

FY 2021-22 Budget Board of Supervisor Inquiry Form

Deadline: April 30, 2021

Please email: CAO-Budget@sonoma-county.org

Board Member	
Gorin	X
Rabbitt	
Coursey	
Gore	
Hopkins	

Department: Human Services

Date: 5/3/21

Inquiry Number: BIR-99

Request/Question:

Location of services: Please provide data showing the number of individuals served in different geographic regions of the county to see if there is a need for additional regional services centers.

Response:

The mission of Human Service Department (HSD) is to protect vulnerable children and adults and promote maximum independence and well-being for individuals and families. HSD strives to meet the needs of our community and empower clients through accessible and responsive services.

Every day, HSD's four service divisions help more than 100,000 adults, youth, children, seniors and their caregivers, people with disabilities, veterans and job seekers.

- **Adult and Aging Services** helps ensure the safety, independence and well-being of older adults, persons with disabilities and military veterans and their families at home and in the community:
 - 1) Adult Protective Services (APS) responds to reports of abuse, neglect, exploitation and self-neglect involving older adults age 65+ and disabled, and dependent adults age 18+.
 - 2) In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) supports eligible older adults and disabled residents of all ages to apply for support from paid in-home care providers. IHSS clients get help with day-to-day tasks that they cannot do themselves. Once registered with IHSS, clients find, employ and supervise their own caregivers with the support of the IHSS Public Authority (IHSS PA). IHSS PA also offers IHSS clients a registry of screened care providers to choose from.
 - 3) Veteran's Services supports veterans and their families, to understand the benefits available to them. The program assists with applications for Federal Veterans Administration (VA), State and local benefits, including medical care, funds for education and benefits for the veteran's family.
- **Economic Assistance** helps low-income and other individuals and families get medical insurance benefits, food purchasing assistance, financial help and other services to meet basic needs.
 - 1) CalFresh is a food and nutrition program is part of a federal government program, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). It provides monthly benefits to help buy groceries needed to be healthy. Benefits are added to a debit-style plastic card, called an Electronic Benefit Transfer or EBT card, that eligible individuals and families use to pay for food at grocery stores, convenience stores and many local farmers markets.

2) Medi-Cal offers free or low-cost medical and dental services to eligible residents. It is California's Medicaid program. Low-income adults, families with children, seniors, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, children in foster care and former foster youth up to age 26 may be eligible.

- **Employment and Training** helps individuals and families with job search, employment and training services and financial assistance. It helps employers find qualified workers and supports workforce development through community partnerships.

- 1) SonomaWORKS is a Sonoma County program that is also known as CalWORKS in California and Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF) by the federal government. It allows eligible residents who are caring for a child, to receive financial assistance, social services benefits and enhanced employment services. SonomaWORKS provides temporary help for families with children who have little or no money. The program supports adults caring for a child prepare for a job, then find and keep a job, so they can support their families. Support may include housing, food, utilities payments, childcare or medical care. Monthly cash benefits are added to an Electronic Benefit Transfer or EBT card, which you can use to make purchases.
- 2) Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) is free for Sonoma County employers and job seekers of all ages. Job seekers ages 18+ can access job search tools, career development services, labor market information and job referrals, including free job fairs where you can meet local employers who have job openings. Youth Job Seekers ages 16-24 can get assistance with education and employment, including paid summer work experience and paid internships with the Sonoma County Youth Ecology Corps to prepare you for careers with Sonoma Water and other County of Sonoma Departments. Finally, local employers get free help recruiting qualified job candidates, including attendance at job fairs to meet current job seekers, post job openings to various online recruitment websites, pay employers to train their staff members in such fields as construction, and update staff's technical skills.

- **Family, Youth and Children's Services** helps ensure the safety and well-being of children and teens who experience abuse, neglect or abandonment. It provides prevention programs, temporary foster care with a family or in our 24-hour emergency shelter and adoption services. Programs include:

- 1) Child Protection Services investigates reports from the community of child abuse, neglect or abandonment.
- 2) Through the 24-hour Child Protection hotline, staff respond to emergency reports and community concerns about a child's well-being at home.
- 3) The emergency shelter at Valley of the Moon Children's Home, emergency foster care or a group home is used for care when needed to keep a child safe.
- 4) To provide a safe haven for children, FYC staff recruit, train and support local adults and families who open their hearts and homes to become foster parents and the program works with other local foster care agencies who recruit, train and support foster parents.
- 5) A child or teen who cannot be returned home safely may be placed with foster parents for guardianship or adoption.
- 6) Trainers teach community members and mandated reporters in how to prevent and report concerns about a child or youth.

In alignment with the strategic direction of the Board of Supervisors and the Portrait of Sonoma County, service delivery data for customers of HSD was gathered and assessed. This data will serve as the foundation for ongoing consideration and planning for place-based services throughout Sonoma County.

Page one of the spreadsheets presents the estimated number of *potentially eligible* individuals in various service categories by geographical area using census data from 2015-2019. Page two presents *current recipients of HSD services by program (as described above) and geography*. The data are broken into the three geographical regions most commonly considered for expansion of regional services: Sonoma Valley, Cloverdale, and West County. South County, Rohnert Park and Santa Rosa numbers are also shown for comparison.