



*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  
February 21, 2024; 3 pm**

**2005 Wharf Road, Capitola – Capitola Library - Ow Family Community Room**

Zoom Conference Link: <https://santacruzcounty-us.zoomgov.com/j/1610778689>

Call-In Number: +16692545252 Webinar ID#: 161 077 8689

**Call to Order/Welcome**

**Non-Agenda Public Comment**

**Action Items** (vote required) {3:15 – 4:30 pm}

1. Approval of Minutes: December 13, 2023, Regular Meeting.
2. Approval of Co-Chairs for Policy Board.
3. Approval of Nominee for Workforce/Business/Foundation Sector Representative on Policy Board.
4. Review and Approval of Proposed Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention – Round 5 (HHAP-5) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Housing for Health Partnership (CoC) and County of Santa Cruz.
5. Review and Approval of Proposed HHAP-5 Budget.
6. Review and Approval of Housing for Health Partnership Key Action Steps over the next Three Years (January 2024 – 2026).
7. Authorize Staff to Finalize and Submit HHAP-5 Regionally Coordinated Homelessness Action Plan and Application on behalf of the CoC.

**Information Items** (no vote required): {4:30-5 pm}

8. 2024 Continuum of Care (CoC) Awards
9. Homekey Round 3 award for Freedom House Youth Transitional Housing Project
10. 2024 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count Update
11. Youth Homelessness System Improvement (YHSI) Grant Proposal Submission
12. Lived Expertise Action Boards – Updates

**Report/Discussion Items** (no vote required):

13. Coordinating efforts to raise local resources through strategic grant making, partnerships, etc. How can Housing for Health Partnership best support generating more local resources to support efforts?

**Board Member Announcements**

**Adjournment**



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**Next Meeting:           Wednesday, April 17, 2024, 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.*

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**Action Item 1: Approval of Meeting Minutes**

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(Action required) – Robert Ratner

**Recommendation**

Approve the December 13, 2023, Housing for Health Partnership Policy Board Regular Meeting minutes.

**Suggested Motion**

I move to approve the December 13, 2023, Housing for Health Partnership Policy Board Regular Meeting minutes.



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## **Housing for Health Partnership (H4HP) Policy Board Regular Meeting Minutes December 13, 2023; 3 pm**

### **Call to Order/Welcome**

*Present: Heather Rodgers, Lisa Murphy, Mariah Lyons, Susan True, Suzi Merriam, Tom Stagg*

*Absent: Jamie Goldstein, Judy Hutchison, Justin Cummings, Kate Nester, Manu Koenig, Tamara Vides, Martine Watkins, Tiffany Cantrell-Warren*

Additions and Deletions to the Agenda: None

### **Non-Agenda Public Comment**

*No public comment received.*

### **Action Items (vote required)**

1. Approval of Minutes: October 18, 2023, Regular Meeting

*Discussion: None*

*Public Comment: None*

*Board Action: Deferred due to lack of quorum.*

2. Approval of Housing for Health Partnership Emergency Shelter Standards

*Discussion: Monica Lippi, from the Housing for Health Division (H4H), discussed the updated draft emergency shelter standards and how the development of the standards came from shelter workgroups, surveying the practices of other existing county-funded shelters, reviewing public funding requirements, operations workgroup discussions, and Housing for Health Policy Board feedback. Mentioned that the standards have gone through many drafted versions and now indicates if federal or state regulations require a standard. Concerns were raised regarding Santa Cruz City's inability to provide the required support services. Staff noted that if the City of Santa Cruz receives funding from the HUD Emergency Solution Grant (ESG), the Housing for Health Partnership Continuum of Care (CoC), or the Human Services Department, they must abide by the written standards. H4H staff noted that any emergency shelter can request a waiver of a standard by contacting Santa Cruz County's Human Services Department's H4H. Questions were raised on how to identify available beds in different shelters. H4H staff are still exploring the shelter bed feature called the Bed and Unit Inventory feature in HMIS. Discussed how H4H is working with United Way/2-1-1 to provide connection services support to the community with more resources.*

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**Public Comment:** *Serg Kagno highlighted the significance of improving the standards of shelters and the need for a fair policy. He shared that adopting a client-centered approach to practice, not assuming that behaviors were based solely on the client, is essential. Mentioned the availability of beds should be extended beyond the hours of 9 am to 5 pm.*

**Board Action:** *Deferred due to lack of quorum.*

**Information Items (no vote required):**

**3. 2024 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count Volunteer Recruitment**

**Discussion:** *Sheryl Norteye, from the Housing for Health Division, announced that the Point-in-Time count is scheduled for January 25th, starting at 5am and ending around 10am. There have been 2 community meetings so far and there will be one youth specific meeting December 22 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Capitola Public Library, 2005 Wharf Road, Capitola. Mentioned that to ensure enough volunteers to complete the count, we need 150 volunteers, and currently have 35% of our goal. Volunteers will form teams of no more than 4 members and cover the entire county by walking or driving their assigned route sections. Volunteers will conduct a visual count of people experiencing homelessness in the county. Guides with experiences of homelessness in the County can get paid \$20 an hour to help guide volunteers in the count. For some county employees, participation in the count is part of their work schedule, if approved by their supervisor. Tracking of the count will be done on an app called Survey 123. Mentioned that physical resources and a map will also be available to guide volunteers on day of count. Training available in-person and via online videos.*

**4. Miracle Messages- Volunteer and Participant Recruitment**

**Discussion:** *Miracle Messages outreach specialist Debra Sun shared how the 1440 Foundation is funding a one-year pilot project to incorporate Miracle Messages' work into Santa Cruz County. Debra Sun shared that 8 years ago, Kevin F. Adler, the founder of Miracle Messages, recorded a video of homeless individuals asking them if they have any loved ones they want to reconnect with. Through video messages, Miracle Messages has been able to reconnect 800 homeless individuals with their loved ones. Mentioned the Miracle friend program was created for individuals who prefer a phone-based companion for emotional support, rather than reconnecting with family members. Miracle Messages is seeking volunteers for their Reunion Services and Miracle Friends programs. The Reunion Services program needs digital detective volunteers who can help locate missing loved ones. Monthly orientations are conducted for new volunteers. Miracle Friends program needs phone buddy volunteers who can be matched with someone who is unhoused. A 30-minute orientation is held every Wednesday for new volunteers. Mentioned that the organization needs Spanish-*



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*speaking volunteers as well as volunteers who can actively look for missing people. Discussed the possibility of involving minors in broadcasting Miracle Messages on social media. Discussed that Miracle Messages main goal is to help individuals experiencing homelessness rebuild their social networks and connections to secure proper housing.*

5. Lived Expertise Action Board – Recruitment of Participants

*Sheryl Norteye, from the Housing for Health Division, shared that the recruitment efforts for two Lived Expertise Action Boards (LEAB), one specifically for youth, launched on December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023 ends on January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Discussed how Housing for Health staff are seeking help with identifying individuals interested in participating in these groups through nominations or self-interest forms. Mentioned that H4H staff received 15 Interest forms in one week. Mentioned there will be 5 individuals selected for the Lived Expertise Action Board and 5 for the Youth Lived Expertise Action Board, out of which 2 members will be chosen for the Housing for Health Policy Board. Mentioned that selected participants will receive \$25/hour for a 20-hour monthly commitment. Consultants will help manage and support participants while providing training and educational opportunities.*

6. 25<sup>th</sup> Santa Cruz County Annual Homeless Memorial

*Chief Initiatives Officer at Housing Matters Tom Stagg announced that the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Homeless Memorial Service will take place on Tuesday, December 21<sup>st</sup> from 10am to 11:30am at the Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium located at 307 Church St. in downtown Santa Cruz. The Memorial honors homeless community members who passed away in 2023, as well as those who were homeless before but may have been housed by the time of their passing. During the memorial, the names of these individuals are read aloud. Discussed whether a list of full names or photos will be shared with the public before the memorials. Mentioned that 105 persons experiencing homelessness died on the streets of Santa Cruz County in 2023, the highest number on record. The Housing for Health Partnership will contribute to and support the event more next year.*

7. 2024 Housing for Health Partnership Current Meeting Schedule

*Housing for Health Director Robert Ratner shared the 2024 Housing for Health Partnership Policy Board meetings will be held at the Capitola Library – 2005 Wharf Road, Capitola, 95010, Ow Family Community Room. Calendar invites will be sent out soon, and the meetings will be held at 3 PM for a duration of no more than three hours.*



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**Report/Discussion Items** (no vote required):

8. Regionally Coordinated Homelessness Action Plan (HHAP-5) & Housing for a Healthy Santa Cruz Framework Update

*Discussion:*

*The Housing for Health Director, Robert Ratner, indicated the state requires a Regional Coordinated Homelessness Action Plan to secure Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention Round 5 funding (HHAP-5) by March 27, 2024. Mentioned that the County and CoC HHAP-5 allocation amounts are expected to be less than 2024 allocations and around \$5M due to declines in the County's 2023 PIT Count. Discussed H4H staff will update the three-year Housing for a Healthy Santa Cruz Framework in conjunction with HHAP-5. Discussed that H4H staff will work on drafting HHAP-5 & Framework to distribute widely, including public meetings geographically distributed throughout the County between January 23, 2024, and February 7, 2024, for feedback and input. Mentioned that the Housing for Health Policy Board and County Board of Supervisors will need to approve HHAP-5 application before submittal. Questions were raised if the Cities needed to be included in the required HHAP-5 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Staff noted that the CoC and the County Only need to be included in the MOU. Mentioned that the HUD CoC process for federal funding is a separate process that occurs annually.*

### **Board Member Announcements**

- *Robert Ratner shared that the Housing Authority will be making available 80-100 vouchers in the next 6 – 12 months for people experiencing homelessness.*
- *Home Key Project Park Haven Plaza is expected to open this summer.*
- *Susan True from the Community Foundation of Santa Cruz announced this will be her last Board meeting.*

### **Adjournment**

**Next Meeting:** **Wednesday, February 21, 2024, 3 pm**

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**Action Item 2: Approval of Co-Chairs for Policy Board**

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(Action required) – Robert Ratner

**Recommendation**

Approve Suzi Merriam, Community Development Director, City of Watsonville to serve as a Housing for Health Partnership Policy Board Co-Chair for at least the next two years.

