



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
June 18, 2025; 3 pm**

420 Capitola Ave., Capitola – Capitola City Hall - Community Room

Zoom Conference Link: <https://santacruzcounty-us.zoomgov.com/j/1613477875>

Call-In Number: +16692545252 Webinar ID#: 1613477875

Call to Order/Welcome/Introductions

Non-Agenda Public Comment

Action Items (vote required) {3:10 – 4:00 pm}

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes: February 26, 2025
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes: April 16, 2025
3. Approve Nomination of Courtney Lindberg, City of Watsonville, Public Works and Utilities Director to serve as Policy Board Co-Chair through December 2026
4. Approve Nomination of Dr. Faris Sabbah, County Superintendent of Schools, to serve as an Educational Sector Representative on the Board through at least December 2027
5. Approve Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention, Round 6 (HHAP-6), Memorandum of Understanding between the County of Santa Cruz and Continuum of Care (CoC)
6. Approve HHAP-6 Initial Proposed Budget for the HHAP-6 Application
7. Approve Posting of HHAP-6 DRAFT Regional Homelessness Action Plan and Application for Feedback and Finalization
8. Approve Submission of CoC Builds Application for Veterans Village of Santa Cruz County
9. Approve Earlier or Special Session Meeting of CoC Policy Board in August 2025 for Anticipated CoC NOFO – reallocation, DV bonus, approval of CoC planning grant

Lived Expertise Workgroup Updates {4:00 – 4:15 pm}

10. General Updates

Information Items (no vote required) {4:15 – 4:30 pm}

11. 2025 Point-in-Time Count Report expected release July 2025
12. Preparations for Medi-Cal BH-Connect transitional rent benefit
13. HUD CoC Contract Language updates
14. State Funding and Organizational Structure Updates



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

15. Provide Final Round of Feedback on County of Santa Cruz Encampment Response Guidelines

Board Member Announcements

Adjournment

Next Meeting: Wednesday, August 20, 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 and 2: Approval of Meeting Minutes

(Action required) – Robert Ratner

Recommendations

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

Approve the updated April 16, 2025, Housing for Health Partnership Policy Board Regular Meeting minutes.

Suggested Motions

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

I move to approve the April 16, 2025, Housing for Health Partnership Policy Board Regular Meeting minutes.

Attachments

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

April 16, 2025, Housing for Health Partnership Policy Board Regular Meeting minutes



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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: *The Policy Board was provided an explanation of the process used by the funding review committee to normalize scoring across applications given the submission of non-standardized HMIS data reports across programs. This explanation describes how initially lower scoring applicants were prioritized for moving forward with the ESG application process. Given the above, approve ESG Funding Review Committee recommendations to submit to HCD, Monarch Services and Housing Matters’ Rapid Rehousing (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 authorize Robert Ratner as the signatory on the form.*

Motion to Approve: *Justin Cummings / Susie O’Hara*

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*



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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):

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.

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

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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



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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 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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Housing for Health Partnership (H4HP) Policy Board

Meeting Minutes

April 16, 2025; 3pm

Call to Order/Welcome

Present: Courtney Lindberg, Heather Rogers, Karen Kern, Kyrolas Saad, Mali LaGoe, Manuel Caceres, Rosie Garcia, Susie O'Hara, Tom Stagg

Absent: Jorge Zamora, Justin Cummings, Kate Nester, Mar Nored, Monica Martinez, Shebreh Kalantari-Johnson, Terence Concannon

Additions and Deletions to the Agenda: None

Non-Agenda Public Comment

Action Items (vote required)

1. Approval of Minutes: Approval of Meeting Minutes: February 26, 2025

Discussion: Susie O'Hara requested to amend and add specific language to the motion to clarify details and processes regarding ESG funding scoring.

Public Comment: None.

Motion to Approve: None

Motion Seconded: None

Abstentions: None

Board Action: Action deferred to next meeting.

Lived Expertise Workgroup Updates (no vote required):

2. General Updates

Discussion: Lived Expertise Action Board member Manuel Caceres shared that the Lived Expertise Action Board (LEAB) members provided feedback on the updated draft of the Housing for Health Emergency Shelters Standards. Mentioned that LEAB and Youth Lived Expertise Action Board (YLEB) members participated in their first professional development training entitled "Amplifying Your Voice: Mastering Advocacy." Mentioned that five LEAB and YLEAB members are confirmed to attend the National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH) conference in Washington, D.C., this summer, and they are very excited about it. Lived Expertise Action Board member Mar Nored discussed the ongoing recruitment for two new YLEAB members, with the goal of completing the process by May. Mentioned that LEAB members are leading the interviews with candidates.



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Information Items (no vote required):

3. Board Members Updates

Discussion: 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 on indefinite leave, and the CoC staff will be reaching out to the Alliance to see if they have a potential alternative representative for the Board. CoC contacted Cabrillo College and the Santa Cruz County Office of Education to assess their interest and identify potential nominees for participation on the CoC Board as educational representatives. Mentioned that CoC staff are still looking for an interested Board member to serve as co-chair. Courtney Lindberg is willing to serve as co-chair if no one else is identified.

4. Housing Santa Cruz – Affordable Housing Month Events

Discussion: The Housing for Health Partnership (CoC) plans to support upcoming Events for Affordable Housing Month 2025. Beyond the Bridge: A Solution to Homelessness Film, showing at the Green Valley Cinema in Watsonville at 6 pm. Keynote Kickoff Event, taking place on Saturday, May 10th, from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM at Hotel Paradox, 611 Ocean Street, featuring Dr. Tsemberis and Tomiqua Moss.. Annual Landlord Appreciation event, scheduled for Wednesday, May 14th, from 5:00 PM to 7:30 PM. Faith Communities Engagement Event, which will take place on Wednesday, May 21st, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM at 500 Cedar Street, Santa Cruz. Continuum of Care Meeting, a community-wide meeting that will be held on Wednesday, May 28th, from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM at 5200 Soquel Avenue, Community Room, to gather input for a six-month action plan and the HHAP-6 funding application. There are additional Affordable Housing Month events described on the Housing Santa Cruz County website.

5. ESG Funding Application Submission Update

Discussion: CoC Consultant discussed that Housing Matters and Monarch Services submitted their applications for ESG funding before the submission deadline. Each organization applied for three years of funding for rapid rehousing, totaling \$359,094 per organization. Mentioned that award announcements are expected in July 2025.

6. HUD CoC Funding Update

Discussion: CoC Consultant discussed HUD's reissued federal fiscal year 2024 award announcement, which includes the FY 2024 CoC Program Competition and Funding Report available on HUD.gov. Santa Cruz County was awarded \$7.7 million in CoC funding, the highest amount received to date. Mentioned that the focus of the funded projects is primarily on permanent supportive housing and rapid rehousing

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initiatives. Discussed that due to changes in the current administration, members of the county executive office traveled to DC to advocate for funding sources that help keep individuals stable in housing. Mentioned that for FY 2025, anticipated total grant amount will remain the same due to the continuing resolution budget approved by the federal government.

Report/Discussion Items (no vote required)

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

Discussion: Discussed that the California Housing and Community Development Department released the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention Round 6 (HHAP-6) funding. It was noted that the NOFA has changed its language to emphasize the goal of “preventing and expeditiously reducing unsheltered homelessness,” in contrast to the previous language that aimed to “reduce and end homelessness.” Discussed that the block grant can be utilized for various purposes, including diversion, prevention, outreach, services, interim housing, building, subsidies, rapid rehousing, permanent housing, and administrative expenses. Mentioned that 10% of the grant must be allocated to programs serving unaccompanied youth. Discussed the importance of gathering input from stakeholders and conducting community outreach to collect feedback. Discussed that the block grant amount has declined due to decreases in County’s Point-In-Time (PIT) count. Mentioned that NOFO applications are due by the end of August, and new projects will be eligible to use HHAP-6 funding only if existing financing gaps are addressed.

Board Member Announcements

Behavioral Health has announced a community planning process meeting for a 3-year update in August to expand and improve the Behavioral Health Service Act.

Adjournment

Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 18, 2025, 3:00 pm

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Action Item 3 and 4: Approve Policy Board Nominations

(Action required) – Robert Ratner

Recommendations

Approve Nomination of Courtney Lindberg, City of Watsonville, Public Works and Utilities Director to serve as Policy Board Co-Chair through December 2026

Approve Nomination of Dr. Faris Sabbah, County Superintendent of Schools, to serve as an Educational Sector Representative on the Board through at least December 2027

Discussion

Since the departure of Suzi Merriam, former City of Watsonville Community Development Director, from the Policy Board, the Board has not had a co-chair to serve alongside Tom Stagg, Chief Initiatives Officer, from Housing Matters. Courtney Lindberg, the City of Watsonville, Public Works and Utilities Director, generously agreed to serve as a co-chair on the Board at least through the end of calendar year 2026.

Since the departure of Mariah Lyons, Assistance Dean of Students, Student Support Programs and the Director of Slug Support, from the Policy Board, the Board has not had an educational sector representative on the Board. Housing for Health Partnership staff members reached out to several educational groups including the County Office of Education, Cabrillo College, and the Pajaro Valley Unified School District to identify potential Policy Board representatives. Dr. Faris Sabbah, County Superintendent of Schools, expressed an interest and willingness to serve on the Board.

Dr. Sabbah has served in the community as a county deputy superintendent, county assistant superintendent, university professors, director, assistant principal, teacher, and instruction aide. He obtained his bachelor's in Psychology from UC Santa Cruz, his masters in Educational Leadership from San Jose State University, and his doctorate in Leadership for Educational Equity from UC Berkeley. He carries a deep sense of urgency to disrupt inequitable practices. He is committed to partnering with districts and other organizations to create a network of support that propel students to achieve and thrive. If appointed to the Policy Board, Dr. Sabbah would serve at least through December 31, 2027, for a partial two-year term. Dr. Sabbah would receive an orientation to the work of the CoC and the Board in July and would attend a first meeting in August 2026.

Suggested Motions

I move to approve the nomination of Courtney Lindberg, to serve as a co-chair of the Policy Board at least through the end of calendar year 2026.

I move to approve the nomination of Dr. Farris Sabbah, to serve as educational sector representative on the Board at least through December 31, 2027, serving part of a partial two-year term.

Action Item 5: Approve HHAP-6 MOU between the County and CoC

(Action required) – Sheryl Norteye, Tony Gardner

Recommendation

Approve Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention, Round 6, (HHAP-6) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the County of Santa Cruz and Continuum of Care (CoC).

Discussion

The California Housing and Community Development Department (HCD) Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention, Round 6, (HHAP-6) 2025 Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) requires the development and approval of an MOU between the entities eligible to receive HHAP-6 funding. At a minimum, the MOU requires that parties outline how they will coordinate efforts to address homelessness and utilize HHAP funding. HHAP-6 funding recipients can designate one entity to serve as the administrator of all funding allocations for the region.

Within Santa Cruz County, the County (\$2,111,016.78) and the CoC (\$2,254,602.21) are the only entities eligible to receive HHAP funding. Since HHAP, Round 3, the County and CoC have approved MOUs that identify the Santa Cruz County Human Services Department, Housing for Health Division, as the administrator of HHAP funding. Staff recommend a continuation of this practice for HHAP-6 funding.

The Board packet includes a copy of the proposed HHAP-6 MOU between the CoC and County. The MOU includes language required in the HHAP-6 NOFA. Approval of the MOU by the CoC Policy Board is the first step in MOU execution. Approval is also required by the County Board of Supervisors. Staff will be presenting a recommendation to the County Board of Supervisors at a meeting in August 2025.

Suggested Motion

I recommend approval of the HHAP-6 MOU between the CoC and County and authorize Tom Stagg, co-chair of the CoC Policy Board, to sign the Agreement on behalf of the CoC, pending approval of the MOU by the County Board of Supervisors.

Attachment

Memorandum of Understanding, Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program, Round 6

**Memorandum of Understanding
Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program, Round 6**

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been created and entered into on <date>
between the following, jointly known as the Parties:

Santa Cruz County Human Services Department (the County)
1000 Emeline Ave.
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Housing for Health Partnership Policy Board (the CoC)
Watsonville/Santa Cruz City & County Continuum of Care, CA-508
1000 Emeline Ave.
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

I. Introduction

- a. The Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program, Round 6 (HHAP-6) is a \$760 million state grant, made available through a February 2025 HHAP-6 Notice of Funding Available (NOFA), that provides local jurisdictions, including federally recognized tribal governments, with flexible funding to continue efforts to end and prevent homelessness in their communities. The application deadline is August 29, 2025.
- b. Allocations are available to jurisdictions in Santa Cruz County as follows:

<u>Jurisdiction:</u>	<u>Allocation:</u>
Santa Cruz County	\$2,111,016.78
Watsonville/Santa Cruz City & County CoC	\$2,254,602.21

- c. Per the HHAP-6 NOFA, the County and CoC must apply jointly as part of a “region,” defined as “the geographic area served by a county, including all cities and the CoC or CoCs within it.” As such, the entire geography of Santa Cruz County comprises the region for purposes of HHAP-6 and this MOU. While applicants in a region are required to apply together, each applicant (County and CoC) has the discretion to receive its base allocation directly **or** they may designate a single applicant for the region to serve as their Administrative Entity. This selection indicates to the State which applicant will enter into contract with the State to receive and administer each applicant’s HHAP-6 award.
- d. The County is the Administrative Entity for the County’s allocation. The County has also long served as the Administrative Entity, collaborative applicant, and staff for the CoC under the CoC Charter and for federal CoC funding and past State HHAP allocations (Rounds 1 – 5). Therefore, the County is the Administrative Entity for both County and CoC allocations of HHAP-6.
- e. The HHAP-6 NOFA requires that joint applicants collaborate on and submit with their application due August 29, 2025, to the State a Regionally Coordinated Homelessness Action Plan (RCHAP) that meets the requirements for such a plan described in the HHAP-6 NOFA.

- f. In addition, the HHAP-6 NOFA requires that joint applicants for HHAP-6 funds submit an MOU with their application due August 29, 2025 to the State, signed by each participating applicant, reflecting and committing to participate in and comply with the RCHAP. In meeting this MOU requirement, the State recommends simply summarizing the RCHAP roles, responsibilities, and actions in the MOU. However, Applicants may also choose to attach the complete RCHAP as an addendum to the MOU. In addition, the State has provided written guidance on how to summarize the roles, responsibilities, and actions in the MOU. Based upon the State's MOU written guidance, the Parties are choosing to summarize their roles, responsibilities, and actions (rather than attaching the RCHAP) as described below.

II. Duties of the Parties

- a. This MOU commits each signatory to uphold, participate in, and comply with the actions, roles, and responsibilities of each eligible applicant in the region as described in the HHAP-6 RCHAP incorporated herein by reference and *summarized* as follows:
- i. Commitments to the roles and responsibilities of each eligible applicant within the region as they pertain to outreach and site coordination, siting and use of available land, the development of shelter, interim and permanent housing options, coordination of and connection to, service delivery, policies addressing encampments, Housing Element compliance, Housing Element implementation, Prohousing Designation, housing law violations, surplus land, and annual progress report. *See Section 3.a in the HHAP-6 RCHAP.*
 - ii. Commitments to key actions each eligible applicant will take to improve the system performance measures. *See Section 3.b in the HHAP-6 RCHAP.*
 - iii. Commitments to key actions each eligible applicant will take to ensure racial and gender equity in service delivery, housing placements, housing retention, and any other means to affirm equitable access to housing and services for racial and ethnic groups overrepresented among residents experiencing homelessness. *See also Section 3.b in the HHAP-5 RCHAP.*
- b. The County commits to being responsible for carrying out all Administrative Entity activities relevant to the County and CoC allocations, including administering the funds, contracting (when necessary) with subcontractors, reporting on HHAP-6 dollars and activities to the State, and meeting the term and conditions of the State HHAP-6 contract.
- c. The CoC commits to participating in all meetings and other events (such as stakeholder forums, surveys, client focus groups) as needed for County and CoC coordination on key HHAP-6 issues, including but not limited to oversight, management, strategic and equity planning, RCHAP updates, funding prioritization and approvals, HMIS data collection and reporting, program standards and expectations, agency capacity building, and communications.
- d. The signatories to this MOU hereby certify that all eligible applicants and subgrantees will employ the core components of Housing First. *See HHAP-6 NOFA, Section VI.D.2 "Housing First Requirement."*

III. Updating of the RCHAP

- a. The HHAP-6 NOFA requires that each region submit an updated RCHAP no later than January 31, 2027, as a condition for State disbursement of the second half of the HHAP-6 base allocation funds. Such an update will be assumed to be incorporated automatically into this MOU in place of the current RCHAP, unless the Parties choose at that time to also update this MOU.

IV. Terms of the Agreement

- a. Commencement: This MOU will become effective as of August 29, 2025.
- b. Termination: This MOU will remain in effect until June 30, 2029, the final deadline for expenditure of HHAP Round 6 funds.
- c. Modifications: This MOU may be modified only by written amendment signed by both parties.
- d. Assignment: The rights, responsibilities and duties under this MOU may not be transferred or assigned without the express prior written consent of the Parties.
- e. Jurisdiction and Venue: This MOU shall be construed in accordance with the laws of the State of California and the parties hereto agree that venue shall be in Santa Cruz County, California.
- f. Anti-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment: Parties shall not unlawfully discriminate against or harass any individual based on race, color, religion, nationality, sex, sexual orientation, age, or condition of disability. Parties understand and agree that they and/or any subcontractor is bound by and will comply with the antidiscrimination and anti-harassment mandates of all Federal, State and local statutes, regulations and ordinances.

We, the undersigned, hereby certify that the Memorandum of Understanding is full, true, and correct and that all information is correct and complete.

Robert Ratner, Division Director
Santa Cruz County, Human Services Departments, Housing for Health Division

Date

Tom Stagg, Co-Chair
Housing for Health Partnership Policy Board

Date

Action Item 6: Approve HHAP-6 Initial Proposed Budget for HHAP-6 Application

(Action required) – Robert Ratner

Recommendation

Approve HHAP-6 Initial Proposed Budget for the HHAP-6 Application.

Discussion

The California Housing and Community Development Department (HCD) Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention, Round 6, (HHAP-6) 2025 Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) requires the development and approval of an initial budget for the application. Available HHAP-6 funding for Santa Cruz County totals \$4,365,618.99. This represents a 30% reduction in funding from the County's peak HHAP allocation of \$6.27M in 2021. The HHAP-6 allocation is a 16% reduction (\$717,358) from the HHAP-5 allocation of \$5.08M in 2023.

Given continuing declines in funding over time, staff recommend continued use of HHAP funding to *help sustain* existing programs using a percentage allocation strategy consistent with HHAP-4 and HHAP-5 funding rounds. Budgets submitted during the initial application period can be adjusted as needed with HCD approval. Staff have made periodic adjustments with prior rounds of HHAP funding to ensure spending deadlines are met.

The proposed HHAP-6 budget is included as an attachment. The budget has the following investment breakdown: 13% for permanent housing solutions, 9% for homelessness prevention/diversion activities, 74% for interim housing solutions including a youth set-aside for youth transitional housing, and 4% for non-housing solutions.

HHAP funding has been used to support the following activities:

- (1) Permanent Housing Solutions
 - (a) Housing Authority of Santa Cruz County – landlord incentives/risk mitigation fund;
 - (b) Abode Services - real estate partnership program
- (2) Homelessness Prevention Activities
 - (a) Community Action Board – flexible one-time housing assistance fund
- (3) Interim Housing Solutions
 - (a) Housing Matters - single adult shelter
 - (b) Association of Faith Communities – rotating faith shelter
 - (c) CFSC, Inc./Bill Wilson Center - transitional housing for youth
- (4) Non-Housing Solutions
 - (a) Housing Matters - street outreach/coordinated entry connectors
 - (b) Community Action Board – street outreach/coordinated entry connectors

Suggested Motion

I recommend approval of the proposed HHAP-6 budget for the HHAP-6 application from the County and CoC HHAP-6 budget allocations.

Attachment

Santa Cruz County – Proposed HHAP-6 Funding Plan

Santa Cruz County - Proposed HHAP-6 Funding Plan
June 18, 2025

	General	Youth (at least 10%)	% of Total
Category #1: Permanent Housing Solutions			
Rapid Rehousing/Rental Subsidies	\$ -	\$ -	
Operating Subsidies - Permanent Housing	\$ -	\$ -	
Permanent Housing Services and Services Coordination	\$ 567,530.47	\$ -	13%
Capital for Permanent Housing	\$ -	\$ -	
Category #2: Homelessness Prevention Activities			
Prevention and Diversion	\$ 392,905.71	\$ -	9%
Category #3: Interim Housing Solutions			
Navigation Centers	\$ -	\$ -	
Motel/Hotel Vouchers	\$ -	\$ -	
Operating Expenses - Interim Housing	\$ 2,794,006.16	\$ 436,551.89	74%
Interim Housing Services and Services Coordination	\$ -	\$ -	
Capital for New Interim Housing	\$ -	\$ -	
Improvements to Existing Interim Housing	\$ -	\$ -	
Category #4: Non-housing Solutions			
Services and Services Coordination	\$ 174,624.76	\$ -	4%
Category #5: Administrative Costs			
Administrative Costs	\$ -	\$ -	0%
HMIS	\$ -	\$ -	
Total HHAP-6 CoC and County Funding			
\$ 4,365,618.99	\$ 3,929,067.10	\$ 436,551.89	

Action Item 7: Approve Posting of HHAP-6 DRAFT Regional Homelessness Action Plan and Application for Feedback and Finalization

(Action required) – Sheryl Norteye, Tony Gardner

Recommendation

Approve posting of HHAP-6 DRAFT Regional Homelessness Action Plan and application for feedback and finalization.

Provide direction to staff regarding August Policy Board meetings and final approval of HHAP-6 plan and application.

