implement the Laptops-4-Life distribution program for Welfare-to-Work participants.
- Begin the County Self-Assessment and System Improvement Plan for the Welfare-to-Work program. Focus will be on determining program strengths and best practices along with identifying opportunities for improvement.

Public Assistance

- Resume the processing of Medi-Cal redeterminations and beneficiary changes after the Public Health Emergency (PHE) and Continuous Coverage requirement ends March 31, 2023. This involves training employees and processing beneficiary contact updates received from managed care plans.
- Collaborate with community partners to increase Medi-Cal program enrollment.
- Implement an inmate pre-release referral process with County jails and youth correctional facilities. The process will assist inmates with applying for Medi-Cal services, allow communication between the County office and facility in order to suspend Medi-Cal while an individual is in custody, and easily reactivate Medi-Cal 90-days prior to release date so they can access essential health care services upon release.
- Collaborate with community healthcare facilities to assist individuals with applications and retention of public assistance benefits.
- Partner with Health Care Options to provide onsite assistance to Medi-Cal applicants and beneficiaries in selecting a managed care plan and navigating coverage issues.
- Implement training and staff development strategies focused on staff retention.

Pending Issues/Policy Considerations

FY 2023-2024

Administration & Finance

- Results of the Division 21 Civil Right Audit performed in July 2021 have not yet been received. Depending on the results, the department may need to remediate any findings to ensure a safe and inclusive environment for employees and clients. The amount of funding this will require is unknown.
- GASB 87, a newly implemented accounting requirement, may have a significant impact on the funding available to Health and Human Services.
- The end of the Public Health Emergency will likely cause an increase in discontinued Medi-Cal cases as redeterminations resume. An increase in the number of hearing requests is anticipated as cases are discontinued.
- The state is considering providing funding to counties for care and shelter activities during disaster events. This will have a very positive impact on Health and Human Service's ability to provide a high level of services to Yuba County residents during disasters.

Human Services

Jennifer Vasquez – Director

Child and Adult Protective Services

- The California Department of Social Services continues to increase accreditation requirements for congregate facilities which house Child Welfare involved youth. This constant change decreases the availability of residential options for children in need of enhanced behavioral health services.
 - In the fiscal year of 2022/2023, there was a significant loss of bed capacity statewide, dropping by 1,112 licensed beds, and an overall decrease of CPS placements into residential treatment programs by just 227 youth.
- The population of older adults and adults with disabilities continues to increase and the demand for APS services throughout the state continues to rise. California’s 60-and-over population is expected to grow to 10.8 million people by 2030, and the population is growing racially and ethnically more diverse.
- Effective January 1, 2024, the Governor’s budget will provide funding to expand full-scope Medi-Cal Coverage to adults aged 26 through 49, regardless of immigration status. This expansion will increase In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) caseloads at the county level.
- The Governor’s budget decreases IHSS social worker training funding.
- The Adult Protective Services (APS) program expands eligibility to persons 60 years of age and older.

Employment Services

- Ongoing expansion of the CalWORKs program through broadened eligibility requirements that include decreased countable income, increased property limits and widening of the eligible population will result in increased caseloads.
- The state budget estimates an increase in cost for childcare provided to welfare-to-work participants.

Public Assistance

- CalFresh Student Eligibility Expansion is projected to end February 2024.
- The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) plans to offer a targeted set of Medi-Cal services to youth and adults in state prisons, County jails, and youth correctional facilities for up to 90 days prior to release.
- Assembly Bill 2402 provides continuous Medi-Cal coverage for children under five years of age in the Medi-Cal program, regardless of income, and a renewal will not be required.
- In response to the substantial increase in theft of public assistance benefits, the Governor’s budget includes administrative funding for reimbursement of benefits and automation changes.