Approve Tom Stagg, Chief Initiatives Officer, Housing Matters, to serve as a Housing for Health Partnership Policy Board Co-Chair for at least the next year.

**Background**

The Housing for Health Partnership Governance charter calls for the Policy Board to appoint two members to serve as Co-Chairs for the Board with staggered term lengths to help support some continuity between this role. The prior two Co-Chairs, Tiffany Cantrell-Warren from the County Health Services Agency, and Tamara Vides, from the City of Watsonville both left the Policy Board at the end of 2023. Housing for Health Division staff reached out to Suzi and Tom to determine their willingness to serve in this capacity and both agreed to support meeting planning and facilitation in the Co-Chair role.

**Suggested Motion**

I move to approve Suzi Merriam and Tom Stagg as Co-Chairs of the Policy Board for a minimum two-year and one-year term, respectively.



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### **Action Item 3: Approval of Nominee for Workforce/Business/Foundation Sector Representative on Policy Board**

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(Action required) – Robert Ratner

#### **Recommendation**

Approve Terence Concannon, Chief Executive Officer for Visit Santa Cruz County, to serve a two-year term (2024-2025) on the Housing for Health Partnership Policy Board in the Workforce/Business/Foundation sector role.

#### **Background**

In 2023, Susan True from the Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County resigned from her Workforce/Business/Foundation sector role on the Policy Board and continues to support the Partnership in other ways. The Governance Charter calls on Housing for Health Division staff to support the recruitment and nomination of individuals for available partner sector seats on the Board.

Terence Concannon reached out to Housing for Health Division staff to explore ways to get more involved in issues of housing and homelessness within the County. He is the relatively new CEO for Visit Santa Cruz County, where he leads a staff of 8 amazing professionals, who work diligently to market and promote the county as a world-class tourism destination, while assisting as stewards and sustainers of the environment in which we live. Terence has over 25 years of experience in hospitality and tourism in California, Arizona, and Ohio, including sales, marketing and operations for hotels, destinations, and events. He comes to Santa Cruz County after six years in Lake Havasu City, Arizona, where he led Go Lake Havasu, the city's Destination Management Organization. Terence is also an educator and was the lead instructor at Arizona State University at Lake Havasu's Tourism & Recreation Department.

#### **Suggested Motion**

I move to approve Terence Concannon to serve a minimum two-year term (2024-2025) in the Workforce/Business/Foundation Sector role on the Housing for Health Partnership Policy Board.

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**Action Item 4: Review and Approval of Proposed Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention – Round 5 (HHAP-5) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Housing for Health Partnership (CoC) and County of Santa Cruz**

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(Action required) – Robert Ratner

**Recommendation**

Approve required HHAP-5 MOU between the CoC and County of Santa Cruz as included in the Policy Board packet.

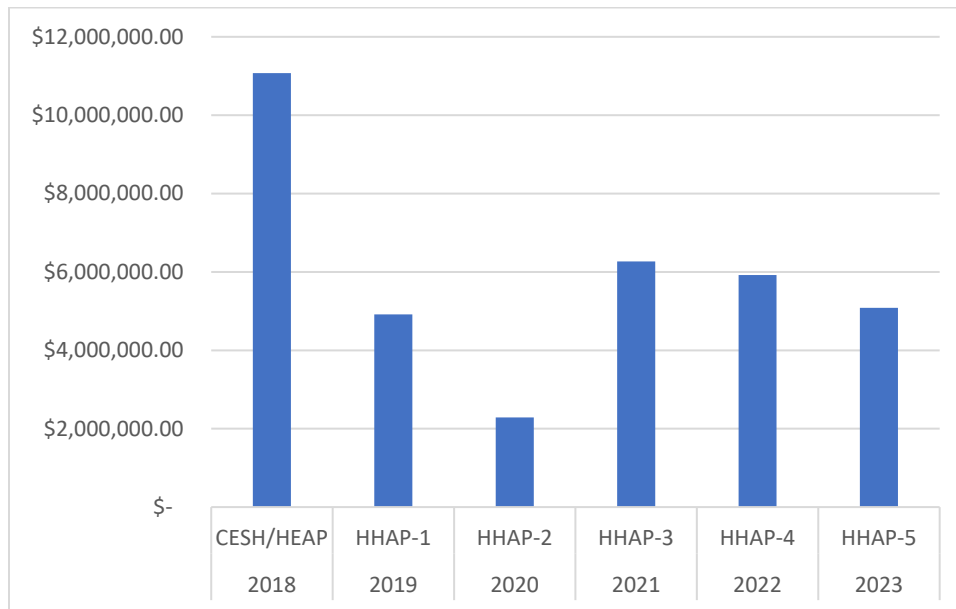
**Background**

California has made five rounds of Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) block grant funding available to local bodies as part of a statewide investment in addressing housing and homelessness that began in 2018 with the creation of the California Emergency Solutions and Housing (CESH) and Homeless Emergency Aid Programs (HEAP). Both programs ended in 2019 and were replaced by HHAP. Since 2018, these programs have divided funding allocations among counties, CoCs, large cities, and tribal entities. Within Santa Cruz County, only the County and CoC receive direct funding allocations. Funding amounts vary significantly based on statewide appropriations and the funding formula is linked to the proportionate share of the state’s homeless population based on the most recently available Point-In-Time (PIT) count data. **Table 1** shows the combined CoC and County allocations of block grant funding over time. **Chart 1** shows this information graphically. To date, the state legislator and Governor have not committed to sustaining this block grant program over time. The dollars available are subject to annual budget negotiations and appropriations. Historically, the state allows local jurisdictions to spend the dollars over a five-to-six-year period.

**Table 1: Block Grant Funding Allocations to the Santa Cruz County CoC and County Over Time**

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

**Chart 1: Block Grant Funding Allocations to Santa Cruz County CoC and County Over Time**



The state provides incentives for local jurisdictions to combine their funds into a single shared pool of dollars managed by a single entity. Historically, incentives have included faster access to funds and greater interest earning potential, reduced reporting and tracking requirements, and in some circumstances slightly increased allocations. Since HHAP Round 3, the County and CoC have executed MOUs to formally combine their funds into a single pot. A HHAP Round 5 MOU is required to continue this local practice. The County of Santa Cruz Human Services Department, Housing for Health Division, historically manages these dollars on behalf of both the CoC and County.

The Policy Board packet includes a draft MOU between the CoC and County that will be included in the HHAP-5 funding application package after approval from the CoC Policy Board and the County Board of Supervisors. If not approved by both parties, the community will lose some of the incentives available for combining funds into a single pot. The MOU refers to the required Regionally Coordinated Homelessness Action Plan template that is part of the HHAP-5 funding application. A draft copy of this Regionally Coordinated Homelessness Action Plan is included in your packet.

**Suggested Motion**

I move to approve execution of the HHAP-5 MOU between the Housing for Health Partnership (CoC) and County and for inclusion of the MOU in our local application for HHAP-5 funding.

**Memorandum of Understanding  
Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program, Round 5**

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been created and entered into on February \_\_, 2024 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 5 (HHAP-5) is a \$1 billion state grant, made available through a September 29, 2023 HHAP-5 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 March 27, 2024.

b. Allocations are available to jurisdictions in Santa Cruz County as follows:

<u>Jurisdiction:</u>	<u>Allocation:</u>
Santa Cruz County	\$2,488,842.22
Watsonville/Santa Cruz City & County CoC	\$2,594,134.47

c. Per the HHAP-5 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-5 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 execute a contract with the State to receive and administer each applicant’s HHAP-5 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 – 4). Therefore, the County is the Administrative Entity for both County and CoC allocations of HHAP-5.

- e. The HHAP-5 NOFA requires that joint applicants collaborate on and submit with their application due March 27, 2024, to the State a Regionally Coordinated Homelessness Action Plan (RCHAP) that meets the requirements for such a plan described in the HHAP-5 NOFA.
- f. In addition, the HHAP-5 NOFA requires that joint applicants for HHAP-5 funds submit an MOU with their application due March 27, 2024, to the State, signed by each participating applicant, reflecting, and committing to participate in and comply with a Regionally Coordinated Homelessness Action Plan (RCHAP). In meeting this MOU requirement, the State recommends simply summarizing these 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-5 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 public land, the development of interim and permanent housing options, and coordinating, connecting, and delivering services to individuals experiencing homelessness or at risk of experiencing homelessness, within the region. *See Section 2.1 in the HHAP-5 RCHAP.*
  - ii. Commitments to key actions each eligible applicant will take to improve the system performance measures. *See Section 2.2 in the HHAP-5 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 Section 2.3 in the HHAP-5 RCHAP.*
  - iv. Commitments to actions each eligible applicant will take to reduce homelessness among individuals exiting institutional settings, including but not limited to jails, prisons, hospitals, and any other institutions such as foster care, behavioral health facilities, etc. as applicable in the region. *See Section 2.4 in the HHAP-5 RCHAP.*
  - v. Commitments to roles of each eligible applicant in the utilization of local, state, and federal funding programs to end homelessness. *See Section 2.5*

*in the HHAP-5 RCHAP.*

- vi. Commitments to the roles and responsibilities of each eligible applicant to connect individuals to wrap-around services from all eligible federal, state, and local benefit programs. *See Section 2.6 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 sub-recipients, reporting on HHAP-5 dollars and activities to the State, and meeting the term and conditions of the State HHAP-5 contract.
  
- c. The CoC commits to participating in all meetings and other events (such as community forums, surveys, client focus groups) as needed for County and CoC coordination on key HHAP-5 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.

III. Updating of the RCHAP

- a. The HHAP-5 NOFA requires that each region submit an updated RCHAP no later than January 1, 2026 as a condition for State disbursement of the second half of the HHAP-5 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 \_\_\_\_\_, 2024
- b. Termination: This MOU will remain in effect until June 30, 2028, the final deadline for expenditure of HHAP Round 5 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.