Discussion

The California Housing and Community Development Department (HCD) Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention, Round 6, (HHAP-6) 2025 Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) submission deadline is August 29, 2025. Staff have completed an initial draft of the HHAP-6 application and regional action plan, included in the Board packet. The current draft incorporates feedback gathered from meetings with members of the lived expertise action boards, operations workgroup, and a CoC community meeting held on May 28, 2025. Additional information is still be gathered to complete some sections of the application. In addition, staff recommend posting the DRAFT document on the Housing for Health Partnership website for further public comment and refinement.

Staff request comment from members of the Policy Board and public on the DRAFT document included in the Board packet.

Prior to final application submission to HCD, the application and plan must be approved by the County Board of Supervisors and CoC Policy Board. Staff will seek County Board of Supervisors approval of the application and plan at their August 5th or 19th meeting. The CoC Policy Board can approve the application and plan at its currently scheduled August 20th meeting, at a special meeting held in early August, or at a rescheduled August Board meeting.

Given the HHAP-6 application deadline, staff recommend holding a special CoC Policy Board meeting in August or rescheduling the August 20, 2025, meeting to an earlier date. The earlier meeting will allow time for staff to make any final adjustments to the materials prior to the deadline.

Suggested Motion

I recommend approval of posting of the HHAP-6 DRAFT Regional Action Plan and application documents to gather additional community feedback.

I recommend moving the August 20, 2025, Policy Board meeting to a meeting during the 1st or 2nd week of August at a time that maximizes Policy Board member attendance and ensures a minimum of a quorum for taking Policy Board action at the meeting.

Attachment

Santa Cruz County – Proposed HHAP-6 Funding Application and Action Plan



California Department of **Housing and Community Development**

HHAP Round 6 Regional Application Template

Purpose of this Template

The Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) is providing this Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program (HHAP) Regional Application Template (template) as a tool to help HHAP Round 6 (HHAP 6) regional applicants prepare responses for subsequent submission through the official online application portal. The template closely mirrors the online application portal and is intended to support the development of the regional application for approval by HCD as required in AB 166 (Health & Safety Code § 50239 and 50242, et seq.).

The template will not be collected by HCD, nor will HCD review any template in lieu of an official regional application submission. Applicants are responsible for inputting the required information into the [online application portal](#) and submitting the official regional application in the portal no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, August 29, 2025.

The regional application consists of the following Sections:

- Section 1. Regional Identification and Contracting Information
- Section 2. Documentation and Certification of Stakeholder Engagement
- Section 3. Regionally Coordinated Homelessness Action Plan
 - 3.a. Regional Partners' Roles and Responsibilities
 - 3.b. System Performance Measures Improvement Plan
- Section 4. HHAP 6 Funding Plan
 - 4.a. Proposed Funding Activities
 - 4.b. Sustainability of the Region's Interim Housing Portfolio
 - 4.c. Sustainability of the Region's Permanent Housing Portfolio (If applicable)
 - 4.d. Documentation of Youth Set Aside Requirement
- Section 5. Regional Memorandum of Understanding MOU and Application Certification

Green tables describe the steps required to complete each section and provide guidance on how to use the template and/or minimum requirements.

Blue tables capture the application data and mirror the data fields in the online application portal.

HHAP 6 Regional Application Template

Section 1. Region Identification and Contracting Information

Steps to complete this section

1. Select the Continuum of Care (CoC) Region. The definition of “Region” is the geographic area served by a county, including all cities and the CoC or CoCs within it (HSC 50230(v)).
2. Indicate which Eligible Applicants are applying together as a region for HHAP 6 (i.e., which Eligible Applicants will administer the Regionally Coordinated Homelessness Action Plan and be signatory to the Memorandum of Understanding). Eligible Applicants for HHAP 6 are all counties, all Continuums of Care, and Large Cities.
3. For each participating Eligible Applicant, indicate whether and how the Eligible Applicant intends to contract with HCD (i.e., indicate whether the Eligible Applicant will act as their own Administrative Entity, or designate one of the other regional partners to administer their allocation and act as the Administrative Entity on their behalf).

Guidance for this section

Regional Application Participation

Continuums of Care (CoCs)

- A CoC that serves a single county **must** apply as part of the regional application with the county and any overlapping Large Cities. In this case, the CoC should select: *“Is participating in this regional application as an Eligible Applicant.”*
- A CoC that serves multiple counties **must either:** apply as part of a single regional application with multiple counties and any overlapping Large Cities **or** participate in the regional application of each overlapping county and the Large Cities therein. When the CoC is participating in multiple regional applications, the CoC should select: *“Is participating in this regional application as an Eligible Applicant”* for the regional application that will include the CoC’s HHAP 6 funding plan, and should select: *“Is participating in this regional application as a collaborator”* for all other regional applications they are participating in. This will help to ensure the CoC’s funding plan is only collected on a single regional application.

Large Cities (“City” or “Cities”)

Large Cities must apply as part of the regional application with the applicable county and CoC.

Counties

- In a CoC that serves a single County, the County **must** apply as part of a regional application with the CoC and any overlapping Large Cities.
- In a multi-county CoC, counties are **strongly encouraged** to apply in collaboration with other counties that are served by the same CoC. **At a minimum**, each County must apply with the overlapping CoC.

LA Region

All CoCs within the County of Los Angeles shall be considered part of a single region, along with the County and Large Cities within the county and therefore **must** apply together. (HSC § 50230(v)(2).)

Contracting

Each Eligible Applicant has the discretion to administer their base allocation directly or may designate an Eligible Applicant in their region to serve as their Administrative Entity. The selections made in this section will indicate which Eligible Applicant will enter into contract with HCD to administer each Eligible Applicant’s HHAP 6 allocation. For reference, [HHAP 6 allocations](#) are available on HCD’s HHAP website.

The Administrative Entity is responsible for meeting the terms and conditions of the contract, which include, but is not limited to, contracting (when necessary) with sub-recipients, and fulfilling all monthly, annual, final, and Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) reporting requirements.

- **If you plan to contract with HCD to receive and administer only your (individual) HHAP 6 allocation,** select: *“Will enter into contract with HCD to receive and administer their HHAP 6 allocation”* under the contracting selection.
- **If you do not plan to contract with HCD and instead plan to identify another participating Eligible Applicant in the region to enter into contract with HCD to receive and administer your HHAP 6 allocation,** select: *“Identify another participating Eligible Applicant in their region to enter into contract with HCD to receive and administer their HHAP 6 allocation”* under the contracting selection. Once selected, you will be prompted to designate the Administrative Entity from a list of other Eligible Applicants in the region.
- **If you plan to contract with HCD to receive and administer multiple HHAP 6 allocations within your region,** select: *“Will enter into contract with HCD to receive and administer their HHAP 6 allocation and allocation(s) from other Eligible Applicants in the region”* under the contracting selection.

Please select the Continuum of Care Region

Continuum of Care Region
Watsonville/Santa Cruz City & County CoC
Guidance
The table below is formatted as “repeating content”.
To add an Eligible Applicant, click anywhere in the table to reveal the content border, then click the (+) that appears on the right-hand margin of the border. This will not work if the template is open in a web browser; the template must be open in the Microsoft Word application.
Eligible Applicant
Santa Cruz County
Participation Status
Is participating in this application as an Eligible Applicant.
Contracting Status
Will enter into contract with the state to receive and administer their HHAP 6 allocation and allocation(s) from other Eligible Applicants in the region
Designated Administrative Entity (if applicable)
Santa Cruz County
Contact Title
SENIOR HUMAN SERVICES ANALYST
Contact Name
SHERYL NORTEYE

Contact Email
Sheryl.Norteye@santacruzcountyca.gov
Contact Phone
831-454-7329

Section 2. Documentation and Certification of Stakeholder Engagement

Steps to complete this section
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide the dates for which at least three public meetings were held to support the development of the Regionally Coordinated Homelessness Action Plan (Plan). 2. Describe how each stakeholder group from the list provided was invited and encouraged to engage in the Plan. 3. Describe the specific input from the public meetings that was incorporated into the Plan. 4. Certify that all participating Eligible Applicants met the process requirements for developing the Plan.

Meeting Dates

Guidance
<p>No less than three (3) public meetings must be held for <u>each</u> Regionally Coordinated Homelessness Action Plan. Applicants should retain documentation of the meetings in alignment with HCD's records retention requirement outlined in the HHAP 6 NOFA and should upload relevant documentation to support certification of Section 2 of the regional application.</p> <p>To add additional meetings, click into the last row of the table, then press “tab” on your keyboard.</p>
Meeting Dates
5/28/2025
6/18/2025
8/5/2025

Stakeholder Engagement

Guidance		
<p>A description is required for <u>each</u> stakeholder group engaged in development of the Regionally Coordinated Homelessness Action Plan. In addition to providing the information required below, applicants should retain documentation of the meetings in alignment with HCD's records retention requirement outlined in the HHAP 6 NOFA and should upload relevant documentation to support certification of Section 2 of the regional application. Documentation of stakeholder engagement may include copies of meeting invites and invitee lists, drafts provided for feedback, etc.</p>		
Stakeholders	Description of how stakeholders were invited and encouraged to engage in the public stakeholder process	Describe the specific input from stakeholders that was incorporated into the Plan
People with lived	The Region held three public	Attendees shared firsthand

experience of homelessness, including but not limited to survivors of domestic violence	planning meetings and separate meetings with people with lived experience. There were several individuals with lived experience in attendance at the open community meeting and the CoC Policy Board includes members with lived experience.	perspectives on barriers (for example, the need for trauma-informed emergency shelter and more outreach to hidden encampments). This input directly influenced the Action Plan: for instance, recommendations for low-barrier shelter access and victim-safe housing were incorporated into the plan's housing and services strategies.
Youth with lived experience of homelessness	The Region engaged youth through its existing Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) and Youth Lived Expertise Advisory Board (YLEAB) structures. Staff attended YHDP and YLEAB meetings in person, submitted Project Request Forms to include youth agendas, and reached out via email to youth-serving organizations (including the Santa Cruz Black Health Initiative and the Asian/Pacific Islander Resource Center) to ensure diverse youth voices.	Youth participants contributed ideas on the need for transitional housing, family reunification supports, and education/job training. These suggestions are reflected in Plan priorities, such as dedicated youth interim housing, housing vouchers for young adults, and outreach to keep youth connected to school or work.
Local department leaders and staff from qualifying smaller jurisdictions, including child welfare, public welfare, health care, behavioral health, justice, and education system leaders	Consistent with the Region's system-wide planning, outreach was extended to city and county department heads in child welfare, public health, behavioral health, justice, education, and related fields. Invitations were sent to senior staff from unincorporated and incorporated jurisdictions (e.g. Capitola, Watsonville, Scotts Valley, and Santa Cruz County) to attend the public meetings. This cross-sector group discussed gaps such as lack of coordinated data (e.g. between child welfare and housing), and the need for a unified referral process among agencies.	In line with the strategic framework's emphasis on engagement of "all jurisdictions, key stakeholders, and those with lived experience", this feedback was used to bolster interagency strategies in the Action Plan – for example, by adding objectives to integrate homelessness prevention into child welfare case plans and expand training for school district staff.
Homeless services and housing providers, including developers of permanent	Invitations were distributed through the CoC's provider listserv, H4HP provider meetings, and direct outreach to nonprofits and developers. (HHAP 6 explicitly	Providers and developers brought forward data on current capacity and identified priority needs (for example, additional supportive housing units and capital funding).

affordable housing operating within the region.	requires engagement of permanent affordable housing developers.) The Region ensured that local housing developers and service agencies – including continuum-of-care nonprofit providers – had ample opportunity to review draft recommendations.	Their input shaped the Plan’s proposed projects: for instance, provider feedback led to allocating funds for two new permanent supportive housing developments, and developer input guided the selection of sites for new affordable units.
Each Medi-Cal Managed Care Plan contracted with the State Department of Health Care Services in the region	In accordance with guidance, the Region reached out to Medi-Cal managed care plans serving the county. Plan representatives were invited to the public forums and participated in separate planning conversations with staff. One of the Managed Care Plans has a seat on the CoC Policy Board.	They provided insight on aligning health care with housing interventions – for example, stressing the importance of integrating behavioral health services and case management into shelter programs. The Action Plan reflects this input by including coordinated care strategies (such as warm handoffs between encampment outreach teams and Medi-Cal health workers) to improve health outcomes for people experiencing homelessness.
Federally recognized tribal governments pursuant to Section 4103 of Title 25 of the United States Code that are within the region.	N/A	N/A
Street medicine providers, victim service providers, and other service providers directly assisting people experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness	The Region specifically engaged providers who work directly with people living unsheltered or fleeing violence. Outreach teams (such as those from Encompass Community Services or Housing Matters’ street Outreach program) and domestic violence agencies (such as , Monarch Services and Walnut Avenue Women and Family Center) were invited to provide feedback.	These service providers emphasized the acute medical and safety needs of clients in encampments and the need for trauma-informed outreach. In response, the Plan includes street medicine outreach and partnerships with victim services for confidential shelter placement. For example, suggestions from street outreach teams to increase mobile wound care and hygiene stations were incorporated into the non-housing services budget, and input from domestic violence advocates led to adding a trauma-informed liaison position in the coordinated entry system.

Describe any other input from public meetings not captured above that was incorporated into the Plan.

The Housing for Health Partnership conducted a comprehensive stakeholder engagement process, including the three publicly noticed meetings required for HHAP 6 development. Meeting announcements were widely distributed via email blasts to known persons with lived experience of homelessness, newsletters to the Housing for Health Partnership (H4HP) mailing list, and posts on Facebook and Instagram. Partner organizations (Housing Matters, Encompass Community Services, and the Community Action Board) also publicized the meetings, and details were posted on the H4HP and County Human Services Department websites.

The Housing for Health Partnership created a “Share Your Thoughts” page on its website to gather additional input. Non-public meetings with service providers, individuals with lived experience, city leaders, and affordable housing advocates were held to gather additional information to inform the Plan.

By checking this box, I certify that all participating Eligible Applicants met the public meeting process requirements in statute (HSC Section 50240(d) and (e)) and in the [HHAP 6 NOFA](#) in developing the Regionally Coordinated Homelessness Action Plan, documented in Section 2 of this regional application.

☐ **I certify under penalty of perjury that all of the information in Section 2, above, is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.**

Optional Upload: Stakeholder Engagement

Guidance

Upload supporting documentation to support the region’s certification of Section 2 of this regional application, which may include meeting invites and invitee list.

Section 3. Regionally Coordinated Homelessness Action Plan

Guidance

Applicants must submit a Regionally Coordinated Homelessness Action Plan (Plan) that fully complies with HSC section 50240(c). This Plan shall lay out a strategic approach to address homelessness within the region, emphasizing collaborative efforts among participating applicants.

In developing the HHAP 6 Regionally Coordinated Homelessness Action Plans, regions should build upon their approved HHAP 5 Regionally Coordinated Homelessness Action Plans. This means regions should leverage and update information from their approved HHAP 5 Regionally Coordinated Homelessness Action Plan in corresponding sections of the proposed HHAP 6 Regionally Coordinated Homelessness Action Plan.

3.a. Regional Partners’ Roles and Responsibilities

3.a.1. Outreach and Site Coordination

Guidance

Each Eligible Applicant in the region must describe how they currently, or will begin to, coordinate comprehensive outreach to individuals experiencing, and at risk of experiencing, homelessness in the region, and coordinate on siting of services, shelters, and interim and permanent housing in the region.

Eligible Applicants must be identified using the standard name as it appears in the dropdowns provided.

Eligible Applicant	Describe roles and responsibilities in outreach to individuals experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, homelessness in the region, and in coordination on citing of services, shelters, and interim and permanent housing in the region
Santa Cruz County	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support County plans and funding proposals to sustain and expand street outreach efforts to individuals experiencing homelessness. 2. Work with the Central California Alliance for Health (Alliance) to fund the expansion and improvement of street outreach countywide, including a team of 5 outreach workers that can serve and connect with 300-400 people per year utilizing one-time Housing and Homeless Incentive Program (HHIP) funding. 3. Implement County Human Services Department, Housing for Health (H4H) Division vendor pool contract for expanded homeless outreach in unincorporated areas of the County. 4. Coordinate and integrate the efforts of street outreach teams with the coordinated entry system (CES), and link these efforts with programs funded with Encampment Response and HHAP funds. 5. Support the launch of a regionally-focused homelessness prevention program and continue to support a centralized housing assistance fund that supports prevention and rehousing efforts.
Watsonville/Santa Cruz City & County CoC	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support and coordinate with the above new County-centered efforts, and expand and improve existing street outreach teams countywide, including the Healing the Streets Team, Homeless Persons Health Project, HOPES Team, Downtown Outreach Team, and Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP)-linked youth outreach. 2. Develop and promote Continuum of Care (CoC) street outreach standards that build on Housing for Health CES Connector standards. 3. Develop and implement a communications strategy and tools for improved outreach to underserved communities and historically marginalized populations. 4. Expand effective use of the HMIS outreach module to help create more connections and communication among providers in support of their work with clients.
Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	

Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	

3.a.2. Siting and Use of Available Land

Guidance

Each Eligible Applicant in the region must describe how they will coordinate efforts to identify **and** promote use of available land for the production of interim or permanent housing.

Eligible Applicants must be identified using the standard name as it appears in the dropdowns provided.

Eligible Applicant	Describe how the Eligible Applicant will coordinate efforts to identify and promote use of available land for the production of interim or permanent housing in the region
Santa Cruz County	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Affordable housing including reducing zoning and planning barriers to the siting of interim and permanent housing, streamlining, and shortening development planning processes, participating in the County Sustainability Update process, and pursuing California Pro-housing Designation. 2. Coordinating with staff from the County Planning Department and Cities around identifying, assessing, and securing potential sites countywide for new low-barrier navigation centers and for new permanent supportive housing (PSH) developments in cities and in unincorporated areas of the County. 3. Collaborate with Santa Cruz on a Coral Street Campus development plan, including new low-barrier navigation center, new PSH, new integrated health clinic and recuperative care center, and existing Housing Matters interim housing and PSH programs.
Watsonville/Santa Cruz City & County CoC	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use the H4HP newsletter and mailing list to publicize and encourage participation in efforts to meet RHNA housing supply targets and County Sustainability Update goals. 2. Help coordinate educational events as part of affordable housing month in partnership with Housing Santa Cruz County and other partners. 3. Develop a countywide approach to the siting of interim housing and PSH and prioritize funding for projects that meet needs in North, Central, and South County. 4. Help engender approval of specific land uses and projects (e.g., Park Haven Plaza and Vets Village) by providing data demonstrating the need, and objective information on appropriate project design and operational issues.
Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	

Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	

3.a.3. Development of Shelter, Interim and Permanent Housing Options

Guidance	
<p>Each Eligible Applicant in the region must describe how they are engaging housing developers working in the region, including developers of permanent supportive housing, to coordinate the financing of interim and permanent housing.</p> <p>Eligible Applicants must be identified using the standard name as it appears in the dropdowns provided.</p>	
Eligible Applicant	Describe your engagement with housing developers, including developers of permanent supportive housing, to coordinate the financing of interim and permanent housing
Santa Cruz County	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pursue development and implementation of new low barrier navigation centers, including, the Watsonville center in partnership with Monterey County, the Soquel navigation center in partnership with County Behavioral Health, and the Santa Cruz navigation center in partnership with Housing Matters and the City of Santa Cruz; and updating and improving existing shelters to provide space for partners, pets, privacy, and possessions. 2. Support development and implementation of new affordable and supportive housing opportunities throughout the county, funded through Project Homekey and other public sources, for varied target unhoused populations, including: (1) Veterans Village – 20 units for veterans, (2) Casa Azul – 7 units for chronically homeless adults, (3) Park Haven Plaza – 35 units for veterans, youth and families, (4) Bienestar Plaza – 15 supportive units for persons with health-related disabilities; (5) Tabasa Gardens – 6 supportive housing units; (6) Cedar Street Apartments – 17 supportive housing units; (7) 41 Stability vouchers from the Housing Authority. 3. Continue funding, staffing, and implementing successful coordinated approaches to re-housing people, such as the centralized Housing Assistance Fund and existing Rehousing Wave, which links unhoused persons to housing navigation teams, flexible housing funds, housing vouchers, landlord incentives, and household donations. 4. Align and coordinate H4H-managed funding sources such as the CalWorks Housing Support Program (HSP), Bringing Families Home (BFH), Transitional Housing Program (THP), Housing Disability Advocacy Program (HDAP), and Home Safe with CoC-managed sources such as CoC and ESG funding and Medi-Cal resources.

Watsonville/Santa Cruz City & County CoC	<p>1. Identify gaps in and prioritize funding for new and existing PSH, RRH, joint TH-RRH, and interim housing projects as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. CoC – PSH and RRH b. YHDP – RRH, joint TH-RRH, and Host Homes c. ESG – RRH and Interim Housing operations & services d. HHAP – PSH, TH-RRH, and Interim Housing e. Encampment Resolution – Street outreach, Interim Housing (navigation center) <p>2. Continue collaborating with the Housing Authority of the County of Santa Cruz to increase the number and utilization of vouchers for key unhoused populations, through joint applications, negotiating MOUs for CES referrals and supportive services, landlord incentive strategies, and moving on strategies. Relevant homeless-targeted limited preference voucher programs include: Disabled and Medically Vulnerable (DMV) and Homeless Families with Minor Children (HFMC). Relevant homeless-targeted Special Purpose Voucher programs include Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH), Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV), Stability Vouchers (SV), Family Unification Program (FUP) vouchers, and Shelter Plus Care (S+C).</p> <p>3. Explore innovative housing strategies, such as shallow subsidies and extended time limits in RRH; use of under-used public land and building, vacant homes, and sweat equity; and tiny homes, ADUs, and mobile home parks.</p>
Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	

3.a.4. Coordination of and Connection to Service Delivery

Guidance	
<p>Each Eligible Applicant in the region must describe how they are coordinating, connecting, and delivering services - including Mental Health Services Act or Behavioral Health Services Act within the region - to individuals experiencing homelessness, or at risk of experiencing homelessness.</p> <p>Eligible Applicants must be identified using the standard name as it appears in the dropdowns provided.</p>	
Eligible Applicant	Describe how the Eligible Applicant is coordinating, connecting, and delivering services - including Mental Health Services Act or Behavioral Health Services Act within the region - to individuals experiencing homelessness, or at risk of experiencing homelessness.

