



Mission: Build partnerships and promote strong collaborative action to ensure all residents within the County have stable, safe, and healthy places to live.

**Santa Cruz County
Housing for Health Partnership (H4HP) Policy Board
Regular Meeting Agenda
April 16, 2025; 3 pm
420 Capitola Ave., Capitola – Capitola City Hall - Community Room**

Zoom Conference Link: <https://santacruzcounty-us.zoomgov.com/j/1601764494>

Call-In Number: +16692545252 Webinar ID#: 1601764494

Call to Order/Welcome/Introductions

Non-Agenda Public Comment

Action Items (vote required) {3:10 – 3:15 pm}

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes: February 26, 2025

Lived Expertise Workgroup Updates {3:15 – 3:30 pm}

2. General Updates

Information Items (no vote required) {3:30 – 4:00 pm}

3. Board Membership Updates
4. Housing Santa Cruz County – Affordable Housing Month Events
5. ESG Funding Application Submission Update
6. HUD CoC Funding Update

Report/Discussion Items (no vote required) (4:30 pm - }

7. HHAP-6 Timeline and Expectations – Encampment Response Protocol and Increasing Plan Alignment

Board Member Announcements

Adjournment

Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 18, 2025, 3 pm

The County of Santa Cruz does not discriminate based on disability, and no person shall, by reason of a disability, be denied the benefit of the services, programs, or activities. This meeting is in an accessible facility. If you are a person with a disability and require special assistance to participate in the meeting, please call (831) 763-8900 (TDD/TTY- 711) at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting to make arrangements. Persons with disabilities may request a copy of the agenda in an alternative format. As a courtesy to those affected, please attend the meeting smoke and scent free.

Action Item 1: Approval of Meeting Minutes

(Action required) – Robert Ratner

Recommendation

Approve the February 26, 2025, Housing for Health Partnership Policy Board Regular Meeting minutes.

Suggested Motion

I move to approve the February 26, 2025, Housing for Health Partnership Policy Board Regular Meeting minutes.

Attachment

February 26, 2025, Housing for Health Partnership Policy Board Regular Meeting minutes



Mission: *Build partnerships and promote strong collaborative action to ensure all residents within the County have stable, safe, and healthy places to live.*

Housing for Health Partnership (H4HP) Policy Board

Meeting Minutes

February 26, 2025; 3pm

Call to Order/Welcome

Present: Heather Rogers, Jorge Zamora, Justin Cummings, Karen Kern, Kyrolos Saad, Manuel Caceres, Mar Nored, Shebreh Kalantari-Johnson, Susie O'Hara, Terence Concannon, Tom Stag

Absent: Courtney Lindberg (attended virtually), Kate Nester, Mali LaGoe, Manu Koenig, Rosie Garcia

Additions and Deletions to the Agenda: None

Non-Agenda Public Comment

Action Items (vote required)

1. Approval of Minutes: Approval of Meeting Minutes: December 18, 2025.

Discussion: None.

Public Comment: None.

Motion: Approve the Housing for Health Policy Board (H4HP) Minutes.

Motion to Approve: Susie O'Hara

Motion Seconded: Terence Concannon

Abstentions: Justin Cummings

Board Action: Motion passed.

2. Approval of Recommended CA Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) Applications

Discussion: The California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) has made approximately \$718,188 available to the Santa Cruz County Continuum of Care (CoC) through the California Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) over the next three years. Mentioned that the ESG funds can be utilized for various initiatives, including Rapid Rehousing programs, Emergency Shelter Programs, Homeless Prevention, and Street Outreach. Discussed that Housing for Health staff conducted a public local request for proposals and provided an online orientation and technical assistance for applicants. Mentioned that five proposals were submitted, which were thoroughly scored and then reviewed by the Funding and Review Committee to ensure a fair and equitable evaluation process. Mentioned that the Committee, included four CoC members, recommended that the CoC approve the submission of two Rapid Rehousing Projects to HCD, each totaling \$359,094. Mentioned that the CoC prioritized Rapid Rehousing projects that targeted families exiting from emergency shelters and that at least 50% of ESG funds must be allocated for rental assistance. Mentioned that the first

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recommended project, Monarch Rapid Rehousing, received highest scores, aligned with CoC priorities, and serves the domestic violence population in South County. Discussed that the second project, Housing Matters Rapid Rehousing, was also recommended as it met all CoC priorities, proposed to allocate 100% of ESG funds for rental assistance, and serves families from North County and beyond Santa Cruz. Discussed that the Housing Matters RRH project scored five points lower than the Walnut Avenue Family & Women’s Center (WAFEC) and Families in Transition (FIT) projects due to differences in the interpretation of budgetary data required for the local application. Mentioned that Housing Matters included all their RRH grants in their annual budget, rather than focusing on the ESG grant received in the previous year. The policy board has been informed about the process to normalize allocations, ensuring that the cost per exit is standardized across all applications. Ranking and committee member Heather Rogers mentioned that the committee used a result-based analysis and focused on maximizing funding over the entire community by getting people housed.