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

Date

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\_\_\_\_\_, Co-Chair  
Housing for Health Partnership Policy Board

Date



# California Interagency Council on Homelessness

In partnership with the Department of Housing and Community Development



## REGIONALLY COORDINATED HOMELESSNESS ACTION PLAN AND APPLICATION TEMPLATE

HOMELESS HOUSING, ASSISTANCE AND PREVENTION PROGRAM  
ROUND 5 (HHAP-5)



DRAFT

## Purpose of this Template

The California Interagency Council on Homelessness (Cal ICH) in partnership with the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) is providing this optional application template, inclusive of the Regionally Coordinated Homelessness Action Plan, for use by jurisdictions seeking funding under Round 5 of the Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program (HHAP-5).

This template closely mirrors the online application portal and is intended to support the regional development and submission of information required for approval by Cal ICH as required in AB 129 (Health & Safety Code § 50230, et seq.).

This template will not be collected by Cal ICH nor reviewed in lieu of an official application submission. Applicants are responsible for inputting the required information into the [online application portal](#) and submitting the official application through the portal no later than 5:00 p.m. on March 27, 2024.

- **PART I: REGIONAL IDENTIFICATION AND CONTRACTING INFORMATION**
- **PART II: REGIONALLY COORDINATED HOMELESSNESS ACTION PLAN**
  - 2.1: Participating Jurisdictions' Roles and Responsibilities
  - 2.2 Performance Measures and Improvement Plan
  - 2.3 Equity Improvement Plan
  - 2.4 Plan to Reduce the Number of People Experiencing Homelessness Upon Exiting an Institutional Setting
  - 2.5 Plan to Utilize Local, State, and Federal Funds to End Homelessness
  - 2.6 Plan to Connect People Experiencing Homelessness to All Eligible Benefit Programs
  - 2.7 Memorandum of Understanding
  - 2.8 Application Development Process Certification
- **PART III: FUNDING PLAN(S)**

## Part I: Regional Identification and Contracting Information

1. Select the CoC Region.
2. Indicate which of the eligible applicants are participating in this HHAP-5 application.

### Guidance

*All overlapping jurisdictions within a region must complete a Regionally Coordinated Homelessness Action Plan and submit a single regional HHAP-5 application. For purposes of HHAP-5, the term “region” refers to the geographic area served by a **county**, including all large cities and the CoC or CoCs within it. When multiple counties are served by the same CoC, those counties may choose to apply together or as separate county regions; however, multi-county regions that are served by the same CoC are encouraged to apply as one region and submit a single Regionally Coordinated Homelessness Action Plan.*

*Applicants may apply together and still receive and administer funds separately.*

- **Large Cities must** apply as part of the regional application with the County and CoC.
- **Counties 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.*
- **A CoC that serves a single county must** apply as part of the regional application with the County and any overlapping Large Cities.
- **A CoC that serves multiple counties must either:**
  - *Apply as part of the regional application with multiple Counties and any overlapping Large Cities; and/or*
  - *Participate in the regional application of **each** overlapping County and the Large Cities therein.*

3. Indicate the Administrative Entity and provide contact information for each Eligible Applicant.

### Guidance

*Each eligible applicant (Large City, County, and CoC) has the discretion to receive their base allocation directly or may designate an eligible applicant in their region to serve as their Administrative Entity. This selection will indicate to Cal ICH which eligible applicant will enter into contract with the state to receive and administer each eligible applicant’s HHAP-5 allocation.*

*The Administrative Entity is responsible for HHAP funds and meeting the terms and conditions of the contract. Broadly speaking, this means administering funds, contracting (when necessary) with sub-recipients, and reporting on HHAP-5 dollars and activities to Cal ICH.*

- *If you plan to contract with the state to receive and administer **only** your (single) HHAP-5 allocation, select: “Will enter into contract with the state to receive and administer their HHAP-5 allocation individually” under the contracting selection in the application.*
- *If you **do not plan to contract with the state** and instead plan to identify another participating eligible applicant in the region to enter into contract with the state to receive and administer your HHAP-5 allocation, select: “Identify another participating eligible applicant in their region to enter into contract with the state to receive and administer their HHAP-5 allocation” under the contracting selection in the application. You will then be prompted to designate the Administrative Entity from a list of eligible applicants in the region.*
- *If you plan to contract with the state to **receive and administer multiple HHAP-5 allocations** within your region, select “Will enter into contract with the state to receive and administer their HHAP-5 allocation and allocation(s) from other eligible applicants in the region” under the contracting selection in the application.*

**Administrative Entity Information**

Participating Eligible Applicant	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Administering only your own HHAP-5 allocation</li> <li>2. Administering multiple allocations or</li> <li>3. Designating a different eligible applicant as your Administrative Entity</li> </ol>	If designating, identify the Administrative Entity that will be administering your HHAP-5 Allocation
County of Santa Cruz	2	
CA-508: Watsonville/City and County of Santa Cruz CoC	3	County of Santa Cruz

**Contact Information for each Eligible Applicant**

Participating Eligible Applicant	Name	Title	Email	Phone Number
County of Santa Cruz	Sheryl Norteye	Senior Human Services Analyst	Sheryl.norteye@santacruzcountyca.gov	(831) 454-7329
CA-508: Watsonville/City and County of Santa Cruz CoC	Sheryl Norteye	Senior Human Services Analyst	Sheryl.norteye@santacruzcountyca.gov	(831) 454-7329

## Part II: Regionally Coordinated Homelessness Action Plan

### 2.1 Participating Jurisdictions' Roles and Responsibilities

1. **First** identify and describe the specific roles and responsibilities of **each participating Eligible Applicant** in the region regarding:
  - a. Outreach and site coordination;
  - b. Siting and use of available land;
  - c. Development of interim and permanent housing options; and
  - d. Coordination and connection to the delivery of services for individuals experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness within the region.
2. **Then** describe and explain how all collaborating Eligible Applicants in the region are coordinating in each area.

Optional: You may also include roles and responsibilities of small jurisdictions in the region that elect to engage and collaborate on the plan.

#### Guidance

***Each jurisdiction must identify and describe their role in the region for each table.***

*To add additional Jurisdictions, add rows to the bottom of each table.*

#### Outreach and Site Coordination

Participating Jurisdictions	Role(s) and Responsibilities in Outreach and Site Coordination
County of Santa Cruz	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support County Health Services Agency (HSA) plans and funding proposals to sustain and expand street outreach efforts to individuals experiencing homelessness and struggling with behavioral health conditions.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>3. Implement County Human Services Department, Housing for Health (H4H) Division vendor pool contract for expanded homeless outreach in unincorporated areas of the County.</li> <li>4. Coordinate and integrate the efforts of HSA, H4H, and Alliance-funded street outreach teams, and link these efforts with programs funded with Encampment Response and HHAP-5 funds.</li> </ol>

**CA-508: Watsonville/City and County of Santa Cruz CoC**

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 implement a communications strategy and tools for improved outreach to underserved communities and historically marginalized populations.
3. Expand effective use of the HMIS outreach module to help create more connections and communication among providers in support of their work with clients.

Given the individual roles and responsibilities identified above, describe and explain how all participating jurisdictions are or will begin to coordinate these efforts to ensure comprehensive outreach and site coordination to individuals experiencing and at-risk of experiencing homelessness in the region.

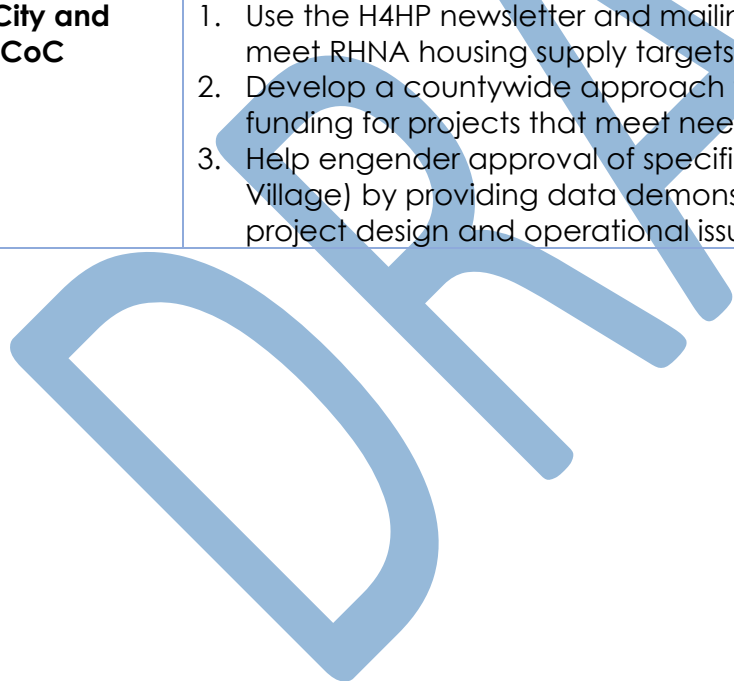
Overall coordination among participating jurisdictions and organizations has and will continue to take place through meetings of the CoC Charter-established Housing for Health Partnership (H4HP), which serves as the Santa Cruz County's Continuum of Care (CoC). The H4H Division is not only the center of a broad range of County homelessness programs and activities, but it also staffs and facilitates all broader CoC efforts as the H4HP-approved Collaborative Applicant, HMIS Lead, and Coordinated Entry System (CES) lead. The key street outreach/site coordination partners - H4H, HSA, Alliance, and the City of Santa Cruz – are all permanent members of the H4HP Policy Board (CoC Board), and as such regularly discuss and make decisions on key outreach and site coordination funding, policies, and activities. In addition, the H4H Division Director, as lead staff to the CoC, regularly meets with his counterparts at HSA, Alliance, and the City of Santa Cruz, to collaborate on and jointly fund a variety of critical programs, including street outreach.