Santa Cruz County	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Expand and improve a range of sheltering options, widely distributed around the county, to engage various target populations, including housing-focused case management and services; a self-directed empowerment and Housing First philosophy; spaces for partner agencies to provide services; ; more low-barrier safe parking options for vehicles of multiple sizes; and for family shelter, allowing families to stay together, providing childcare, and youth welcoming environments. 2. Enhance service connections by providing more “warm handoffs” and more active support to make connections and follow up; initiating program connection before release from institutions such as jail, foster care, or hospitals, and where needed giving access to expanded recuperative care and short-term post-hospitalization respite; furnishing clients with computer tablets and internet access for mobile work, incentives for success, and basic need resources; delivering services that are language and culturally accessible, flexible, available during nontraditional hours; characterized by authenticity, transparency, and trust building; and making use of employment/educational opportunity outreach, more community health workers/peers/lived experience as Connectors, linkages with specific institutions and populations, and more targeted outreach and location partnerships (e.g., emergency departments, schools, and meal programs}. 3. Expand cross-system collaboration for access to services and housing supports, including partnering with the Alliance to link providers to CalAIM resources for enhanced care management and community supports, as well as to enroll agencies’ clients in Medi-Cal; funding SSI advocacy services and a new SSI advocacy database; funding legal services for eviction prevention; supporting aHome Safe Collaborative for Adult Protective Services (APS) clients; working with Health Improvement Partnership (HIP) and Workforce Development Board (WDB) to enhance employment recruitment and retention strategies; providing internship opportunities in Housing for Health and internship and training opportunities for youth; and collaborating with County Health Services Agency, Homeless Persons Health Project, and Santa Cruz Community Health Centers to assist homeless people to access community health, mental health, and substance use services.
Watsonville/Santa Cruz City & County CoC	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improve the effectiveness of CES by adding more participating agencies and more CES connectors including community health workers and peer workers with lived experience, building connector capacity and skills during meetings of the CES Connector Learning Collaborative, ensuring that housing problem solving and diversion strategies are consistently used, adding health risk factors to improve program prioritization especially for program funded by

	<p>managed care and behavioral health systems, collaborating with Medi-Cal managed care plans on behavioral health coordination and data sharing projects, and providing a centralized, updated real-time resource guide in multiple and accessible formats.</p> <p>2. Enhance the capacity of ES, TH, and RRH programs to help secure and stabilize unhoused people in permanent housing by helping secure additional funding for housing navigators and housing-focused case managers and by recruiting volunteer housing navigators;</p> <p>continuing to prioritize CoC and ESG funds for new RRH programs that include rental assistance, financial assistance, and housing stabilization services; and strengthening provider capacity by providing strength-based case management and other training.</p> <p>3. Expand access to income and resources for greater economic independence by requiring CoC-funded programs to actively link clients to mainstream benefits, such as Medi-Cal, General Assistance, CalFresh, CalWorks, and In-Home Support Services, and annually evaluate mainstream benefits success; reducing barriers to benefits access for example by out-stationing benefits workers in community settings; reducing barriers to employment and education for example by providing childcare and partnering with local educational institutions; supporting evidence-based, targeted supported employment programs; and exploring innovative strategies such as banking and financial literacy education, a guaranteed income pilot, and supplemental payments to help achieve a living wage.</p>
Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	

3.a.5. Policies for Addressing Encampments

Guidance

Each Eligible Applicant in the region must identify all encampments within the region, with specific plans to address these encampments. If the scale of encampments in your region makes filling out the table provided difficult, Eligible Applicants may alternatively upload a map showing where encampments are concentrated, and report the information required for each encampment zone or if it is less burdensome, upload a spreadsheet containing the required information for each encampment zone.

For each encampment/encampment zone, the region is required provide:

1. An address or general location.

2. Estimated population
3. A specific plan to address the encampment/encampment zone (e.g., description of how many individuals are projected to be served by what type of housing solutions, how will regional partners collaborate).
4. Key milestone dates to carry out the described plans (e.g., goal date for outreach, goal date for all encampment residents to transition into housing solutions).
5. The encampment/encampment zone's ERF grant status (active ERF project(s), applied for site(s), plans to apply for site(s)).
6. If applicable, the ERF contract number(s).
7. Lead entity for addressing the encampment/encampment zone.

Regions may also choose to upload one or more maps of encampments/encampment zones within the region.

To add additional encampments, click into the last row of the table, then press “tab” on your keyboard.

Each Eligible Applicant must also confirm whether they have a current and formal policy to address encampments that complies with the California Interagency Council on Homelessness (Cal ICH) Guidance on Addressing Encampments.

- If the policy **fully complies** with the Cal ICH Guidance on Addressing Encampments, the Eligible Applicant must link to or upload the policy.
- If the policy **partially complies** with the Cal ICH Guidance on Addressing Encampments, the Eligible Applicant must describe what elements of the policy comply, and how. They also must link to or upload the policy.
- If any Eligible Applicant **does not have** a current and formal policy to address encampments, they must describe their existing efforts to address encampments, actively commit to following the Cal ICH Guidance on Addressing Encampments and identify a specific timeline by which they will adopt such a policy.

Eligible Applicants must be identified using the standard name as it appears in the dropdowns provided.

Encampment	Address or General Location	Estimated Population	What are the region's specific plans to address this encampment?	What are the Key Milestone Dates to carry out the described plan?	ERF Status (site funded by ERF; Yes/No)	If Yes, ERF Contract #	If No, are there current plans to submit an ERF application to address this site? (Yes/No)	Lead Entity for addressing this encampment

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Optional: Encampments Excel

Guidance

If it is too burdensome to provide the required information in the table, Eligible Applicants may upload a spreadsheet containing the required information for each encampment zone in the region.

For each encampment/encampment zone, the region is required provide:

1. An address or general location.
2. Estimated population
3. A specific plan to address the encampment/encampment zone (e.g., description of how many individuals are projected to be served by what type of housing solutions, how will regional partners collaborate).
4. Key milestone dates to carry out the described plans (e.g., goal date for outreach, goal date for all encampment residents to transition into housing solutions).
5. The encampment/encampment zone's ERF grant status (active ERF project(s), applied for site(s), plans to apply for site(s)).
6. If applicable, the ERF contract number(s).
7. Lead entity for addressing the encampment/encampment zone.

Optional: Map of Encampments

Guidance

Upload one or more maps of encampments/encampment zones within the region.

Eligible Applicants with a current and formal policy to address encampments that fully or partially complies with the Cal ICH Guidance on Addressing Encampments must complete the following:

Eligible Applicant	Applicant confirms the plan complies with the Cal ICH Guidance on Addressing Encampments?	If you selected "Yes, in part," describe what elements of the policy do comply with the Cal ICH Guidance on Addressing Encampments, and specifically how they comply.	Provide a link to the policy or upload a copy
Choose an item.	Choose an item.		
Choose an item.	Choose an item.		
Choose an item.	Choose an item.		
Choose an item.	Choose an item.		
Choose an item.	Choose an item.		
Choose an item.	Choose an item.		
Choose an item.	Choose an item.		

Choose an item.	Choose an item.		
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Eligible Applicants without a current and formal policy to address encampments that fully or partially complies with the Cal ICH Guidance on Addressing Encampments must complete the following:

Eligible Applicant	Describe existing efforts to address encampments	Does the Eligible Applicant actively commit to adopting a policy that complies with the Cal ICH Guidance on Addressing Encampment?	Provide a specific timeline, including dates, for future adoption of formal policies that comply with the Cal ICH Guidance on Addressing Encampments.
Santa Cruz County	Working with CoC to develop an encampment policy; have a draft document	Yes	12/31/25: Latest date it will be adopted by the Board of Supervisors
Watsonville/Santa Cruz City & County CoC	Working with County to develop an encampment policy; have a draft document	Yes	9/30/25: Latest date it will be supported by the CoC Policy Board
Choose an item.		Choose an item.	
Choose an item.		Choose an item.	
Choose an item.		Choose an item.	
Choose an item.		Choose an item.	
Choose an item.		Choose an item.	
Choose an item.		Choose an item.	

3.a.6. Housing Element Compliance

Guidance

Each Large City and county Eligible Applicants in the region must indicate they have an adopted housing element that HCD has found substantially compliant with Housing Element Law, or if not compliant, provide a timeline for relevant milestones to achieve compliance.

Milestones include but are not limited to the dates by which Eligible Applicants will: submit revised drafts that address all outstanding findings for HCD's review, submit required rezones for HCD's

review, adopt the housing element, and anticipate final review and approval by HCD.

Example timeline and milestones:

8/15/2025: Jurisdiction provides revised draft addressing issues from last findings letter for HCD review and public posting.

10/15/2025: HCD completes review of draft and determines there are no remaining issues, and the draft will be compliant once rezones are adopted, and housing element is adopted.

12/15/2025: Jurisdiction adopts housing element and required rezones and submits documentation to HCD.

2/15/2026: HCD completes review of adopted element and rezones to confirm they meet what was proposed in draft. If adopted element and rezones meet requirements, jurisdiction is found compliant.

Eligible Applicants within the region must have an adopted housing element that HCD has found substantially compliant to receive their remainder HHAP 6 disbursement.

Eligible Applicants must be identified using the standard name as it appears in the dropdowns provided.

Large City or county Eligible Applicant	Is this Eligible Applicant's Housing Element Compliant?	If not compliant, provide a timeline for all relevant milestones to achieve compliance (refer to Guidance and Example timeline and milestones for required level of detail).
Santa Cruz County	Yes	
Choose an item.	Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	Choose an item.	

3.a.7. Housing Element Implementation

Guidance

Each Large City and county Eligible Applicants in the region must indicate if they are up to date

on housing element program commitments, or if not, they must provide a timeline and plan to implement past due programs.

Large City and county Eligible Applicants must be identified using the standard name as it appears in the dropdowns provided.

Large City or county Eligible Applicant	Has this Eligible Applicant implemented all programs in their adopted Housing Element on the timelines identified therein?	If not, provide a specific timeline and plan with dates to implement the past due programs.
Santa Cruz County	Yes	
Choose an item.	Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	Choose an item.	

3.a.8. Prohousing Designation

Guidance		
Each Large City and county Eligible Applicants in the region must identify their Prohousing Designation status.		
Eligible Applicants must be identified using the standard name as it appears in the dropdowns provided.		
Large City or county Eligible Applicant	Current Prohousing Designation Status	For Eligible Applicants that have not yet applied, list the Prohousing Policies (as described in the Prohousing application) that they have adopted or plan to adopt in the future.
Santa Cruz County	Plans to apply for Prohousing Designation.	Housing Element compliance, rezoning efforts to comply with prohousing standards, encampment response compliance, accelerating innovating housing production, e.g., tiny homes on wheels, and others.
Choose an item.	Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	Choose an item.	

Choose an item.	Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	Choose an item.	

3.a.9. Housing Law Violations

Guidance		
<p>Each Large City and county Eligible Applicant in the region must identify whether they have any potential or actual violations under investigation by HCD's Housing Accountability Unit or the Attorney General's Housing Justice Team. If any Eligible Applicant has a potential or actual violation under investigation, they must provide a timeline and plan to resolve the issue.</p> <p>Eligible Applicants must be identified using the standard name as it appears in the dropdowns provided.</p>		
Eligible Applicant	Does this Eligible Applicant have any potential or actual housing law violations with HCD's Housing Accountability Unit or the Attorney General's Housing Justice Team?	If yes, provide a specific timeline and plan with dates to resolve the issue.
Santa Cruz County	No	
Choose an item.	Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	Choose an item.	

3.a.9. Housing Law Violations

Guidance		
<p>Each Large City and county Eligible Applicants in the region must identify whether they have made a central inventory of all surplus land and all lands in excess of their foreseeable needs as required by Government Code section 54230.</p> <p>Eligible Applicants must be identified using the standard name as it appears in the dropdowns provided.</p>		
Eligible Applicant	Has this Eligible Applicant made a central inventory of all surplus land and all lands in excess of	If not, the Eligible Applicant must provide a specific timeline and plan with dates to create such an inventory.

their foreseeable needs as required by Government Code section 54230?		
	Choose an item.	
	Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	Choose an item.	

3.a.11. Annual Progress Report

Guidance	
<p>Each Large City and county Eligible Applicants in the region must indicate they have submitted a timely and complete annual progress report for, at a minimum, the previous two years. Eligible Applicants can check their annual progress report status here: Annual Progress Reports - Data Dashboard and Downloads California Department of Housing and Community Development</p> <p>Eligible Applicants must be identified using the standard name as it appears in the dropdowns provided.</p>	
Eligible Applicant	Has this Eligible Applicant submitted a timely and complete annual progress report for at a minimum, the past two years?
Santa Cruz County	Yes
Choose an item.	Choose an item.
Choose an item.	Choose an item.
Choose an item.	Choose an item.
Choose an item.	Choose an item.
Choose an item.	Choose an item.
Choose an item.	Choose an item.
Choose an item.	Choose an item.

3.b. System Performance Measures Improvement Plan

Available Funding Sources in the Region

If applicable, list any funding sources mentioned in [Section IV.A.3.b.ii. of the HHAP 6 NOFA](#) that are not available in the region within the grant term (FY24/25-FY28/29).

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Key Actions to Improve the Region's CA SPMs

Steps to complete this section

The System Performance Measures Improvement plan documents all the Key Actions the regional partners are taking to improve their homelessness CA System Performance Measures (SPMs) listed in [Section IV.A.3.b.i. of the HHAP 6 NOFA](#). The plan may also include the Key Actions of small jurisdictions and/or tribal governments in the region that elect to engage and collaborate in the Regionally Coordinated Homelessness Action Plan.

All items currently being funded through HHAP Rounds 1 through 5, as well as all activities proposed to be funded through HHAP 6, must be included as Key Actions in the System Performance Measures Improvement Plan. Each regional partner must also include the Key Actions they are taking beyond HHAP 6 funding to address homelessness. These Key Actions must include how each regional partner is improving the region's CA SPMs through use of local, state, and federal funds.

The System Performance Measures Improvement Plan must include:

- At least one Key Action related to reducing CA SPM: “The number of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness”
- At least one Key Action related to increasing CA SPM “the number of people exiting homelessness into Permanent Housing,” and
- At least one Key Action with a specific focus on reducing first time instances of homelessness for those exiting institutional settings, including, but not limited to jails, prisons, and hospitals.

Each Key Action must be described in clear, specific terms and must do the following:

1. Identify the CA SPM(s) that the Key Action will improve (you may choose more than one SPM).
2. Describe how the Key Action will improve the CA SPM(s).
3. Identify the lead entity and collaborating entities partnering to achieve the Key Action. Collaborating entity/ies may include a group, organization, or jurisdiction within your region working to address or improve the system performance measure. This can be another participating Eligible Applicant, a system partner, or any organization actively participating in the Key Action.
4. Provide the target date for milestones and completion of the Key Action.
5. Provide a clear metric for how success of the Key Action will be measured.
6. Identify the funding source(s) for the Key Action.
 - a. **Note: At a minimum, all funding sources listed in [Section IV.A.3.b.ii. of the HHAP 6 NOFA](#), excluding any that are unavailable to the region within the grant term (FY24/25-FY28/29), must be identified as funding sources for at least one Key Action within the System Performance Measures Improvement Plan.**
7. Describe how the funding source(s) will contribute to the achievement of the Key Action.
 - b. **Note: For HHAP 6-funded Key Actions, include the eligible use category or categories as applicable.**
8. Describe how the Key Action will address system performance disparities and ensure racial and gender equity in at least one of the following areas: Service Delivery, Housing Placements, Housing Retention, Changes to procurement, or other means of affirming racial and ethnic groups that are overrepresented among residents experiencing homelessness have equitable access to housing and services.

Key Actions

Guidance

The tables below are formatted as “repeating content”. To add a Key Action, click anywhere in any table to reveal the content border, then click the (+) that appears on the right-hand margin of the border. This will not work if the template is open in a web browser; the template **must be** open in the Microsoft Word application. To ensure Key Actions may be easily referenced in later parts of the regional application template, applicants can refer to the # provided. E.g., Key Action **1**, Key Action **2**, etc.

To add additional rows to any given table, click into the last row of the table, then press “tab” on your keyboard.

Key Action 1.

Key Action

Expand centralized housing assistance fund for persons at risk of or experiencing homelessness

Identify the CA SPM(s) that will be improved by this Key Action and how.

CA SPM	Specific description of how the Key Action will improve this CA SPM
1a, 1b, 2, 5	Will directly help increase the numbers of households and persons served in local cities and county areas; reduce the numbers unsheltered, reduce the numbers becoming homeless for the first time; increase the numbers becoming permanently housed; and reduce the percentages returning to homelessness after becoming permanently housed.

Lead entity for the Key Action

Santa Cruz County

Collaborating entity/ies

CoC, Focus Strategies, Community Action Board, Cities, other Nonprofits

Milestones for the Key Action

Target dates for milestones

Conduct Affordable Housing Month fundraising campaign

Annually May

Provide centralized housing assistance funds to qualified households

Ongoing

Target date for completing the Key Action

6/30/2029

Clear metric for how success of the Key Action will be measured

households receiving housing assistance

Funding Sources for Key Action

Guidance

Applicants may identify other funding sources available within the region during the grant term (FY24/25- FY28/29) that support homelessness programming, housing, and system performance.

For all HHAP 6-funded Key Actions, you must include the eligible use category or categories as applicable.

Funding source	Description of how the funding will contribute to the achievement of the Key Action	For HHAP 6-funded Key Actions only: Eligible use category to fund this Key Action.
HHAP, HomeSafe, County General Funds, SSVF	Will support variety of needs that are essential for obtaining or retaining permanent housing, including costs for move-in, pre-eviction, rental assistance, housing maintenance, relocation, and other essential needs	<i>Prevention and Diversion</i>

Identify which of the following equity improvement areas will be addressed by the Key Action.

Guidance

At a minimum, each Key Action must address at least one equity improvement area.

Equity Area	Description of how the Key Action will address system performance disparities and ensure racial and gender equity in this area (choose one at a minimum, or more)
Service Delivery	The centralized fund is available to multiple organizations serving people at-risk of or currently experiencing homelessness enabling increased access points for diverse populations throughout the County.
Housing Placements	Housing Assistance Fund data is tracked in HMIS allowing for monitoring and programmatic adjustments to address disparities that arise in program implementation.
Housing Retention	County will be launching a new homelessness prevention effort in a specific region of the County with higher known rates of housing instability and risk of homelessness.
Changes to procurement	County established a Housing for Health vendor pool to prequalify entities for potential funding opportunities related to preventing and ending homelessness. The vendor pool remains open and new vendors can get added on a quarterly basis. Vendor selection processes are streamlined for pre-qualified vendors allowing for more targeting and expedited vendor selection and contracting.
Other means of affirming racial and ethnic groups that are overrepresented among residents experiencing homelessness have equitable access to housing and	The County and CoC maintain data dashboards to monitor for potential disparities by age, race, and other demographic factors. Data is used to develop plans of action. For example, it was discovered that a particular question in our Coordinated Entry System assessment resulting in racially disparate responses. The CoC recently removed the question from being used for s

services.

Key Action 2.

Key Action

Identify the CA SPM(s) that will be improved by this Key Action and how.

CA SPM	Specific description of how the Key Action will improve this CA SPM
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Lead entity for the Key Action

Choose an item.

Collaborating entity/ies

Milestones for the Key Action

Target dates for milestones

Conduct Affordable Housing Month fundraising campaign

Annually May

Provide centralized housing assistance funds to qualified households

Ongoing

Target date for completing the Key Action

Click or tap to enter a date.

Clear metric for how success of the Key Action will be measured

Funding Sources for Key Action

Guidance

Funding source	Description of how the funding will contribute to the achievement of the Key Action	For HHAP 6-funded Key Actions only: Eligible use category to fund this Key Action.
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Choose an item.

Identify which of the following equity improvement areas will be addressed by the Key Action.

Guidance

At a minimum, each Key Action must address at least one equity improvement area.

Equity Area

Description of how the Key Action will address system performance disparities and ensure racial and gender equity in

this area (choose one at a minimum, or more)	

Key Action 3.

Key Action
Improve housing problem solving through training of CoC program staff

Identify the CA SPM(s) that will be improved by this Key Action and how.

CA SPM	Specific description of how the Key Action will improve this CA SPM
1a, 1b, 2, 3, 5	More CES connectors and CoC service staff will be trained on better techniques for diversion and housing problem solving thereby increasing the numbers of households served; the numbers exiting to permanent housing; the numbers retaining permanent housing for at least 6 months

Lead entity for the Key Action
Watsonville/Santa Cruz City & County CoC
Collaborating entity/ies
County H4H Division, Focus Strategies, County HSA, nonprofits

Milestones for the Key Action	Target dates for milestones
Connector Collaborative meetings	Monthly

Target date for completing the Key Action
6/30/2029
Clear metric for how success of the Key Action will be measured
of CES Connectors and CoC service staff trained and participating in the CES Learning collaborative

Funding Sources for Key Action

Guidance
Applicants may identify other funding sources available within the region during the grant term (FY24/25- FY28/29) that support homelessness programming, housing, and system performance.
For all HHAP 6-funded Key Actions, you must include the eligible use category or categories as

applicable.