County Medical Services Program

Jennifer Vasquez – Director

Health - CMSP 101-4720	FY 22/23 Adopted Budget	FY 23/24 CAO Recommended	Change
EXPENDITURES			
Salaries and Benefits			\$0
Services and Supplies			\$0
Other Charges	\$0	\$0	\$0
Fixed Assets			\$0
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$0	\$0	\$0
REVENUE			
Fed/State			\$0
Grant			\$0
Realignment			\$0
Fees/Misc			\$0
TOTAL REVENUE	\$0	\$0	\$0
FUND BALANCE			\$0
NET COUNTY COST	\$0	\$0	\$0

Program Description

The County Medical Services Program (CMSP) Governing Board provides administration of the CMSP Program. Thirty-four primarily rural California counties participate in CMSP. The CMSP County Participation Fee is a County General Fund Maintenance of Effort (MOE) counties pay to offset costs associated with administration of the CMSP program. The CMSP County Participation Fee was set in 1991 Realignment legislation. The CMSP County Participation Fee was waived in FY 22/23 and is anticipated to be waived in FY 23/24.

Accomplishments FY 2022-2023

- Successfully reviewed, interpreted, and implemented CMSP program guidance from the CMSP Governing Board to extend the delay of discontinuances and negative actions during the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- Awarded and implemented the Local Indigent Care Needs (LICN) Grant to promote timely delivery of necessary medical, behavioral health, and support services to locally identified target populations. Assisted these target populations with linking them to community resources and providing them support to improve overall health outcomes.

County Medical Services Program

Jennifer Vasquez – Director

Goals and Objectives

FY 2023-2024

- Continue to collaborate with and foster relationships with community-based organizations to increase awareness and participation in CMSP programs such as Path to Health and Connect to Care.

Pending Issues/Policy Considerations

FY 2023-2024

- With implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), county costs and responsibilities for indigent health care have decreased as more individuals gained access to health care coverage through the expansion of the Medi-Cal Program. The counties' indigent health care savings are redirected to pay for CalWORKs state General Fund assistance costs, thereby freeing up the state's General Fund that can be used to pay for the state's Medi-Cal expansion costs.

Veterans Services

Jennifer Vasquez – Director

BI - County Veterans 101-5800	FY 22/23 Adopted Budget	FY 23/24 CAO Recommended	Change
EXPENDITURES			
Salaries and Benefits	\$372,068	\$355,881	(\$16,187)
Services and Supplies	\$143,512	\$134,258	(\$9,254)
Other Charges	\$196,734	\$219,847	\$23,113
Fixed Assets			\$0
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$712,314	\$709,986	(\$2,328)
REVENUE			
Fed/State	\$249,000	\$249,000	\$0
Grant			\$0
Realignment			\$0
Fees/Misc	\$231,657	\$230,493	(\$1,164)
TOTAL REVENUE	\$480,657	\$479,493	(\$1,164)
FUND BALANCE			\$0
NET COUNTY COST	\$231,657	\$230,493	(\$1,164)

Program Description

The County Veterans Service Office (CVSO) assists the veteran community of Yuba and Sutter counties with obtaining federal, state, and local benefits to which they are entitled. Entitlement is based upon service in the armed forces of the United States. The veteran community consists of veterans, their dependents, and the survivors of deceased veterans. The Department of Veteran Affairs estimates the veteran population is just under 12,000 veterans for Yuba/Sutter area. The total amount of benefit payments that veterans receive is over \$77.5 million annually.

Veterans Services

Jennifer Vasquez – Director

Accomplishments

FY 2022-2023

- Resumed the VA Vet Center counseling, located at the Packard facility. This allows local veterans access to mental health counseling locally, avoiding the need to travel to Sacramento or Chico. These counseling sessions resumed during this FY.
- County Veteran Service Officer was elected as the First Vice President of the CA County Veteran Service Officers Association (CACVSO). In this position, Marvin King has the opportunity to influence state and national leaders concerning local veteran issues.
- Supervisor in the Veteran Service Office was selected as the Chairman for the California County Veteran Service Officers Association (CACVSO) committee. This selection has allowed the local office better visibility and influence within the association and with state leadership.
- Implemented new technological capability to assist local veterans with their Board of Veteran Appeals cases. This new service allows for virtual board hearings located in the Health and Human Services conference room, providing local veterans the opportunity to talk to the administrative law judge without traveling to Sacramento or Oakland, as previously required.
- Updated the VA claim processes to allow veterans the ability to complete telephone interviews and VA claim forms from home or other remote locations.
- In August 2022, the Yuba-Sutter Stand Down was reinitiated, helping 629 Veterans and 115 Family members over the three-day event.
- Expanded the use of the Yuba-Sutter Veterans Facebook page to reach a greater number of followers and allowed the Veterans Office to share vital information with the community.

