

2010-2011 CDBG APPLICATION WORKSHEETS AND INSTRUCTIONS

Organization Name: The Yolo County Children Alliance, Inc.

Street Address: 600 A Street, Suite Y, Davis, CA 95616

Mailing Address: 600 A Street, Suite Y, Davis, CA 95616

E-mail Address: katie.villegas@yolocounty.org

Phone Number: 757-5559

Fax Number: 753-7662

Contact: Katie Villegas Address: 600 A Street, Suite Y, Davis, CA 95616 Phone: 979-6555

(Be sure to list the **best contact** to get information to the organization as quickly as possible.)

Total Proposal Request: **\$ 25,000**

(Check one) On-going Support New Project

CDBG Eligible Category: Public Service
(See List A)

National Objective Compliance/Low and Mod Benefit: Benefiting low and moderate (L/M) income persons----Limited Clientele
(See List B)

City Council Identified Critical Needs: (See List)

- 1) Assistance to low-income young adults leaving foster care for independent living.
- 2) Crisis intervention.
- 3) Transitional housing

X PUBLIC SERVICE NON-PUBLIC SERVICE

Beneficiary Information:

30 Total number of beneficiaries in program
30 Number of beneficiaries in program to be served with **CDBG** funds
100% Percentage of the **CDBG** beneficiaries with low/moderate income
\$833 Cost (\$) per **CDBG** beneficiary (CDBG Request/CDBG Beneficiaries)

PROJECT NARRATIVE

a. Need

The average young person relies on parental support during the transition between adolescence to adulthood and may not become truly self-sufficient until their mid-20s. Parental support for young adults typically continues in the form of free or subsidized housing in the family home, food, medical care, transportation, and clothing as well intangibles such as encouragement and problem-solving support. Foster children do not have this parental safety net. Through little or no fault of their own, they have been left uncared for and thus have been made the responsibility of the State of California—a ward of the court. As the legal parent, the State has largely failed foster children and is now positioning to completely abdicate its responsibility for foster youth as they launch into adulthood.

The Transitional Housing Program (THP-Plus) was a Yolo County-administered program for former foster youth, ages 18 to 24, which provided affordable housing for young people in a communal home located in the City of Davis. The subsidized housing was combined with supportive services and case management services with linkages to community services of all types. The program had an emphasis on providing services that would support the young people's job placement and education attainment--the services most likely to facilitate their movement towards self-sufficiency.

While very limited state and federal funding had been available for this program, if a local county match was also provided; the allotted funds have always been inadequate to properly provide the kind of support necessary to enable Yolo County's former foster children to transition to self-sufficiency. Now, as a result of the budget crisis in California, the State has indicated that the previous state support of \$175,000 per year for Yolo County's THP-Plus will likely end on July 1, 2010.

If Yolo County cities neglect our emancipated foster youth population, their personal outcomes will continue to be bleak. Moreover, turning these young adults out on the street at age 18 without even minimal assistance not only affects their futures; such a policy decision has significant long-term implications for our cities, Yolo County, and the State of California. From a financial perspective, significant costs resulting from cutting out the program will take the form of increased public assistance dollars, homeless aid, health care for the indigent, loss of taxable income, and incarceration expenses at the back end of the health and human services system. Other societal costs—more important but harder to quantify include the loss of educated and skilled members of the Yolo County workforce.

b. Benefit

Every year, 15 or more foster youth turn 18 and exit the Yolo County welfare system unprepared for managing on their own. Yolo County has never had enough funds to house more than 6 to 8 of these young people at a time, leaving an unmet housing need for roughly 75-90 young people each year until they turn 24. Without the Transitional Housing Program and/or a back-up plan for continuing these unfunded program services, these young people will be homeless on July 1, 2010 with 15 persons added to the ranks of the homeless or those living in our cities without unstable housing, each year.

One hundred percent of the youth participants who would be served under the proposed newly designed Transitional Housing Program will be very, very low-income (50% of median income or below). The proposed project fits squarely and responds to several critical needs identified as high priorities:

- Assistance to low-income young adults leaving foster care for independent living.
- Crisis intervention
- Transitional housing and services

The proposed project is a public-private partnership between the Yolo County Department of Employment and Social Services and a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, the Yolo County Children's

Alliance (YCCA). If selected for support, the project will provide “bridge” funding until the Children’s Alliance can secure additional funds, both public and private, to continue the program services. The project will provide a number of benefits to low-income residents in Davis and Yolo County:

- Re-make transitional housing and support services so that a cost-effective, sustainable program will provide accountable housing and support services for former foster youth.
- Involve a non-profit organization (YCCA), which has the capacity and flexibility to raise private funds for the previously publicly-supported services, which will otherwise be terminated for lack of public funds.
- Involve Davis residents in providing direct services as volunteers working with the young people and financial supporters as donors of services for a population of highly vulnerable young residents.

c. Other Resources and Collaboration

California statute allows youth to remain in foster care until age 21, but this option is rarely exercised due to lack of funding. In the last five years, two legislative efforts in the State have attempted and failed to allocate the state funding that would be necessary to allow California youth to access foster care services until age 21. Federal Title IV-E foster care funds will continue to exist and could support the services delivered under THP-Plus; however, these funds must be matched by the disappearing state and county match dollars. This scenario is unlikely during the current fiscal crisis.