Funding source	Description of how the funding will contribute to the achievement of the Key Action	For HHAP 6-funded Key Actions only: Eligible use category to fund this Key Action.
CoC, HHAP, Medi-Cal, County General Fund	Will cover consultant, staff, and materials costs for CES Learning Collaborative trainings on division and housing problem solving	<i>Services and Services Coordination for People Experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness</i>

Identify which of the following equity improvement areas will be addressed by the Key Action.

Guidance

At a minimum, each Key Action must address at least one equity improvement area.

Equity Area	Description of how the Key Action will address system performance disparities and ensure racial and gender equity in this area (choose one at a minimum, or more)
Service Delivery	Training will incorporate modules on cultural humility, trauma-informed care, and implicit bias, equipping staff to recognize and reduce inequitable treatment in initial problem-solving conversations. By standardizing equity-focused intake protocols, frontline workers will better identify and mitigate barriers faced by Black, Indigenous, and other over-represented groups.
Housing Placements	
Housing Retention	The curriculum will include equity-centered retention strategies, teaching staff to tailor supports (e.g., tenant mediation, flexible financial supports) for populations with higher risk of lease issues. This reduces disparate exit rates by providing targeted interventions for survivors of domestic violence, families of color, and other vulnerable groups.
Changes to procurement	
Other means of affirming racial and ethnic groups that are overrepresented among residents experiencing homelessness have equitable access to housing and services.	Training content and delivery will be co-designed with the LEAB, YLEAB youth advisors, Black and AAPI community representatives. These partnerships ensure the curriculum reflects lived-experience priorities and that problem-solving tools address unique barriers encountered by under-represented populations.

Key Action 4.

Key Action

Launch and implement South County-targeted homelessness prevention program

Identify the CA SPM(s) that will be improved by this Key Action and how.

CA SPM	Specific description of how the Key Action will improve this CA SPM
2, 5	A combination of outreach, referral, housing stabilization services, flexible financial assistance, and legal services will prevent South County high priority at risk households from losing their housing and therefore becoming homeless for the first time or returning to homelessness within 6 months after being permanently housed

Lead entity for the Key Action
<i>Watsonville/Santa Cruz City & County CoC</i>
Collaborating entity/ies
CoC, nonprofit program contractor (to be selected), Pajaro Valley Unified School District, Santa Cruz County Superior Court, United Way 2-1-1/CES, County Health Services, legal service providers

Milestones for the Key Action	Target dates for milestones
Contractor Selected	6/25
Program start date	7/1/25
Year 1 complete	6/30/26
Year 2 complete	6/30/27
Year 3 complete/contract ends	6/30/28

Target date for completing the Key Action
6/30/2028
Clear metric for how success of the Key Action will be measured
South County households receiving services and flexible financial assistance

Funding Sources for Key Action

Guidance
Applicants may identify other funding sources available within the region during the grant term (FY24/25- FY28/29) that support homelessness programming, housing, and system performance.
For all HHAP 6-funded Key Actions, you must include the eligible use category or categories as applicable.

Funding source	Description of how the funding will contribute to the achievement of the Key Action	For HHAP 6-funded Key Actions only: Eligible use category to fund this Key Action.
County General Funds (CORE	Will fund the selected nonprofit contractor to carry out the program over three years.	<i>Prevention and Diversion</i>

Program)	By using effective prevention practice to serve 90 households over the course of the years, the contractor will help ensure those households do not become homeless for the first time of return to homelessness within 6 months after becoming housed	
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Identify which of the following equity improvement areas will be addressed by the Key Action.

Guidance

At a minimum, each Key Action must address at least one equity improvement area.

Equity Area	Description of how the Key Action will address system performance disparities and ensure racial and gender equity in this area (choose one at a minimum, or more)
Service Delivery	The South County prevention program will deploy mobile outreach teams staffed by bilingual and culturally matched peers, reducing access barriers for farmworker and immigrant households. Teams will hold clinics at community centers to deliver housing navigation and support in trusted spaces.
Housing Placements	Prevention funds will include targeted vouchers and deposit assistance for residents in ZIP codes with the highest eviction and homelessness rates, disaggregated by race and income ensuring South county residents at risk of homelessness receive proportional resources to stabilize housing before crisis.
Housing Retention	The program will offer culturally tailored tenancy stabilization services, mediated by community-based organizations (CBOs) like the Community Action Board, to address landlord-tenant conflicts early, reducing eviction filings that disproportionately affect Black and Latinx households.
Changes to procurement	A portion of prevention contracts will be reserved for South County CBOs led by and serving Latino, Indigenous, and low-income communities, with simplified application requirements and rapid-start funding to ensure small providers can onboard quickly and deliver culturally responsive services.
Other means of affirming racial and ethnic groups that are overrepresented among residents experiencing homelessness have equitable access to housing and services.	The Region will formalize agreements with selected CBO's to co-design prevention outreach, intake materials, and service protocols, ensuring the program reflects the unique needs of farmworker, Black, and youth populations in South County.

Key Action 5.

Key Action

Implement HOPWA-funded funding rehousing and housing retention program for people living with

HIV or AIDS

Identify the CA SPM(s) that will be improved by this Key Action and how.

CA SPM	Specific description of how the Key Action will improve this CA SPM
2, 3, 5	New rehousing and housing retention program will prevent at risk households with HIV or AIDS from losing their housing and therefore becoming homeless for the first time or returning to homelessness within 6 months after being permanently housed

Lead entity for the Key Action

Santa Cruz County

Collaborating entity/ies

CoC, Housing Matters, Front St., Inc.

Milestones for the Key Action

Target dates for milestones

Program start date

7/1/25

Year 1 complete

6/30/26

Year 2 complete

6/30/27

Year 3 complete/contract ends

6/30/28

Target date for completing the Key Action

6/30/2028

Clear metric for how success of the Key Action will be measured

of households living with HIV or AIDS receiving services and flexible housing assistance

Funding Sources for Key Action

Guidance

Applicants may identify other funding sources available within the region during the grant term (FY24/25- FY28/29) that support homelessness programming, housing, and system performance.

For all HHAP 6-funded Key Actions, you must include the eligible use category or categories as applicable.

Funding source	Description of how the funding will contribute to the achievement of the Key Action	For HHAP 6-funded Key Actions only: Eligible use category to fund this Key Action.
HOPWA	Will fund Housing Matters and Front St., Inc. to carry out the program over three	<i>Choose an item.</i>

	years. By using effective prevention and rehousing practices over the course of the years, the contractor s will help ensure those households do not become homeless for the first time, become permanently housed, and do not return to homelessness within 6 months after becoming housed	
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Identify which of the following equity improvement areas will be addressed by the Key Action.

Guidance

At a minimum, each Key Action must address at least one equity improvement area.

Equity Area	Description of how the Key Action will address system performance disparities and ensure racial and gender equity in this area (choose one at a minimum, or more)
Service Delivery	HOPWA-funded case management will deploy peer navigators trained in cultural humility, to provide wraparound support (medical linkage, benefits enrollment, mental health referrals) in multiple languages, reducing stigma and improving trust among LGBTQ+, Black, and Latinx clients
Housing Placements	The program will target resources to clients from ZIP codes with the highest rates of HIV hospitalizations and housing instability, disaggregated by race/ethnicity, ensuring Black and Latinx PLWHA access resources proportionate to their documented need.
Housing Retention	Retention supports (rental arrears, mediation, utility assistance) will be targeted to households most at risk of losing housing, to address disparities in lease compliance and reduce eviction rates within these groups.
Changes to procurement	
Other means of affirming racial and ethnic groups that are overrepresented among residents experiencing homelessness have equitable access to housing and services.	

Key Action 6.

Key Action

Increase efforts in results-informed eviction and homelessness prevention investments, including legal assistance for eviction defense and Home Safe program for APS clients

Identify the CA SPM(s) that will be improved by this Key Action and how.

CA SPM	Specific description of how the Key Action will improve this CA SPM
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2, 5	A combination of legal assistance, tenant education, and tenancy sustaining services will prevent at risk households from losing their housing and therefore becoming homeless for the first time or returning to homelessness within 6 months after securing permanent housing.
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Lead entity for the Key Action
<i>Santa Cruz County</i>
Collaborating entity/ies
Santa County Housing for Health Division, Tenant Sanctuary, Senior Legal Services, Housing Authority, Cities, Nonprofits

Milestones for the Key Action	Target dates for milestones
Assess impact of Tenant Sanctuary eviction defense pilot	12/31/25
Identify and apply for funding to continue the Home Safe program	12/31/25
Identify and apply for initial funding for a more robust and ongoing prevention/housing retention initiative that uses results-informed practices	6/30/26
Continue working with Housing Authority to support tenant rights and responsibilities education programs and landlord-tenant mediation	Annually
Apply for ongoing funding to support prevention/housing retention initiative	Annually

Target date for completing the Key Action
6/30/2029
Clear metric for how success of the Key Action will be measured
households that receive eviction prevention legal services; # households that receive other tenancy sustaining services

Funding Sources for Key Action

Guidance
Applicants may identify other funding sources available within the region during the grant term (FY24/25- FY28/29) that support homelessness programming, housing, and system performance.
For all HHAP 6-funded Key Actions, you must include the eligible use category or categories as applicable.

Funding source	Description of how the funding will contribute to the achievement of the Key Action	For HHAP 6-funded Key Actions only: Eligible use category to fund this Key Action.
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County, CityGeneral Funds	Will pay for legal services and tenancy sustaining services	Choose an item.
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Identify which of the following equity improvement areas will be addressed by the Key Action.

Guidance
At a minimum, each Key Action must address at least one equity improvement area.

Equity Area	Description of how the Key Action will address system performance disparities and ensure racial and gender equity in this area (choose one at a minimum, or more)
Service Delivery	Legal clinics will be staffed by multilingual attorneys and paralegals, co-located at community hubs in higher risk neighborhoods. Services will include trauma-informed intake and “know-your-rights” workshops tailored for survivors of domestic violence, tenants of color, and non-English speakers, reducing service barriers and improving trust among underserved populations.
Housing Placements	Early legal screening will be offered to households referred through prevention and diversion programs, with prioritized assistance for Black, Latinx, and Tribal households facing lease terminations. By resolving title, subsidy, and documentation issues before move-in, the program ensures equitable access to new housing placements.
Housing Retention	The expanded legal assistance fund will dedicate a portion of representation slots to eviction defense for tenants at highest risk of displacement, particularly families of color and survivors of Intimate partner violence, to reduce disproportionate eviction outcomes and keep residents stably housed.
Changes to procurement	
Other means of affirming racial and ethnic groups that are overrepresented among residents experiencing homelessness have equitable access to housing and services.	The Region will establish relationships with the Santa Cruz Bar Association’s pro bono program, Watsonville Law Center, and domestic violence coalitions to co-design outreach materials and service protocols, ensuring legal assistance is accessible, culturally appropriate, and responsive to the lived experiences of over-represented groups.

Key Action 7.

Key Action
Support the launch of a basic income pilot programs

Identify the CA SPM(s) that will be improved by this Key Action and how.

CA SPM	Specific description of how the Key Action will improve this CA SPM
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2, 5	Reduced poverty, increased education, and enhanced financial stability will prevent at risk households from losing their housing and therefore becoming homeless for the first time or returning to homelessness within 6 months after being permanently housed
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Lead entity for the Key Action
<i>Santa Cruz County</i>
Collaborating entity/ies
CoC, Abode Services, Miracle Messages, Association of Faith Communities, Nonprofits

Milestones for the Key Action	Target dates for milestones
Obtain updated information from Abode Services regarding their basic income pilot study with Notre Dame University	6/30/25
Support launch and communications related to a basic income pilot program in Santa Cruz County with Miracle Messages and the Association of Faith Communities	6/30/25
Continue supporting basic income pilots	6/30/28

Target date for completing the Key Action
6/30/2028
Clear metric for how success of the Key Action will be measured
of households participating in basic income pilots; average monthly payments received by participating households

Funding Sources for Key Action

Guidance
Applicants may identify other funding sources available within the region during the grant term (FY24/25- FY28/29) that support homelessness programming, housing, and system performance.
For all HHAP 6-funded Key Actions, you must include the eligible use category or categories as applicable.

Funding source	Description of how the funding will contribute to the achievement of the Key Action	For HHAP 6-funded Key Actions only: Eligible use category to fund this Key Action.
County General Funds (CORE Program), Foundations,	Will pay for monthly basic income payments for participating at-risk households and program operational costs	<i>Choose an item.</i>

Private Donations

Identify which of the following equity improvement areas will be addressed by the Key Action.

Guidance

At a minimum, each Key Action must address at least one equity improvement area.

Equity Area	Description of how the Key Action will address system performance disparities and ensure racial and gender equity in this area (choose one at a minimum, or more)
Service Delivery	
Housing Placements	
Housing Retention	By guaranteeing a baseline income, the pilot reduces the risk of rent arrears and eviction for households most at risk (e.g., single mothers of color, survivors of domestic violence), directly addressing retention disparities and preventing crises that disproportionately impact marginalized groups.
Changes to procurement	
Other means of affirming racial and ethnic groups that are overrepresented among residents experiencing homelessness have equitable access to housing and services.	

Key Action 8.**Key Action**

Co-facilitate local housing pipeline meetings with developers and public agencies

Identify the CA SPM(s) that will be improved by this Key Action and how.

CA SPM	Specific description of how the Key Action will improve this CA SPM
3, 5	By identifying problems, sharing information, and advancing solutions to meet housing supply challenges, housing pipeline meetings will encourage a variety of housing developments for different populations in Santa Cruz County, thereby increasing the chances of households exiting homelessness to permanent housing destinations

Lead entity for the Key Action

Watsonville/Santa Cruz City & County CoC

Collaborating entity/ies

Housing Santa Cruz County, County H4H, County Planning, County Health Services, City Community

Development Departments

Milestones for the Key Action	Target dates for milestones
Work with Housing Santa Cruz to bring together affordable housing stakeholders from all County jurisdictions to explore ways to collaborate to secure resources for affordable housing development and preservation Hold regular housing pipeline meetings	6/30/25 Quarterly

Target date for completing the Key Action

6/30/2029

Clear metric for how success of the Key Action will be measured

of affordable housing developments and units created; # of households securing affordable housing

Funding Sources for Key Action

Guidance

Applicants may identify other funding sources available within the region during the grant term (FY24/25- FY28/29) that support homelessness programming, housing, and system performance.

For all HHAP 6-funded Key Actions, you must include the eligible use category or categories as applicable.

Funding source	Description of how the funding will contribute to the achievement of the Key Action	For HHAP 6-funded Key Actions only: Eligible use category to fund this Key Action.
County, City general funds and staff, Local Foundations	Will cover the cost of County and Housing Santa Cruz to convene and co-facilitate quarterly meetings	<i>Choose an item.</i>

Identify which of the following equity improvement areas will be addressed by the Key Action.

Guidance

At a minimum, each Key Action must address at least one equity improvement area.

Equity Area	Description of how the Key Action will address system performance disparities and ensure racial and gender equity in this area (choose one at a minimum, or more)
Equity Area	Description of how the Key Action will address system performance disparities and ensure racial and gender equity in this area (choose one at a minimum, or more)
Service Delivery	

Housing Placements	Pipeline discussions will prioritize project proposals that address housing gaps in particular communities or with specific populations at greater risk of housing instability and homelessness.
Housing Retention	
Changes to procurement	
Other means of affirming racial and ethnic groups that are overrepresented among residents experiencing homelessness have equitable access to housing and services.	

Key Action 9.

Key Action
Increase PSH capacity through new developments, rental assistance, and services and operational support

Identify the CA SPM(s) that will be improved by this Key Action and how.

CA SPM	Specific description of how the Key Action will improve this CA SPM
1a, 1b, 3, 4	By increasing new PSH, this key action will increase the number of unsheltered persons receiving housing assistance, increase the number of households exiting homelessness to permanent housing, and reduce the length of time households remain homeless

Lead entity for the Key Action
<i>Watsonville/Santa Cruz City & County CoC</i>
Collaborating entity/ies
CoC, County Planning, County HSA, Cities, Housing Authority, Central California Alliance, Nonprofits

Milestones for the Key Action	Target dates for milestones
Explore possibility of establishing local flexible housing subsidy pool in partnership with HSA Behavioral Health	6/30/25
Partner with Central California Alliance and Housing Accelerator Fund to explore Santa Cruz County supportive housing investment fund	6/30/25
Complete funding for and development of Park Haven Plaza and Veteran Village PSH projects	6/30/26
Support permanent supportive housing applications for annual HUD CoC funds	6/30/27
	Annually

Target date for completing the Key Action
6/30/2029
Clear metric for how success of the Key Action will be measured
Increased # of PSH units; # of new PSH developments opened; increased voucher utilization rate; increased # of households served in PSH

Funding Sources for Key Action

Guidance
Applicants may identify other funding sources available within the region during the grant term (FY24/25- FY28/29) that support homelessness programming, housing, and system performance.
For all HHAP 6-funded Key Actions, you must include the eligible use category or categories as applicable.

Funding source	Description of how the funding will contribute to the achievement of the Key Action	For HHAP 6-funded Key Actions only: Eligible use category to fund this Key Action.
Homekey, NPLH, CoC, HOPWA, PLHA, HHAP, HUD Vouchers, HUD CoC Builds, HHIP, CalAIM	A variety of funding sources will pay costs relating to permanent supportive housing, acquisition, construction, rehabilitation, rental assistance, operations, and supportive services	<i>Operating Subsidies - Permanent Housing</i>

Identify which of the following equity improvement areas will be addressed by the Key Action.

Guidance
At a minimum, each Key Action must address at least one equity improvement area.

Equity Area	Description of how the Key Action will address system performance disparities and ensure racial and gender equity in this area (choose one at a minimum, or more)
Service Delivery	
Housing Placements	
Housing Retention	
Changes to procurement	Working toward a centralized transitional rent benefit accessible to a broader range of Medi-Cal recipients than would be feasible if only a small number of agencies secured this benefit for their participants. Participating with the Housing Accelerator Fund to provide financial support to supportive housing projects that may not be able to secure financial support through traditional procurement approaches.

Other means of affirming racial and ethnic groups that are overrepresented among residents experiencing homelessness have equitable access to housing and services.	
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Key Action 10.

Key Action
Increase RRH capacity through funding for rental assistance and housing stabilization services

Identify the CA SPM(s) that will be improved by this Key Action and how.

CA SPM	Specific description of how the Key Action will improve this CA SPM
1a, 1b, 3, 5	By increasing rental assistance and housing stabilization assistance capacity, this key action will increase the number of households and unsheltered persons receiving housing assistance, increase the number of households exiting homelessness to permanent housing, and reduce the length of time households remain homeless

Lead entity for the Key Action
Watsonville/Santa Cruz City & County CoC
Collaborating entity/ies
County H4H Division, Housing Authority, Nonprofits

Milestones for the Key Action	Target dates for milestones
Support RRH applications for annual HUD CoC and ESG funds	Annually
Fully utilize CalWORKS HSP, HDAP, and BFH funding for RRH to assist eligible households to secure and move into housing	Annually
Support implementation of Medi-Cal transitional rent benefit and access to this benefit	January 2026

Target date for completing the Key Action
6/30/2029
Clear metric for how success of the Key Action will be measured
of RRH units and beds available; # of households served by RRH programs

Funding Sources for Key Action

Guidance

Applicants may identify other funding sources available within the region during the grant term (FY24/25- FY28/29) that support homelessness programming, housing, and system performance.

For all HHAP 6-funded Key Actions, you must include the eligible use category or categories as applicable.

Funding source	Description of how the funding will contribute to the achievement of the Key Action	For HHAP 6-funded Key Actions only: Eligible use category to fund this Key Action.
CoC, ESG, CalWORKS HSP, HDAP, BFH, Medi-Cal	Will pay for rental assistance and housing stabilization services for eligible populations	<i>Rapid Rehousing/Rental Subsidies</i>

Identify which of the following equity improvement areas will be addressed by the Key Action.

Guidance

At a minimum, each Key Action must address at least one equity improvement area.

Equity Area	Description of how the Key Action will address system performance disparities and ensure racial and gender equity in this area (choose one at a minimum, or more)
Service Delivery	
Housing Placements	
Housing Retention	
Changes to procurement	
Other means of affirming racial and ethnic groups that are overrepresented among residents experiencing homelessness have equitable access to housing and services.	

Key Action 11.

Key Action

Collaborate with Cities and County to increase affordable housing by eliminating planning barriers, seeking a state Pro-housing Designation for the County, promoting RHNA goals, supporting Affordable Housing Month events, and identifying and preserving developments at risk of loss of affordability restrictions

Identify the CA SPM(s) that will be improved by this Key Action and how.

CA SPM	Specific description of how the Key Action will improve this CA
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SPM	
1a, 1b, 3, 4	By increasing and preserving affordable housing, this key action will increase the number of unsheltered persons receiving housing assistance, increase the number of households exiting homelessness to permanent housing, and reduce the length of time households remain homeless

Lead entity for the Key Action
<i>Watsonville/Santa Cruz City & County CoC</i>
Collaborating entity/ies
County H4H Division, County Planning, Housing Santa Cruz, City Community Development, Affordable Housing Developers

Milestones for the Key Action	Target dates for milestones
Conduct analysis of barriers and opportunities for County to become a designated Pro-housing Community	9/30/25
Support Pro-housing community application of the Planning Department	6/30/26
Support collaborative efforts to prevent housing loss from projects such as St. George and Palomar Inn that have expiring affordability restrictions	Ongoing
Co-sponsor annual Affordable Housing Month events	Annually May
Provide web posts, e-blasts, and meeting presentations supporting Housing Element plans and RHNA goals.	Ongoing

Target date for completing the Key Action
6/30/2029
Clear metric for how success of the Key Action will be measured
State pro-housing designation secured; # of CoC web posts, e-blasts, and presentations supporting Housing Element plans and RHNA goals; # of affordable units preserved; # of Affordable Housing events hosted or co-hosted by the County H4H Division

Funding Sources for Key Action

Guidance
Applicants may identify other funding sources available within the region during the grant term (FY24/25- FY28/29) that support homelessness programming, housing, and system performance.
For all HHAP 6-funded Key Actions, you must include the eligible use category or categories as applicable.