Land Use and Development

**Participating Jurisdictions**

**Role(s) and Responsibilities in land use and development**

<p><b>County of Santa Cruz</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Participate in and advocate for efforts of the County Planning Department and Cities to identify viable “opportunity sites” for affordable housing development for inclusion in local Housing Elements, reduce zoning and planning barriers to the siting of interim and permanent housing, streamline planning processes, and encouraging all activities toward meeting RHNA targets and meeting housing supply goals.</li> <li>2. Support and encourage participation in the County’s Sustainability Update process that includes changes to the County’s rules and regulations for land use and development to encourage development of housing that is attainable to a wide range of residents.</li> <li>3. Coordinating with staff from the County Planning Department and Cities around identifying, assessing, and securing potential sites countywide for new navigation centers and for new permanent supportive housing (PSH) developments in Watsonville, Santa Cruz, and in unincorporated areas of the County.</li> <li>4. Collaborate with Santa Cruz on a Coral Street Campus design charrette and development plan to include sites for a new Navigation Center, new PSH, new Health Clinic and Recuperative Care Center, and existing Housing Matters interim housing and PSH programs.</li> <li>5. Contribute to County and City efforts to secure the California Prohousing Designation.</li> </ol>
<p><b>CA-508: Watsonville/City and County of Santa Cruz CoC</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>2. 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.</li> <li>3. 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.</li> </ol>



Given the individual roles and responsibilities identified above, describe and explain how all participating jurisdictions are or will begin to coordinate these efforts to use and develop available land to address and end homelessness in the region.

Land use and siting of navigation centers, PSH, and youth interim housing are regularly discussed and coordinated during H4HP Policy Board meetings, which include representative of key County departments, the CoC, and interested Cities, such as Scotts Valley, Santa Cruz, and Watsonville. Collaboration also takes place in the context of the Housing Santa Cruz County coalition, an organization dedicated to affordable housing for all. In addition, the H4H Division Director and H4H PH Development staff for the County and CoC work directly with:

- Various Cities staff regarding siting for navigation centers and PSH
- Watsonville staff on siting for a Watsonville navigation center
- Santa Cruz and Housing Matters staff regarding visioning and planning for new facilities at the Coral Street campus
- County HSA staff regarding siting for No Place Like Home (NPLH) PSH projects.

#### Development of Interim and Permanent Housing Options

Participating Jurisdictions	Role(s) and Responsibilities in development of interim and permanent housing options
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**County of Santa Cruz**

1. Begin site construction work for (a) the Watsonville navigation center in partnership with Monterey County, and (b) the Soquel navigation center in partnership with County Behavioral Health.
2. Execute MOU with the Housing Authority for 41 Stability Vouchers for people experiencing homelessness.
3. Support Covenant House to enroll at least 10 youth in their new YHDP-funded rapid rehousing (RRH) program.
4. Support lease-up of Bienestar's 15 supportive housing units and Casa Azul's 7 supportive housing units.
5. Support Veterans Village with securing construction financing and starting construction at their site.
6. Develop and finalize a supportive housing MOU to meet funder and Housing Authority agreement requirements.
7. Support contract execution and implementation of new Homekey Round 3 award for Freedom House transitional housing for youth.
8. Continue funding, staffing, and implementing successful coordinated approaches to rehousing people, such as the new Housing Assistance Fund and the existing Rehousing Wave, which links unhoused persons housing navigation teams, flexible housing funds, housing vouchers, landlord incentives, and household donations.
9. Align and coordinate H4H-managed 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.



**CA-508: Watsonville/City and County of Santa Cruz CoC**

1. Identify gaps in and prioritize funding for new and existing PSH, RRH, joint TH-RRH, and interim housing projects as follows:
  - 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 and RRH
  - e. Encampment Resolution – Interim Housing (navigation center)
  - f. HOME-ARP – PSH and RRH.
2. Collaborate with the Santa Cruz County Housing Authority to increase vouchers for persons experiencing homelessness (and voucher utilization), including through joint applications, negotiating MOUs, landlord incentive strategies, and moving on strategies. Relevant limited preference voucher and special purpose voucher programs include: the Disabled and Medically Vulnerable (DMV) voucher preferences, Emergency Housing Vouchers, Stability Vouchers, limited vouchers preferences for homeless families and youth, HUD VASH vouchers, Family Unification Program (FUP) vouchers, and Mainstream vouchers.
3. Strengthen CoC-wide implementation of Housing First and low barrier service approaches within PSH and interim shelter programs.
4. Improve interim housing performance by implementing newly approved Emergency Shelter Standards.

Given the individual roles and responsibilities identified above, describe and explain how all participating jurisdictions are or will begin to coordinate these efforts to develop adequate interim and permanent housing options to address and end homelessness in the region.

As referenced above, County and CoC coordination and decisions on interim and permanent housing centers on the H4HP Policy Board, on which most key organizations interested in promoting interim and permanent housing have a seat. This includes key departments of the County, Scotts Valley, Watsonville, and the Alliance, which is playing an increasing role in funding interim housing, PSH, and services in PSH. In addition, H4H Division as staff to both the County and CoC works to ensure that all County-managed funding for interim housing and permanent housing options is closely coordinated with CoC-managed funding and priorities. In addition, H4H staff meet regularly with their counterparts in the Cities regarding funding and operation of interim and permanent housing program. Similarly, H4H staff work with the Planning Department, HSA and Alliance around joint objects for developing and operating interim and permanent housing.

## Coordination of and Connection to Service Delivery

Participating Jurisdictions	Role(s) and Responsibilities in connection to service Delivery
<b>County of Santa Cruz</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Prevent homelessness through continued funding for providers prevention programs, adding a legal assistance contract, and launching the new Home Safe Collaborative for Adult Protective Services (APS) clients with housing issues.</li><li>2. Partner with CCAH to link providers to CalAIM resources for enhanced care management and in-lieu services, as well as to enroll agencies' clients in Medicaid.</li><li>3. Strengthen provider capacity by providing strength-based case management training and coaching to at least six programs.</li><li>4. Fund provider (Senior Legal Services) to provide SSI advocacy services and set up new SSI advocacy database.</li><li>5. Work with Health Improvement Partnership (HIP) and Workforce Development Board (WDB), and related working groups, to enhance employment recruitment and retention strategies for persons experiencing homelessness, including internship opportunities in Housing for Health and internship and training opportunities for youth.</li><li>6. Collaborate with County HSA, Homeless Persons Health Project, and Santa Cruz Community Health Centers to assist homeless people to access community health, mental health, and substance use services.</li><li>7. Fund temporary expanded recuperative care and short-term post hospitalization housing capacity and develop plans for a permanent expansion.</li></ol>

**CA-508: Watsonville/City and County of Santa Cruz CoC**

1. Enhance CES through new participating agencies, more trained CES connectors, CES Connector Learning Collaborative, housing problem solving, adding health risk factors, and improving program prioritization.
2. Develop a method for tracking prevention assistance funding and services to Hispanic/Latino(a), Black, and Native-American households and work to improve outcomes for these groups over time.
3. Design and fund new and existing ES and navigation center programs to emphasize quick housing and service connections.
4. Expand the capacity of ES, TH, and RRH programs by funding additional housing navigators and housing-focused case managers to all ES, TH, and RRH sites, and by recruiting volunteer housing navigators.
5. Continue prioritizing funds for new RRH programs that include rental assistance, financial assistance, and housing stabilization services.
6. Require CoC-funded programs to actively link clients to mainstream benefits, such as Medi-Cal, General Assistance, CalFresh, CalWorks, and In-Home Supportive Services, and annually evaluate mainstream benefits success.
7. Collaborate with Health Improvement Partnership and the Santa Cruz Health Information Organization on a range of care coordination (e.g., behavioral health network) and data sharing projects (e.g., Datashare Santa Cruz).

Given the individual roles and responsibilities identified above, describe how all participating jurisdictions are or will begin to coordinate to provide the full array of services, including interim and permanent housing solutions to people experiencing and at-risk of experiencing homelessness in the region.

The County's and CoC's extensive collaboration on building connections to service delivery focuses on a variety of H4HP bodies, including H4HP Policy Board (described above), Operations Workgroup (which develops services standards, policies, and strategies), the YHDP Collaborative (coordinates plans for serving youth), CES Connector Collaborative, HMIS User Group, and various ad hoc groups for specific service issues. In addition, H4H staff meet regularly with their counterparts in the Cities to coordinate operational and services funding for emergency shelter and other interim housing programs within Cities' boundaries. Similarly, H4H staff work closely other HSD sections regarding mainstream benefits and services and employment programs, as well as with the Planning Department, HSA, Alliance, HIP, WDB, and County Office of Education around joint services plans and objectives.

## 2.2 System Performance Measures and Improvement Plan

1. **First** identify the most recent system performance measures for the region.
2. **Then** describe the key action(s) the region intends to take to improve each system performance measure.

### Guidance

Cal ICH shall provide each region with system performance measures by CoC, with the exception of the LA region, which will receive data from all four CoCs within LA County. Applicants must enter that data in the corresponding metrics fields in the application. Applicants should not adjust the data provided even if the geographic region of the data does not perfectly align with the participating applicant geography of this application.

Regions must have **at least one** key action for **each** system performance measure. All columns must be filled out for each action.

For "Funding Type" enter Federal, State, Local, or the unique funding source type.

To add additional actions or racial equity measures, add rows to the bottom of each table.

Note: While Cal ICH expects most of the disparities listed to be based on race or ethnicity, applicants may identify other populations that are also overrepresented among people experiencing homelessness in the region.

Definitions:

- **Key Action(s)** may include a brief description of a strategic initiative or step identified to address or improve the specific system performance measure. This can be a policy, program, partnership, target metric, or any other approach which reflects an improvement and delivers positive impact. Provide a clear description of the action and its intended outcome.
- **Lead Entity** should include the name of the regional Eligible Applicant responsible for managing 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 jurisdiction, a system partner, or any organization actively participating in the key action.
- **Timeframe** should include a target date for completion of the key action.
- **Success Measurement Method** may include a systematic approach or tool used to assess the effectiveness and impact of the key action on the performance measure. This can be quantitative measures, qualitative feedback, or any combination that provides insight into the progress and outcomes pertaining to the key action. Provide a clear description of how you plan to track and report on the success of your key action.

SPM 1a: Number of people accessing services who are experiencing homelessness.