In order to save housing subsidies and support services for emancipated Yolo County youth, we intend to carry out a multi-faceted local fundraising effort combined with a new, more cost-effective program design to be carried out in collaboration with other community groups and with local Davis residents. The Yolo County Children’s Alliance will lead the program development, fundraising, and sustainability planning. The majority of the Children’s Alliance’s Board of Directors and staff are long time residents and well-respected professionals working in Yolo County. They keep in regular communication with potential contributors through in-person and telephone contacts. The Yolo County Children’s Alliance has developed a Leadership Committee that is tasked with promoting the Children’s Alliance mission and its programs and with raising funds for continued operation of our sponsored programs.

In just one week’s time, the Yolo County Department of Employment and Social Services and the Children’s Alliance have been able to secure the following “committed” funding from local community groups. These funds will be dedicated to the proposed program in the program year starting July 1, 2010:

Funding Source	Amount of Donation/Contribution
Soroptimist International of Davis	\$1,000 (cash)
Rebekah’s --Odd Fellows Lodge	\$500 (cash)
The Yolo County Children’s Alliance—Operating	\$2,000 (cash)
Children’s Alliance—Office/Meeting Space, Utilities, Phone	Valued at \$1,500 (In -Kind)

Further, volunteers will play a “make it or break it” role in the new transitional housing/supportive services program. If we can not attract, recruit, and retain at least six high-quality volunteers from the Davis community within the grant year, we will likely need to acknowledge that transitional housing services for this population of young people cannot be sustained after all. While volunteers likely will bring many resources to the Program, volunteers are not free. A staff Coordinator needs to be in the position to lead the volunteers and coordinate our sustainability efforts. This part-time Consultant Coordinator’s salary is the core of the CDBG request and is the first step in creating a bridge from the publicly-supported THP-Plus to the proposed community-based project.

There are many avenues for financial support that can and will be explored by the Program

Developer/Coordinator employed by the Yolo County Children’s Alliance in the CDBG grant year. These include:

Proposition 63 Funds. Proposition 63, the Mental Health Services Act, imposes a tax that provides funds for mental health services. The act states as one of its purposes prevention and early intervention services and medical and supportive care. Given the high incidence of mental health issues among former foster youth, it is clear that both foster youth and foster youth alumni should be a priority for this funding.

Federal Funds: Federal funds could be accessed to fund the continuation of transitional services. For example, some California counties give former foster youth priority for Section 8 housing vouchers.

Federal Grant Programs: The Runaway and Homeless Youth Act Transitional Living Program provides grants to community-based agencies to support housing for up to 21 months and support services to youth ages 16 to 21 who are not able to safely return home. Funded programs provide youth with stable and safe housing and supportive services aimed to help them develop the important life skills needed to transition successfully into adulthood. Housing support can include group homes, maternity group homes, supervised or scattered-site apartment or host family homes.

d. Organizational Capacity

The Yolo County Children’s Alliance was established in 2002 by a resolution of the Yolo County Board of Supervisors as a way of fostering coordination, communication, and partnerships within the health and human services system. The Children’s Alliance is governed by a 45-member Policy Council and a 13-member Executive Committee. It is both a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and an inter-agency collaborative, which coordinates needed family support services, convenes child and family advocates to solve community problems, and gathers and disseminates local information about the needs and the well-being of Yolo County families. We have the active participation of many public and private agencies throughout the county including: Yolo County Departments, Yolo County Office of Education, First Five Yolo, Yolo County Courts, local law enforcement agencies, health-focused agencies and a number of private non-profits.

Further, the Children’s Alliance serves as the Yolo County Child Abuse Prevention Coordinating Council. The Child Abuse Prevention Council seeks to increase the awareness of the public about issues relating to child welfare, child maltreatment, and neglect. The Council’s intent is to build a community that protects our children and youth by recognizing indicators of child maltreatment and responding with flexible and diverse strategies to meet families’ individual needs. Using multi-media, including print, web site, community events, and television; the Child Abuse Prevention Council provides a forum for professionals and community members to learn more about the issues of child abuse and neglect and how these issues affect the families of Yolo County and affords individuals an opportunity to voice concerns regarding child abuse and neglect in an appropriate forum in which resolutions to the problems may be developed collectively with others.

