

Roadmap to the Future for Yolo County Children and Youth Needs Assessment Companion Summary

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Prepared for the children and
youth of Yolo County.

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Companion Summary

The Roadmap to the Future for Yolo County Children and Youth is a countywide initiative to achieve the vision that each child born, cared for, and educated in Yolo County has an advantage because of the community's response to their developmental needs. Conversations among local leaders in 2021 about the need to address child poverty and physical and mental health resulted in a commitment from cities, school districts, and the University of California at Berkeley to fund and complete the first-ever countywide assessment of the needs of children, youth, and families in Yolo County. The findings, needs, and actions resulting from this assessment will guide the development of a long-term strategic plan to fulfill the Roadmap to the Future's mission, which is to develop, implement, and consistently evaluate a long-term plan to help effectively coordinate and improve the community assets and services that children, youth, and families in Yolo County need to thrive, as well as establish a shared framework to ensure their healthy development. The Roadmap to the Future's work represents the first time an organization has identified and described countywide needs to support the healthy development of children, youth, and families in Yolo County, as well as specific needs for each Supervisorial District (District).

Needs Assessment Approach

Research Questions

Developed in collaboration with an Advisory Committee, the Needs Assessment report addresses four pivotal research questions through a mixed-methods approach, utilizing both qualitative and quantitative data. The research questions were as follows:

1. Which community assets and services are currently available in Yolo County to support children, youth, and families?
2. What are the children, youth, and family needs in Yolo County?
3. To what degree are community assets and services aligned to support children, youth, and families? In other words, what are the strengths of the system? Where do gaps exist?
4. What actions should the Yolo County community undertake to address needs consistent with identified gaps?

Five-Step Process

The Needs Assessment team used a five-step process to conduct the assessment and answer the research questions.

- **Step 1: Identify Existing Community Assets and Services, Organized by the Ten Aspects of Community¹ and by Supervisorial District.** The Roadmap to the Future team collected data on existing community assets and services in order to provide Yolo County leaders and the community with an overview of the current state of community assets and services for children, youth, and families in Yolo County. The Ten Aspects of Community include Basic Services; Cultural & Artistic; Economic; Civic and Political; Education & Information; Health & Human Services; Individual Development; Physical; Social & Associational; and Spiritual & Religious (see the “Needs Assessment Methodology” section of this report for an explanation of the Ten Aspects of Community).
- **Step 2: Identify Needs Across Yolo County and by Supervisorial District.** This involved analyzing needs in Districts 1 through 5 (see the “Needs Assessment Methodology” section of this report for an overview of the five Districts).
- **Step 3: Interview Key Informants and Describe Needs.** This step involved interviews with key informants, followed by the development of detailed countywide and District-specific needs statements, informed by community engagement and demographic data.
- **Step 4: Develop Recommendations and Strategic Actions.** This step involved filtering through the Guiding Principles—Youth and Family Voice, Access and Equity, Alignment and Coherence—and developing recommendations that align with the principles (see the “Actions to Address Needs of Children, Youth, and Families in Yolo County” section of this report for the recommendations).
- **Step 5: Achieve Desired Outcomes by Aligning Systems and Improving Services.** The desired outcomes are informed by the Roadmap to the Future’s Shared Priorities and the Youth Development Network’s Youth Development Practices (see the “Guiding Principles and Shared Priorities” section of this report for additional information).

Yolo County Children and Youth Characteristics

The needs assessment conducted for the Roadmap to the Future was tailored to address the unique circumstances of children and youth in Yolo County. Most young children in Yolo County reside in Woodland and West Sacramento, and the majority of teens and young adults reside in Davis as a result of the large student population at the University of California at Davis. The

¹ The Forum for Youth Investment developed a report (Pittman et al., 2003, based on Pittman & Irby, 1996) that encapsulates essential concepts related to the approach to youth development. The report defines the Ten Aspects of Community.

