**Position Title:** Area Youth, Families and Communities (YFC) Advisor for Solano and Napa Counties

**Position:** Solano and Napa counties are ethnically and socio-economically diverse communities with significant inequities in health, wellness and youth development, which have disparate impacts on lower-income and disadvantaged populations and communities. The advisor will develop a dynamic research and outreach program focused on nutrition, health, wellness and equity in Solano and Napa counties by partnering with existing UCCE programs and with governmental and community organizations. In addition, the advisor will bring back UC CalFresh programming to Solano County and provide academic leadership and oversight the 4-H Youth Development Program and its expansion to underserved communities in Solano County. A minimum of a master's degree in Public Health, Education, Community Development, Child/Human Development, or related social science degree is required. The advisor will be housed in the UCCE Capitol Corridor office in Fairfield, providing a much needed academic presence in Solano County which currently houses zero advisors, and will report to the UCCE Capitol Corridor Director. This advisor will integrate and collaborate with relevant ANR teams including the Positive Youth Development and Healthy Living / Healthy Lifestyles program teams, and the Youth, Families & Communities Statewide Program.

**Justification:** This position will fill a critical and long-existing academic leadership gap in UCCE programs for youth development, nutrition education and health promotion through an integrated focus on healthy living practices for youth in diverse communities. The top issues for the YFC Advisor will be to comprehensively address health and wellness equity, expanding 4-H capacity to reach underserved communities. The priorities of this position align with health priorities at the national, state and local levels. At a national level, [Cooperative Extension](http://www.aplu.org/members/commissions/food-environment-and-renewable-resources/CFERR_Library/national-framework-for-health-and-wellness/file) (CE) has identified health as a priority, evidenced by the development of CE National Framework for Health & Wellness, their partnership with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to fund community development throughout America and the strategic planning of integrating preventative health promotion throughout CE. At the state level, the CA Dept. of Public Health created the [Office of Health Equity](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/OHE/Pages/OfficeHealthEquity.aspx) in 2012, and it was recently announced that California has the highest rates of relative poverty in the nation. At the local level a [2016 Solano County Health Needs Assessment](https://www.sutterhealth.org/pdf/for-patients/chna/ssmc-2016-chna.pdf) and a [Napa County and the greater-Vallejo area Needs Assessment](https://share.kaiserpermanente.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/2016-KFH-Vallejo-CHNA_Final.pdf) identify healthy eating / active living and obesity and diabetes as high priorities. Significant health disparities and inequities are prevalent in both counties with low-income and Hispanic communities experiencing greater health risks. [SNAP-Ed County Profiles 2017](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CCDPHP/DCDIC/NEOPB/CDPH%20Document%20Library/RES_2017CountyProfiles.pdf) indicate that in Solano and Napa counties 1 of 4 residents are economically disadvantaged with incomes at or below 185% of the federal poverty level. In Solano County, 35% of low-income residents are Hispanic and 20% are African American and in Napa County 51% are Hispanic.

The advisor will work at the nexus of healthy living, community development/empowerment, diversity, and youth development, bringing integrated and innovative programs that complement existing efforts in the region. The lack of ANR research and education programs in Solano and Napa counties provides for significant opportunities for a YFC Advisor to cultivate partnerships, complement the STEM-focused youth development program in Napa County, and develop an impactful program addressing critical issues that reach underserved communities.

**Extension:** The primary administrative role of the YFC Advisor will be to start and oversee a UC CalFresh program in Solano County (including coordinating with existing SNAP-Ed programs) and to oversee the 4-H youth development program in Solano County. Additional responsibilities will include advising and collaborating with wellness and youth organizations throughout Napa and Solano Counties. Anticipated results will include: 1) greater number of youth and family involvement in 4-H YD programs; 2) increased collaboration with schools, colleges, public agencies and community organizations; and 3) increased community involvement to facilitate solutions to public policy issues.

**Research:** Potential areas for advisor research includes: 1) identifying current barriers that may limit participation in UCCE programs; 2) testing models to address disparities (e.g. cross-disciplinary work, SPIN clubs); 3) ways to build programmatic and community stability; and 4) effective policy, system and environmental change approaches to community health promotion. It is expected that publication outlets will include a wide range of audiences, from local/regional communications to peer-reviewed journals. The advisor will have the opportunity to become involved with successful multi-county workgroup projects.

**ANR Network:** On a regional level, the advisor will work closely with the YD and YFC Advisors in UCCE Capitol Corridor, and the YD and NFCS Advisors working in adjacent counties (Napa and Contra Costa counties). This position and network represent a real opportunity for innovative and integrated cross-disciplinary team programing. Beyond the region, the YFC Advisor will benefit from interaction and collaboration with other YFC, YD and NFCS advisors; Statewide 4-H and UC CalFresh staff; workgroups; Healthy Living Advisory groups; relevant UC ANR program teams; and campus based academics.

**Network External to ANR:** Specific key clientele groups include Napa & Solano County Departments of Public Health, Catholic Charities, Kaiser Permanente, North Bay Healthcare, Queen of the Valley Medical Center, St. Helena Hospital, Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano, Community Action of Napa Valley, Napa Valley College, Solano Community College, Youth Leadership Institute, local elementary and preschools and many more. These groups have established programs and networks and represent key organizations for developing collaborative relationships.

**Support:** We have very strong support from both Solano and Napa counties that highly value youth development and strive to support programs that improve the well-being of people in underserved communities. UCCE Solano has ample space for a private office, meeting rooms and a fully functional kitchen. UCCE Napa support includes mileage for travel, a functional kitchen and program support staff and supplies. UCCE Capitol Corridor will provide a shared vehicle and mileage reimbursement funds and administrative support for program operations.

**Other support:** There are local foundations in each respective county that have prioritized community health and equity for underserved populations and are potential sources of funding to develop pilot projects and generate preliminary data for larger grant applications. Research support may come from ANR competitive grants and local grant / partnership opportunities. External funding is currently available by many large non-profits, such as the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and the government, such as National Institute of Health, that would support larger projects.

**Location:** The position will be housed in the UCCE Capitol Corridor office in Fairfield, Solano County.

**Developed and proposed by:** The UCCE Capitol Corridor and UCCE Napa County Directors with support and integration with UC ANR academics from the Positive Youth Development and Healthy Lifestyles Program Teams. Input and support for this position was provided by YFC Advisor Marcel Horowitz, 4-H YD Advisor Marianne Bird, Program Team Co-chair Kelley Brian, 4-H Director Shannon Horrillo, NFCS Director Katie Panarella, UC CalFresh Director David Ginsburg, the Solano County Administrator, Solano County Supervisor John Vasquez, Solano County Department of Public Health, and the UCCE Capitol Corridor Advisory Committee.