Public Comment: *None.*

Motion: *Approve ESG Funding Review Committee recommendations to approve submission to HCD of Monarch services Rapid Rehousing and Housing Matters’ RRH applications, each requesting a total of \$359,094 over three years. Decline the submissions for the FIT RRH, WAFWC RRH, and Downtown Streets Team Street Outreach applications. Approve submission of the COC recommendation form to HCD and authorizes Robert Ratner as the signatory on the form.*

Motion to Approve: *Justin Cummings*

Motion Seconded: *Karen Kern*

Abstentions: *None*

Board Action: *Motion passed.*

Lived Expertise Workgroup Updates (no vote required):

3. Update on Status and Participation in Policy Board and other CoC Group and other CoC Group Activities

Discussion: *Lived Expertise Action Board nominated Hugo Morales and Rosie Gracia to serve as Co-chairs for 6 months. Co-chairs will assist in facilitating meetings, providing feedback on emergency shelter standards, and review project requests. Mentioned that the charter was successfully finalized in January, and members for the operations work group have been selected. Mentioned that there is an ongoing initiative focused on member recruitment. The group expressed a strong interest in collaborating with community partners, utilizing a live project proposal request available on the Housing for Health [website](#). Homebase will support the workgroup by offering training opportunities bi-monthly to enhance skill development.*

Information Items (no vote required):

Santa Cruz County Housing for Health Partnership Policy Board Meeting Minutes – February 26, 2025



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4. Housing Santa Cruz County – Affordable Housing Months Events

Discussion: *The Housing for Health Partnership (CoC) plans to support Affordable Housing Month Events in May. Mentioned that the kickoff event with Housing Santa Cruz County will include a presentation from a founding member of the Housing First program model - Sam Tsemberis. Dr. Tsemberis will also provide trainings and workshops on how to implement the housing first program model. There will be two community-wide Continuum of Care (CoC) meetings organized to gather input on key objectives for the upcoming six-month action plan under the Housing for a Healthy Santa Cruz Framework. The CoC, in collaboration with the Housing Authority of the County of Santa Cruz, will co-sponsor the second annual Landlord Appreciation Event. CoC will also partner with Association of Faith Communities on an event highlighting partnership between housing developers and faith communities. Housing Matters had preliminary discussions about having a Recuperative Care Center tour.*

5. 2025 PIT Count – Reporting Timeline

Discussion: *On January 30th at 5 AM, the Point-In-Time (PIT) Count was successfully completed with the support of over 120 volunteers who helped in covering all census tracts. Discussed that this year there was an increase in the involvement of peer guides and the Lived Expertise Workgroups. Mentioned that the peer guides are working on completing the 400 surveys by the end of February, using both mobile devices and paper forms for data collection. The Housing for Health Partnership staff are preparing preliminary data for submission to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) by the end of March, with the final report expected to be released by early summer.*

Report/Discussion Items (no vote required)

6. The Housing for Health Division staff's goal is to have a reconstituted board and need a Policy Board Co-Chair.

Discussion: *Mariah Lyons, Assistant Dean of Students at the University of California, Santa Cruz, will not continue to serve as a CoC Policy Board member in 2025. CoC staff would like the board to recommend potential nominees to fill the opening in the educational sector. Potential nominees are from Rising Scholars in Cabrillo, PVUSD and the County Office of Education. Housing for Health Staff is also looking for a second Co-Chair to serve along with Tom Stagg.*

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7. Feedback on County Encampment Response Protocol DRAFT

Discussion: The County of Santa Cruz adopted the updated Housing for a Healthy Santa Cruz Strategic Framework in March of 2024. Discussed that one of the goals outlined in the framework is to create a protocol document for a collaborative and coordinated response to encampments, developed by a multi-departmental team. The multi-departmental workgroup is led by the Community Development and Infrastructure Department in the County. The group plans to submit the protocol document by June to the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors for review and approval. Mentioned that the County requested CoC input and support of the plan.. Discussed how County staff is engaging with CoC Policy Board members for feedback on the first draft of the County Encampment Response Protocol. Discussed how the Encampment Response Protocol documents should intersect and align across jurisdictions and communities. Concerns about consistency were raised, including neighboring cities and their approaches to encampment response protocols.