number of children and youth in Yolo County is declining overall, consistent with national trends, with a 16% decline in the population of children under 5 years old between 2018 and 2023, a 7% decline in children aged 5 through 14 years, and an 11% decline in children aged 15 through 19 years. Yolo County is diverse; over 30% of households speak a language other than English, and just over half of Yolo County residents identify as people of color—31.7% are Hispanic or Latino, 14.3% are Asian or Pacific Islander, 2.3% are Black, 0.4% are Native American, and 5.5% identify as another race. Based on the California Poverty Measure, which reflects both the cost of living and social safety net benefits, 16.6% of Yolo County’s children live in poverty. Ongoing collection of information about Yolo County children and youth will help inform the work to achieve the Roadmap to the Future’s vision. These insights are critical for shaping initiatives that address the needs of children and youth in Yolo County.

Countywide Needs

The Roadmap to the Future team identified eight countywide needs to help achieve the Roadmap to the Future’s vision, as well as needs specific to each Supervisorial District if the data supported the development of District-specific needs. Although the countywide needs and District-specific needs presented in this assessment rose to the top during the Roadmap to the Future process, future work may result in the emergence of additional needs or changes to these needs. The eight countywide needs are as follows:

Number	Countywide Need	Description
1	Increased Quality, Affordable, Reliable Childcare Options	Families need more quality, affordable, reliable childcare options across Yolo County.
2	Expanded Access to Mental Health Resources	Children, youth, and families need additional or expanded access to mental health resources, including expansion of the K–12 School Partnership Program for mental health services.
3	Improved Alternative Transportation Options	Children, youth, and families need improved transportation options to reach school, childcare sites, work, and other essential locations.
4	Expanded Learning, Engagement, and Leadership Development Opportunities	Children and youth need expanded learning, engagement, and leadership development opportunities, including integration of a youth development framework into all youth-serving organizations in Yolo County.
5	Increased Access to Affordable Housing	Children, youth, and families need diverse and affordable housing options.

Number	Countywide Need	Description
6	Expanded Access to Affordable, Healthy Food Options	Children, youth, and families need expanded access to affordable, healthy food options.
7	Improved College and Career Transitions	Children and youth in Yolo County need expanded access to college and career readiness training tailored to address geographic and demographic disparities.
8	Improved Access to Service Information and Outreach	Children, youth, and families need improved access to information about available community assets and services through additional support from 211 Yolo, expanded navigation support, and outreach.

Countywide And District-Specific Needs and Actions

An action is defined as a specific, concrete step an organization in Yolo County can implement, or apply for funding to implement, to address one or more identified needs. To develop the actions, the team engaged in community engagement sessions and interviews with key informants in Yolo County (see the “Needs Assessment Methodology” section of the report for information on the methodology). The proposed actions aim to make service information readily accessible, support families in navigating and affording services, bolster service delivery, foster inter-organizational service integration, and ensure the sustainability and maintenance of community assets. The actions presented in this section provide next steps to address the needs of children, youth, and families in Yolo County. The lack of actions for a specific District is not an indicator of that District’s need, but rather a function of the need to collect more information about that District.

Countywide Need #1: Increased Quality, Affordable, Reliable Childcare Options

Need 1.0.1: Although some Districts have more licensed childcare spaces than others, no District has enough childcare spaces to address the needs of the early childhood (0–5) and school-aged (6–12) childcare needs. All Districts need more licensed childcare spaces.

Need 1.0.2: Childcare programs need more support in addressing staffing shortages, through providing living wages and attracting providers.

Need 1.0.3: Home-based care providers need support in providing quality early childhood education and preparing to become licensed.

Countywide Actions

Action 1.0.1. Support unlicensed childcare providers to secure licenses and develop sustainability plans.

Action 1.0.2. Develop a funding strategy to increase childcare subsidies.

Action 1.0.3. Create a Yolo County childcare database.

Action 1.0.4. Identify childcare capacity needs by age group and community.

Action 1.0.5. Conduct a countywide survey on parenting support needs and develop recommendations.

Action 1.0.6. Develop a countywide plan to create career pathways for childcare providers and transitional kindergarten workforce.

Action 1.0.7. Create countywide incentives to construct new childcare facilities.