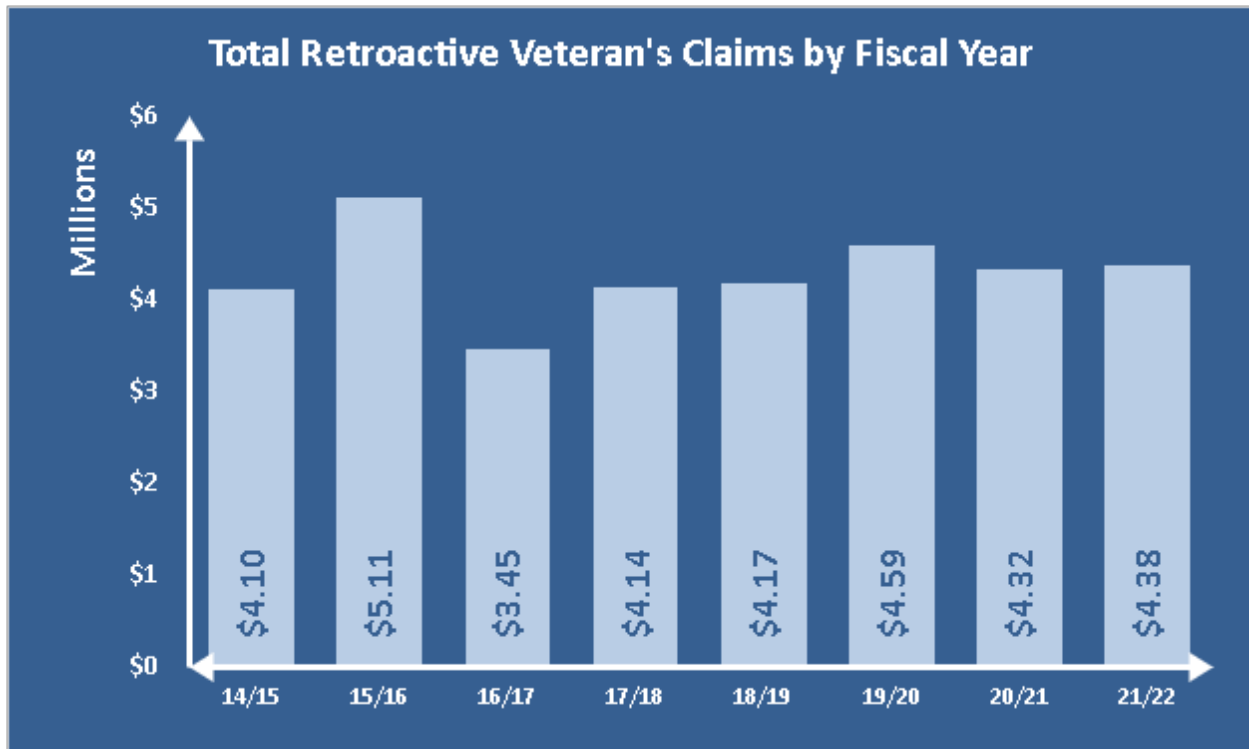
Performance Measures

FY 2022-2023

Applications for Veteran Benefits may be denied several times before being approved. The County Veterans Service Office helps Yuba/Sutter County veterans appeal these application denials, but it can take several years before an application is approved. If one of these applications is approved, the veteran will receive a retroactive payment of benefits from the original date of claim. The Yuba County Veterans Service Office helped veterans receive a total of \$4.38 million in retroactive payments in fiscal year 21/22.