The Children’s Alliance is currently implementing another collaborative project in partnership with the Yolo County Department of Employment and Social Services, which highlights our capacity to work cooperatively with other organizations to meet common child and youth health and safety goals. This “similar” program is Step-by-Step/Paso a Paso. The Program targets families who have come to the attention of Child Protective Services and currently receive no family support services because the allegations of maltreatment made do not meet the statutory definitions of abuse or neglect. These at-risk families are experiencing problems that can and are being addressed by providing a network of community services that is culturally sensitive and strengthens their family relationships.

SCOPE OF SERVICES

a. Project Description

The Transitional Housing Program (THP-Plus), which is currently located in Davis, will most likely need

to be phased out and closed down by July 1, 2010 because of lack of funds. The YCCA Coordinator will redesign the program services in order to create cost savings that will allow for a more financially sustainable program. The new program design will rely almost entirely on a trained volunteer staff. For example, we may adopt a host family model. The host family model is one strategy to foster permanency for former foster youth while supporting their growing independence. Equally important, it mirrors the same kind of transitional assistance that intact families commonly provide to their young adult children. We also hope to recruit, train and support volunteer Mentors who would assist paid professional staff in delivering direct services, including regular visits to participants' residences; educational guidance, employment counseling and assistance reaching emancipation goals outlined in participants; and transitional independent living planning. Further, the Coordinator will maintain and strengthen relationships with people who are interested in the welfare of foster children and can be recruited to help secure both people and financial resources that will support the Program in the future. During the grant year, we will evaluate whether an intense focus on local fundraising will be successful or not. In the meantime, the Coordinator will make sure that the program participants continue to receive needed services. The Program has and will continue to participate in service integration for former foster youth in partnership other public and private agencies including the Foster and Kinship Care Education Program, Davis Community Meals, CommuniCare Health Centers, Davis Community Clinic, Davis Community Network, Davis Adult School, Sacramento City College, Davis Center, Mental Health Services, Davis Office, and others.

b. Target Group

Unfortunately, there is currently little or no systematic data available in California or Yolo County about foster youth who end up homeless. Studies across the nation indicate that 24 percent¹ to 50 percent² of former foster youth become homeless within the first 18 months of emancipation. One report states that 27 percent³ of the homeless population have spent time in foster care as youth. Yolo County Department of Employment and Social Services staff report that there are 15 foster youth turn 18 and exit the child welfare system each year. The number of former foster youth still needing safe and affordable housing is not known but DESS staff estimate that 75 to 90 housing units would probably be necessary to fully meet these young people's housing needs.

c. Outreach

Former foster youth can be difficult to track when they are no longer involved with the child welfare system. The THP-Plus Case Manager will be working with the Children's Alliance Coordinator to transition current and future participants to the newly designed program. The YCCA Coordinator will secure all possible contact and identifying information at the initial meeting with the young person. We will attempt to get at least five contacts for each youth. All contact information will be updated at each meeting with the youth. We will establish telephone and/or face-to-face contact on an informal, friendly basis; for example, inviting the youth to agency and community social events. Even homeless youth can access e-mail as there are free e-mail accounts. We will use e-mail and social networking sites, such as Facebook and Twitter to stay in regular communication with program participants.

¹ Mark E. Courtney and Irving Piliavin, *Foster Youth Transitions to Adulthood: Outcomes 12 to 18 Months after Leaving Out-of-Home Care* (Madison, Wisc., University of Wisconsin, 1998).

² Grand Jury Orange County, 1999-2000 Final Report, "Orange County is No Camelot for Emancipated Youth."

³ Aron Burt (1999). *Homelessness Programs and the People they Serve: Summary Report of the National Survey of Homeless Assistance Providers and Clients*. Washington, D.C. The Urban Institute.