Measure

2,301

Key Action(s) for Improving SPM 1a

Key Action(s)	Funding Source(s) the region intends to use to achieve the action	Funding Type (Federal/ State/ Local gov/Other)	Lead Entity	Collaborating Entity/ies	Timeframe for Action	Method(s) of Measuring success of the Action
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<b>Increased efforts in eviction and homelessness prevention investments, including legal assistance contract, and Home Safe program for APS clients</b>	ERAP, ESG, Home Safe, Core Investments, SSVF	Federal, State, Local	County H4H Division	CoC, County Planning, Cities, Housing Authority, nonprofits	7/1/24 – 6/30/28	# households assisted to secure prevention funding; # households that receive tenancy sustaining services
<b>Expanding and improving street outreach teams countywide and developing and implementing a communications strategy and tools for underserved communities</b>	CDBG, County General Funds, Core Investments, Encampment Resolution	Federal, State, Local	County H4H Division	CoC, County HSA, Cities, nonprofits, Monterey Coalition	7/1/24 – 6/30/28	# enrolled in street outreach programs, exits from street outreach to housing programs, demographics of those contacted by street outreach programs
<b>Low barrier housing navigation center program development and improvement countywide: Santa Cruz, Soquel, Watsonville</b>	Encampment Resolution, Behavioral Health Bridge & WPC, HHAP	State	County H4H Division	CoC, County Planning & HSA, Watsonville, Santa Cruz, Monterey Coalition, CCAH, nonprofits	7/1/24 – 6/30/28	3 navigation centers completed and operations begun (Santa Cruz, Soquel, Watsonville); # served, # exiting to permanent housing
<b>Expand the capacity of ES, TH, and RRH programs by funding additional housing navigators and housing-focused case managers, and by recruiting volunteer housing navigators</b>	HHAP, Encampment Resolution, CoC, YHDP, County & Santa Cruz General Funds, SAMHSA PATH, CalAIM	Federal, State, Local	County H4H Division	CoC, County HSA, Santa Cruz, nonprofits	7/1/24 – 6/30/28	Increased # of housing navigators and housing-focused case managers

<b>Partner with CCAH to link providers to CalAIM resources for enhanced case management and in-lieu services, as well as to enroll agencies' clients in Medicaid</b>	CalAIM	State	CCAH	County H4H Division, CoC, County HSA, nonprofits	7/1/24 – 6/30/28	Increase # providers funded by Alliance to provide enhanced case management & in lieu services (housing navigation, housing assistance, security deposits, etc.); # enrolled in Medicaid, # providers trained a provided operational support; HMIS/health data integrated
<b>Permanent supportive housing expansions through Project Homekey applications and projects, increased Housing Authority vouchers linked to behavioral health resources, and real estate partnership incentives</b>	Homekey, NPLH, CoC, HOPWA, PLHA, HHAP, HUD vouchers, HUD Unsheltered NOFO	Federal, State	County H4H Division	CoC, County Planning & HSA, Cities, Housing Authority, CCAH, nonprofits	7/1/24 – 6/30/28	Increase # of PSH units (Homekey + other funding); increased utilization of dedicated Housing Authority vouchers; access to PSH for those with behavioral health conditions; increased # landlords participating
<b>Centralized housing assistance fund and making the Coordinated Entry system more housing focused</b>	HHAP, Encampment Resolution, CoC, County General Funds	Federal, State, Local	County H4H Division	CoC, Focus Strategies, Community Action Board, other nonprofits	7/1/24 – 6/30/28	# households receiving housing assistance, # served, # exiting to permanent housing; 3 and 6 months follow-up after assistance

SPM 7.1a: *Racial and ethnic disparities among those accessing services who are experiencing homelessness.*

<b>Racial or Ethnic Group</b>	<b>Measure</b>
<b>Black/African American</b>	117
<b>Multiple Races</b>	119
<b>Significant Mental Illness</b>	602
<b>Substance Use Disorder</b>	412
<b>Veterans</b>	146
<b>Unaccompanied Youth (18-24)</b>	144

Key Action(s) for Improving SPM 7.1a

Key Action(s)	Funding Source(s) the region intends to use to achieve the action	Funding Type (Federal/ State/ Local gov/Other)	Lead Entity	Collaborating Entity/ies	Timeframe for Action	Method(s) of Measuring success of the Action

SPM 1b: Number of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness on a single night (unsheltered PIT count)

Measure
1,774

Key Action(s) for Improving SPM 1b

Key Action(s)	Funding Source(s) the region intends to use to achieve the action	Funding Type (Federal/ State/ Local gov/Other)	Lead Entity	Collaborating Entity/ies	Timeframe for Action	Method(s) of Measuring success of the Action
<b>Increased efforts in eviction and homelessness prevention investments, including legal assistance contract, and Home Safe program for APS clients</b>	ERAP, ESG, Home Safe, Core Investments, SSVF	Federal, State, Local	County H4H Division	CoC, County Planning, Cities, Housing Authority, nonprofits	7/1/24 – 6/30/28	# households assisted to secure prevention funding; # households that receive tenancy sustaining services
<b>Expanding and improving street outreach teams countywide and developing and implementing a communications strategy and tools for underserved communities</b>	CDBG, County General Funds, Core Investments, Encampment Resolution	Federal, State, Local	County H4H Division	CoC, County HSA, Cities, nonprofits, Monterey Coalition	7/1/24 – 6/30/28	# enrolled in street outreach programs, exits from street outreach to housing programs, demographics of those contacted by street outreach programs



<b>Low barrier housing navigation center program development and improvement countywide: Santa Cruz, Soquel, Watsonville</b>	Encampment Resolution, Behavioral Health Bridge & WPC, HHAP	State	County H4H Division	CoC, County Planning & HSA, Watsonville, Santa Cruz, Monterey Coalition, CCAH, nonprofits	7/1/24 – 6/30/28	3 navigation centers completed and operations begun (Santa Cruz, Soquel, Watsonville); # served, # exiting to permanent housing
<b>Expand the capacity of ES, TH, and RRH programs by funding additional housing navigators and housing-focused case managers, and by recruiting volunteer housing navigators</b>	HHAP, Encampment Resolution, CoC, YHDP, County & Santa Cruz General Funds, SAMHSA PATH	Federal, State, Local	County H4H Division	CoC, County HSA, Santa Cruz, nonprofits	7/1/24 – 6/30/28	Increased # of housing navigators and housing-focused case managers

SPM 7.1b: Racial and ethnic disparities among those experiencing unsheltered homelessness on a single night.

Racial or Ethnic Group	Measure
<b>Black/African American</b>	233
<b>Multiple Races</b>	187
<b>Veterans</b>	310
<b>Unaccompanied Youth (18-24)</b>	216

Key Action(s) for Improving SPM 7.1b

Key Action(s)	Funding Source(s) the region intends to use to achieve the action	Funding Type (Federal/ State/ Local gov/Other)	Lead Entity	Collaborating Entity/ies	Timeframe for Action	Method(s) of Measuring success of the Action

SPM 2: Number of people accessing services who are experiencing homelessness for the first time.

Measure
<b>1,088</b>

Key Action(s) for Improving SPM 2

Key Action(s)	Funding Source(s) the region intends to use to achieve the action	Funding Type (Federal/ State/ Local gov/Other)	Lead Entity	Collaborating Entity/ies	Timeframe for Action	Method(s) of Measuring success of the Action
<b>Increased efforts in eviction and homelessness prevention investments, including legal assistance contract, and Home Safe program for APS clients</b>	ERAP, ESG, Home Safe, Core Investments, SSVF	Federal, State, Local	County H4H Division	CoC, County Planning, Cities, Housing Authority, nonprofits	7/1/24 – 6/30/28	# households assisted to secure prevention funding; # households that receive tenancy sustaining services
<b>Expanding and improving street outreach teams countywide and developing and implementing a communications strategy and tools for underserved communities</b>	CDBG, County General Funds, Core Investments, Encampment Resolution	Federal, State, Local	County H4H Division	CoC, County HSA, Cities, nonprofits, Monterey Coalition	7/1/24 – 6/30/28	# enrolled in street outreach programs, exits from street outreach to housing programs, demographics of those contacted by street outreach programs
<b>Enhance CES-connected diversion and housing problem solving through new participating agencies, more trained CES connectors, and CES Connector Learning Collaborative</b>	CoC, HHAP	Federal, State	CoC	County H4H Division, Focus Strategies, County HSA, CCAH, nonprofits	7/1/24 – 6/30/28	# served, # exiting to permanent housing; 3 and 6 months follow-up after assistance; # of CES connectors trained and participating in CES Learning Collaborative

SPM 7.2: Racial and ethnic disparities in the number of people accessing services who are experiencing homelessness for the first time.

Racial or Ethnic Group	Measure
<b>Hispanic/Latinx</b>	523
<b>American Indian/Alaska Native</b>	113
<b>Significant Mental Illness</b>	233
<b>Substance Use Disorder</b>	163
<b>Veterans</b>	59
<b>Fleeing Domestic Violence</b>	94
<b>Unaccompanied Youth (18-24)</b>	79

Key Action(s) for Improving SPM 7.2

Key Action(s)	Funding Source(s) the region intends to use to achieve the action	Funding Type (Federal/ State/ Local gov/Other)	Lead Entity	Collaborating Entity/ies	Timeframe for Action	Method(s) of Measuring success of the Action

SPM 3: Number of people exiting homelessness into permanent housing.