Action 1.0.8. Expand and improve coordination of countywide training and support programs for childcare providers.

Supervisory District 1 Needs: Cities of West Sacramento and Clarksburg

Need 1.1.1: There is a need to incentivize construction of additional childcare facilities as new homes are built. The Roadmap to the Future identified the need for local governments to require or incentivize the construction of additional childcare facilities with the expansion of homes in the District.

Supervisory District 2 Needs: City of Winters and Western and Northern Portions of the City of Davis

Need 1.2.1: There is a need for additional outreach and information to make the community aware of opportunities for childcare and infant care.

Supervisory District 3 Needs/Actions: City of Woodland and Northern Portion of the City of West Sacramento

Need 1.3.1: Additional resources are needed in order to expand, modernize, and enhance existing school facilities for transitional kindergarten classrooms.

- **Action 1.3.1.** Research options for Measure R funds or other funds to provide childcare resources to the community (Implementation Improvement and Sustainability).
- **Action 1.3.2.** Identify funding and resources to expand, modernize, and enhance existing school facilities for transitional kindergarten classrooms (Sustainability).

Supervisory District 4 Needs: Eastern and Southern Portions of the City of Davis

Need 1.4.1: There is a need for affordable childcare and enhanced parenting support services, ensuring that families, particularly those with lower incomes, and school educators have access to quality childcare services and resources that support effective parenting.

Supervisory District 5 Needs: Brooks, Capay, Guinda, Rumsey, Zamora, Esparto, Madison, Knights Landing, Dunnigan, and Yolo and the Northern Portion of the City of Woodland

Need 1.5.1: The community expressed a desire for free childcare at community-oriented spaces, such as the Woodland Community Center, that would enable parents to engage more fully with the services offered.

Need 1.5.2: There is a need for childcare options that accommodate special needs outside school hours, during school breaks, and after school, as well as targeted support for single mothers seeking affordable childcare solutions.

Countywide Need #2: Expanded Access to Mental Health Resources

Need 2.0.1: Yolo County HHSA, YCOE, and school districts need a sustainability plan to continue funding the K–12 School Partnership Program after one-time grants are expended.

Need 2.0.2: Schools and the community need more mental health and substance use services. This includes increasing access to practitioners that speak languages other than English; providing more school-based practitioners, including school counselors; and providing more screenings and services for children aged 0–5 and parents/guardians.

Countywide Actions

Action 2.0.1. Develop a sustainability strategy to maintain and expand the K–12 School Partnership Program.

Action 2.0.2. Implement the Child and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative’s Multi-Payer Fee Schedule.

Action 2.0.3. Continue to build on the success of the K–12 School Partnership Program by expanding collaborative practices and integrated mental health services in school settings.

Action 2.0.4. Leverage existing partnerships to expand mental health services in addition to those provided in school settings through the K–12 School Partnership Program.

Action 2.0.5. Schools, community-based organizations, and police departments should explore best practices for police interventions related to mental health needs.

Action 2.0.6. Establish data-sharing agreements compliant with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, commonly known as FERPA, and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, commonly known as HIPAA, to better serve children, youth, and young adults.

Action 2.0.7. Research the need for additional suicide prevention and response services.

Action 2.0.8. Research opportunities to increase the number of licensed therapists in Yolo County who will take private health insurance.

Supervisory District 1 Needs/Actions

Need 2.1.1: Washington Unified needs interventions and treatment services to address student substance use. This includes services appropriate for younger students in areas where substance use begins earlier.

Need 2.1.2: Washington Unified needs training for staff to develop and implement restorative, non-punitive responses to students' externalizing behaviors that may result from unmet mental health needs.

Need 2.1.3: Washington Unified needs access to intensive services. Although many schools in this region are expanding access to Tier 1 and Tier 2 mental health services (e.g., schoolwide prevention, targeted interventions), more access to intensive services (e.g., Tier 3) is needed, particularly for certain student populations, such as undocumented, multilingual, and newcomer children, youth, and families.