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

Work Plan

Project Activity	Start and Completion Dates
YCCA will hire and provide orientation to the Program Developer/Coordinator (with work experience in fund raising and building volunteer programs).	July 1 to July 31, 2010
Coordinator will work with DESS staff and referral sources such as Yolo Links to identify client resources and broker supportive services for current THP-Plus participants, especially career and education services.	July 1 to July 31, 2010
YCCA Coordinator will coordinate with DESS THP-Plus Coordinator and Case Manager to transition current participants to support services, ensuring that they have “:next step” housing and continued access to needed services.	July 1 to July 31, 2010
Coordinator will work with current THP-Plus participants to develop written individual housing/services transition plans.	July 1 to August 31, 2010
Coordinator will meet with other community agencies who are delivering services to former foster youth, policy makers, and potential donors to raise community awareness about the closing (and re-designing) of the County-administered THP-Plus Program and the need for generating local investments in transitional housing services for this population of young people.	July 1 to August 31, 2010 and on-going as opportunities, arise
Coordinator will begin meeting with potential participants who are “aging out” of foster care as well as existing THP-Plus clients to conduct a program-level needs assessment to inform the new program model.	August 1 to September 30, 2010
Coordinator will conduct research in other California counties that have been able to implement and financially support robust THP-Plus type program services (Alameda, San Diego, Stanislaus, etc.) to request information on sustainability planning and program designs.	August 1 to September 30, 2010
Based on input from all interested parties, the Coordinator will develop an initial program design, which will make an effort to present a more cost-effective, sustainable program model, possibly taking advantage of volunteer mentors and host families.	July 1 to September 30, 2010
Coordinator and other ambassadors and supporters of foster children will begin soliciting program funds.	August 1, 2010—On-going
Coordinator will design a plan for volunteer recruitment and training.	October 1 to December 31, 2010
Coordinator will develop a written Sustainability Plan for the program and submit funding requests as opportunities arise.	July 1 2010 to May 31, 2011
Coordinator will identify "recruiters" who can ask their friends and contacts to volunteer. All involved parties will begin Volunteer	January 1, 2011—On-going

Project Activity	Start and Completion Dates
Recruitment Campaign.	
Taking into consideration the current and potential funding circumstances as well as input from all stakeholders, the YCCA Board of Directors will decide whether the Program is sustainable in the future.	February 1, 2011
If the program is deemed sustainable, Coordinator will begin Volunteer Training and matching former foster youth and volunteer Mentors.	February 1, 2011—On-going
Coordinator will recognize volunteers and implement strategies to retain them.	February 1, 2011—On-going
Coordinator will report progress to CDBG, YCCA Board of Directors, Board of Supervisors, other elected officials, and other decision-making groups and policy boards.	Semi-annually

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENTS

ACTIVITY (What the program does to fulfill its mission)	INDICATOR (The direct products of program activities) Service #s	OUTCOME (Benefits that result from the program)
Regular visits to participants' residence in Davis; educational guidance, employment counseling and assistance reaching emancipation goals outlined in participants; and transitional independent living planning.	Case managements and referral services provided to minimum of 20 former foster youth.	Continued access to needed housing, job placement, education, and other support services for program participants, 18 to 24 years of age.
Gather and analyze information from potential participants who are "aging out" of foster care as well as existing THP-Plus clients to conduct a program-level needs assessment to inform the new program model.	An initial program design, which will make an effort to present a more cost-effective, sustainable program model, possibly taking advantage of volunteer mentors and host families.	A redesigned, cost-effective, and sustainable direct service program, which supports former foster youth in their movement towards self-sufficiency.
1) Face-to-face, telephone and e-mail contacts to raise community awareness about the closing (and re-designing) of the County-administered THP-Plus Program and the need for generating local investments in transitional housing services for this population of young people. 2) Identify funding resources currently or potentially of use for the development of the program. 3) Coordinator and other ambassadors and supporters of foster children will begin soliciting program funds.	1) Implementation of a community awareness campaign which documents contacts with at least 50 other community agencies who are delivering services to former foster youth, policy makers, and potential donors. 2) Submit funding requests as opportunities arise.	A Financial Sustainability Plan for the Program.
Coordinator will identify "recruiters" who can ask their friends and contacts to volunteer.	Implementation of a Volunteer Recruitment Campaign.	A cadre of trained volunteers will be recruited to help secure both people and financial resources that will support the Program in the future.

**CITY OF DAVIS
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM
BUDGET SUMMARY FOR PROPOSED PROJECT***

Budget Category	Proposed Project "CDBG Portion"	Other Sources	Total
A. Salaries and Wages	0		
B. Fringe Benefits			
C. Consultant/Contract Services (Program Developer/Coordinator) 1,042 hours @ \$24.00/hour	25,000		25,000
<i>TOTAL PERSONNEL BUDGET</i>			\$25,000
D. Rent (Office and meeting space for Consultant)		1000/In-kind YCCA	1000
E. Utilities		200/In-kind YCCA	200
F. Cell phone & monthly bill		1000/YCCA	1000
G. Office Supplies		500/YCCA	500
H. Equipment /Computer		1000/YCCA	1000
I. Printing/Duplication		500/Rebekah's	500
J. Travel/Mileage		1000/Soroptomist	1000
<i>TOTAL NON-PERSONNEL BUDGET</i>			\$5,200
TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET			\$30,200