Measure
662

Key Action(s) for Improving SPM 3

Key Action(s)	Funding Source(s) the region intends to use to achieve the action	Funding Type (Federal/ State/ Local gov/Other)	Lead Entity	Collaborating Entity/ies	Timeframe for Action	Method(s) of Measuring success of the Action
<b>Permanent supportive housing expansions through Project Homekey applications and projects, increased Housing Authority vouchers linked to behavioral health resources, and real estate partnership incentives</b>	Homekey, NPLH, CoC, HOPWA, PLHA, HHAP, HUD vouchers, HUD Unsheltered NOFO	Federal, State	County H4H Division	CoC, County Planning & HSA, Cities, Housing Authority, CCAH, nonprofits	7/1/24 – 6/30/28	Increase # of PSH units (Homekey + other funding); increased utilization of dedicated Housing Authority vouchers; access to PSH for those with behavioral health conditions; increased # landlords participating

<b>Promote efforts to reach RHNA housing targets</b>	County General Funds, CoC Planning	Federal, Local	County Planning	County H4H Division, CoC, Santa Cruz, Watsonville, Housing Element Consultants, Community Stakeholders, affordable housers	7/1/24 – 6/30/28	# of CoC webposts, e-blasts, and public/committee presentations supporting RHNA goals and housing sustainability
<b>Identify gaps in and prioritize funding for new and existing PSH, RRH, joint TH-RRH, and interim housing projects</b>	CoC, Unsheltered NOFO, ESG, HOME ARP, HHAP, CalWORKS HSD, HDAP, BFH, Stability Vouchers	Federal, State	CoC	County H4H Division, Housing Authority, nonprofits	7/1/24 – 6/30/28	Annual gaps analysis completed; increased # PSH RRH, joint TH-RRH beds targeted to priority populations
<b>Low barrier housing navigation center program development and improvement countywide: Santa Cruz, Soquel, Watsonville</b>	Encampment Resolution, Behavioral Health Bridge & WPC, HHAP	State	County H4H Division	CoC, County Planning & HSA, Watsonville, Santa Cruz, Monterey Coalition, CCAH, nonprofits	7/1/24 – 6/30/28	3 navigation centers completed and operations begun (Santa Cruz, Soquel, Watsonville); # served, # exiting to permanent housing
<b>Strengthen Housing First and low barrier approaches in all interim and permanent housing</b>	CoC, CoC Planning, ESG, HHAP	Federal, State	CoC	County H4H Division, Cal HCD, HomeBase, Housing Authority, nonprofits	7/1/24 – 6/30/28	All CoC, ESG, and County-funded programs evaluated for Housing First fidelity

<b>Implement newly approved Emergency Shelter Standards</b>	CoC Planning	Federal	CoC	County H4H Division, Focus Strategies, nonprofits	7/1/24 – 6/30/25	Emergency Shelter Standards completed and approved; required compliance language included in County & CoC NOFOs, RFPs, and contracts
<b>Utilize centralized housing assistance fund</b>	HHAP, Encampment Resolution, CoC, County General Funds	Federal, State, Local	County H4H Division	CoC, Focus Strategies, Community Action Board, other nonprofits	7/1/24 – 6/30/28	# households receiving housing assistance
<b>Enhance CES-connected housing placement through more realistic housing targeting and referrals, and better coordination through CES Connector Learning Collaborative</b>	CoC, HHAP	Federal, State	CoC	County H4H Division, Focus Strategies, County HSA, CCAH, nonprofits	7/1/24 – 6/30/28	# served, # exiting to permanent housing; 3 and 6 months follow-up after assistance; # of CES connectors trained and participating in CES Learning Collaborative

SPM 7.3: Racial and ethnic disparities in the number of people exiting homelessness into permanent housing.

Racial or Ethnic Group	Measure
<b>Black/African American</b>	36
<b>Multiple Races</b>	35
<b>Significant Mental Illness</b>	90
<b>Substance Use Disorder</b>	64
<b>Veterans</b>	75
<b>Unaccompanied Youth (18-24)</b>	24

Key Action(s) for Improving SPM 7.3

Key Action(s)	Funding Source(s) the region intends to use to achieve the action	Funding Type (Federal/ State/ Local gov/Other)	Lead Entity	Collaborating Entity/ies	Timeframe for Action	Method(s) of Measuring success of the Action

SPM 4: Average length of time that people experienced homelessness while accessing services.

<b>Measure</b>
<b>190</b>

Key Action(s) for Improving SPM 4

Key Action(s)	Funding Source(s) the region intends to use to achieve the action	Funding Type (Federal/ State/ Local gov/Other)	Lead Entity	Collaborating Entity/ies	Timeframe for Action	Method(s) of Measuring success of the Action
<b>Permanent supportive housing expansions through Project Homekey applications and projects, increased Housing Authority vouchers linked to behavioral health resources, and real estate partnership incentives</b>	Homekey, NPLH, CoC, HOPWA, PLHA, HHAP, HUD vouchers, HUD Unsheltered NOFO	Federal, State	County H4H Division	CoC, County Planning & HSA, Cities, Housing Authority, CCAH, nonprofits	7/1/24 – 6/30/28	Increase # of PSH units (Homekey + other funding); increased utilization of dedicated Housing Authority vouchers; access to PSH for those with behavioral health conditions; increased # landlords participating
<b>Identify gaps in and prioritize funding for new and existing PSH, RRH, joint TH-RRH, and interim housing projects</b>	CoC, Unsheltered NOFO, ESG, HOME ARP, HHAP, CalWORKS HSD, HDAP, BFH, Stability Vouchers	Federal, State	CoC	County H4H Division, Housing Authority, nonprofits	7/1/24 – 6/30/28	Annual gaps analysis completed; increased # PSH RRH, joint TH-RRH beds targeted to priority populations
<b>Low barrier housing navigation center program development and improvement countywide: Santa Cruz, Soquel, Watsonville</b>	Encampment Resolution, Behavioral Health Bridge & WPC, HHAP	State	County H4H Division	CoC, County Planning & HSA, Watsonville, Santa Cruz, Monterey Coalition, CCAH, nonprofits	7/1/24 – 6/30/28	3 navigation centers completed and operations begun (Santa Cruz, Soquel, Watsonville); # served, # exiting to permanent housing

<b>Strengthen Housing First and low barrier approaches in all interim and permanent housing</b>	CoC, CoC Planning, ESG, HHAP	Federal, State	CoC	County H4H Division, Cal HCD, HomeBase, Housing Authority, nonprofits	7/1/24 – 6/30/28	All CoC, ESG, and County-funded programs evaluated for Housing First fidelity
<b>Implement newly approved Emergency Shelter Standards</b>	CoC Planning	Federal	CoC	County H4H Division, Focus Strategies, nonprofits	7/1/24 – 6/30/25	Emergency Shelter Standards completed and approved; required compliance language included in County & CoC NOFOs, RFPs, and contracts
<b>Expanding and improving street outreach teams countywide and developing and implementing a communications strategy and tools for underserved communities</b>	CDBG, County General Funds, Core Investments, Encampment Resolution	Federal, State, Local	County H4H Division	CoC, County HSA, Cities, nonprofits, Monterey Coalition	7/1/24 – 6/30/28	# enrolled in street outreach programs, exits from street outreach to housing programs, demographics of those contacted by street outreach programs
<b>Utilize centralized housing assistance fund</b>	HHAP, Encampment Resolution, CoC, County General Funds	Federal, State, Local	County H4H Division	CoC, Focus Strategies, Community Action Board, other nonprofits	7/1/24 – 6/30/28	# households receiving housing assistance
<b>Enhance CES-connected housing placement through more realistic housing targeting and referrals, and better coordination through CES Connector Learning Collaborative</b>	CoC, HHAP	Federal, State	CoC	County H4H Division, Focus Strategies, County HSA, CCAH, nonprofits	7/1/24 – 6/30/28	# served, # exiting to permanent housing; 3 and 6 months follow-up after assistance; # of CES connectors trained and participating in CES Learning Collaborative

SPM 7.4: *Racial and ethnic disparities in the average length of time that people experienced homelessness while accessing services.*

Racial or Ethnic Group	Measure
<b>Black/African American</b>	199 days

<b>Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific</b>	203 days
<b>Veterans</b>	193 days

Key Action(s) for Improving SPM 7.4

Key Action(s)	Funding Source(s) the region intends to use to achieve the action	Funding Type (Federal/ State/ Local gov/Other)	Lead Entity	Collaborating Entity/ies	Timeframe for Action	Method(s) of Measuring success of the Action

SPM 5: Percent of people who return to homelessness within 6 months of exiting the homelessness response system to permanent housing.

<b>Measure</b>
<b>8%</b>

Key Action(s) for Improving SPM 5

Key Action(s)	Funding Source(s) the region intends to use to achieve the action	Funding Type (Federal/ State/ Local gov/Other)	Lead Entity	Collaborating Entity/ies	Timeframe for Action	Method(s) of Measuring success of the Action
<b>Increased efforts in eviction and homelessness prevention investments, including legal assistance contract, and Home Safe program for APS clients</b>	ERAP, ESG, Home Safe, Core Investments, SSVF	Federal, State, Local	County H4H Division	CoC, County Planning, Cities, Housing Authority, nonprofits	7/1/24 – 6/30/28	# households assisted to secure prevention funding; # households that receive tenancy sustaining services
<b>Strengthen Housing First and low barrier approaches in all interim and permanent housing</b>	CoC, CoC Planning, ESG, HHAP	Federal, State	CoC	County H4H Division, Cal HCD, HomeBase, Housing Authority, nonprofits	7/1/24 – 6/30/28	All CoC, ESG, and County-funded programs evaluated for Housing First fidelity



<b>Partner with Alliance to link providers to CalAIM resources for enhanced case management and in-lieu services, as well as to enroll agencies' clients in Medicaid</b>	CalAIM	State	CCAH	County H4H Division, CoC, County HSA, nonprofits	7/1/24 – 6/30/28	Increase # providers funded by CCEH to provide enhanced case management & in lieu services (housing navigation, housing assistance, security deposits, etc.); # enrolled in Medicaid, # providers trained a provided operational support; HMIS/health data integrated
<b>Strengthen provider capacity by providing strength-based case management training and coaching</b>	County General Funds	Local	County H4H Division	CoC, CA Institute Behavioral Health Solutions, nonprofits	7/1/24 – 6/30/26	6 programs participating; increased # staff having completed training
<b>Collaborate with County HSA, Homeless Persons Health Project, and Santa Cruz Community Health Centers to assist homeless people to access community health, mental health, and substance use services</b>	HRSA, SAMSHA, CalAIM, MHSA	Federal, State	County HSA	County H4H Division, CoC, CCAH, nonprofits	7/1/24 – 6/30/28	# referred, # receiving behavioral health services; 3 and 6 months follow-up after beginning behavioral health services

*SPM 7.5: Racial and ethnic disparities in the percent of people who return to homelessness within 6 months of exiting the homelessness response system to permanent housing.*

<b>Racial or Ethnic Group</b>	<b>Measure</b>
<b>Multiple Races</b>	17%
<b>Significant Mental Illness</b>	19%
<b>Substance Use Disorder</b>	9%
<b>Veterans</b>	10%
<b>Fleeing Domestic Violence</b>	10%

Key Action(s) for Improving SPM 7.5

Key Action(s)	Funding Source(s) the region intends to use to achieve the action	Funding Type (Federal/ State/ Local gov/Other)	Lead Entity	Collaborating Entity/ies	Timeframe for Action	Method(s) of Measuring success of the Action

SPM 6: Number of people with successful placements from street outreach projects.