- **Action 2.1.1.** Provide more intensive mental health services (Tier 3) at Washington Unified.

Supervisory District 2 Needs

Need 2.2.1: Winters JUSD and the Winters Police Department need an improved crisis response protocol. This includes training staff to respond non-punitively as well as embedding a trained mental health clinician in the police department who can respond to mental health crises.

Supervisory District 3 Needs

Need 2.3.1: There is a need to increase connections between schools and community settings, such as libraries, parks, and recreation departments, to address mental health needs and connect children, youth, and families to resources.

Need 2.3.2: Woodland JUSD needs to expand the identification and referral processes for students experiencing mental health needs.

Need 2.3.3: Woodland JUSD needs training for staff to develop and implement restorative responses to students' externalizing behaviors that may result from unmet mental health needs.

Supervisory District 4 Needs/Actions

Need 2.4.1: There is a need for more accessible and sustainable mental health services for privately insured children, youth, and families, including navigation support to identify available therapists who will take insurance.

Need 2.4.2: Davis JUSD needs services that address increased anxiety and depression of students whose needs often go unnoticed because the students are high performing and exhibit fewer externalizing behaviors.

- **Action 2.4.1.** Support the identification of and increase services to address anxiety and depression in students who are high performing and do not typically exhibit externalizing behaviors.

Supervisorial District 5 Needs/Actions

Need 2.5.1: This community and Esparto Unified need mental health resources specific to meeting the needs of migrant workers and their families. These students typically attend school only part of the school year and likely have needs that go unmet.

Need 2.5.2: Esparto Unified and the unincorporated areas of Yolo County need services that promote an understanding of mental health, reduce mental health stigma, and promote LGBTQ+ inclusiveness.

Need 2.5.3: Esparto Unified needs to expand its identification and referral processes for students experiencing mental health needs.

Need 2.5.4: Families in rural communities need community navigators to connect them with resources and check in on their general well-being.

- **Action 2.5.1.** Support the development of mental health services and resources specific to meeting the needs of migrant workers and their families.
- **Action 2.5.2.** Increase awareness and provide information and resources related to mental health to families in Esparto and unincorporated areas of Yolo County.

Countywide Need #3: Improved alternative transportation options

Countywide Actions

Action 3.0.1. Study existing micro transit usage and develop a sustainability/expansion strategy or otherwise fill transportation gaps to improve access to community assets and services

Action 3.0.2. Create a partnership to support and incentivize training and career pathways for the transportation workforce.

Supervisorial District 1 Needs

Need 3.1.1: There is a need to expand public transportation services for both routes and services in rural areas.

Supervisorial District 2 Needs/Actions

Need 3.2.1: There is a need for a dedicated youth transportation solution, such as microbus services in Winters to provide reliable access to educational and community resources.

Need 3.2.2: There is a need for more frequent and strategically distributed transit routes within District 2, including improved connections to regional hubs, to meet the diverse needs of the community, especially for seniors and college students.

- **Action 3.2.1.** Support expansion of transportation accessible to children and youth in Winters.
- **Action 3.2.2.** Increase transit routes.

Supervisorial District 3 Needs/Actions

Need 3.3.1: There is a need to enhance transportation for after-school sports programs and expanded micro transit options for city and recreational access as well as increased local transportation to facilitate attendance at classes and community events.

Need 3.3.2: There is a need for heightened bike path safety along Highway 16 and other bike-friendly infrastructure.

- **Action 3.3.1.** Improve local transportation for children and youth to reach sports activities, expanded learning opportunities, and other community assets and services.
- **Action 3.3.2.** Support heightened bike path safety along Highway 16 and increase other bike-friendly infrastructure.
- **Action 3.3.3.** Increase outreach and awareness about BeeLine and YoloBus.

Supervisorial District 4 Needs/Actions

Need 3.4.1: There is a need for improved coordination among Associated Students of UC Davis, Unitrans, and neighboring school districts to address the transit requirements of children and youth more effectively in the areas serviced by Unitrans.