CoC Board member Shebreh Kalantari-Johnson expressed her concerns regarding the County's plan to implement, finance, and resource the protocol in a way that ensures the effectiveness of the guidelines. Shebreh Kalantari-Johnson also shared her concerns about the potential exhaustion of Santa Cruz City's limited safe overnight sleeping sites and shelter beds. Discussed that there are County funded general shelters and new interim housing programs planned such as Recurso de Fuerza ("tiny homes project") in Watsonville, Housing Matters and a Behavioral Health Bridge Housing Project in Soquel, a Housing Matters City of Santa Cruz Encampment Resolution funded shelter expansion, and Association of Faith Communities Safe Parking and Rotating Faith Shelter expansion in Watsonville. Shebreh Kalantari- Johnson recommended that the County provide a detailed explanation of state and federal laws, grants, court decisions, and executive orders that may impact the protocol.. CoC board member Heather Rogers shared that the County should acknowledge that the encampment resolution often leads to criminalization. CoC board member Jorge Zamora mentioned there should be flexibility in the guidelines for law enforcement to consider each individual situation differently. Mentioned that in the absence of established Encampment Response Protocols and guidelines, there is a lack of shared values and principles for assessing and determining when and how to respond.

8. Aligning Strategic Plans to Address Homelessness

Discussion: The County of Santa Cruz and Housing for Health Partnership (CoC) adopted the Housing for a Healthy Santa Cruz framework for the period 2024-2027. Framework calls for the creation of six-month action plans with specific measurable goals that align with the structure of the Framework. Mentioned that

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The City of Santa Cruz, Housing Matters, The City of Watsonville, The Public Housing Authority and Housing Santa Cruz have all adopted their own strategic plans. CoC staff aims to gather input on key goals for the community to pursue over the next six months, promoting improvement and better alignment among all CoC partners and various strategic plans.

Board Member Announcements

No additional announcements.

Adjournment

Next Meeting: **Wednesday, April 16, 2025, 3:00 pm**

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Lived Expertise Workgroup Updates

2. General Updates

- LEAB members provided feedback on the most updated draft of the H4H Emergency Shelter Standards. Members will be providing targeted feedback on prioritization of shelter access in near future.
- LEAB/YLEAB members participated in the first professional development training titled *Amplifying Your Voice: Mastering Advocacy*, focused on Advocacy and Storytelling led by Elaine Johnson, Exec Director of Housing Santa Cruz County.
- 5 LEAB/YLEAB members are confirmed to attend the National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH) conference in Washington, D.C. this summer.
- Recruitment for 2 new YLEAB members is ongoing, with a goal to complete the process by May. Current YLEAB members are leading interviews with prospective candidates, helping shape the future of the board.

Information Items

3. Board Membership Updates

First District Supervisor Manu Koenig is being replaced on the CoC Policy Board by Fifth District Supervisor Monica Martinez. Kate Nester from the Central California Alliance for Health is currently on indefinite leave and CoC staff will be reaching to the Alliance to determine if they have a potential alternative representative for the Board. CoC staff have reached out to Cabrillo College and the Santa Cruz County Office of Education to determine if they have any interest or potential nominees to participate in the CoC Board. CoC staff are still seeking an interested Board member to serve in this capacity a co-chair with Tom Stagg from Housing Matters.

4. Housing Santa Cruz County – Affordable Housing Month [Events](#)

May is affordable housing month and the Housing for Health Partnership (CoC) plans to continue to provide support for the overall event as well as specific sessions during the month of May. Current events planned that involve the CoC include:

- [Beyond the Bridge: A Solution to Homelessness](#) film showing in **Watsonville - Wednesday, May 7th at 6 pm at Green Valley Cinema, 1125 S Green Valley Rd., Watsonville.**
- The Kickoff Event (**Saturday, May 10th from 4-6 pm at Hotel Paradox, 611 Ocean St.**) will include a presentation from Sam Tsemberis, PhD on the origins of Housing First and the critical importance of affordable housing for true implementation. The Event coincides with Dr. Tsemberis providing training and coaching support to local programs

and staff in model implementation as part of a community-supported strategy. Tomiquia Moss, the Secretary of California's Business, Consumer Services, and Housing Agency will also be speaking at the event about statewide efforts to address homelessness and housing needs. Online event registration is available: [Affordable Housing Month 2025 Keynote Event](#)