Measure
0

Key Action(s) for Improving SPM 6

Key Action(s)	Funding Source(s) the region intends to use to achieve the action	Funding Type (Federal/ State/ Local gov/Other)	Lead Entity	Collaborating Entity/ies	Timeframe for Action	Method(s) of Measuring success of the Action
<b>Expanding and improving street outreach teams countywide and developing and implementing a communications strategy and tools for underserved communities</b>	CDBG, County General Funds, Core Investments, Encampment Resolution	Federal, State, Local	County H4H Division	CoC, County HSA, Cities, nonprofits, Monterey Coalition	7/1/24 – 6/30/28	# enrolled in street outreach programs, exits from street outreach to housing programs, demographics of those contacted by street outreach programs
<b>Train more outreach workers to be CES housing connectors and link them to CES Connector Learning Collaborative</b>	CoC, HHAP	Federal, State	CoC	County H4H Division, Focus Strategies, County HSA, CCAH, nonprofits	7/1/24 – 6/30/28	# of outreach workers trained on CES and participating in CES Learning Collaborative

SPM 7.6: Racial and ethnic disparities in the number of people with successful placements from street outreach projects

Racial or Ethnic Group	Measure
<b>Hispanic/Latinx</b>	0
<b>Black/African American</b>	0
<b>Multiple Faces</b>	0
<b>Significant Mental Illness</b>	0

<b>Substance Use Disorder</b>	0
<b>Veterans</b>	0
<b>Unaccompanied Youth (18-24)</b>	0

Key Action(s) for Improving SPM 7.6

Key Action(s)	Funding Source(s) the region intends to use to achieve the action	Funding Type (Federal/ State/ Local gov/Other)	Lead Entity	Collaborating Entity/ies	Timeframe for Action	Method(s) of Measuring success of the Action

### 2.3 Equity Improvement Plan

1. Identify and describe the key action(s) the region will take to ensure racial and gender equity in 1) service delivery; 2) housing placements; and 3) housing retention; and 4) identify any changes to procurement or other means to affirm equitable access to housing and services for groups overrepresented among residents experiencing homelessness.
2. Identify if place-based encampment resolution is occurring in the region and if so, CoC must describe and provide evidence of collaboration with the cities or counties providing encampment resolution services that addresses how people served through encampment resolution have or will be prioritized for permanent housing within the Coordinated Entry System.  
OPTIONAL: upload any evidence the region would like to provide regarding collaboration and/or prioritization as it relates to question 2.

#### Guidance

*Of the four tables below, the first three must include at a minimum one key action to address racial equity **and** one key action to address gender equity. The fourth and final table must include at least one key action. To add additional actions, add rows to the bottom of the table.*

*Definitions:*

- **Key Action(s)** may include a brief description of a strategic initiative or step identified to address or improve the inequity. This can be a policy, program, partnership, target metric, or any other approach which reflects an improvement and delivers positive impact. Provide a clear description of the action and its intended outcome.
- **Lead Entity** should include the name of the regional Eligible Applicant responsible for managing the key action.
- **Collaborating Entity/ies** may include a group, organization, or jurisdiction within your region working to address or improve the inequity. This can be another participating jurisdiction, a system partner, or any organization actively participating in the key action.

### Key Action(s) the Region Will Take to Ensure Racial and Gender Equity in Service Delivery

Key Action(s)	Lead Entity	Collaborating Entity/ies
establishing a new Lived Experience Advisory Board (LEAB) and revitalizing the Youth Advisory Board (YAB) that was recommended in the governance portion of our three-year strategic plan	County	CoC
Work w/ partner orgs to diversify & train workforce to meet needs of communities most impacted by housing instability & homelessness.	County	CoC
Housing for Health Division staff are participating in one-on-one and group coaching sessions or racial/ethnic disparities as part of a Human Services Department-wide commitment.	County	CoC

### Key Action(s) the Region Will Take to Ensure Racial and Gender Equity in Housing Placements

Key Action(s)	Lead Entity	Collaborating Entity/ies
Partner w/ local orgs to expand temp housing capacity, housing nav & tenancy sustaining services for people experiencing homelessness w/ significant health conditions to increase documented program enrollments and services for such populations.	County	CoC
The CoC has changed its CES assessment tool to address established racial and ethnic biases inherent in the VI-SPDAT tool.	County	CoC
	County	CoC

### Key Action(s) the Region Will Take to Ensure Racial and Gender Equity in Housing Retention

Key Action(s)	Lead Entity	Collaborating Entity/ies
The CoC is including culturally responsive outreach strategies as part and tenancy sustaining services and in programs to increase utilization of dedicated Housing Choice Vouchers.	County	CoC
The CoC has changed its CES assessment tool to address established racial and ethnic biases inherent in the VI-SPDAT tool.	County	CoC
The CoC is completing new emergency shelter standards that address barriers experienced by BIPOC and other groups	County	CoC
In its 3-year plan, the CoC has committed to system planning through an equity lens and a periodic equity analysis of CES	County	CoC
The CoC is using HMIS measures to better track access and outcomes for all program types by demographics and cause	County	CoC

### Key Action(s) the Region Will Take to Change Procurement or Other Means to Affirm Equitable Access to Housing and Services for Overrepresented Groups Among People Experiencing Homelessness in the Region

Key Action(s)	Lead Entity	Collaborating Entity/ies
Develop a method for tracking prevention housing services to Latino(a), Black, and Native		

Fund CoC to expand & improve street outreach countywide, including team of 5 outreach workers that can serve/connect with 300-400/people/year, with an emphasis on reaching communities disproportionately impacted by housing disparities and inequities in county.	County	CoC
The CoC is planning an advisory group of persons of color to advise on goals and strategies for addressing racial/ethnic disparities under the principle of “nothing for us with-out us	County	CoC
Inform local orgs of disparate populations & work towards expanding relationships w/ orgs that serve these populations to assure equitable access to CS services to house individuals.	County	CoC
Work w/ partner orgs to diversify & train workforce to meet needs of communities most impacted by housing instability & homelessness	County	CoC

### Coordinated Entry Prioritization for Place-Based Encampment Resolution

#### Guidance

Answer the following question(s)

*In the online application portal applicants may upload any evidence the region would like to provide regarding collaboration and/or prioritization.*

Is place-based encampment resolution occurring within the region?

Yes

If yes, then the CoC must describe and provide evidence of collaboration with the cities or counties providing encampment resolution services that addresses how people served through encampment resolution have or will be prioritized for permanent housing within the Coordinated Entry System.

The County and CoC have collaborated on applying for several Encampment Resolution Funding (ERF) grants from the state. The County receive an ERF allocation for a Housing Pathways Scholarship Program in partnership with the City of Santa Cruz to prioritize access to services and housing resources for individuals living in a large encampment. The County of Santa Cruz also recently partnered with Monterey County to secure ERF dollars to establish a low-barrier navigation center in Watsonville near the boundary of the two counties. Participants in this program will receive additional support to get linked with available housing and service resources within the two counties. The City of Santa Cruz recently submitted another ERF proposal in partnership with the CoC and County to expand low-barrier navigation center capacity within the City and to improve access to and coordination of substance use treatment resources for participants. The Coordinated Entry System continues to train new Connectors that help link individuals in with CoC resources and training. Interim housing resources are linked with Connectors that conduct outreach within city jurisdictions.

## 2.4 Plan to Reduce the Number of People Experiencing Homelessness Upon Exiting an Institutional Setting

1. Identify and describe the Key Action(s) **each participating Eligible Applicant** will take to reduce the number of people falling into homelessness as they exit institutional settings including but not limited to jails, prisons, and hospitals.

### Guidance

At a minimum, if an institutional setting is present in a jurisdiction, the jurisdiction must identify and describe their role.

To add additional actions, add rows to the bottom of the table.

Definitions:

- **Key Action(s)** may include a brief description of a strategic initiative or step identified to address or improve the specific performance metric. This can be a policy, program, partnership, target metric, or any other approach which reflects an improvement and delivers positive impact. Provide a clear description of the action and its intended outcome.
- **Lead Entity** should include the name of the regional Eligible Applicant responsible for managing the key action.
- **Collaborating Entity/ies** may include a group, organization, or jurisdiction within your region working to address or improve the performance metric. This can be another participating jurisdiction, a system partner, or any organization actively participating in the key action.