Need 3.4.2: There is a need for enhancing existing bus services, that is critical to providing more direct, affordable, and accessible routes that will benefit the entire community, particularly for those who rely on public transit for their daily commutes.

Need 3.4.3: There is a need to expand and improve safety on bike paths to continue to support the already high percentage of cyclists in the district.

- **Action 3.4.1.** Support enhancements of existing bus services.
- **Action 3.4.2.** Support improved coordination between the Association of Students of UC Davis, Unitrans, and neighboring school districts.
- **Action 3.4.3.** Support bike path safety improvements.

Supervisory District 5 Needs/Actions

Need 3.5.1: There is a need to establish transportation solutions tailored to high school students, enabling safe and reliable access to after-school activities.

Need 3.5.2: There is a need to expand and maintain the affordability of micro transit services like BeeLine to provide vital connections for residents of rural communities, from Yolo and Dunnigan to the broader district and beyond.

Need 3.5.3: There is a need for more infrastructure to support active transportation (e.g., bike paths, streetlights, sidewalks).

- **Action 3.5.1.** Support the expansion and affordability of transportation options such as BeeLine to connect youth to community assets and services.
- **Action 3.5.2.** Support infrastructure development in unincorporated communities to encourage active transportation.

Countywide Need #4: Expanded learning, engagement, and leadership development opportunities

Need 4.0.1: Yolo County needs additional before- and after-school programs for children of all ages. These programs could include arts education, peer tutoring, and sports. This includes the need to identify funding to support the programs, such as arts education funding from Proposition 28, After School Education and Safety and 21st Century Community Learning Centers.

Countywide Actions

Action 4.0.1. Support for expanded learning, youth engagement, and leadership development opportunities in Yolo County for children of all ages, including programs for arts education, peer tutoring, and sports.

Action 4.0.2. Conduct a feasibility study for additional physical spaces in Yolo County for youth to gather and learn outside school.

Action 4.0.3. Explore integrating arts education programs and mental health services in expanded learning programs.

Action 4.0.4. Expand opportunities for youth to participate in leadership and civic engagement activities and provide outreach regarding existing programs.

Action 4.0.5. Collaborate to identify and expand paid internship and education opportunities for youth in businesses and government agencies.

Action 4.0.6. Integrate the Child and Youth Development Framework into all youth-serving organizations in Yolo County.

Supervisory District 1 Needs/Actions

Need 4.1.1: There is a need for additional dedicated youth development centers, including additional physical spaces for youth to gather and learn outside school and enrichment programs that support social-emotional growth and safe community engagement. These spaces should be accessible and affordable to ensure equitable opportunities. This is also a need in Districts 2 and 3.

Need 4.1.2: There is a need for an expansion of community schools. Community schools can provide students with access to holistic well-being programs, including after-school arts and sports programs. Community schools can also offer family support services, ensure that programs are inclusive, and respond to the needs of the District.

Need 4.1.3: There is a need to expand sports facilities and associated amenities, including additional fields and other sports amenities to support athletic and physical wellness activities. This is also a need in District 3.

- **Action 4.1.1.** Conduct a feasibility study for additional physical spaces in Yolo County for youth to gather and learn outside school.
- **Action 4.1.2.** Support expansion of full-service community schools.
- **Action 4.1.3.** Expand sports facilities and associated amenities to support athletic and physical wellness activities.

Supervisory District 2 Needs/Actions

Need 4.2.1: There is a need for additional dedicated youth development centers, including physical spaces for youth to gather and learn outside school and enrichment programs that support social-emotional growth and safe community engagement. These spaces should be accessible and affordable to ensure equitable opportunities.

- **Action 4.2.1.** Support a feasibility study of additional spaces for children and youth to gather and learn outside school in both the City of Davis and the City of Winters.

Supervisory District 3 Needs/Actions

Need 4.3.1: There is a need to expand sports facilities, including additional fields and other sports amenities to support athletic and physical wellness activities. This is also a need in District 1.