- A community-wide Continuum of Care (CoC) meeting to gather input on key goals for the July 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025, six-month action plan under the Housing for a Healthy Santa Cruz Framework and to help prepare for our Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention Round 6 funding application (HHAP-6). The event will take place on **Wednesday, May 28th from 1-4 pm at 5200 Soquel Ave. – Community Room.**
- Co-sponsoring a 2nd annual landlord appreciation event in partnership with the Housing Authority of the County of Santa Cruz. The event will take place on **Wednesday May 14th from 5-7:30 pm.**
- Partnering with the Association of Faith Communities (AFC) on an event to highlight the involvement of faith communities in addressing community housing and support needs at Cedar Street Family Apartments in the City of Santa Cruz, a partnership with Calvary Episcopal Church. The event will take place at **500 Cedar St., Santa Cruz on Wednesday, May 21st from 10am – Noon.**

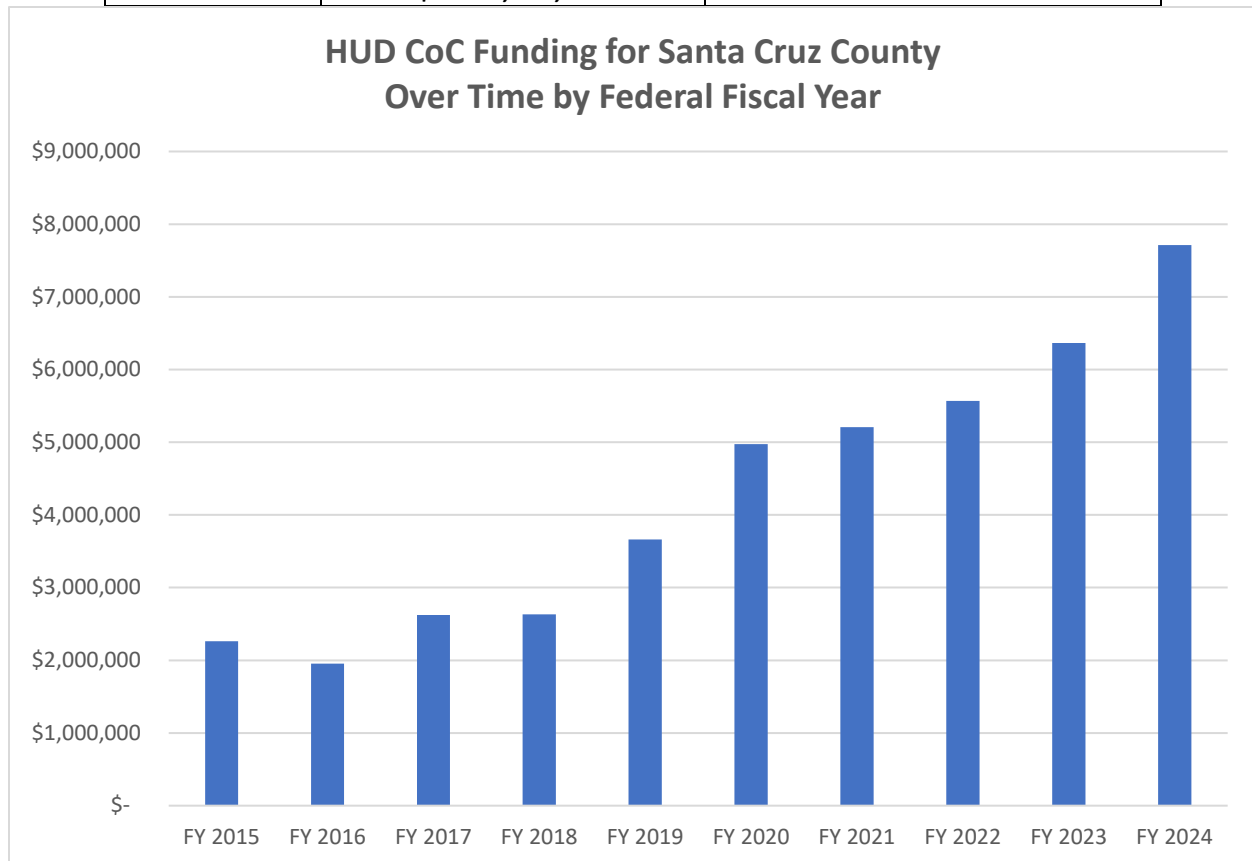
5. ESG Funding Application Submission Updates

Housing Matters and Monarch Services submitted their applications for ESG funding prior to the application submission deadline. Each organization submitted rapid rehousing applications for three-years of funding totaling \$359,094 per organization. Award announcements are expected in July 2025.

6. HUD CoC Funding Update

HUD re-issued their federal fiscal year 2024 award announcement - [FY 2024 CoC Program Competition and Funding Report | HUD.gov / U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development \(HUD\)](#). A copy of the grant awards for Santa Cruz County is included as an attachment with the Board packet and includes Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) and general awards. In addition to the funding listed in the awards announcement, Housing Matters is continuing to receive HUD CoC Unsheltered funding over a 3-year period with \$351,891.33 per year over this period. The funding provides rental assistance to individuals experiencing chronic homelessness. The Table and Graph show HUD CoC awards over time. For FY 2025, we expect our total grant amount to remain the same given the continuing resolution budget approved by the federal government. Our CoC Builds application for the Veterans Village project is still under review for potential funding.