Veterans Services

Jennifer Vasquez – Director



Goals and Objectives

FY 2023-2024

- Host an in-person statewide training conference in June 2023. The planning is well on its way and will be held at the Hard Rock conference facility in Yuba County. The Veterans Office anticipates approximately 100 attendees from throughout the state, including federal Veteran Administration representatives.
- Increase outreach to veterans and their family members by expanding hours at the Veteran Service Satellite Office in the Yuba City VA Clinic from 2 days a week to 5 days a week.

Pending Issues/Policy Considerations

FY 2023-2024

- The Pact Act of 2022 was signed into law in August 2022. This legislation expands veterans' access and eligibility to VA benefits for Vietnam and Gulf War veterans. The result of this legislation will be a greater demand for local veteran office services.

Public Authority

Jennifer Vasquez – Director

Public Authority 109-0109	FY 22/23 Adopted Budget	FY 23/24 CAO Recommended	Change
EXPENDITURES			
Salaries and Benefits			\$0
Services and Supplies	\$856,860	\$1,032,547	\$175,687
Other Charges	\$49,327	\$86,612	\$37,285
Fixed Assets			\$0
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$906,187	\$1,119,159	\$212,972
REVENUE			
Fed/State	\$788,383	\$1,119,159	\$330,776
Grant			\$0
Realignment			\$0
Fees/Misc	\$117,804		(\$117,804)
TOTAL REVENUE	\$906,187	\$1,119,159	\$212,972
FUND BALANCE			\$0
NET COUNTY COST	\$0	\$0	\$0

Program Description

The Public Authority enhances the availability and quality of In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) by providing consumers with access to care providers who meet their needs. An emphasis is placed upon supporting a positive and productive relationship between the consumer and IHSS provider. The Public Authority is a public entity, and the five-member Governing Body of the Public Authority is comprised of the Yuba County Board of Supervisors. The Public Authority focus is on managing the IHSS provider registry and ensuring the quality of IHSS providers. IHSS providers and consumers have access to training and support via the Public Authority. All wage and benefits for IHSS providers are negotiated by the Public Authority.

Public Authority

Jennifer Vasquez – Director

Accomplishments

FY 2022-2023

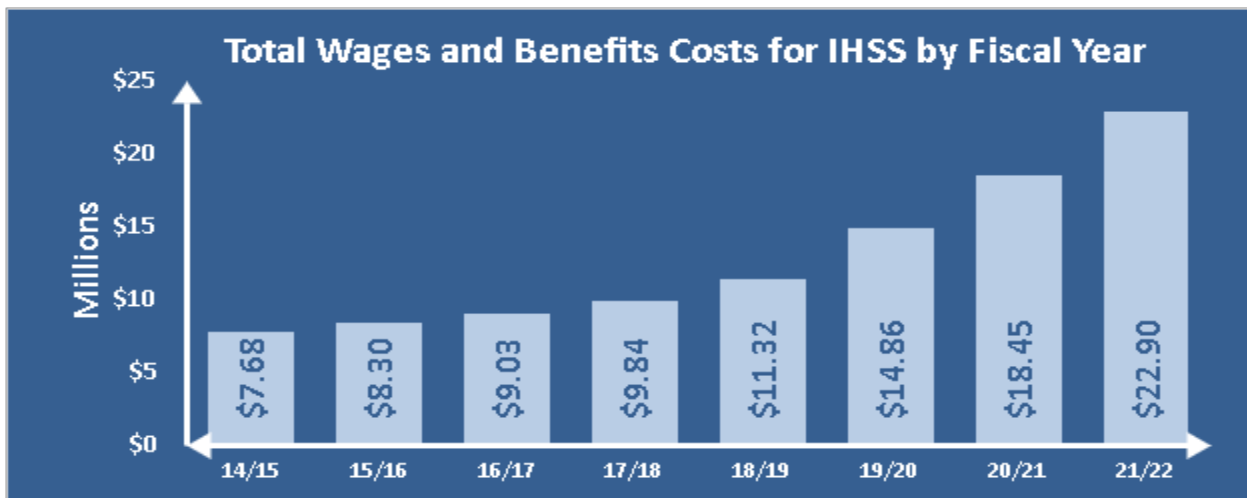
- Collaborated with Sutter County Public Authority to focus on best practices of maximizing service needs for customers and providers. Sutter County Public Authority faces similar challenges in recruiting qualified providers. The Yuba County Public Authority engaged with the HHSD Communication Engagement Team (CET) in order to recruit potential local providers. Educational materials were provided on social media to enhance recruitment efforts. An additional 49 providers have been added to the registry because of these efforts.
- Expanded recruitment of IHSS providers to focus on the more rural and difficult-to-access areas of Yuba County, as the need and demand for providers in those areas increases.