Funding source	Description of how the funding will	For HHAP 6-funded Key
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contribute to the achievement of the Key Action		Actions only: Eligible use category to fund this Key Action.
County General Funds, CoC Planning, Foundations	Will pay for staff efforts in analyzing and supporting Pro-housing designation, collaborating to prevent affordable housing loss, co-hosting annual Affordable Housing Month events, and communications supporting Housing Element plans and RHNA goals	<i>Choose an item.</i>

Identify which of the following equity improvement areas will be addressed by the Key Action.

Guidance
At a minimum, each Key Action must address at least one equity improvement area.

Equity Area	Description of how the Key Action will address system performance disparities and ensure racial and gender equity in this area (choose one at a minimum, or more)
Service Delivery	
Housing Placements	
Housing Retention	
Changes to procurement	
Other means of affirming racial and ethnic groups that are overrepresented among residents experiencing homelessness have equitable access to housing and services.	

Key Action 12.

Key Action
Enhance housing and service access through Coordinated Entry, including through 2-1-1 access and better resources and trainings for Connectors

Identify the CA SPM(s) that will be improved by this Key Action and how.

CA SPM	Specific description of how the Key Action will improve this CA SPM
1a, 1b, 3, 4, 6	Expanded countywide, bilingual access to CES through 2-1-1 and increased resources and training for CES connectors will increase the number of households and unsheltered persons receiving assessments and assistance, increase the number of households exiting homelessness to permanent housing, reduce the length of time households remain homeless, and increase successful

	contacts and placements from street outreach
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Lead entity for the Key Action
<i>Watsonville/Santa Cruz City & County CoC</i>
Collaborating entity/ies
County H4H Division, Focus Strategies, Nonprofits

Milestones for the Key Action	Target dates for milestones
Provide CES access, assessments, referrals, and placements	Daily
Hold Connector Collaborative meetings	Monthly
Improve CES through more connectors, expanded participation, and better resources	Ongoing
Evaluate CES	Annually

Target date for completing the Key Action
6/30/2029
Clear metric for how success of the Key Action will be measured
served; # exiting to housing; # of trained CES connectors participating in Connector Collaborative meetings; annual evaluation completed

Funding Sources for Key Action

Guidance
Applicants may identify other funding sources available within the region during the grant term (FY24/25- FY28/29) that support homelessness programming, housing, and system performance.
For all HHAP 6-funded Key Actions, you must include the eligible use category or categories as applicable.

Funding source	Description of how the funding will contribute to the achievement of the Key Action	For HHAP 6-funded Key Actions only: Eligible use category to fund this Key Action.
County General Funds, HHAP	Will fund County staffing to administer CES and facilitate the Connector Collaborative, fund Focus Strategies to develop improved resources, pay for United Way contract for 2-1-1 services, and pay for annual evaluation	<i>Choose an item.</i>

Identify which of the following equity improvement areas will be addressed by the Key Action.

Guidance

At a minimum, each Key Action must address at least one equity improvement area.

Equity Area	Description of how the Key Action will address system performance disparities and ensure racial and gender equity in this area (choose one at a minimum, or more)
Service Delivery	CE lines and referral portals will offer multilingual call-centers and text/chat options staffed by culturally matched connectors, reducing linguistic and trust barriers for non-English speakers and digitally excluded households.
Housing Placements	
Housing Retention	
Changes to procurement	
Other means of affirming racial and ethnic groups that are overrepresented among residents experiencing homelessness have equitable access to housing and services.	MOU agreements with 2-1-1 will co-design CE outreach campaigns and assist with ongoing user testing to ensure pathways are accessible and equitable for historically marginalized groups.

Key Action 13.

Key Action

Increase interim housing/emergency shelter capacity including safe parking, safe sleeping, emergency shelter, recuperative care, and transitional housing

Identify the CA SPM(s) that will be improved by this Key Action and how.

CA SPM	Specific description of how the Key Action will improve this CA SPM
1a, 1b, 3, 4	Expanded and improved interim housing will increase the number of households and unsheltered persons receiving assistance, increase the number of households exiting homelessness to permanent housing, and reduce the length of time households remain homeless

Lead entity for the Key Action

Santa Cruz County

Collaborating entity/ies

CoC, Cities, Nonprofits

Milestones for the Key Action

Target dates for

	milestones
Fund and support interim housing providers	Annually
Reduce length of stay and increase permanent housing exits through increased resources for housing focused case management	Ongoing

Target date for completing the Key Action
6/30/2029
Clear metric for how success of the Key Action will be measured
served; # exiting to PH

Funding Sources for Key Action

Guidance
Applicants may identify other funding sources available within the region during the grant term (FY24/25- FY28/29) that support homelessness programming, housing, and system performance.
For all HHAP 6-funded Key Actions, you must include the eligible use category or categories as applicable.

Funding source	Description of how the funding will contribute to the achievement of the Key Action	For HHAP 6-funded Key Actions only: Eligible use category to fund this Key Action.
HHAP, HHAP-6, County and City General funds, ERF	Will pay for nonprofit contracts to staff, operate, and provide supportive services in interim housing and sheltering sites	<i>Operating Expenses - Interim Housing</i>

Identify which of the following equity improvement areas will be addressed by the Key Action.

Guidance
At a minimum, each Key Action must address at least one equity improvement area.

Equity Area	Description of how the Key Action will address system performance disparities and ensure racial and gender equity in this area (choose one at a minimum, or more)
Service Delivery	New interim shelters will include dedicated staff versed in cultural humility and offer services (showers, hygiene kits, mobile clinics) in partnership with community health workers, improving accessibility for non-English speakers and those distrustful of formal systems.
Housing Placements	Safe parking and shelter beds will be reserved based on demographic data showing over-representation (e.g., vehicle dwellers from Latino communities), ensuring equitable access and reducing waitlists for those most in need.

Housing Retention	
Changes to procurement	
Other means of affirming racial and ethnic groups that are overrepresented among residents experiencing homelessness have equitable access to housing and services.	

Key Action 14.

Key Action
Complete and implement emergency shelter operational standards

Identify the CA SPM(s) that will be improved by this Key Action and how.

CA SPM	Specific description of how the Key Action will improve this CA SPM
3, 4	Shelter standards will help clarify expectations for all interim housing contractors and improve the quality of services and therefore increase the number of households exiting homelessness to permanent housing and reduce the length of time households remain homeless

Lead entity for the Key Action
Watsonville/Santa Cruz City & County CoC
Collaborating entity/ies

Target date for completing the Key Action
6/30/2026
Clear metric for how success of the Key Action will be measured
Emergency shelter standards completed and approved; required compliance language included in County and CoC NOFOs, RFPs, and contracts

Funding Sources for Key Action

Guidance
Applicants may identify other funding sources available within the region during the grant term (FY24/25- FY28/29) that support homelessness programming, housing, and system performance.
For all HHAP 6-funded Key Actions, you must include the eligible use category or categories as applicable.

Funding source	Description of how the funding will	For HHAP 6-funded Key
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contribute to the achievement of the Key Action		Actions only: Eligible use category to fund this Key Action.
CoC Planning	Will pay for County staff and Focus Strategies time to complete the standards and include them in funding documents	<i>Choose an item.</i>

Identify which of the following equity improvement areas will be addressed by the Key Action.

Guidance
At a minimum, each Key Action must address at least one equity improvement area.

Equity Area	Description of how the Key Action will address system performance disparities and ensure racial and gender equity in this area (choose one at a minimum, or more)
Service Delivery	
Housing Placements	Operational guidelines will set minimum unit availability for over-represented groups (e.g., family units, ADA-accessible rooms), ensuring equitable placement opportunities within shelter inventories.
Housing Retention	
Changes to procurement	
Other means of affirming racial and ethnic groups that are overrepresented among residents experiencing homelessness have equitable access to housing and services.	

Key Action 15.

Key Action
Complete development of a youth transitional housing program and begin program operations

Identify the CA SPM(s) that will be improved by this Key Action and how.

CA SPM	Specific description of how the Key Action will improve this CA SPM
1a, 1b, 3, 4	Operating a new transitional housing program for youth experiencing homelessness will increase the number of youth and unsheltered youth receiving assistance, increase the number of youth exiting homelessness to permanent housing, and reduce the length of time youth remain homeless

Lead entity for the Key Action

Watsonville/Santa Cruz City & County CoC**Collaborating entity/ies**

County H4H, County Planning, Bill Wilson Center, CFSC, Inc.

Milestones for the Key Action**Target dates for milestones****Start construction****6/30/25****Complete construction/occupancy permit****3/31/26****Reach full occupancy****6/30/26****Continue operations****Ongoing****Target date for completing the Key Action****6/30/2029****Clear metric for how success of the Key Action will be measured**

Project completed and operations begun; # youth served; # youth exiting to permanent housing

Funding Sources for Key Action**Guidance**

Applicants may identify other funding sources available within the region during the grant term (FY24/25- FY28/29) that support homelessness programming, housing, and system performance.

For all HHAP 6-funded Key Actions, you must include the eligible use category or categories as applicable.

Funding source**Description of how the funding will contribute to the achievement of the Key Action****For HHAP 6-funded Key Actions only: Eligible use category to fund this Key Action.****Homekey, YHDP, HHAP, HHAP-6****Homekey will fund completion of building rehabilitation; YHDP will fund services; HHAP will fund program operations*****YSA - Operating Expenses - Interim Housing*****Identify which of the following equity improvement areas will be addressed by the Key Action.****Guidance**

At a minimum, each Key Action must address at least one equity improvement area.

Equity Area**Description of how the Key Action will address system performance disparities and ensure racial and gender equity in this area (choose one at a minimum, or more)**

Service Delivery

Program design will include youth peer mentors and culturally specific wrap-around services (education, employment supports)

	co-located at youth hubs, reducing service gaps for BIPOC and LGBTQ+ youth.
Housing Placements	
Housing Retention	Retention supports will include mentorship and life-skills coaching tailored to youth of color and those with trauma histories, reducing dropout rates and return to homelessness.
Changes to procurement	
Other means of affirming racial and ethnic groups that are overrepresented among residents experiencing homelessness have equitable access to housing and services.	

Key Action 16.

Key Action
Complete development of low-barrier housing navigation centers in Santa Cruz, Soquel, and Watsonville and begin program operations

Identify the CA SPM(s) that will be improved by this Key Action and how.

CA SPM	Specific description of how the Key Action will improve this CA SPM
1a, 1b, 3, 4	Completing and operating new housing navigation centers will increase the number of person and unsheltered persons receiving assistance, increase the number of persons exiting homelessness to permanent housing, and reduce the length of time persons remain homeless

Lead entity for the Key Action
Santa Cruz County
Collaborating entity/ies
CoC, County Planning, Cities, Monterey Coalition, Alliance, Housing Matters, Other Nonprofits

Milestones for the Key Action	Target dates for milestones

Target date for completing the Key Action
6/30/2029
Clear metric for how success of the Key Action will be measured

3 navigation centers completed and operations begun; # served; # exiting to permanent housing

Funding Sources for Key Action

Guidance

Applicants may identify other funding sources available within the region during the grant term (FY24/25- FY28/29) that support homelessness programming, housing, and system performance.

For all HHAP 6-funded Key Actions, you must include the eligible use category or categories as applicable.

Funding source	Description of how the funding will contribute to the achievement of the Key Action	For HHAP 6-funded Key Actions only: Eligible use category to fund this Key Action.
ERF, Behavioral Health Bridge; Whole Person Care, HHAP, HHAP-6, CaAIM, HHIP	Will fund the completion of project development and services and operations for 3 new navigation centers	<i>Operating Expenses - Interim Housing</i>

Identify which of the following equity improvement areas will be addressed by the Key Action.

Guidance

At a minimum, each Key Action must address at least one equity improvement area.

Equity Area	Description of how the Key Action will address system performance disparities and ensure racial and gender equity in this area (choose one at a minimum, or more)
Service Delivery	
Housing Placements	Center referrals will prioritize clients from encampments and hard-to-reach communities (e.g., rural, migrant worker encampments), ensuring placement equity for populations historically underserved by brick-and-mortar shelters.
Housing Retention	Navigation centers will include dedicated retention case managers who follow clients through placement transitions, delivering equity-focused follow-up for populations at highest risk of recidivism
Changes to procurement	
Other means of affirming racial and ethnic groups that are overrepresented among residents experiencing homelessness have equitable access to housing and services.	

Key Action 17.

Key Action
Enhance regional outreach capacity, including a new unincorporated county outreach team and new HMIS module for outreach

Identify the CA SPM(s) that will be improved by this Key Action and how.

CA SPM	Specific description of how the Key Action will improve this CA SPM
1a, 1b, 6	Expanded outreach capacity and updated HMIS module for outreach workers will increase the number of person and unsheltered persons receiving assistance and increase the number of successful placements directly from outreach

Lead entity for the Key Action
<i>Santa Cruz County</i>
Collaborating entity/ies
CoC, County HSA, Alliance, Cities, Nonprofits, Monterey County

Milestones for the Key Action	Target dates for milestones
Implement new HMIS module	9/30/25
Train additional outreach workers as CES connectors	Ongoing
Develop and implement a communications strategy and tools for reaching underserved communities	6/30/27
Operate outreach teams and services for unsheltered persons	Ongoing

Target date for completing the Key Action
6/30/2029
Clear metric for how success of the Key Action will be measured
HMIS module implemented; # of outreach workers trained as CES Connectors; # enrolled in street outreach programs; # exiting from street outreach to housing programs

Funding Sources for Key Action

Guidance
Applicants may identify other funding sources available within the region during the grant term (FY24/25- FY28/29) that support homelessness programming, housing, and system performance.
For all HHAP 6-funded Key Actions, you must include the eligible use category or categories as applicable.

Funding source	Description of how the funding will	For HHAP 6-funded Key
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contribute to the achievement of the Key Action		Actions only: Eligible use category to fund this Key Action.
CDBG, County General Funds, HHAP, HHAP-6, ERF	Will fund ongoing staffing of outreach teams and services and services coordination for unsheltered persons	<i>Services and Services Coordination for People Experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness</i>

Identify which of the following equity improvement areas will be addressed by the Key Action.

Guidance
At a minimum, each Key Action must address at least one equity improvement area.

Equity Area	Description of how the Key Action will address system performance disparities and ensure racial and gender equity in this area (choose one at a minimum, or more)
Service Delivery	The new outreach team will hire community health workers from diverse backgrounds including individuals with prior lived experience of homelessness or housing instability.
Housing Placements	
Housing Retention	
Changes to procurement	
Other means of affirming racial and ethnic groups that are overrepresented among residents experiencing homelessness have equitable access to housing and services.	

Key Action 18.

Key Action
Adopt CoC and County encampment response guidelines

Identify the CA SPM(s) that will be improved by this Key Action and how.

CA SPM	Specific description of how the Key Action will improve this CA SPM
1b, 3, 4, 6	New County and CoC encampment guidelines will include enhanced efforts to provide services, shelter placements, and housing placements as part of the encampment resolution process, thereby increasing the number of unsheltered persons receiving assistance, increasing the number of persons exiting homelessness to permanent housing, reducing the length of time persons remain homeless, and increasing placements directly from street outreach

Lead entity for the Key Action
Watsonville/Santa Cruz City & County CoC
Collaborating entity/ies
County H4H, County Planning, Cities, Law Enforcement, Public Works Departments

Milestones for the Key Action	Target dates for milestones
Finalize and approve CoC and County encampment response guidelines	9/30/25

Target date for completing the Key Action
12/31/2025
Clear metric for how success of the Key Action will be measured
CoC and County encampment response guidelines completed and approved

Funding Sources for Key Action

Guidance
Applicants may identify other funding sources available within the region during the grant term (FY24/25- FY28/29) that support homelessness programming, housing, and system performance.
For all HHAP 6-funded Key Actions, you must include the eligible use category or categories as applicable.

Funding source	Description of how the funding will contribute to the achievement of the Key Action	For HHAP 6-funded Key Actions only: Eligible use category to fund this Key Action.
CoC Planning, County General Funds	Will support staff efforts in developing encampment response guidelines, gaining stakeholder input, and obtaining approval of the CoC document from the CoC Board and the County document from the Board of Supervisors	<i>Choose an item.</i>

Identify which of the following equity improvement areas will be addressed by the Key Action.

Guidance
At a minimum, each Key Action must address at least one equity improvement area.

Equity Area	Description of how the Key Action will address system performance disparities and ensure racial and gender equity in this area (choose one at a minimum, or more)
--------------------	--

Service Delivery	Guidelines will require outreach teams to include peer leaders from encampment populations (e.g., veterans, youth), ensuring culturally congruent engagement and reducing distrust among unsheltered communities.
Housing Placements	
Housing Retention	Post-placement support plans (e.g., tenancy education, flexible funds) will be tailored based on encampment demographics to reduce returns to living outdoors, addressing disparities in retention
Changes to procurement	
Other means of affirming racial and ethnic groups that are overrepresented among residents experiencing homelessness have equitable access to housing and services.	

Key Action 19.

Key Action

Increase coordination with health insurance and health systems around a range of housing and service programs, such as CalAIM and Behavioral Health Bridge Housing

Identify the CA SPM(s) that will be improved by this Key Action and how.

CA SPM	Specific description of how the Key Action will improve this CA SPM
1a, 3, 5	Increased coordination with health insurance and health systems will increase case management, in lieu support services, and housing resources funding for nonprofits thereby increasing the number of person persons receiving assistance, increasing the number of exits to permanent housing, and reducing the rate of person returning to homelessness within 6 months

Lead entity for the Key Action

Santa Cruz County

Collaborating entity/ies

CoC, Alliance, County HSA, Nonprofits

Milestones for the Key Action

Target dates for milestones

Partner with County Behavioral Health to explore development of a local flexible housing subsidy pool

6/30/25

Apply to State Health Care Services for funds to establish local infrastructure for managing Medi-Cal transitional rent benefit	12/31/25
Complete testing of CalAIM billing report out of HMIS with Abode Services	6/30/25
Continue partnering with the alliance to link nonprofits to CalAIM resources for enhanced case management and community support services	Ongoing

Target date for completing the Key Action
6/30/2029
Clear metric for how success of the Key Action will be measured
of nonprofit providers funded by Alliance to provide enhanced case management and community support services; decision reached to move forward with flexible housing subsidy pool; infrastructure application submitted to State Health Care Services; testing completed for HMIS CalAIM billing report

Funding Sources for Key Action

Guidance
Applicants may identify other funding sources available within the region during the grant term (FY24/25- FY28/29) that support homelessness programming, housing, and system performance.
For all HHAP 6-funded Key Actions, you must include the eligible use category or categories as applicable.

Funding source	Description of how the funding will contribute to the achievement of the Key Action	For HHAP 6-funded Key Actions only: Eligible use category to fund this Key Action.
CalAIM, CoC Planning	CoC Planning will pay for staffing to coordinate with other agencies, apply for funds, and test billing report; CalAIM will pay nonprofits for enhanced case management and in lieu support services	<i>Choose an item.</i>

Identify which of the following equity improvement areas will be addressed by the Key Action.

Guidance
At a minimum, each Key Action must address at least one equity improvement area.

Equity Area	Description of how the Key Action will address system performance disparities and ensure racial and gender equity in this area (choose one at a minimum, or more)
Service Delivery	
Housing Placements	

Housing Retention	
Changes to procurement	
Other means of affirming racial and ethnic groups that are overrepresented among residents experiencing homelessness have equitable access to housing and services.	

Key Action 20.

Key Action

Identify the CA SPM(s) that will be improved by this Key Action and how.

CA SPM	Specific description of how the Key Action will improve this CA SPM

Lead entity for the Key Action
<i>Choose an item.</i>
Collaborating entity/ies

Milestones for the Key Action	Target dates for milestones

Target date for completing the Key Action
<i>Click or tap to enter a date.</i>
Clear metric for how success of the Key Action will be measured

Funding Sources for Key Action

Guidance
Applicants may identify other funding sources available within the region during the grant term (FY24/25- FY28/29) that support homelessness programming, housing, and system performance.
For all HHAP 6-funded Key Actions, you must include the eligible use category or categories as applicable.

Identify which of the following equity improvement areas will be addressed by the Key Action.

Funding source	Description of how the funding will contribute to the achievement of the Key Action	For HHAP 6-funded Key Actions only: Eligible use category to fund this Key Action.
		<i>Choose an item.</i>
Guidance		
At a minimum, each Key Action must address at least one equity improvement area.		

Equity Area	Description of how the Key Action will address system performance disparities and ensure racial and gender equity in this area (choose one at a minimum, or more)
Service Delivery	
Housing Placements	
Housing Retention	
Changes to procurement	
Other means of affirming racial and ethnic groups that are overrepresented among residents experiencing homelessness have equitable access to housing and services.	

Key Action 21.

Key Action

Identify the CA SPM(s) that will be improved by this Key Action and how.

CA SPM	Specific description of how the Key Action will improve this CA SPM

Lead entity for the Key Action
<i>Choose an item.</i>
Collaborating entity/ies

Milestones for the Key Action	Target dates for milestones

Target date for completing the Key Action
<i>Click or tap to enter a date.</i>
Clear metric for how success of the Key Action will be measured

Funding Sources for Key Action

Guidance
Applicants may identify other funding sources available within the region during the grant term (FY24/25- FY28/29) that support homelessness programming, housing, and system performance.
For all HHAP 6-funded Key Actions, you must include the eligible use category or categories as applicable.

Funding source	Description of how the funding will contribute to the achievement of the Key Action	For HHAP 6-funded Key Actions only: Eligible use category to fund this Key Action.
		<i>Choose an item.</i>

Identify which of the following equity improvement areas will be addressed by the Key Action.