FY 2009	\$ 1,668,086	
FY 2010	\$ 1,713,368	
FY 2011	\$ 1,666,085	
FY 2012	\$ 1,731,164	
FY 2013	\$ 1,804,276	
FY 2014	\$ 2,274,747	
FY 2015	\$ 2,261,790	
FY 2016	\$ 1,953,274	
FY 2017	\$ 2,624,602	<i>YHDP Funding First Year</i>
FY 2018	\$ 2,629,841	
FY 2019	\$ 3,662,605	
FY 2020	\$ 4,972,008	
FY 2021	\$ 5,207,237	<i>Housing for Health Involvement</i>
FY 2022	\$ 5,570,269	
FY 2023	\$ 6,365,937	<i>Includes Unsheltered NOFO funding</i>
FY 2024	\$ 7,712,852	<i>Includes Unsheltered NOFO funding</i>
Totals	\$ 53,818,142	



Attachment

2024 Santa Cruz County - CoC / YHDP Project Awards

2024 Santa Cruz County - CoC/YHDP Project Awards						
Rank	Applicant Name	Project Name	New or Renewal	Project Component	Total HUD Request	Total HUD Awarded
Tier 1 - \$4,016,945						
1	Monarch Services	DV Bonus RRH	Renewal	PH	\$110,691	\$141,753
2	Walnut Avenue Family & Women's Center	Housing & Employment Program RRH	Renewal	PH	\$545,780	\$651,690
3	Housing Matters	180 Together PSH	Renewal	PH	\$313,548	\$396,334
4	Santa Cruz County HSA	MATCH PSH	Renewal	PH	\$986,928	\$1,235,927
5	Housing Matters	801 River Street PSH	Renewal	PH	\$232,823	\$295,144
6	Santa Cruz County HSD	Coordinated Entry Expansion	Renewal	SSO	\$228,362	\$243,596
7	Santa Cruz County HSD	County of Santa Cruz Homeless Management Information System	Renewal	HMIS	\$66,782	\$71,387
8	Housing Authority of Santa Cruz County	Shelter+Care Consolidate PSH	Renewal	PH	\$1,406,406	\$1,858,050
9	Families In Transition	First Step-Scattered Site Housing for Families with Children	Renewal	Joint TH & PH-RRH	\$125,625	\$656,587
Tier 2 - \$1,135,503						
9B	Families In Transition	First Step-Scattered Site Housing for Families with Children	Renewal	Joint TH & PH-RRH	\$446,327	
10	Housing Authority of Santa Cruz County	Shelter+Care PSH Consolidate Expansion	New - CoC Bonus	PH	\$689,176	\$0
DV Bonus - \$187,569						
11	Monarch Services	DV Housing Program	New DV Bonus	Joint TH & PH-RRH	\$125,000	\$0
12	Walnut Avenue Family & Women's Center	Housing & Employment Program RRH	New DV Bonus	PH	\$62,569	\$76,717
Non-Competitive YHDP Projects - \$1,279,864 (Not Ranked)						
N/A	Bill Wilson Center	Santa Cruz County Shared Housing	Renewal	TH	\$140,935	\$164,372
N/A	Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County, Inc.	YHDP - Youth Homeless Response Team (YHRT)	Renewal	PH	\$99,175	\$105,545
N/A	County of Santa Cruz	Youth CES	Renewal	SSO	\$60,000	\$63,818
N/A	Covenant House	Youth Rapid Rehousing	Renewal	PH	\$438,368	\$512,986
N/A	Encompass Community Services	Drop-In Center	Renewal	PH	\$271,903	\$283,624
N/A	Families In Transition of Santa Cruz County, Inc.	Y.A.A.S. (Young Adults Achieving Success)	Renewal	PH	\$269,483	\$316,274
CoC Planning Grant - \$287,157 (Not Ranked)						
N/A	County of Santa Cruz	CoC Planning Grant	New	Planning	\$287,157	\$287,157
TOTAL					\$7,360,961	

Report/Discussion Items

7. HHAP-6 Timeline and Expectations – Encampment Response Protocol and Increasing Plan Alignment

On February 25, 2025, the California Housing and Community Development department released their Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention Round 6 (HHAP-6) Funding. A copy of the NOFA and associated materials can be found at this website: [Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention \(HHAP\) Grant Program | California Department of Housing and Community Development](#). The Round 6 NOFA includes a change in language to “prevent and expeditiously reduce unsheltered homelessness” rather than prior language where the stated goal was to “reduce and end homelessness.”

