



Yolo County Civil Grand Jury

2025-2026

Unified Action: Strengthening the Yolo County Homelessness Response

Released: June 18, 2026

1 SUMMARY

Pursuant to its oversight role, the 2025-2026 Yolo County Grand Jury conducted follow-up evaluations per the recommendations of prior years' Grand Jury reports. The investigation included site inspections of Paul's Place (Davis), Fourth & Hope (Woodland), and the Homeless Emergency Housing Program (West Sacramento). The Grand Jury recognizes these providers for maintaining high-quality, compassionate care despite significant capacity constraints and a persistent unhoused population. The Grand Jury also reviewed the methodology for the Point-in-Time (PIT) count, which occurred in January 2026.

2 Background

The 2024-2025 Grand Jury investigation highlighted a "concerning upward trend" in homelessness. The January 2024 PIT count identified 942 individuals countywide. Specific city counts included 416 in Woodland, 289 in West Sacramento, 162 in Davis, and 75 in Winters and unincorporated areas. Previous findings criticized the lack of effective coordination and the absence of dedicated Yolo County funding for collaborative functions.

Every local community receiving funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is required to have a local continuum of care. The Davis/Woodland/Yolo County Continuum of Care (CA-521), known as the Yolo County Homeless and Poverty Action

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Coalition (HPAC), is a local planning body that provides leadership and coordination on the issues of homelessness and poverty in Yolo County.

The PIT count is coordinated by HPAC, the recently released 2026 PIT count showed a countywide decrease in homeless population, with 912 individuals experiencing homelessness. This total reflects a significant decrease in Woodland (320), accompanied by a significant increase in West Sacramento (358).

Total Sheltered and Unsheltered Final Numbers by Jurisdiction

	Davis	West Sacramento	Woodland	Winters and Rural	Total Countywide
Sheltered	53	159	103	0	315
Unsheltered	141	199	217	40	597
Combined Total	194	358	320	40	912

Davis:

Sheltered 39 * 53 +36%

Unsheltered 123 * 141 +15%

Woodland:

Sheltered 165 * 103 -38%

Unsheltered 251 * 217 -14%

West Sacramento:

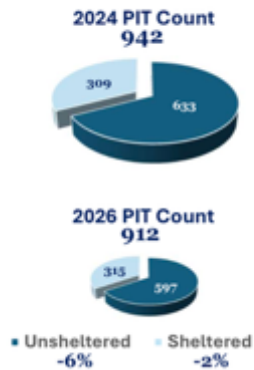
Sheltered 105 * 159 +51%

Unsheltered 184 * 199 +8%

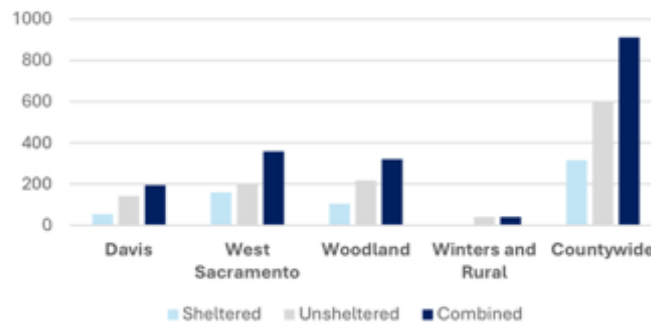
Winters & Rural:

Sheltered 0 * 0 0%

Unsheltered 75 * 40 -47%



Homelessness by Comparison



3 Methodology

The Grand Jury conducted on-site inspections and interviews at the following locations:

1. PAUL'S PLACE

1111 H St,
Davis, CA 95616

A four-story facility providing 18 permanent supportive housing units, 10 transitional units, and emergency services.



2. FOURTH & HOPE

1901 E Beamer St,
Woodland, CA 95776

The county's largest emergency shelter (100 beds), providing 24/7 service and a day center.



3. HOMELESS EMERGENCY HOUSING PROGRAM

West Capitol Ave,
West Sacramento, CA 95691

Including the *Pick Wick*, *El Tejon*, and *West Wind* motels, currently being renovated for non-congregate emergency and interim housing.



The Grand Jury conducted individual interviews with staff from Yolo County Health and Human Services, the Yolo County Homeless and Poverty Action Committee (HPAC), and the City of Davis. Grand Jury members also observed meetings of the Yolo Executive Commission to End Homelessness. Members reviewed the [2023-2026 Yolo County Plan to Address Homelessness](#).

4 FINDINGS

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

5 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- R5. Given the escalating complexity of the homelessness crisis in Yolo County, the 2025-2026 Grand Jury recommends that all subsequent Civil Grand Juries include a "Homelessness Continuity Review" as a standard component of their annual investigative agenda. This recurring oversight should focus on:
1. **Audit of Progress:** Verifying the status of past recommendations to ensure they move from "planned" to "fully implemented."
 2. **Strategic Evolution:** Assessing if the county's Plan to Address Homelessness is being updated to reflect current PIT data.
 3. **Resource Sustainability:** Monitoring the long-term viability of the public-private partnerships and the progress in terms of funding.

6 RESPONSES

1. REQUIRED RESPONSES

Pursuant to California Penal Code section 933.05, the following responses are required within 90 days of release of this report:

Entity	Findings	Recommendations
Yolo County Board of Supervisors	F1-5	R1, R2, R3, R4
Woodland City Council	F1-5	R2, R3
Davis City Council	F1-5	R2, R3
West Sacramento City Council	F1-5	R2, R3

2. INVITED RESPONSES

Entity	Findings	Recommendations
Yolo County Homeless and Poverty Action Committee	F1-5	R4
West Sacramento Police Department Community Outreach and Support Division	F1-5	R2, R3
Executive Commission to Address Homelessness	F1-5	R4
West Sacramento Economic Development and Housing Department	F1-5	R2, R3

The Yolo County Civil Grand Jury 2025-2026

**Approves by Resolution the Unified Action: Strengthening the Yolo County
Homelessness Response Report**

WHEREAS, the 15 members of the 2025-2026 Yolo County Civil Grand Jury (Grand Jury) conducted investigations and prepared an investigative report; and

WHEREAS, as is customary, the Grand Jury's specialized committees were each given primary responsibility for determining the investigation strategy, conducting interviews, gathering evidence, and producing reports; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

1. The Grand Jury finds the foregoing recitals are true and correct.
2. By adoption of this Resolution, the Grand Jury hereby approves the report, with the member count as shown below.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Grand Jury this 12th day of May 2026, as follows:

AYES: 13 Jurors

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: 2 Juror

Signed,

Richard Zeiger

Richard Zeiger, Foreperson