Guidance
At a minimum, each Key Action must address at least one equity improvement area.

Equity Area	Description of how the Key Action will address system performance disparities and ensure racial and gender equity in this area (choose one at a minimum, or more)
Service Delivery	
Housing Placements	
Housing Retention	
Changes to procurement	
Other means of affirming racial and ethnic groups that are overrepresented among residents experiencing homelessness have equitable access to housing and services.	

Key Action 22.

Key Action

Identify the CA SPM(s) that will be improved by this Key Action and how.

CA SPM	Specific description of how the Key Action will improve this CA SPM

Lead entity for the Key Action
<i>Choose an item.</i>
Collaborating entity/ies

Milestones for the Key Action	Target dates for milestones

Target date for completing the Key Action
<i>Click or tap to enter a date.</i>
Clear metric for how success of the Key Action will be measured

Funding Sources for Key Action

Guidance
Applicants may identify other funding sources available within the region during the grant term (FY24/25- FY28/29) that support homelessness programming, housing, and system performance.
For all HHAP 6-funded Key Actions, you must include the eligible use category or categories as applicable.

Funding source	Description of how the funding will contribute to the achievement of the Key Action	For HHAP 6-funded Key Actions only: Eligible use category to fund this Key Action.
		<i>Choose an item.</i>

Identify which of the following equity improvement areas will be addressed by the Key Action.

Guidance
At a minimum, each Key Action must address at least one equity improvement area.

Equity Area	Description of how the Key Action will address system performance disparities and ensure racial and gender equity in this area (choose one at a minimum, or more)
Service Delivery	

Housing Placements	
Housing Retention	
Changes to procurement	
Other means of affirming racial and ethnic groups that are overrepresented among residents experiencing homelessness have equitable access to housing and services.	

Key Action 23.

Key Action

Identify the CA SPM(s) that will be improved by this Key Action and how.

CA SPM	Specific description of how the Key Action will improve this CA SPM

Lead entity for the Key Action
<i>Choose an item.</i>
Collaborating entity/ies

Milestones for the Key Action	Target dates for milestones

Target date for completing the Key Action
<i>Click or tap to enter a date.</i>
Clear metric for how success of the Key Action will be measured

Funding Sources for Key Action

Guidance
Applicants may identify other funding sources available within the region during the grant term (FY24/25- FY28/29) that support homelessness programming, housing, and system performance.
For all HHAP 6-funded Key Actions, you must include the eligible use category or categories as

applicable.

Funding source	Description of how the funding will contribute to the achievement of the Key Action	For HHAP 6-funded Key Actions only: Eligible use category to fund this Key Action.
		<i>Choose an item.</i>

Identify which of the following equity improvement areas will be addressed by the Key Action.

Guidance

At a minimum, each Key Action must address at least one equity improvement area.

Equity Area	Description of how the Key Action will address system performance disparities and ensure racial and gender equity in this area (choose one at a minimum, or more)
Service Delivery	
Housing Placements	
Housing Retention	
Changes to procurement	
Other means of affirming racial and ethnic groups that are overrepresented among residents experiencing homelessness have equitable access to housing and services.	

Key Action 24.

Key Action

Identify the CA SPM(s) that will be improved by this Key Action and how.

CA SPM	Specific description of how the Key Action will improve this CA SPM

Lead entity for the Key Action

Choose an item.

Collaborating entity/ies

Milestones for the Key Action	Target dates for milestones

Target date for completing the Key Action
<i>Click or tap to enter a date.</i>
Clear metric for how success of the Key Action will be measured

Funding Sources for Key Action

Guidance
Applicants may identify other funding sources available within the region during the grant term (FY24/25- FY28/29) that support homelessness programming, housing, and system performance.
For all HHAP 6-funded Key Actions, you must include the eligible use category or categories as applicable.

Funding source	Description of how the funding will contribute to the achievement of the Key Action	For HHAP 6-funded Key Actions only: Eligible use category to fund this Key Action.
		<i>Choose an item.</i>

Identify which of the following equity improvement areas will be addressed by the Key Action.

Guidance
At a minimum, each Key Action must address at least one equity improvement area.

Equity Area	Description of how the Key Action will address system performance disparities and ensure racial and gender equity in this area (choose one at a minimum, or more)
Service Delivery	
Housing Placements	
Housing Retention	
Changes to procurement	
Other means of affirming racial and ethnic groups that are overrepresented among residents experiencing homelessness have equitable access to housing and services.	

Choose an item.

Click or tap to enter a date.

Section 4. HHAP 6 Funding Plan

Steps to complete this section

State Priorities for HHAP 6 Funding: HHAP 6 is intended to reflect the state's priorities to prevent and expeditiously reduce unsheltered homelessness through homelessness prevention activities and sustain existing Interim Housing Solutions, and Permanent Housing Solutions, including long-term sustainability of interim housing and permanent affordable housing.

To complete the HHAP 6 Funding Plan:

1. Identify the Administrative Entity submitting the budget.
 - Provide the Tax ID/TIN, primary contact for the contract, contact email, contact phone, and address for where the HHAP 6 check will be mailed.
 - Provide the total dollar amount of the HHAP 6 allocation(s) being administered under the Funding Plan.
 - **Reminder: This must account for 100 percent of the HHAP 6 Allocation(s) the Administrative Entity will be responsible for administering.**
2. Describe all activities proposed to be funded by HHAP 6 in clear, specific terms, and:
 - Identify the HHAP 6 eligible use category under which each proposed activity is budgeted. Activities must be specific and may only be categorized under one eligible use category. Activities may not be categorized under multiple eligible use categories (including activities under the Youth Set Aside).
 - Provide the total dollar amount of HHAP 6 funding proposed for the activity.
 - **Reminder: Administrative costs may not exceed 7% of all monies received.**
 - **Reminder: The Youth Set Aside (YSA) amounts, when combined, must total at least 10% of all monies received.**
 - Identify which System Performance Measure Improvement Plan Key Action(s) the activity supports.
 - **The total HHAP 6 funding proposed for the activity** should account for all dollars budgeted toward that activity. These amounts, when added, must account for 100 percent of the HHAP 6 Allocation(s) the Administrative Entity will be responsible for administering.
3. Indicate whether the budget proposes to support ANY:
 - New interim housing (aside from those designated in the Youth Set Aside) and/or
 - non-housing solutions.

Note: If the HHAP 6 budget proposes spending on New Interim Housing and/or Non-Housing Solutions, the region must document the sustainability of its permanent housing portfolio, as outlined in NOFA section IV.A.4.c, in the next section.

The tables below are formatted as “repeating content”. To add an Administrative Entity and Funding Plan, click anywhere in any table to reveal the content border, then click the (+) that appears on the right-hand margin of the border. This will not work if the template is open in a web browser; the template **must be** open in the Microsoft Word application.

To add additional rows to any given table, click into the last row in the table, then press “tab” on your keyboard.

Administrative Entity

Which Administrative Entity is submitting the below budget?

Santa Cruz County

Tax ID

--

TIN

Guidance

Upload the Administrative Entity’s GovTIN form in the online application portal.

Primary contact for the contract

First Name

Sheryl

Last Name

Norteye

Title

Senior Human Services Analyst, Housing for Health Division
--

Email

Sheryl.norteye@santacruzcountycal.gov

Phone

831.454.7329

Address where HHAP 6 check will be mailed

Guidance

This address **MUST** match the TIN and/or STD 204.

701 Ocean St., Room 100

City

Santa Cruz

State

CA

Zip Code

95060

Funding Plan – Santa Cruz County

Total HHAP 6 Allocation(s) Administering

\$4,365,618.99

[HHAP 6 Allocations](#)

4.a. Proposed Funding Activities

Guidance

The tables below are formatted as “repeating content”.

To add a funding activity, click into any of the tables to reveal the content border, then click the (+) that appears on the right-hand margin of the border. This will not work if the template is open in a web browser; the template **must be** open in the Microsoft Word application.

Activity 1.

Describe the proposed funding activity in clear, specific terms.

Permanent Housing Services and Service Coordination – funding for the Housing Authority to maintain a landlord incentive and risk mitigation funds; funding for a nonprofit to maintain a landlord outreach, engagement, and support program

Identify the HHAP 6 eligible use under which the proposed funding activity is budgeted.

Permanent Housing Services and Services Coordination

Identify the total HHAP 6 funding proposed for the activity.

\$567,530.47

Identify which System Performance Measure Improvement Plan Key Action(s) the activity supports.

Guidance

When identifying Key Actions here, refer to the applicable Key Action as "Key Action [#]".

Key Action(s) (from the System Performance Measure Improvement Plan, Section 3.b. of the regional application) this funding activity will improve

9. Increase PSH capacity

Activity 2.

Describe the proposed funding activity in clear, specific terms.

Prevention and Diversion – centralized housing assistance fund to support prevention and rehousing activities

Identify the HHAP 6 eligible use under which the proposed funding activity is budgeted.

Prevention and Diversion

Identify the total HHAP 6 funding proposed for the activity.

\$392,905.71

Identify which System Performance Measure Improvement Plan Key Action(s) the activity supports.

Guidance

When identifying Key Actions here, refer to the applicable Key Action as "Key Action [#]".

Key Action(s) (from the System Performance Measure Improvement Plan, Section 3.b. of the regional application) this funding activity will improve

Does this budget propose to fund any New Interim Housing Solutions, aside from those designated in the Youth Set Aside?

Guidance

Proposing to use HHAP 6 to fund **New** Interim Housing (that is not designated for the Youth Set Aside), covered under HHAP 6 Statute Category #3 in Section III. of the [HHAP 6 NOFA](#), requires documenting the Sustainability of the Region's Permanent Housing Portfolio.

No

Does this budget propose to fund any Non-housing Solutions?

Guidance

Non-housing Solutions are listed in HHAP 6 Statute Category #4 in Section III. of the [HHAP 6 NOFA](#). Proposing to use HHAP 6 to fund Non-housing Solutions requires documenting the Sustainability of the Region's Permanent Housing Portfolio.

No

Funding Priority Considerations: Documenting Sustainability of the Region's Interim and Permanent Housing Portfolios

Steps to complete this section

To complete 4.b. Sustainability of the Region's Interim Housing Portfolio:

1. Identify the total existing Interim Housing shelters and beds (beds) in the region.
2. **If proposing to use HHAP 6 to fund New Interim Housing solutions, aside from those designated for the Youth Set Aside, Eligible Applicants must identify the total beds proposed to be added during the grant term (FY24/25-28/29) in the region and are required to complete 4c, the Sustainability of the Region's Permanent Housing Portfolio.**
3. Identify the total estimated capital and operating costs for the beds (existing and, if applicable, proposed to be added) during the grant term.
4. Identify the funding sources (including amounts) that will realize and sustain the estimated capital and operating costs for the beds in the region for the grant term.

To complete 4.c. Sustainability of the Region's Permanent Housing Portfolio:

Required if any regional partner is proposing to spend HHAP 6 funding on New Interim Housing solutions (aside from those designated for the Youth Set Aside) and/or Non-Housing Solutions.

For the region's existing, at-risk, and proposed permanent affordable housing identify all the following:

1. The total (existing, at-risk, and proposed) permanent affordable housing developments and units (developments) in the region. Data for existing and at-risk developments can be provided by HCD upon request.

Note: Developments proposed includes those currently seeking permanent housing funding or operations support in the region which still have a financing or supportive services and operations funding gap.

2. The total estimated capital and operating costs for (existing, at-risk, and proposed) developments during the grant term.
3. The funding sources (including amounts) that will realize and sustain the estimated capital and operating costs for (existing, at-risk, and proposed) developments in the region for the grant term.

To complete 4.d. Documentation of Youth Set Aside Requirement:

1. Certify that the region has budgeted at least 10 percent of each HHAP 6 allocation to be spent on services for homeless youth (as defined in HSC 50216(l)).

4.b. Sustainability of the Region's Interim Housing Portfolio

Guidance

Pursuant to HSC Section 50243(c), **all applicants must demonstrate they have dedicated sufficient resources to sustain their region's existing and proposed portfolio of interim housing within the grant term (FY24/25-FY28/29).**

The stakeholder engagement required in advance of regional application development should also be used to help inform the requirements related to documenting the Sustainability of the Region's Interim Housing Portfolio.

Region's Interim Housing Portfolio

Number of Existing Interim Beds (beds) within the Region.

(If Applicable) Number of Interim Beds Proposed to be added within the grant term (FY24/25-28/29).

Total Estimated Capital and Operating Cost for the Existing and Proposed Beds during the grant term.

Funding Sources Realizing and Sustaining the Estimated Capital and Operating Costs for Beds in the Region within the Grant Term (FY24/25-FY28/29).

Guidance

The funding amounts in this table, when added, must equal the estimated total capital and operating cost for the existing and proposed beds during the grant term.

If a gap remains, the region must identify other sources to address the gap. This may include, but is not limited to, use of HHAP funding, local dedicated funding, Behavioral Health Services Act funds, long-term capitalized operating reserves, or any other local, state, or federal funding source from the list within the [Systems Performance Measures Improvement plan section \(IV.A.3.b.ii.\) of the HHAP 6 NOFA](#).

Funding Source	Amount Dedicated

4.c. Sustainability of the Region's Permanent Housing Portfolio

Guidance

Regions proposing to use HHAP 6 to fund New Interim Housing Solutions (aside from those designated for the Youth Set Aside) and/or Non-Housing Solutions must complete this section.

If a region demonstrates it can sustain its existing and proposed interim and permanent housing portfolio, then it may be permitted to use HHAP 6 funds on New Interim Housing solutions (beyond New Interim Housing for youth populations) and/or Non-Housing Solutions; **however, applicants will still be required to budget and spend at least 50 percent of their HHAP 6 allocation on Housing Solutions, defined as HSC 50243(e)(1),(2),and (3)(A-I).**

Region's Existing Permanent Affordable Housing Portfolio

Total permanent affordable housing developments and units (developments) in the region.

--

Total estimated capital and operating cost for existing developments.

\$

Funding Sources Realizing and Sustaining the Region's Existing Developments within the Grant Term (FY24/25-FY28/29).

Guidance

The funding amounts in this table, when added, should equal the estimated total capital and operating cost for existing developments in the region.

If a gap remains, the region must identify other sources to address the gap. This may include, but is not limited to, use of HHAP funding, local dedicated funding, Behavioral Health Services Act funds, long-term capitalized operating reserves, or any other local, state, or federal funding source from the list within the [Systems Performance Measures Improvement plan section \(IV.A.3.b.ii.\) of the HHAP 6 NOFA](#).

Funding Source	Amount Supporting

At-Risk Permanent Affordable Housing within the Region

Number of developments at risk of expiring affordability restrictions during the grant term (FY24/25-FY28/29).

--

Total estimated capital and operating cost for at-risk developments.

\$

Funding Sources Realizing and Sustaining the Region's At-Risk Developments within the Grant Term (FY24/25-FY28/29)

Guidance

The funding amounts in this table, when added, should equal the estimated total capital and operating cost for the region's at-risk developments.

If a gap remains, the region must identify other sources to address the gap. This may include, but is not limited to, use of HHAP funding, local dedicated funding, Behavioral Health Services Act funds, long- term capitalized operating reserves, or any other local, state, or federal funding source from the list within the [Systems Performance Measures Improvement plan section \(IV.A.3.b.ii.\) of the HHAP 6 NOFA](#).

Funding source	Amount Supporting
----------------	-------------------

Proposed Permanent Affordable Housing within the Region

Total number of developments proposed which still have a financing or supportive services and operations funding gap (proposed developments) during the grant term (FY24/25-FY28/29).

--

Total Estimated Funding Gap (capital and operating costs) for the proposed developments during the grant term (FY24/25-FY28/29).

\$

Funding Sources Realizing and Sustaining the Region's Proposed Developments within the Grant Term (FY24/25- FY28/29)

Guidance

The funding amounts in this table, when added, should equal the estimated total capital and operating cost for the region's proposed developments.

If a gap remains, the applicant must identify other sources to address the gap. This may include, but is not limited to, use of HHAP funding, local dedicated funding, Behavioral Health Services Act funds, long- term capitalized operating reserves, or any other local, state, or federal funding source from the list within the [Systems Performance Measures Improvement plan section \(IV.A.3.b.ii.\) of the HHAP 6 NOFA](#).

Funding source	Amount Supporting
----------------	-------------------

4.d. Documentation of Youth Set Aside Requirement

Guidance

At least 10 percent of each HHAP 6 allocation must be spent on services for homeless youth (HSC 50241(e)), and there are no prohibitions on spending a greater percentage on the Youth

Set Aside.

Documenting Sustainability of the Region's Permanent Housing Portfolio is not required for New Interim Housing Solutions for homeless youth.

By checking the box below, I certify that at least 10 percent of each HHAP 6 allocation is set-aside for youth (defined in HSC 50216(l)), as required by HSC 50241(e).

☒ **I certify under penalty of perjury that all of the information in the above section is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.**

Section 5. MOU and Application Certification

Steps to complete this section

1. **Upload** the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) as specified below.
2. **Complete** the certification to indicate all information included in this regional application is true and accurate.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Guidance

The MOU is a required component of the regional application. The MOU **must**: reflect the Regionally Coordinated Homelessness Action Plan submitted under this regional application and commit each Eligible Applicant as a signatory to participate in, and to comply with, the Regionally Coordinated Homelessness Action Plan.

Optional: Smaller cities and tribal governments may choose to participate in, and be signatories to, the MOU.

Supporting Documentation (Optional)

Guidance

Upload any additional supporting documentation the region would like to provide.

Certification

Guidance

A representative from each participating Eligible Applicant must certify the regional application.

Certifying the Regional Application for Submission

Guidance

The tables below are formatted as "repeating content".

To add an Eligible Applicant, click anywhere in any table to reveal the content border, then click the (+) that appears on the right-hand margin of the border.

Eligible Applicant

Santa Cruz County

☒ On behalf of the above participating Eligible Applicant, I certify that all information included in this regional application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

First Name

SHERYL

Last Name

NORTEYE

Phone

831-454-7329

Email

Sheryl.norteye@santacruzcountyca.gov

Action Item 8: Approve Submission of CoC Builds Application for Veterans Village Supportive Housing Project

(Action required) – Robert Ratner

Recommendation

Approve submission of a CoC Builds application for the Veterans Village Supportive Housing Project.

Discussion

In August of 2024, the CoC conducted a public solicitation to identify potential permanent supportive housing project developers interested in securing funding from a new federal funding opportunity known as the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Continuum of Care (CoC) Builds program. The new funding opportunity for capital and operating expenses for new supportive housing units was announced in July 2024, with applications due on November 21, 2024. Santa Cruz County could apply for \$6M. The local solicitation process identified only one potential project interested in applying – the Veterans Village project in Ben Lomond.

The Veterans Village is a supportive housing development originally conceived by the Santa Cruz County Veterans Village Memorial Board of Trustees (Vets Board). The Board secured loans to purchase a hotel in Ben Lomond being used by organizations to provide temporary accommodations to veterans during the COVID-19 pandemic. In partnership with the County of Santa Cruz, the Vets Board secured a Homekey Round 2 grant for up to \$6.425M, to pay off the acquisition debt on the property, to renovate existing units, and to expand the site capacity to 20 supportive housing units for veterans, a community space, and a residential manager's unit. The Homekey funding alone was insufficient to complete the originally envisioned project. The Vets Board now works with the Danco Group to help them secure the project financing necessary to complete the project, at an estimated total project cost of \$19.2M.

Staff from the Housing for Health Division worked with the Santa Cruz County Veterans Village Memorial Board of Trustees and Danco Group, their development partner, to prepare and submit a CoC Builds application for the Veterans Village in 2024. The original \$6M CoC Builds application was approved for submission by the CoC Policy Board. Unfortunately, this application was not considered for funding prior to the beginning of a new federal presidential administration.

In mid-May 2025, HUD re-issued a [CoC Builds Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) with applications due by June 26, 2025. Housing for Health Partnership staff sent out a solicitation via its distribution list to solicit developers interested in applying. Interested developers were asked to express their interest in writing on or before Wednesday, June 11th at 5 pm. Staff received confirmation that the Veterans Village team was interested in reapplying. Staff received confirmation that Novin Development had an interest in applying to address a funding gap in its

Park Haven Plaza supportive housing development. Park Haven Plaza is another supportive housing development that received Homekey Round 2 funding. The project also has a substantial construction financing gap.

After a review of the requirements associated with the CoC Builds funding notice, it was determined that Park Haven was ineligible to apply because the project includes a ground lease rather land ownership structure. It is not feasible for the Novin Development team to change the structure of the project within the timeframe of the CoC Builds application.

Since the CoC Board previously approved a CoC Builds application for the Vets Village project and because no other qualifying project expressed an interest in applying, staff recommend supporting the resubmission of an updated Veterans Village CoC Builds application for \$6M.

Suggested Motion

I recommend approval of the resubmission of an updated CoC Builds application for \$6M for the Veterans Village Supportive Housing Project.

Action Item 9: Approve Earlier or Special Session Meeting of CoC Policy Board in August 2025 for Anticipated CoC NOFO- reallocation, DV bonus, approval of CoC planning

(Action required) – Sheryl Norteye, Tony Gardner

Recommendation

Approve an earlier or special session meeting of the CoC Policy Board in August 2025 to make recommendations and decisions related to anticipated HUD CoC funding opportunity and grant renewal guidance.

Discussion

The HUD Continuum of Care (CoC) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) in FY 2024 included a change in HUD practice. The NOFO shifted from an annual process to a two-year cycle. The Santa Cruz County CoC received FY 2024 awards totaling \$7,360,961. With the new two-year cycle, CoCs will have an opportunity to consider mid-funding cycle changes.