The NOFA requires local communities to perform several key tasks as part of preparing their application. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

- ☐ “Ensure all cities and counties in the region are addressing existing unsheltered homelessness, including encampments, and preventing future homelessness” and “following all state housing laws and the California Interagency Council on Homelessness (CalICH) Guidance on Addressing Encampments (*see attachment*)”
- ☐ Ensure the long-term sustainability of housing and supportive services
- ☐ Demonstrate a commitment to address racial disproportionality
- ☐ Meaningfully involve “people with lived experience of homelessness” to “shape all levels of planning and implementation”
- ☐ Fund housing and services that are “Housing First” compliant
- ☐ Prioritize HHAP funds “to assist people to remain in or move into safe, stable, Permanent Housing.”
- ☐ “Conduct stakeholder engagement to support development of the HHAP 6 Application” through at least three public meetings.
- ☐ Update the Regionally Coordinated Homelessness Action Plan – “Regional Partners’ Roles and Responsibilities” and “System Performance Measures Improvement Plan”
- ☐ Develop a HHAP 6 Funding Plan to ensure “Sustainability of the Region’s Housing Portfolio” and for the use of “Youth Set-Aside” funding
- ☐ Update a Regional Memorandum of Understanding
- ☐ Identify the number of encampments in the region and specific plans to address these encampments

Groups to include in the *public stakeholder process*

- People with lived experience of homelessness, including but not limited to survivors of domestic violence
- Youth with lived experience of homelessness

- Local department leaders and staff of qualifying smaller jurisdictions, including child welfare, public welfare, health care, behavioral health, justice, and education system leaders
- Homeless services and housing providers
- Developers of permanent affordable housing operating within the region
- Each Medi-Cal Managed Care Plan in the region (Central California Alliance for Health and Kaiser Permanente)
- Street medicine providers, victim service providers, and other service providers directly assisting people within the region experiencing homelessness or at-risk of homelessness
- Federally recognized tribal governments with the region – N/A

Roles and Responsibilities section must include information on how the applicants address the following and *may* include how other jurisdictions in the region participate:

- Coordination of outreach to individuals experiencing and at risk of experiencing homelessness
- Siting of services, shelters, and interim and permanent housing
- Siting and use of available land
- Development of interim and permanent housing options
- Coordination and connection to service deliver, especially Mental Health/Behavioral Health Services Act resources
- Policies for addressing encampments
- Housing element compliance
- Housing element implementation
- Prohousing designation
- Housing law violations
- Surplus land
- Housing Annual Progress Report submissions

Documenting Sustainability of the Region's Interim and Permanent Housing Portfolio

Interim

- Total existing interim housing shelters and beds (beds) in the region
- Total beds proposed to be added in the next three years
- Total estimated capital and operating costs for the beds (existing and proposed)
- The funding sources to realize and sustain the estimated capital and operating costs for the beds

Permanent

- Total permanent affordable housing developments and units in the region
- Total developments at risk of expiring affordability restrictions during the next three years
- Total developments proposed that still have a financing gap

- Describe the funding sources available to address gaps

New projects will be allowed to use HHAP-6 funding only if the above financing gaps are addressed.

CoC staff propose the follow HHAP-6 application preparation timeline:

Date	Item
2/25/25	HHAP-6 NOFA & application form released
3/18/25	HHAP-6 NOFA & application zoom webinar held
4/9/25	Request affordable housing units & at-risk data from HCD
5/7/25	Invitation sent for CoC/HHAP-6 meetings & opportunity to provide online input
5/21 - 6/2/25	Focus Group Input Sessions TBD
5/28/25	CoC Community Meeting – <i>public meeting</i>
6/2/25	Closure of online HHAP-6 input
6/11/25	Draft RCHAP posted online
6/18/25	H4HP Policy Board (approval of updated RCHAP/MOU/budget) – <i>public meeting</i>
6/19/25 – 7/25/25	Preparation of complete HHAP-6 application & attachments
7/25/25	Final RCHAP posted online
7/25/25	Final RCHAP/MOU/application sent to Board of Supervisors
8/5/25	Board of Supervisors meeting (approve RCHAP/MOU/application) – <i>public meeting</i>
8/6/25-8/26/25	Make any final corrections or adjustment to HHAP-6 application
8/27/25	Submit final HHAP-6 application in portal to HCD
8/29/25	HHAP-6 final application deadline
8/25-12/25	HCD rolling review/approval of HHAP-6 applications