Performance Measures

FY 2022-2023

The cost of wages and benefits for In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) providers has steadily risen over the past 6 fiscal years. These costs include wages paid to the provider for both regular and overtime hours, sick pay, travel pay, and employer taxes. This increase has been due in part to the year-over-year increase in the California state minimum wage.

The current rate for a provider in Yuba County is \$15.65. The current CA minimum wage is \$15.50



Public Authority

Jennifer Vasquez – Director

Goals and Objectives

FY 2023-2024

- Conduct outreach to inform registry and non-registry providers of the available In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Career Pathways Program.
 - The IHSS Career Pathways Program is an optional program that provides training opportunities to enhance provider skills. Eligible providers are able to register for training courses and be compensated for time spent attending. Available courses are separated into five categories which include:
 - General Health & Safety
 - Adult Education
 - Cognitive Impairments & Behavioral Health
 - Complex Physical Needs
 - Transition to Home and Community Based Living
- Continue to conduct outreach at the Resource Family Centers located in rural areas in order to recruit additional providers.

Pending Issues/Policy Considerations

FY 2023-2024

- The current contract agreement between the Yuba County Public Authority and SEIU Local 2015 expired on December 31st, 2022. California minimum wage increased to \$15.50 per hour beginning January 1, 2023 and the California minimum wage will increase to \$16 per hour in January 2024.
- For 2023-24, IHSS service costs are projected to increase due to continued caseload growth, higher hours per case, and higher costs per hour associated with the increase in minimum wage.
- The Governor’s Budget for Public Authority administration has increased slightly in 2022-23 to reflect the slightly higher projected caseload.
- The Governor’s Budget proposes increased funding in 2022-23 for Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) county administration to accommodate implementation costs of EVV and an increase in the number of IHSS recipients and providers.
 - California remains out-of-compliance with the federal 21st Century Cures Act requirements for the implementation of EVV, resulting in a federal penalty to the state.

Homeless Integration Services

Jennifer Vasquez – Director

Homeless Integration Services 234-5420	FY 22/23 Adopted Budget	FY 23/24 CAO Recommended	Change
EXPENDITURES			
Salaries and Benefits			\$0
Services and Supplies	\$889,708	\$1,049,012	\$159,304
Other Charges	\$443,290	\$357,733	(\$85,557)
Fixed Assets			\$0
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$1,332,998	\$1,406,745	\$73,747
REVENUE			
Fed/State Grant	\$860,789	\$104,230	(\$756,559)
Realignment			\$0
Fees/Misc			\$0
TOTAL REVENUE	\$860,789	\$104,230	(\$756,559)
FUND BALANCE	\$472,209	\$1,302,515	\$830,306
NET COUNTY COST	\$0	\$0	\$0

Program Description

The Housing and Stabilization (HAS) fund was created in 2016 to provide revenue and expenditure appropriations specific to 14Forward, the county’s temporary emergency shelter. Now that shelter operations are contracted to a community-based organization, this fund has expanded to support stabilizing activities such as intensive case management, navigation for housing and healthcare, rapid rehousing, homelessness prevention and disability income advocacy for the county’s most vulnerable homeless citizens.