Staff anticipate HUD may release guidance on funding cycle opportunities during the month of August. Staff will need direction and approval from the CoC Policy Board to proceed with responding to HUD CoC funding opportunities. Based on prior HUD communications, staff anticipate opportunities to apply for a new Domestic Violence (DV) bonus project and consideration of funding reallocations between projects. The CoC Policy Board will likely be required to approve of continued CoC planning grant funding.

Suggested Motion

I approve a motion to hold a special session or earlier Policy Board meeting in August 2025 to account for CoC and HHAP funding timelines. {Staff recommend a motion consistent with Policy Board direction on Action Item #7}.

Item 10: Lived Expertise Workgroup – General Updates

LEAB Updates:

Professional Development Events

- In May, LEAB partnered with Housing Matters' Lived Experience Advisory Group (LEAG) and Abode Services to host a Homeless System of Care Career Panel. The event featured five professionals working in different parts of the homelessness response system—several of whom have lived experience. Panelists shared their career journeys and answered questions from board members.
- In April, LEAB participated in a Coordinated Entry training facilitated by Monica Lippi from H4H.
- The next professional development training is scheduled for August 2025 which will be an Equity focused session.

Upcoming NAEH Conference

- Four LEAB members are confirmed to attend the National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH) conference in Washington, D.C. at the end of June. Reflections will be shared at the August Policy Board meeting.

Projects

- LEAB has voted to participate in the Behavioral Health 2026-2029 Community Planning Process and will receive an introduction to this work at the July or a future board meeting. LEAB's participation will ensure that people with lived experience are included in planning for the behavioral health system. LEAB will continue to accept external project requests through its [online form](#), supporting community partners seeking lived experience input.
- The board is beginning to scope its own project: hosting monthly in person peer-led workshops and peer support groups for people experiencing homelessness. LEAB will work with community partners to highlight housing and supportive service resources for the unhoused community.
- Rosie Garcia, LEAB co-chair, has been participating in the Prevention and Resources Workgroup for the City of Watsonville Homelessness Strategic Plan. This workgroup is working to compile a comprehensive and updated list of resources countywide for people at risk of homelessness or experiencing homelessness.
- Manuel Caceres, LEAB Policy Board Liaison, has attended recent Housing Matters Lived Experience Advisory Group (LEAG) and Neighbor to Neighbor meetings. Potential for future collaboration between LEAB, YLEAB, and LEAG.
- Lisa Bordenave continues to serve as the Operations Committee Liaison, attending meetings every other month.

- Multiple LEAB members participated in the May 28th H4HP Community Meeting to help give feedback for Homeless, Housing Assistance and Prevention Round 6 (HHAP-6) and the Santa Cruz Community Action Plan. LEAB members have scheduled an additional meeting on this topic later in June to give more opportunity for individuals with lived experience to provide input.
- LEAB members are planning a bonding event for the end of summer.

YLEAB Updates:

- **Recruitment**
 - YLEAB recently onboarded a new member!
 - Recruitment is underway for two remaining open seats. Current board members are actively leading outreach and interviews with prospective candidates, helping shape the future direction and makeup of the board. Please help advertise this opportunity to youth with lived experience. The next round of interest forms are due 7/7/25.
- **Projects**
 - YLEAB has voted to participate in the Behavioral Health 2026-2029 Community Planning Process and will receive an introduction to this work in July or at a future board meeting. YLEAB participation will ensure that youth perspectives are represented in behavioral health planning.
 - YLEAB will continue to accept external project requests through its [online form](#), supporting community partners seeking lived experience input.
- **Upcoming NAEH Conference**
 - Two YLEAB members are confirmed to attend the National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH) conference in Washington, D.C. at the end of June. Reflections will be shared at the August Policy Board meeting.

Information Items 11 - 14

11. 2025 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count Report expected release July 2025

Applied Survey Research (ASR) and Housing for Health Division staff anticipate finalizing and releasing the 2025 PIT count report of people experiencing homelessness in Santa Cruz County by early July 2025. Preliminary data indicates a 20% overall reduction in homelessness countywide compared with 2024. However, the data shows increased levels of homelessness among seniors, people with disabilities, and people with disabilities with long histories of homelessness.

12. Preparations for Medi-Cal BH-Connect transitional rent benefit

Housing for Health Division staff will work collaboratively with staff from County Behavioral Health, the Central California Alliance for Health, and Kaiser Permanente to develop plans for implementing a Medi-Cal transitional rent benefit beginning in January 2026 for the “behavioral health population of focus.” The transitional rent benefit is included in California’s Section 1115 Medicaid BH-Connect waiver and includes the availability of up to six months of rental assistance *one-time* for eligible populations during the waiver period of January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2029. The benefit is only available to Medi-Cal managed care members that meet certain eligibility criteria and that can secure long-term stable housing at the end of the transitional rent benefit. Information about this new benefit can be found in the [California Department of Health Care Services \(DHCS\) Community Supports Policy Guide, Volume 2](#).

Housing for Health and Behavioral Health staff applied for technical assistance support and a \$2M state-grant to support implementation of the transitional rent benefit within Santa Cruz County. Funding announcements related to this grant are expected by October-November 2025.

13. HUD CoC Contract Language updates

HUD has made changes to contract templates used to execute HUD CoC funding contracts with grant recipients. Examples of this new contract language include:

“shall not use grant funds to promote “gender ideology,” as defined in E.O. 14168, Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government;”

“shall not use any Grant Funds to fund or promote elective abortions, as required by E.O. 14182, Enforcing the Hyde Amendment;”

“The recipient must administer its grant in accordance with all applicable immigration restrictions and requirements, including the eligibility and verification requirements that apply under title IV of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, as amended (8 U.S.C. 1601-1646) (PRWORA) and any applicable requirements that HUD, the

Attorney General, or the U.S. Center for Immigration Services may establish from time to time to comply with PRWORA, Executive Order 14218, or other Executive Orders or immigration laws.”

“No state or unit of general local government that receives funding under this grant may use that funding in a manner that by design or effect facilitates the subsidization or promotion of illegal immigration or abets policies that seek to shield illegal aliens from deportation.”

Individual HUD grant recipients must review this new language and consider if they trigger agency or programmatic changes. The National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH) provided high-level guidance to CoC grant recipients and leaders regarding the new language. The County will update its coordinated entry matching and referral practices to comply with the new contract language. Housing for Health Division staff are available to share general information and guidance with CoC grant recipients regarding the contract language shifts. However, individual grant recipients may need to seek out independent legal counsel to determine agency and program impacts.

14. State Funding and Organizational Structure Updates

On June 13, 2025, the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) issued the following statement on the state budget proposal approved by the Legislature -

"Counties know first-hand how challenging it is to craft a budget right now, but the spending plan approved today does not reflect Californians' priorities. It waves the white flag on homelessness and thwarts the implementation of Proposition 36. The state can and must do better."

By the numbers:

- Total budget approved Friday: \$325 billion
- Funding for the Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) Program: \$0
 - FY25/26: \$0
 - FY26/27: \$0 guaranteed (the \$500 million is only Intent language)
- Funding to implement Prop 36: \$110 million (0.03%), including:
 - Behavioral Health: \$50 million
 - Public Defenders: \$15 million
 - *Probation: \$5 million cut*
 - +\$15 million one-time
 - -\$20 million ongoing for pretrial services

Statement from the League of California Cities (June 12, 2025):

Unlike the Governor's proposal, the Legislature's budget plan contains critical funding to help cities address homelessness. The deal includes intent language that would invest \$500 million in the Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention (HHAP) program in Fiscal Year 2026-27.

This would fund the seventh round of the program, which provides direct and flexible funding to local governments. The state has provided around \$1 billion annually for the program since FY 2021-22, with successful results. Over 225,000 people accessed shelter, services, and housing between January 2023 and June 2024 because of the program.

Cal Cities and its allies have long urged state leaders to invest a minimum of \$1 billion in ongoing funding for the program. The current one-time funding makes it difficult for local leaders and service providers to develop and sustain long-term, comprehensive services needed to address a protracted humanitarian crisis.

The Legislature's deal fails to provide ongoing funding and cuts program funding in half, which will result in the loss of thousands of shelter beds and housing units and a scaling back of critical outreach services. These cuts potentially threaten the state's momentum in reducing homelessness. Below is a breakdown of major changes and policies announced in the final budget deal.

Homelessness

- Provides \$500 million to the Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention program in FY 2026-27.
- Rejects the Governor's proposal for \$4 million of General Fund in FY 2025-26 and \$6 million in General Fund annually to pay for the proposed reorganization of the Business, Consumer Services, and Housing Agency.
- Approves additional staff and resources for the Housing and Homelessness Accountability, Results, and Partnership unit within the Housing and Community Development Department to enforce local compliance with state housing and homelessness laws.

On April 4, 2024, Governor Newsom submitted a plan to the Little Hoover Commission, proposing that the existing Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency be split in two, creating a Housing and Homelessness Agency and a Business and Consumer Services Agency. On May 29, 2025, the Commission recommend the Legislature allow the plan to take effect. They also recommended five pieces of companion legislation that the Commission believe would improve the state's programs in the affected policy domains. The five additional recommendations include: (1) Require an examination of all homeless programs and assess whether any currently in other agencies should be overseen by the new California Housing and Homelessness Agency; (2) Reduce the administrative burden placed on both those providing

and consuming homeless services by streamlining and aligning program, reporting, and application requirements; (3) Require reports from both new agencies on a set timeline that detail progress on specified metrics; (4) Establish a formal mechanism for stakeholder feedback on implementation, and (5) Enact a Memorandum of Understanding between the Governor and the Treasurer to create a unified application and review process for financing affordable housing. The full report from the Little Hoover Commission can be found here - [Report-287.pdf](#). The legislature has until July 4 to adopt a resolution by simple majority vetoing the plan; otherwise, the reorganization will take effect on July 5.

Report and Discussion Item 15: Final Round of Feedback on County of Santa Cruz Encampment Response Guidelines

At the February 26, 2025, meeting of the Housing for Health Partnership Policy Board, staff presented an initial draft of encampment response guidelines developed for the County of Santa Cruz. Staff shared the document with Policy Board members and the public to solicit additional feedback on the draft document. The document was developed by staff from multiple County departments as part of a County strategic operational objective.

At the February meeting of the Policy Board, staff foreshadowed such guidelines might become a future requirement of HHAP funding.

Since the February Policy Board meeting, the HHAP-6 funding application was released and it does include a requirement that HHAP recipients either have an existing or commit to developing an encampment response protocol.

On May 12, 2025, Governor Newsom released a “state model [ordinance] for cities and counties to immediately address encampments with urgency and dignity.” A copy of the model ordinance developed by the Governor’s Office can be found here - [Encampment-Ordinance-formatted.pdf](#).

County staff have solicited additional feedback on the draft guidelines from city and county leaders. The limited feedback received was incorporated into the current DRAFT being shared with the Policy Board for its June 18, 2025, meeting. County staff anticipate presenting a final version of the Encampment Response Guidelines to the County Board of Supervisors at a meeting in late August or early September 2025.

The HHAP application does not require that every jurisdiction within the region of a CoC adopt a shared response protocol. It remains unclear if the CoC must adopt its own encampment response protocol separate from the County. Since the CoC has no independent authority or capacity to implement an encampment response protocol, staff recommend utilizing the County response protocol in lieu of a CoC adopted protocol. If state officials require a separately adopted CoC protocol, staff will return to the CoC Policy Board at a future meeting to seek guidance and approval of a CoC-specific protocol.

Staff are presenting the current DRAFT for final review and comment from the Policy Board and other members of the public.

Attachment

Santa Cruz County Encampment Response Guidelines – DRAFT – June 2025

Santa Cruz County Encampment Response Guidelines



June 2025

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PURPOSE

Unsheltered homelessness creates health and safety stressors for the entire community, but particularly for those living without shelter. The County of Santa Cruz (County) and its partners recognize that strategies to address these stressors must address the concerns of both unsheltered individuals and the larger community. The most effective long-term solution for addressing encampments is strong collaboration to help people secure stable, safe, and healthy living situations.

This document provides guidelines for engagement of those living in homeless encampments or unhoused within unincorporated areas of Santa Cruz County, specifically when health, safety, and environmental concerns arise. For this document, a homeless encampment is defined as “two or more tents, structures, or assembly of camping equipment or personal property that appears to a reasonable person to be used by individuals for shelter use in areas not generally designated for this purpose.”

Nationwide, encampments have been removed in the past without adequate coordination between local governments, service providers, and the encampment residents themselves. At the same time, some encampments and their residents have been allowed to stay in locations resulting in health and safety issues for the encampment residents and other community members, environmental impacts, and potential violations of environmental protection regulations. Moving forward, these guidelines call for a balanced approach that upholds the needs and vulnerabilities of unsheltered residents, addresses health, safety, and environmental risks in a timely fashion, and ensures an appropriate coordinated response involving service providers, residents, and County government departments.

These guidelines outline two major processes:

- 1) How encampment sites are assessed for health and safety conditions and environmental impacts, and how residents are assessed for needs and connected to available housing and community service resources to help them secure a stable home as quickly as possible; and
- 2) If health and safety conditions or environmental impacts warrant encampment closure, how residents (and their belongings) are assisted in the closure process.

These guidelines include the following:

- A Health, Safety & Environmental Assessment Tool and recommended levels of response to address health and safety concerns, if any;
- Review of possible impacts to protected environmental resources;
- The coordination of County departments and service providers, and interaction with those living in encampments; and
- Specifics related to desired roles, outreach and engagement provision, notice requirements, storage of personal belongings, and coordination of available resources.

These guidelines do not supersede local jurisdiction emergency response plans for declared and emerging emergency response operations.

BACKGROUND

The County first adopted the Housing for a Healthy Santa Cruz Strategic Framework for Addressing Homelessness in Santa Cruz County in March of 2021 with an updated version adopted in March of 2024. Among the specific goals and activities outlined in the Framework, one specifically states, “work together with city jurisdictions and other County departments to identify and implement best practices for collaborative responses to unmanaged homeless encampments and community health and safety issues that arise from people living without shelter in public places.” This document brings together information gathered from multiple local jurisdictions and national technical assistance organizations to outline some collaborative practices that show promise of more positive outcomes for unhoused individuals and other community members.

According to the Santa Cruz County point-in-time count of persons experiencing homelessness conducted in January 2024, an estimated 1,485 individuals were living unsheltered on the day of the count. According to a few research studies, unsheltered individuals inhabiting encampments tend to be more likely to be adults with multiple chronic health conditions including behavioral health conditions. The California Policy Lab reported that individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness are 25 times more likely to report they suffer from the tri-morbid combination of physical health conditions, a mental health issue, and a substance-use condition than individuals experiencing sheltered homelessness (50% compared to 2%). Given these needs coupled with a lack of appropriate shelter, affordable housing, and supportive service options appropriate to meet these needs, it can take significant time to engage and connect unsheltered individuals to accessible and appropriate resources to end their homelessness.

Until there is enough safe, decent, affordable, and accessible temporary and permanent housing for everyone, people will continue to live in unsheltered environments. The Housing for a Healthy Santa Cruz framework provides a general outline of the additional investments, and system improvements necessary to move the community closer to a goal of ensuring homelessness is rare and brief.

All sectors of the community must work together to mitigate and address health and safety hazards experienced by unsheltered individuals. Protecting the health and safety of all residents, both housed and unhoused, will create a healthier community for all. We need to work together to end our neighbors’ homelessness rather than simply relocating unsheltered people from one area to another. Working toward ending rather than managing homelessness, requires medium and long-term strategies developed in coordination with multiple levels of government and community partners including, people with lived experience of homelessness, affordable housing developers, human services and public benefits, community mental health, substance-use treatment providers, hospitals, law enforcement, public health, community foundations, faith-based organizations, and others.

Short-term, crisis-oriented outreach efforts to address immediate health, safety, and environmental issues related to encampments and the individuals living in them are sometimes necessary. However, helping individuals on a pathway to long-term housing and stability requires more consistent and proactive outreach, engagement, and relationship building efforts focused on understanding individual needs, goals, strengths, and resources. Outreach efforts in a geographic region must find an appropriate balance between responding to urgent health and safety needs and goal-directed relationship building and engagement efforts.

Individuals with criminal histories frequently experience significant barriers to securing employment and housing. Fines and citations, encampment clearings, and other municipal practices and policies that disrupt and displace people create additional barriers and setbacks for people experiencing homelessness, making it more likely that people will remain homeless even longer. Enforcement actions for criminal activity and health and safety violations should be consistently applied to housed and unhoused individuals. Decisions about when enforcement actions are necessary should weigh the impacts and consequences of not addressing immediate health and safety needs against the impacts associated with displacement and enforcement activities with unhoused individuals.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Guiding principles provide a framework for expectations and decision-making. The following principles can help guide approaches to meet the needs of those living in encampments and their housed neighbors.

Principle 1: Delivery of municipal services must respect the needs of all residents, with special considerations for serving the unsheltered population.

- A) *Meet people where they are.* People experiencing unsheltered homelessness may need multiple positive engagements before trust is built. Respect autonomy and a person's decision about whether to engage or to accept services and resources. People may refuse offers initially and change their mind once a trusting relationship is built. Communicate clear limits on appropriate and not appropriate behavior in public settings. Be patient and consult with the individual to identify their needs, how to best meet them, and how to ensure the individual and community can remain safe and healthy.
- B) *Be guided by compassion and empathy in all interactions.* Take special consideration of a person's immediate needs, including making appropriate and reasonable accommodations for people living with physical and mental disabilities. Provide guidance on desired and appropriate behaviors when setting limits.
- C) *Acknowledge a person's unique context and experiences.* Offer services sensitively and appropriately when interacting with individuals, with an awareness of how race, ethnicity, culture, disability, gender identity, sexual orientation, housing status, and other personal characteristics impact perceptions and levels of trust. Mental illness and other health conditions may limit a person's ability to understand communications and to communicate effectively.
- D) *Consult with unsheltered residents meaningfully.* Work to listen to the perspective of a person experiencing homelessness and their personal story. Partner together to identify gaps in and opportunities for improved practices. Provide avenues for meaningful feedback. Develop clear grievance procedures and make those known publicly and to individuals when requested.

Principle 2: People experiencing homelessness have the same civil rights as housed residents and should not be subject to discrimination or arbitrary treatment based on housing status.

- A) *Serve the needs of housed and unhoused residents equitably.* People experiencing homelessness are residents who deserve the same access to public services—such as sanitation, restroom and hygiene facilities, and protection by law enforcement—as their housed neighbors. Commit to protecting the civil rights and safety of all people in the community, with the recognition that people living on the streets are at greater risk of violence and victimization.
- B) *Consider the special needs and circumstances of the situation.* When approaching a person experiencing homelessness to conduct municipal services, consider the activity they are undertaking and approach with respect; limit the interruption of life-sustaining behavior such as sleeping in public. The activities of persons experiencing homelessness should not be subject to more scrutiny than that of a housed person.
- C) *Approach with a goal of engagement, not enforcement.* Interactions focused on engagement are more likely to build trust and rapport than those that lead with the goal of enforcement. Standard law enforcement activities such as requests for identification can be perceived as threatening, harassing, or intimidating and therefore disruptive to successful service and resource connections.
- D) *Municipal ordinances should not criminalize homelessness.* Ordinances that limit necessary, life-sustaining activities such as sitting, sleeping, or eating in public spaces unfairly target people living on the streets. In the absence of adequate alternative or private places to undertake those activities, people have a right to perform these activities in public. Evaluate ordinances for disparate impacts on persons experiencing homelessness.
- E) *Pursue alternatives to enforcement, citation, and arrest.* Citing and arresting unsheltered residents for low-level or quality of life infractions and/or life-sustaining activities can be emotionally and physically traumatizing – as well as disruptive to progress toward ending homelessness. Law enforcement officers should use citation or arrest as a last resort and instead promote referrals to services and resources, even when they may have been previously declined.
- F) *Develop policies and integrate systems in support of diversion practices.* Fines and jail time make it more challenging for an unhoused resident to achieve stability, work toward their goals, and secure employment and/or long-term housing. Consider systems improvements such as pre-arrest diversion programs and programs that dismiss citations for low-level, non-violent crimes and connect unhoused residents to services and resources in lieu of fines and/or jail.

Principle 3: All people, both housed and unhoused, deserve access to safe public spaces as well as services that promote health and safety for all.

- A) *Take an outreach-focused approach to encampments and unsheltered persons.* Mobilize outreach staff specially trained to build relationships over time, learn what people need, and connect them to those resources. Coordinate the delivery of municipal services with existing regional resources and services infrastructure with as much advance notice as possible. Existing resources and services often have limited capacity so additional notice time increases the chances of truly connecting unsheltered individuals with meaningful, long-term assistance.

- B) *Explore ways to increase access to public health resources for the general public that are also accessible to people experiencing homelessness.* Ensuring that sheltered and unsheltered residents have regular access to clean water, personal hygiene, and sanitation resources, as well as containers for safe needle disposal and hazardous waste promotes public health for all.
- C) *Explore ways to help people without shelter safeguard their important possessions and receive communications.* Provide individuals with information about storage facilities. Help individuals increase their financial resources and access to banking. Assist people with getting and keeping important public documents and storing them in an electronic form or with supportive contact people. Assist individuals with obtaining phones, phone service, and email accounts. Help individuals access general mail services from the post office. Prior to clearing encampments urge individuals to secure all their important possessions before the date of the clearing. Follow storage protocols outlined in this framework. Hours, location, and identification requirements should support the needs of unsheltered residents.
- D) *Ensure public areas are accessible to all by providing clear guidance about access and egress.* Ensure that unsheltered residents are aware of the local standards through adequate notice, and that measures are in place to support their consistent application.
- E) *Follow clear and person-centered protocols when conducting sanitation activities to ensure consistency and regularity.* These guidelines represent some best practices for outreach, notice, and handling of personal property.
- F) *Facilitate opportunities for community education on homelessness.* The expectation for immediate resolutions to unsheltered homelessness drives short-term, counterproductive responses that often fail to resolve homelessness for unhoused residents and may prolong issues of concern in the general community. Publicly share information about the unique needs and stories of people experiencing homelessness. Provide information about the primary contributors to homelessness in the United States and locally. Encourage community members to engage in efforts to address the lack of accessible and affordable long-term residential and housing options in the community.