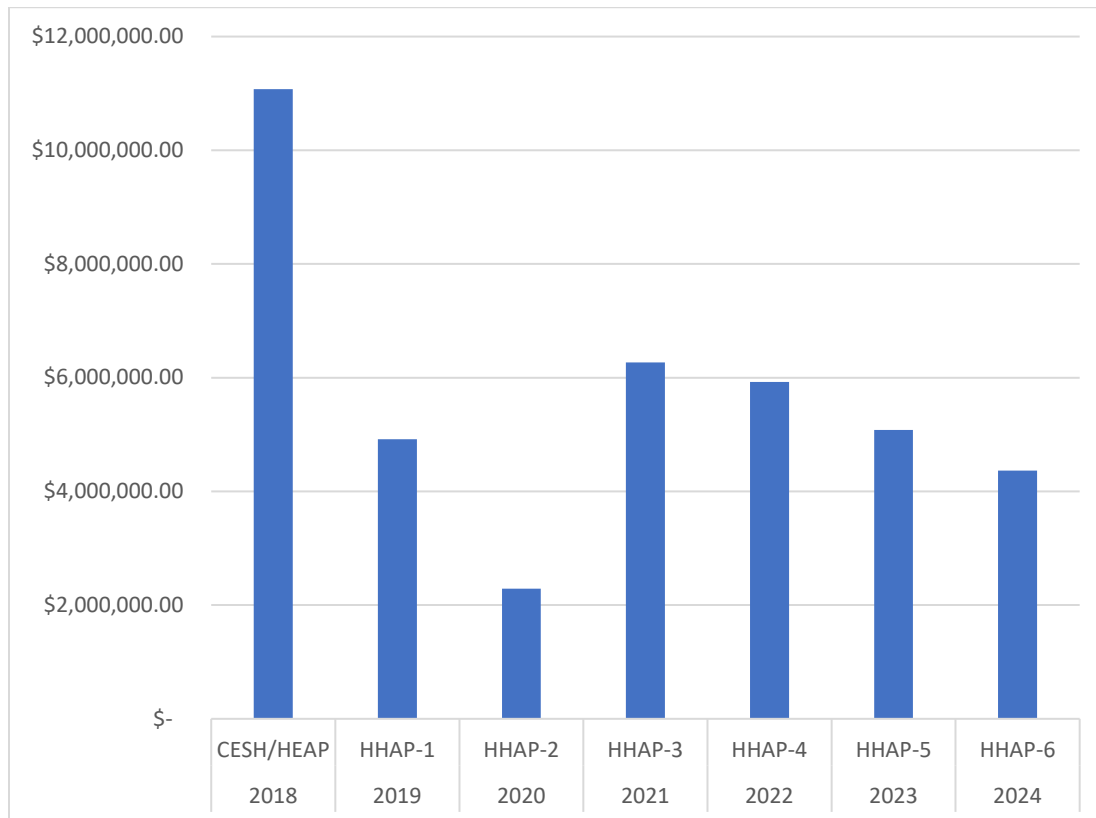
For gathering input from stakeholders, CoC staff recommend the following:

- Establish a part of our website where individuals and organizations can propose adding to our next collective six-month action plan (July – December 2026) and see prior plans
- Establish part of our website where we can receive ideas and feedback to update our prior Regionally Coordinated Homeless Action Plan and proposed updated plan
- Conduct targeted outreach and focused conversations with groups to gather their input – people with lived experience with a separate youth focused engagement effort, domestic violence providers/survivors, county partnering agencies, local city leadership, housing developers in partnership with Housing Santa Cruz County, providers through the CoC community meeting and operations workgroup, Medi-Cal managed care plans, street outreach providers

- Conduct a community-wide CoC meeting to gather input on May 28 (public meeting)
- Review HHAP-6 proposal and documents at June 18th CoC Policy Board meeting (public meeting)
- Review HHAP-6 proposal and documents at August 6th Board of Supervisors meeting

The table and graph below show state block grant funding totals for Santa Cruz County to help prevent and end homelessness since 2018:

2018	CESH/HEAP	\$ 11,075,466.45
2019	HHAP-1	\$ 4,917,665.51
2020	HHAP-2	\$ 2,288,973.00
2021	HHAP-3	\$ 6,270,439.03
2022	HHAP-4	\$ 5,923,231.92
2023	HHAP-5	\$ 5,082,976.69
2024	HHAP-6	\$ 4,365,618.99



Since 2021, our block grant funding allocation has declined by over \$1.9M in part due to declines in our PIT count, declines in overall state funding budgeted for this purpose, and a shift in funding from counties and CoCs to large cities with populations over 300,000 individuals. A copy of the adopted HHAP-4 and HHAP-5 budgets is included in an attachment with this packet.