Homeless Integration Services

Jennifer Vasquez – Director

Accomplishments

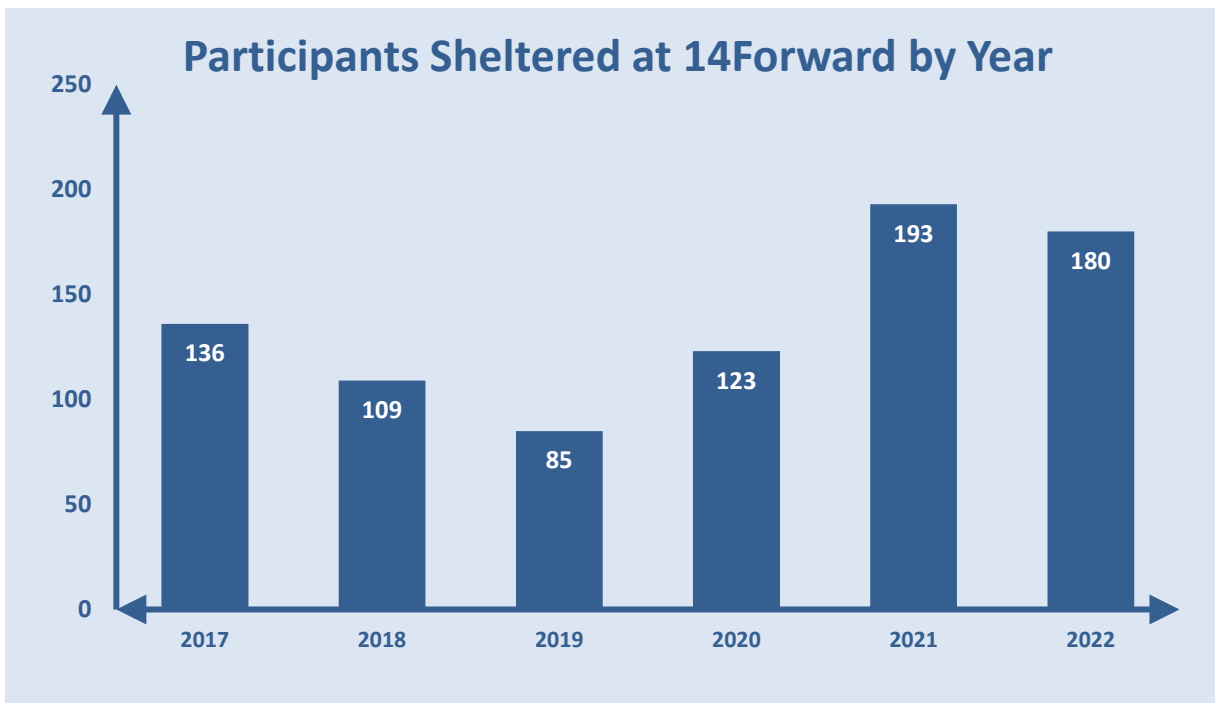
FY 2022-2023

- Completed shelter improvements at 14Forward to improve safety at the shelter. This includes upgraded fencing and gates, tree removal, alarm systems, and the addition of a ramp for accessibility.
- Sheltered 152 HAS participants at 14Forward since July 2022.
- In 2022, referred 58 General Assistance clients to Peach Tree Clinic for a permanent physical disability assessment and/or Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health for mental health and/or substance use disorder assessments for the purpose of identifying barriers to self-sufficiency, connecting clients to care and treatment and providing advocacy services for Social Security income.

Performance Measures

FY 2022-2023

14 Forward is a low-barrier, small-unit emergency shelter designed to stabilize participant’s housing and lifestyles. 14Forward participants receive intensive long-term support, and it has sheltered over 600 people since opening. Near the end of 2019, The Salvation Army assumed responsibility for operations at the center. In 2021, five units were added, increasing the capacity to 50 beds.



Goals and Objectives

FY 2023-2024

- Collaborate with community partners on projects to expand sheltering options for persons experiencing homelessness.