Principle 4: Local, state, and federal protections for environmental resources still apply when an encampment is in an environmentally sensitive area.

- A) *Educate people experiencing homelessness and community members about environmental concerns and standards.* Local governments are subject to federal, state, and local laws intended to protect the environment. Examples include the federal Endangered Species Act, federal and state water quality standards, and local ordinances.
- B) *Provide people experiencing homelessness and other community members with clear guidance on how to meet environmental standards.* Provide individuals with alternatives that ensure appropriate environmental stewardship while also meeting some of their needs.
- C) *Include the evaluation of environmental resources in developing responses to encampments.* Utilize an assessment tool that evaluates environmental impacts, particularly water quality and habitat near riparian areas and buffers. When making decisions about encampment responses, include staff and agencies with environmental expertise in the process.

- D) *Environmental restoration as deterrent.* Work with public agencies and private property owners to ensure compliance with environmental regulations and restoration of impacted sensitive areas and buffers.
- E) *Environmental hazards.* Ensure that all residents are protected from environmental hazards and hazardous materials. Fire hazards exist in multiple areas throughout the County and fire safety should be considered in encampment assessment and decision-making.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The County's response to encampments requires a coordinated effort across County departments and will also involve non-County organizations, and potentially in the future other jurisdictions. Implementing entities must ensure that federal and state regulations related to encampment response are followed. County departments and community organizations involved in planning for and executing responses include:

County Departments

- County Executive Office (CEO) (team coordination, centralized reporting);
- CEO – Public Information Officer, with support from departmental Public Information Officers (public communications);
- Human Services Department - Housing for Health (H4H) (housing services, coordination with community partners);
- Sheriff's Office – Community Policing (noticing, storage of resident belongings, closure enforcement, safety);
- Health Services Agency (HSA) – Behavioral Health (mental health and substance use disorder treatment services and crisis response);
- HSA – Environmental Health Water Resources (water quality, environmental protection and restoration);
- HSA – Public Health (population health assessment and recommendations);
- Community Development & Infrastructure (CDI) – Code Compliance (coordination with private property owners);
- CDI – Environmental Planning (habitat protection and environmental restoration);
- CDI – Public Works (responses in public rights-of-way);
- Mosquito and Vector Control (pest control); and
- Parks Department (responses in County parks).

Leadership Team

The above County departments will assign a representative to be part of a Leadership Team to support the CEO in planning for and organizing responses, facilitating Assessments, prioritizing responses based on risk levels, identifying resident needs and potential resources, outreach, post-encampment restoration, post-encampment reporting and evaluation, and continuous improvement of the process. When an encampment response is proposed, the Leadership Team will assign a member most associated with the risks identified in the Assessment to coordinate the response.

Community Partners

- Continuum of Care (CoC) Housing for Health Partnership (community input, coordination);
- Resident Outreach Team (contracted entity) (resident outreach);
- Relevant County Fire Districts (fire safety);
- Housing Authority (housing services and resources);
- Housing service providers (housing services);
- Clean up entity (contracted); and
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) (environmental restoration).

A broader range of additional partners may be engaged as needs arise with specific encampments or during implementation of the guidelines, including the cities of Capitola, Santa Cruz, Scotts Valley, and Watsonville.

ENCAMPMENT RESPONSE PROTOCOL

STEP 1: NOTIFICATION AND RESPONSE TEAM COORDINATION

While reports or notifications of encampments may be received by several different entities, the process followed to organize the Response Team and assess the health, safety, and environmental conditions of an encampment should remain consistent. All encampment notifications will be routed to staff designated by the CEO to begin the Response Protocol. Designated staff will notify key departments about the need to gather Health, Safety & Environmental Assessment information (Step 2). Along with regular coordination meetings, CEO staff will oversee the development of a process for public reporting of encampments of concern.

Timeline: 1-2 days after complaint received.

STEP 2: HEALTH, SAFETY & ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

County staff from different departments with different areas of expertise will be assigned to visit the site and gather information for a Health, Safety, & Environmental Assessment (Appendix A). The Assessment is adapted from guidance provided by the Benioff Homeless and Housing Initiative at the University of California, San Francisco. The Assessment documents the location, number of residents, accessibility, safety, public health concerns, and environmental impacts associated with a particular encampment. The Assessment provides information that can help with assessing the need for, and level of, appropriate response. It may not always be feasible to gather all the information included in the Assessment. The Assessment should serve as a guide rather than a required, formulaic, rigid, decision-making tool. The Assessment provides an outline of the areas that County staff will consider in developing response plans for a given encampment. County departments typically engaged in the Assessment process include staff from the following departments:

- Human Services Department - Housing for Health;
- Sheriff's Office;

- Health Services Agency – Public Health, Environmental Health, Behavioral Health, Clinics (Health Care for the Homeless);
- CDI – Environmental Planning.

Staff from CDI – Code Compliance, CDI – Public Works, Mosquito and Vector Control, and the Parks Department may accompany those conducting the Assessment, depending on location. County supported ArcGIS software may be used to help collect and share Assessment information across County departments.

Resident Engagement/Outreach

The above staff will work with a designated Resident Outreach Team to help engage with residents. The Resident Outreach Team consists of contracted representatives from one of the County’s community organizations that specialize in assessing resident needs and facilitating housing resources. The Resident Outreach Team will receive details of the encampment and its residents so they can engage with residents to provide support and connection to resources. Initial engagement will occur as soon as the Team has availability and after any immediate safety concerns are addressed. The goal of outreach is to assess resident needs, connect them with appropriate resources and services, and, in the event of a necessary resident relocation, determine the best next steps for residents and their belongings in coordination with other participating departments.

Timeline: 3-5 days after Step 1.

STEP 3: PRIORITIZATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on Assessment information gathered, the response to an encampment will be determined by the CEO and the leadership group based on the presence and severity of the following factors: population needs, locational factors, public health concerns, safety risks, and environmental impact to sensitive habitat/riparian areas. Utilizing the assessment and prioritization tool in Appendix A, encampments will be allocated a high, medium, or low risk level.

- High Priority: High risk levels, including resident safety, imminent health concerns, and severe weather; requires immediate resolution and relocation of residents.
- Moderate Priority: Moderate risk levels; requires removal at non-emergent timeline.
- Low Priority: Low risk levels; no removal or immediate action required.

Recommendations

Recommendations will be based on the priority ranking above and include reasons behind the recommended action and next steps required. Recommendations may involve mitigation strategies that require follow-up to determine if any further action is needed, as well as any other entities that would need to be engaged beyond the Resident Outreach Team (e.g., other health, housing, or community service providers).

STEP 4: RESIDENT COMMUNICATIONS AND NOTICE

Targeted notice to residents is critical, as is communication with service providers and other relevant departments for successful implementation of these guidelines. All communication, whether verbal or

written, will be done with consideration for the needs of vulnerable unsheltered residents, including the following:

- Language used should be clear and population appropriate and consistent with the language used by encampment residents.
- Multiple verbal and in-person notifications are critical, especially to address any literacy and language barriers, as well as to accommodate thinking in day-to-day or hour-to-hour terms.

High Priority Response

If the Assessment determines a high level of risk, health and safety assessors will immediately notify the CEO staff and share the Assessment and recommendations. Communications and notice protocol to residents are as follows:

1. The Sheriff's Office will post written 3-day (72-hour) notices (Appendix B) in visible locations that communicate outreach and service provider contact information, relocation date/time, and where belongings can be retrieved. Notices will be printed in English and Spanish. If residents are present when signs are posted, the posting entity will also verbally notify residents of these details.
2. Concurrently, the Resident Outreach Team will attempt to contact all residents. The Resident Outreach Team is responsible for engaging with residents and determining next steps for the individuals and their belongings. This will also help residents prepare for and understand the official notice, the reason for the urgency, and help enforce the timeline.

If the relocation is not completed on the day listed on the notice due to unforeseen circumstances, to treat people with dignity and respect, a new notice must be given and posted. If rescheduling is after 24 hours, the new date will be determined based on risk to resident safety, outreach, and the Sheriff's Office and clean-up entity's schedule. Whenever possible, notices should provide a minimum of 2 days (48 hours) notice to individuals, with exceptions made when imminent health and safety issues are identified.

Moderate Priority Response

If the Assessment determines a moderate Level of risk, health and safety assessors will notify the CEO staff and share the Assessment and recommendations. Moderate risk level communication and notice protocol is as follows:

1. The Sheriff's Office will post a 30-day written notice (Appendix B) in a visible location that communicates outreach and service provider contact information, relocation date/time, and where belongings can be retrieved. Notices will be printed in English and Spanish. If residents are present when the sign is posted, the posting entity will also verbally notify residents of these details.
2. Concurrently, the Resident Outreach Team will attempt to contact all residents. The Resident Outreach Team is responsible for engaging with residents and determining next steps for the individuals and their belongings. This will also help residents prepare for and understand the official notice and enforce the timeline.

If the relocation is not completed on the day listed on the notice due to unforeseen circumstances, to treat people with dignity and respect, a new notice must be given and posted. If rescheduling is after 24 hours, the new date will be determined based on outreach, as well as the Sheriff's Office and the clean-up entity's schedules.

STEP 5: RESIDENT PLAN AND RELOCATION

If encampment closure is recommended, CEO staff will ensure careful coordination with all required departments as needed. These policies recognize that additional coordination and resources may be required for encampments of 10 or more individuals. In larger encampments, there are often multiple entities already assisting residents with meeting their daily needs. It will be critical for these entities to understand the relocation process as outlined in this document, as well as be involved in relocation efforts. Housing for Health will coordinate with additional health, housing, and human services providers that may be required.

Outreach Expectations

During a recommended resident relocation, the Resident Outreach Team is responsible for helping determine next steps for residents and their belongings, in coordination with other key entities involved in the relocation.

The following are expectations of the Resident Outreach Team, to the extent resources are available:

- Engage with encampment residents regarding the need to relocate and the reasons for the relocation and offer services and resources as soon as possible after an encampment has been identified;
- Respond to resident questions regarding the contents of the written notice and what to expect;
- Compile a list of encampment residents and details about individuals that will be relevant to successful engagement and linkage to housing and community resources;
- Connect individuals to resources and services based on needs and preferences (e.g. mental health, medical);
- Ensure individuals are linked with the coordinated entry system and complete a connection services request form when needed and appropriate;
- Participate in scheduled meetings with relevant partners as appropriate to track and review needs and status updates for encampment residents, as well as connect residents to housing and community resources when possible;
- Help individuals to move themselves and their belongings to an identified, safe location as soon as possible. This may include a safe parking program, shelter, transitional housing, residential treatment, sober living or recovery residence, or other safe sleeping or living situation options.

The recommended relocation time of day is in the morning while residents are likely still present. Resident Outreach staff shall be present as much as possible before, during, and after relocation activities to help individuals connect with resources.. A Post-Relocation Notice (Appendix B) should be posted by the Sheriff's Office in a visible location where the encampment or campsite existed prior to relocation. The notice shall be posted for a minimum of 10 days after the relocation and state:

1. The day relocation was performed

2. Whether personal property was stored by the local jurisdiction
3. Where personal property will be stored
4. How personal property may be claimed by its owner
5. Contact information for supportive services and housing resources

Waste receptacles and bins should be made available to allow residents to choose to discard items or belongings for removal from the site.

STEP 6: STORAGE OF BELONGINGS AND SITE CLEANUP

Storage of Belongings

When residents must be relocated, they are encouraged to take all their belongings. In respecting personal property, approved items of value (see below) that are not removed by residents or left unattended for more than 24 hours will be stored.. The Sheriff's Office will maintain a log of dates and locations of any relocations that occur. Personal property shall be kept for at least 90 days from the date of collection to allow for recovery by its owner. Property left for longer than 90 days from the date it was stored will be disposed of.

Approved Items of Value

To determine whether property has any apparent value, the following factors must be considered:

1. The property constitutes identification, deeds or other legal documents, non-narcotic medication or essential medical supplies, cell phones or other small electronic devices, cash, or credit cards.
2. The property is damaged, broken, or used to an extent such that it cannot be used for its intended or original purposes, as well as any other typical alternative uses; or
3. The property is severely soiled, stained, torn, damaged or extensively used particularly for an item of clothing; or
4. The property is not likely to be reclaimed, such as torn or soiled clothing, shoes, blankets, or sleeping bags, damaged or extensively used books or papers; or
5. There is reasonable evidence that the owner does not intend to return to claim the property, or that the owner intended to dispose of the property as refuse or trash. For example, property that was found in or near a trash can or dumpster or the fact that the property has been left for an extended period of days; or
6. The item is so infested with vermin that no one would want to continue to use or possess it.

Storage and item recovery will be at no cost to the individual that owns the property. Access to belongings will be as low barrier as possible and will not require an identification. Those wishing to collect their belongings can provide a date and location from which the property was taken. Individuals will be asked to describe the personal property with particularity. Personal property that is retrieved will be reflected in the log.

Site Clean-Up and Restoration

Sites shall be cleaned up and restored as necessary after all residents have been relocated. CEO staff will identify a department, contracted entity, or community organization to assist with clean-up. The Sheriff's Office will also be present if there are safety concerns. Depending on the health or safety conditions, other entities may also be engaged to participate.

If damage to protected habitats has taken place, document the extent of damage and necessary restoration. Riparian areas and buffers shall be restored and signed to protect resources and prevent further encampments. If located on private property, CDI-Code Compliance will utilize the County's code enforcement procedures to ensure that the private property owner restores the property, which may include a lien procedure for clean-up/restoration costs. Parks will be lead on restoration in public parks, and CDI-Public Works will be lead on restoration within the public right-of-way. Mosquito and Vector Control will assist with pest control. Public health will advise on universal precautions and efforts to reduce the spread of any infectious diseases.

STEP 7: DOCUMENTATION AND EVALUATION

CEO staff will gather from the participating departments documentation of the entire relocation process, including the Health, Safety & Environmental Assessments and recommendation(s), notes from the Resident Outreach Team, and any notes from the clean-up entity.

Within 30 days of relocation, CEO staff will schedule a meeting with all entities involved in the relocation to assess any challenges and opportunities for improvement. Improvements to the guidelines will be made if determined through this process. Part of the ongoing evaluation will be to collect and analyze data on residents and the results associated with implementing these guidelines (e.g., how many were housed, how many returned to an unsheltered setting, etc.)

APPENDIX A: HEALTH, SAFETY & ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT TOOL

Instructions: Gather as much information as possible within the time frame available to complete this collaborative assessment. Individuals involved in the assessment should only complete sections they feel qualified to complete and for which they have accurate and updated information to report. If an individual does not have enough information to complete part of the assessment, they should note that in the description/notes section of each response area. Individual assessments will be combined to create a more comprehensive assessment of health, safety, and environmental issues impacting people living in encampments and the surrounding community.

Assessment Date:

Assessor Name:

Assessor Department:

Assessor Phone #:

Assessor Email:

Location

Location (Draw on map)

Location General Description/Notes:

Size of Encampment

of estimated people =

of estimated tents/dwelling unit structures =

Size Description/Notes:

Population Needs

Age. What percentage of the residents are 50 years old and above or under 21 years old in the encampment?

☐ 75% or more ☐ 50-74% ☐ 25-49% ☐ Less than 25%

Severe Medical Needs. What percentage of residents have severe medical needs that likely require attention before entering housing, e.g., end stage liver disease, unmanaged diabetes, unmanaged kidney disease or need for dialysis, severe lung disease, cancer, etc., in the encampment?

☐ 75% or more ☐ 50-74% ☐ 25-49% ☐ Less than 25%

Severe Behavioral Health Needs. What percentage of residents have severe mental health or substance use needs that require attention before entering housing?

☐ 75% or more ☐ 50-74% ☐ 25-49% ☐ Less than 25%

Activities of Daily Living. What percentage of residents struggle with 2 or more activities of daily living (bathing, dressing, toileting, transferring, and eating)?

☐ 75% or more ☐ 50-74% ☐ 25-49% ☐ Less than 25%

Population Description/Notes:

Encampment Organization

Group Cohesion (Scale of 1-5 with 5 being most cohesive and 1 being the least). *Degree to which the encampment operates as a group or as a collection of individuals. High degree of cohesion indicates the entire encampment understands itself as a group and will seek to remain together or near each other versus)*

Self-Management (Scale of 1-5 with 5 being most capable and 1 being the least). *High degree of self-management would include formal or semi-formal leadership structures, adopted camp rules or requirements, organization of chores/activities, collective negotiations for camp members.*

Provider Engagement (Scale of 1-5 with 5 being most engaged and 1 being the least). *Degree to which outreach or service providers routinely engage with residents of the encampment. Low engagement (1) = contact once per month or less. High engagement = at least weekly, regular contact.*

Organization Description/Notes:

Location Factors

Proximity to Sensitive Use. Is the encampment near the **main** entrance of a private property OR within 0.2 miles of schools, daycares, nursing homes, playgrounds, ballfields, public gardens, tourist attractions, or hospitals? (Yes/No)

Accessibility Issues. Is the encampment impairing ADA access by blocking ramps, sidewalks, or ADA specific transit infrastructure, e.g., elevators to or from transit stations? (Yes/No)

Challenge to Frequent Public Use. Is the encampment in a location often used by the public, e.g., frequently used park, tourist attraction, highly used walkway or path? (Yes/No)

Construction Zone: Is the encampment within 0.1 mile of a property slated for development of buildings, roadways, utilities, or other infrastructure or near a staging area for a construction project (Yes/No)?

Danger to Encampment Residents: Is the encampment in a location that presents an extremely high risk of serious injury and safety risk for the residents, e.g., on or near freeways, floodplains during rainy seasons, path of an active wildfire, etc. (Yes/No)? If yes, activate hazard protocol.

Public Service Access: Is the encampment in the way of entry or access for public agencies – blocking fire, law enforcement, utility service, etc.? (Yes/No)

Location Description/Notes:

Public Health

Infestation. Does the site have large numbers of insects or animals to cause property damage or increase the risk or spread of disease, e.g., body lice, rats, mice, rodents, etc. (Yes/No)? If yes, contact Public Health and/or vector control.

Infectious Disease: Does the encampment contain individuals known to have the presence of diseases that are easily transmittable and create a risk to other encampment residents or the surrounding neighborhood, e.g., shigella, tuberculosis, Hepatitis A, COVID-19, and others. (Yes/No)? If yes, activate public health response.

Public Health Description/Notes:

Safety Risks

Sexual Violence. Have there been reports of forced, unwanted, and/or violent sexual activity in the camp? (Yes/No)

Physical Violence. Have there been reports or observed incidents of physical violence in the camp? (Yes/No)

Uncontrolled Fires. Have there been reports or observed incidents of uncontrolled fires in or near the camp? (Yes/No)

Theft. Have there been reports or observed incidents of theft at the camp? (Yes/No)

Conflict. Have there been reports or observed incidents of interpersonal conflict among residents in the camp? (Yes/No)

Hazardous Materials. Are hazardous materials, such as chemicals, paints, oils, or other materials present? (Yes/No)

Safety Description/Notes:

Environmental Resource Impacts

Environmental Resource Areas. Is the encampment within a riparian area, wetland area, protected buffer, or flood area? (Yes/No)

Water Quality Impacts. Are there noted water quality impacts, such as sediment, pathogens, trash, runoff? (Yes/No)

Vegetation/Habitat Impacts. Is vegetation or protected habitat areas at the site impacted? (Yes/No)

Environmental Resource Description/Notes:

**SANTA CRUZ COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

<72-HOUR> NOTICE TO VACATE PROPERTY

THIS IS AN OFFICAL NOTICE

**PERSONS REMAINING ON THIS PROPERTY AFTER THE
DATE LISTED IN THIS <72-HOUR> NOTICE MAY BE
SUBJECT TO CITATION, ARREST, AND/OR PROSECUTION
FOR TRESPASS AND/OR UNLAWFUL LODGING
PURSUANT TO PENAL CODE SECTIONS 602 AND 647(e)**

Date Posted: _____

Deputy: _____

**PROPERTY LEFT IN THIS POSTED AREA AFTER 0800AM FOLLOWING
THE DATE OF THIS <72-HOUR> NOTICE IS SUBJECT TO
REMOVAL/DISPOSAL**

A. Personal items that objectively appear to be temporarily unattended, and not abandoned, will be stored for a period of 90 days. These items can be claimed by scheduling an appointment with the Sheriff's Office Community Policing Unit. Stored items that remain unclaimed after 90 days (by [____]) will be considered abandoned and will be disposed of.

B. The following classes of items will be subject to immediate disposal: (i) trash; (ii) items that are objectively determined to be intentionally abandoned by their owners; and (iii) items that would present a health hazard to store.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact

_____.

The storage facility will be open by appointment only Monday through Friday. If you intend on picking up your stored items, please call the storage facility (phone number _____) ahead of time so the storage facility can facilitate pickup.

Date Posted: _____

Deputy: _____

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

THIS IS AN OFFICAL NOTICE

On [____], the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office removed and stored personal items from this property that objectively appeared to be temporarily unattended and not abandoned. The foregoing items are being stored and can be claimed by Contacting the Sheriff's Office Community Policing Unit and will be stored there for a period of 90 days. Stored items that remain unclaimed after 90 days (by [____]) will be considered abandoned and will be disposed of.

The following classes of items were subject to immediate disposal: (i) trash; (ii) items that were objectively determined to be intentionally abandoned by their owners; and (iii) items that presented a health hazard to store.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact

The storage facility will be open by appointment only, Monday through Friday. If you intend on picking up your stored items, please call the storage facility (phone number _____) ahead of time so the storage facility can facilitate pickup.

Date Posted: _____

Deputy: _____