Need 4.3.2: There is a need for additional youth development centers, including physical spaces for youth to gather and learn outside school and enrichment programs that support social-emotional growth and safe community engagement. These spaces should be accessible and affordable to ensure equitable opportunities. This is also a need in Districts 1 and 2.

- **Action 4.3.1.** Conduct a feasibility study of the need for additional physical spaces or opportunities to use existing public facilities for expanded learning, leadership, and youth engagement programs for youth.

Supervisory District 4 Needs/Actions

Need 4.4.1: There is a need for more programs for youth to gather and learn outside school and enrichment programs that support social-emotional growth and safe community engagement. These opportunities should be accessible and affordable to ensure equitable opportunities, with a focus on providing inclusive access to underrepresented groups, such as students of color, foster youth, LGBTQ+ youth, and those experiencing homelessness, to close existing gaps and foster their development.

- **Action 4.4.1.** Support accessible and affordable places for youth to gather and learn outside school and enrichment programs that support social-emotional growth and safe community engagement.

Supervisory District 5 Needs/Actions

Need 4.5.1: There is a need for physical spaces for youth that provide safe and inclusive environments for social gatherings, after-school programs, and support services to address the community's concern about the lack of dedicated areas where youth can engage in recreational and developmental activities.

- **Action 4.5.1.** Support dedicated safe and inclusive spaces for children and youth to gather socially and support after-school programs for youth to engage in recreational and developmental activities.

Countywide Need #5: Increased access to affordable housing

Need 5.0.1: Yolo County Housing needs to update its data and files more frequently, including verifying its wait list yearly.

Need 5.0.2: School districts need to connect to students experiencing homelessness to better understand their needs and the resources they have access to.

Need 5.0.3: There is a need for new developments to include affordable housing options.

Countywide Actions

Action 5.0.1. Identify collective Yolo County housing goals.

Action 5.0.2. Create a Yolo County housing database with space availability by Supervisorial District or by community.

Action 5.0.3. Explore countywide opportunities to support school district efforts to connect students experiencing homelessness with housing and relevant services.

Action 5.0.4. Collaborate to identify countywide best practices for requiring and incentivizing affordable housing as part of new development.

Action 5.0.5. Expand partnerships to develop and sustain permanent supportive housing for children, youth, and families.

Action 5.0.6. Support affordable school district–specific housing for employees.

Action 5.0.7. Review current and past legacy housing policies and how they affect families in Yolo County.

Countywide Need #6: Expanded Access to Affordable, Healthy Food Options

Need 6.0.1: There is a need for improved collaboration between schools across Yolo County and organizations providing food resources so that the county can effectively meet the needs of students in their communities.

Countywide Actions

Action 6.0.1. Identify collective goals to expand access to affordable, healthy food options.

Action 6.0.2. Evaluate duplication of services between nonprofits and agencies providing access to food services and recommend service improvements.

Action 6.0.3. Collect data to inform food access needs by specific ZIP code or Supervisorial District.

Action 6.0.4. Research low use of SNAP benefits and other charitable food options.

Action 6.0.5. Support the addition of accessible, culturally relevant food options.

Action 6.0.6. Support nutrition classes and related resources for parents, students, and families.

Action 6.0.7. Support mobile markets, food pantries, and food banks at school sites (e.g., the Food Bank, the mobile market at Alyce Norman Education Center).

Supervisorial District 1 Needs

Need 6.1.1: There is a need for affordable grocery stores and diverse food outlets. Such entities could include ethnic grocery stores, healthy restaurants, farmers markets, and mobile food services for the housebound. This is also a need in Districts 3 and 5.

Supervisory District 3 Needs

Need 6.3.1: There is a need for affordable grocery stores and diverse food outlets. Such entities could include ethnic grocery stores, healthy restaurants, farmers markets, and mobile food services for the housebound. This is also a need in Districts 1 and 5.

Supervisory District 5 Needs

Need 6.5.1: There is a need for affordable grocery stores and diverse food outlets. Such entities could include ethnic grocery stores, healthy restaurants, farmers markets, and mobile food services for the housebound. This is also a need in District 1 and 3.