Attachments

- California Interagency Council on Homelessness (CalICH) Guide for Addressing Encampments
- HHAP-4 and HHAP-5 Budgets for Santa Cruz County

Proposed Discussion Questions

1. What words or phrases stand out in this information?
2. How do you feel after reviewing this information?
3. What historical trends or issues should we collectively pay attention to in preparing our HHAP materials?
4. What is the best approach to take for developing a CoC and County-supported encampment response protocol that meets the CalICH standards?
5. What is the best approach for responding to the request to identify encampment throughout the County and or plans to address them?
6. What feedback do board members have on our proposed community input approach?
7. What steps can we take toward clarifying roles/responsibilities in our collective efforts?
8. What actions can help increase perceived and objective alignment and the most effective use of our limited resources?



GUIDANCE: ADDRESSING ENCAMPMENTS

The State of California encourages local jurisdictions to continue to employ person-centered, Housing First, and trauma-informed approaches when addressing the needs of persons living in encampments on public property. These evidence-based practices ensure services are strategically coordinated and deployed prior to any enforcement effort and ensure the best possible outcomes for all involved.

Before removing an encampment on public property, Cal ICH recommends that a local government:

- ✓ Is actively aware of interim housing capacity, including congregate and non-congregate shelter (i.e. motel vouchers), that is **immediately available** to serve persons in the encampment in question.
- ✓ Has a clear policy for the handling and storage of unattended personal belongings of persons in encampments.
- ✓ Provides as much advance notice of a removal action as possible. Cal ICH recommends a **minimum of 48 hours notice**, unless imminent threats to life, health, safety, or infrastructure require a shorter notice period, to persons living in the encampment and to any service provider actively serving and/or engaging with the encampment in question. Cal ICH recommends that the notice include:
 - The anticipated date and time of the removal action.
 - Information on services, including shelter, that are immediately available to persons living in the encampment.
 - Information on how unattended belongings will be handled the day of the removal action, including what will be stored and how they can be recovered.

Cal ICH further recommends that local governments are **actively aware of and engaging with current local projects and/or efforts** (i.e. Encampment Resolution Funds) serving the encampment in question and encampments in general.

Cal ICH encourages local governments to make every effort to **identify and offer shelter** to persons living in an encampment in advance of taking action to remove an encampment. If shelter cannot be secured prior to removal despite these efforts, it's recommended that a local government ensure that there are reasonably accessible locations within the jurisdiction where a person may lawfully sleep.

Where an encampment presents specific safety hazards, it may be appropriate for a local government to remediate those hazards prior to or independent of a removal operation, for example addressing tapped electrical wires, removing dangerous items including apparatuses involving open flames, weapons, and controlled substances, or dismantling or removing structures within an encampment that pose a specific hazard.

HHAP FUNDING EXPENDITURE PLAN (HHAP-4 approved and HHAP-5 proposed)

ELIGIBLE USE CATEGORY	HHAP-4	HHAP-5 (Proposed)			
Rapid rehousing	\$ -				
<i>Rapid rehousing: youth set-aside</i>	\$ -			HHAP-4 %	HHAP-5 %
Operating subsidies for interim housing	\$ 4,141,523.72	\$ 3,770,401.69	Low-barrier navigation center and transitional housing	70%	74%
<i>Operating subsidies: youth set-aside</i>	\$ 1,558,332.10	\$ 1,322,404.00		26%	26%
Street outreach	\$ 236,929.30	\$ 203,320.00	Housing for Health Connectors.	4%	4%
<i>Street outreach: youth set-aside</i>	\$ -				
Services coordination	\$ -				
<i>Services coordination: youth set-aside</i>	\$ -				
Systems support	\$ 770,020.15	\$ 651,787.00	Landlord incentives, outreach, permanent supportive housing	13%	13%
<i>Systems support: youth set-aside</i>	\$ -				
Delivery of permanent housing	\$ -				
<i>Delivery of permanent housing: youth set-aside</i>	\$ -				
Prevention and shelter diversion	\$ 533,090.85	\$ 457,468.00	Flexible Housing Assistance Fund	9%	9%
<i>Prevention and shelter diversion: youth set-aside</i>	\$ -				
Shelter improvements to lower barriers and increase privacy	\$ 241,667.90		Funding for Homekey youth transitional housing project	4%	0%
<i>Shelter improvements: youth set-aside</i>	\$ 241,667.90				
Administrative (up to 7%)	\$ -				
	\$ 5,923,231.92	\$ 5,082,976.69			
	TOTAL				
Youth Set-Aside (at least 10%)	\$ 1,800,000.00	\$ 1,322,404.00		30%	26%