Need 6.5.2: There is a need for food banks or pantries in schools. Schools would serve as convenient distribution points for food assistance, particularly for the 76.8% of Esparto Unified School District students who depend on free or reduced-price meals.

Need 6.5.3: There is a need for improved communication efforts about food distribution. This includes multilingual communication and outreach to agricultural workers.

Countywide Need #7: Improved College and Career Transitions

Countywide Actions

Action 7.0.1. Develop countywide partnerships to provide support to youth transitioning into college and careers.

Action 7.0.2. Collaborate with community-based organizations to provide in-home visitation programs to support college and career readiness.

Action 7.0.3. Collaborate to expand and coordinate programs that provide job readiness and other training to transitional-aged youth.

Action 7.0.4. Collect countywide data about youth entering the workforce or attending college to improve programs, services and supports.

Supervisory District 1 Needs/Actions

Need 7.1.1: Washington Unified needs additional supports for specific student groups, such as English learner students and newcomer students, to prepare for college and career transitions.

Need 7.1.2: More services and supports are needed for students before high school, with an emphasis on starting early to support students in understanding and navigating college and career options.

Need 7.1.3: More resources and supports are needed for families to connect with school counselors, understand career and college pathways, and understand attendance policies.

Need 7.1.4: Schools need access to resources to improve school culture so that there is an emphasis on positive relationships between parents and the school and between adults in the school and students.

- **Action 7.1.1.** Increase college and career transitions support for Washington Unified students and families.
- **Action 7.1.2.** Increase college and career navigational support and resources.
- **Action 7.1.3.** Support a positive school culture through additional resources and training for staff, students, and families.

Supervisory District 2 Needs/Actions

Need 7.2.1: Winters JUSD needs to help students who are “approaching prepared” for college or career to become “fully prepared.”

Need 7.2.2: More opportunities are needed to bridge community college/university, industry/employer, and K–12 sectors to increase work-based learning skills and/or career-oriented programming.

Need 7.2.3: Students need more access to career and technical education (CTE) pathways that lead into work-based learning opportunities (e.g., internships and apprenticeships).

- **Action 7.2.1.** Increase college and career transition support for Winters JUSD students and families.
- **Action 7.2.2.** Support collaborative partnerships to increase CTE pathways and work-based learning opportunities.

Supervisory District 3 Needs/Actions

Need 7.3.1: There is a need to increase the number of career and college readiness programs within the Woodland JUSD, focusing on improving the percentage of students prepared for post-secondary education and career opportunities.

- **Action 7.3.1.** Increase college and career transition support for Woodland JUSD students and families.

Supervisory District 4 Needs/Actions

Need 7.4.1: Davis JUSD needs more career preparation supports for the percentage of students who do not attend college after graduation.

- **Action 7.4.1.** Increase career preparation for Davis JUSD students not attending college/university.

Supervisory District 5 Needs/Actions

Need 7.5.1: Students need access to college-readiness resources in addition to those provided after school. Many students lack the transportation resources needed to stay at school to access these options.

Need 7.5.2: The Esparto Unified School District needs more investment in career readiness and networking opportunities among community members, business owners, and students.

Need 7.5.3: Esparto Unified needs to support students who are approaching prepared status for college/career readiness to become fully prepared.

Need 7.5.4: Families and youth need more information about navigating college options, especially first- and second-generation immigrant families and youth in foster care.

- **Action 7.5.1.** Increase access to college and career readiness resources.
- **Action 7.5.2.** Support collaborative partnerships to increase student career readiness and networking opportunities.
- **Action 7.5.3.** Increase college and career transition support for Esparto Unified students and families.
- **Action 7.5.4.** Increase family college and career navigational support and resources.

Countywide Need #8: Improved Access to Service Information and Outreach

Need 8.0.1: Increased outreach and awareness are needed in rural areas of the county, including Esparto and Winters, and more resources are needed in the rural areas.

Need 8.0.2: More resources and assets need to be added to the 211 Yolo database to address inquiries for services from residents in rural areas.

Need 8.0.3 There needs to be more staff and case managers who are familiar with assets and resources in various communities and who can assist children, youth, and families with accessing appropriate resources.

Need 8.0.4: There is a need for more collaboration among agencies about student needs and well-being.

Countywide Actions

Action 8.0.1. Develop a Roadmap to the Future Strategic Plan.

Action 8.0.2. Expand 211 Yolo to provide children, youth, and families with increased access to programs and services.

Key Insights

The Roadmap to the Future team analyzed data, conducted several community engagement meetings and interviews, and reviewed existing needs assessments developed by organizations throughout Yolo County. This work resulted in five major insights:

- **Insight #1: Yolo County provides a rich network of existing community assets and services to benefit children, youth, and families.** While Yolo County can improve and expand existing community assets and services, local government agencies, non-profit organizations, and community members are working together to provide active, direct support to children, youth, and families. From affordable housing vouchers offered by local government agencies to support groups hosted by nonprofit organizations, committed residents and local organizations in Yolo County are improving lives, every day. These services are complemented by a significant investment in community assets ranging from parks to homeless shelters to community centers.
- **Insight #2. Yolo County organizations should focus resources on expanding existing services and improving community assets to address identified needs.** The needs assessment revealed the need to support existing organizations providing services to address identified needs, such as helping childcare providers secure licenses, supporting mental health services in schools, and expanding recreation amenities in parks. While there is a need to develop some new services to address unique needs, future efforts should focus on expanding and supporting existing services and improving existing community assets.
- **Insight #3: Yolo County organizations need to provide tailored, focused support to children and youth experiencing homelessness, foster children and youth, socioeconomically disadvantaged children and youth, and children and youth of color.** Although existing community assets and services provide a foundation to achieve the Roadmap to the Future vision, children and youth experiencing homelessness, foster children and youth, socioeconomically disadvantaged children and youth, and children and youth of color need tailored, focused support to secure the advantage other children and youth in Yolo County possess without additional support. This need is demonstrated not only by the voice of community members during the community engagement sessions and focus groups, but by high school graduation rates, suspension rates, and other data.
- **Insight #4: Yolo County organizations need to invest in collaboration and engagement infrastructure related to the provision of community assets and services.** Yolo County needs to improve current information about community assets and services and help

residents access existing community assets and services. Access requires improved collaboration between local organizations to increase referrals as well as improved engagement to help children, youth, and families overcome language differences, cultural and economic barriers, and time constraints to understand and access services. In other words, Yolo County needs to invest not only in sustaining and expanding community assets and services, but also in maintaining a centralized, sophisticated database of community assets and services.

- **Insight #5. Yolo County organizations need to train and expand a network of people to help children, youth, and families access services.** Service providers, including teachers and frontline staff transitioning because of the COVID-19 pandemic to provide services that support education (e.g., mental health services, food distribution, mentoring through local schools) must have the training and support to implement systems focused on building trusting relationships and meeting the unique needs of an individual child, youth, or family. Since the focus of schools is academic achievement, schools also must have rigorous, integrated, and comprehensive assistance from service providers to further their changing role as a hub of community support for children and youth.

Next Steps

The next steps are to develop a plan to inform investments in and improvements to community assets and services for the next 10 years. Yolo County leaders have not yet determined which agency or agencies will lead this phase, nor has funding been identified. This could involve setting specific, measurable goals based on the findings presented in this Needs Assessment and recommending further research. Future work is not the responsibility of any specific agency to complete—the Roadmap to the Future effort could identify a lead agency and additional funding to complete and implement the long-term plan. The long-term plan will further the investment in understanding and addressing these needs, with the goal of inspiring action to improve the community assets and services that children, youth, and families in Yolo County need to thrive. Leaders could focus their efforts on filling gaps and allocating resources where they are needed most. They also could work collaboratively with the community to align with the Roadmap to the Future’s mission, which is to develop, implement, and consistently evaluate a long-term plan to help effectively coordinate and improve the community assets and services that children, youth, and families in Yolo County need to thrive, as well as establish a shared framework to ensure their healthy development.