### Key Action(s) to Reduce the Number of People Experiencing Homelessness Upon Exiting a Jail

Key Action(s)	Lead Entity	Collaborating Entity/ies
CoC agencies worked with the Santa Cruz County Jail to develop and implement discharge protocols that provide a coordinated system of care for mentally ill inmates that includes key justice system, social, and health partners. A Jail Discharge Planner works with the client while in jail, establishes a discharge plan, and monitors aftercare services (mental and health, outpatient referrals, probation, employment, community referrals and resources, and housing)	County/CoC	Sheriff's Office
ECS provides a range of reentry programs providing counseling, case management, aftercare services, and housing assistance, including Continuing Care Program, START Program, and ReTurn.	County/CoC	Encompass Community Services
Routine housing placements: For those needing temporary accommodation, CAB motel vouchers and Paul Lee Loft Shelter; for those in recovery, the Santa Cruz Residential Recovery, Providence Recovery Center, Janus of Santa Cruz, Sobriety Works, and Healing House.	County/CoC	Community Action Board, Housing Matters, Encompass Community Services, Janus of Santa Cruz Sobriety Works, Healing House

### Key Action(s) to Reduce the Number of People Experiencing Homelessness Upon Exiting a Prison

Key Action(s)	Lead Entity	Collaborating Entity/ies
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N/A	N/A	N/A

**Key Action(s) to Reduce the Number of People Experiencing Homelessness Upon Exiting a Hospital**

Key Action(s)	Lead Entity	Collaborating Entity/ies
Alliance plans to update existing agreements with SCHIO and partnering entities to increase data integration efforts, including development of a universal authorization for cross-system collaborative data share and care coordination. This will include funding to support staff to provide data feed to the Alliance	CCAH	County/CoC
Fund local providers, CBOs and/or county agencies who are contracted to provide housing related services to create and operationalize the systems and processes necessary to actively share MCP Member housing status information.	County	
Alliance separately funded recuperative care services and post-recuperative care short-term post-hospitalization housing services (aka "bridge housing") utilizing Medi-Cal Capacity Grant Program dollars under the plan's Recuperative Care Pilot program.	CCAH	

**Key Action(s) to Reduce the Number of People Experiencing Homelessness Upon Exiting Other Institutional Settings (such as foster care, behavioral health facilities, etc. as applicable in the region)**

Institutional Setting	Key Action(s)	Lead Entity	Collaborating Entity/ies

**2.5 Plan to Utilize Local, State, and Federal Funds to End Homelessness**

- The plan must include the total amount of available funding, the amount prioritized for permanent housing solutions, and an explanation of how each participating applicant is utilizing local, state, and federal funding programs to end homelessness. These programs must include, but are not limited to:
  - The Homekey Program,
  - The No Place Like Home Program
  - The Multifamily Housing Program
  - The Housing for a Healthy California Program
  - The Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention Program
  - Building Homes and Jobs Act

- The California Emergency Solutions Grants Program
- The National Housing Trust Fund established pursuant to the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008
- HOME Investment Partnerships Act
- Parolee or probation programs that are intended to prevent homelessness upon release.

**Guidance**

*All of the above programs **must** be included and fully explained in the table. Where the region has multiple awards for the same program that are administered by different entities, those may be listed on separate lines. For example, in a region with one county and one CoC who receive their HHAP awards separately, each jurisdiction may enter their HHAP awards in separate lines.*

*If one of the ten required programs is not present in a region, type N/A.*

*In addition to the listed programs, participating Eligible Applicants should add any other funds and programs that are being utilized to address and end homelessness in the region.*

*To add additional funding programs, add rows to the bottom of the table.*

*Definitions:*

- **Local Fund Administrator:** The entity responsible for administering the given funding source.
- **Description of How Funds are/will be Utilized to End Homelessness in the Region:** Comprehensive summary of how the funding program will be utilized in the region. Applicants should highlight whether, how, and to what extent the funds are being used for permanent housing.
- **Funding Amount:** Amount of known, dollars secured or available to spend within the HHAP-5 grant timeframe (FY 23-24 through FY 27-28)
- **Timeframe of Use:** The date range the local fund administrator anticipates expending the identified program funds.

Funding Program	Local Fund Administrator	Description of How Funds are/will be Utilized to End Homelessness in the Region	Funding Amount	Amount Prioritized for Permanent Housing Solutions	Timeframe of Use
The Homekey program	County		19,125,000.00		
The No Place Like Home Program	County				
The Multifamily Housing Program	N/A				
The Housing for a Healthy California Program	N/A				
The Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention Program	County		19,400,309.46		



<b>The Building Homes and Jobs Act Funding</b>	N/A				
<b>The California Emergency Solutions Grants Program</b>	County		1,400,583.00		
<b>The National Housing Trust Fund established pursuant to the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008</b>	N/A				
<b>HOME Investment Partnerships Act</b>	County				
<b>Parolee or probation programs that are intended to prevent homelessness upon release.</b>	County				
<b>[other] ENCAMPMENT RESOLUTION FUND</b>			<b>2,370,460.00</b>		
<b>PLHA</b>			2,794,186.04		
<b>ESG-CV</b>			<b>10,358,301.00</b>		

## 2.6 Plan to Connect People Experiencing Homelessness to All Eligible Benefit Programs

1. Explain how the region is connecting, or will connect, individuals to wrap-around services from all eligible federal, state, and local benefit programs, including, but not limited to, housing and homelessness services and supports that are integrated with the broader social services systems and supports. Benefit Programs include, but are not limited to:
  - CalWORKs
  - CalFresh
  - Supplemental Security Income/State Supplemental Program (SSI/SSP) and disability benefits advocacy
  - In-home supportive services

- Adult protective services
- Child welfare
- Child care
- Medi-Cal benefits through Managed Care Plans

### Guidance

**All of the above benefit programs must be included and fully explained in the table. In addition to these benefit programs, participating jurisdictions should add other benefit programs that provide wrap-around services in the region.**

To add additional benefit programs, add rows to the bottom of the table.

Definitions:

- **Connection Strategy/ies** means methods and actions that support client access and/or enrollment in eligible benefit programs. This may be a method or action that supports connection between a benefit program and clients, between benefits programs, and/or between benefits programs and the homeless services system, so long as the method or action supports client access and/or enrollment in the eligible benefit program.
- **Lead Entity** should include the name of the regional Eligible Applicant responsible for managing the key action.
- **Collaborating Entity/ies** may include a group, organization, or jurisdiction within your region working to address or improve the metric. This can be

### Benefit Programs

Benefit Program	Connection Strategy/ies	Lead Entity	Collaborating Entity/ies
CalWORKs			
CalFresh			
Supplemental Security Income/State Supplemental Program (SSI/SSP) and disability benefits advocacy			
In-home supportive services			
Adult protective services			
Child welfare			
Child care			
Medi-Cal benefits through Managed Care Plans			
[other]			
[other]			

## 2.7 Memorandum of Understanding

1. Upload the Region's Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

- a. Optional: upload any additional supporting documentation the region would like to provide.

**Guidance**  
*A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) must be submitted along with the application. This MOU must reflect the actions in the Regionally Coordinated Homelessness Action Plan submitted under this application, be signed by each participating eligible applicant, and commit each signatory to participate in and comply with the Regionally Coordinated Homelessness Action Plan. Smaller cities that choose to participate in the Regionally Coordinated Homelessness Action Plan may also be signatories to this MOU.*

## 2.8 Application Development Process Certification

1. Provide the dates of the three public meetings that were conducted with stakeholders before the Regionally Coordinated Homelessness Action Plan was completed.

**Guidance**  
*No less than three public meetings must be held for each Regionally Coordinated Homelessness Action Plan. Applicants should retain documentation of the meetings in alignment with Cal ICH’s records retention requirement outlined in the NOFA. To add additional meetings, add rows to the bottom of the table.*

Meeting	Date
1	
2	
3	

2. Describe how specific stakeholder groups were invited and encouraged to engage in the public stakeholder process.

**Guidance**  
*A description is required for each stakeholder group for each Regionally Coordinated Homelessness Action Plan. Applicants should retain documentation of these efforts in alignment with Cal ICH’s records retention requirement outlined in the NOFA.*

Stakeholders	Description of how Stakeholders were invited and encouraged to engage in the public stakeholder process
People with lived experience of homelessness	
Youth with lived experience of homelessness	
Persons of populations overrepresented in homelessness	
Local department leaders and staff of qualifying small jurisdictions, including child welfare, health care, behavioral health, justice, and education system leaders	

<b>Homeless service and housing providers working in that region</b>	
<b>Each Medi-Cal Managed Care Plan contracted with the State Department of Health Care Services in the region</b>	
<b>Street medicine providers and other providers directly serving people experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness</b>	

3. Certify under penalty of perjury that all participating eligible applicants met the statutory public meeting process requirements in developing the Regionally Coordinated Homelessness Action Plan.

DRAFT

## Part III: Funding Plan

Each **Administrative Entity** is required to submit a funding plan as part of the HHAP-5 Application. The funding plan must account for 100 percent of the HHAP-5 Base allocation(s), 100 percent of the HHAP-5 Planning allocation(s), and 100 percent of the Initial Supplemental Funding allocation(s) which the Administrative Entity will be responsible for administering.

For both the HHAP-5 base allocation and the initial \$100 million supplemental funding, individual allocations for each eligible applicant will be based on their proportionate share of the state's homeless population as reported by HUD in the 2023 PIT count. Allocation amounts will be calculated and released to all applicants once HUD publishes their 2023 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR).

Cal ICH currently anticipates providing eligible applicants with their calculated allocations by the end of January 2024. This will give applicants at least two months to finalize their HHAP-5 budgets before applications are due at the end of March. Until HHAP-5 final allocations are released, applicants should use their HHAP-4 base allocation as an approximation of their HHAP-5 allocation amount, for planning purposes.

1. Complete a Funding Plan for each Administrative Entity participating in this application.
  - a. Identify all Eligible Use Categories the Administrative Entity anticipates using.
  - b. Provide the **dollar amount** budgeted per eligible use category. Again, this must account for 100 percent of the HHAP-5 Allocation(s) the Administrative Entity will be responsible for administering.
  - c. Where applicable, provide the **dollar amount** that will be designated under the Youth Set-Aside from the selected eligible use categories. **Reminder: the youth set-aside must total at least 10% of all monies received.**
  - d. Provide a brief description of activities HHAP-5 funds will support in each selected eligible use category.
  - e. Provide an explanation of how the activities therein align with the state's HHAP-5 priorities to prioritize permanent housing solutions and sustain existing investments towards long-term sustainability of housing and supportive services.
2. Complete the New Interim Housing Certification
  - a. Indicate whether the budget proposes to support **ANY** new interim housing solutions outside of the youth set-aside.
  - b. Indicate whether the budget proposes to support new interim housing solutions for youth in excess of 10% of the total HHAP-5 Dollars budgeted.
  - c. If the Administrative Entity answers "yes" to either of the above, they will be asked to demonstrate dedicated, sufficient resources from other funding sources for long-term permanent housing solutions. This entails summarizing total available dollars for preventing and ending homelessness in the region, including the percentage of these resources dedicated to permanent and interim housing solutions, providing the status of five policy actions for each eligible applicant in the region, and demonstrating the need for additional shelter.

## Guidance

Each Administrative Entity must submit a **single** Funding Plan that accounts for the entire HHAP-5 Allocation(s) which the Administrative Entity will be responsible for administering. This includes:

- 100 percent of the HHAP-5 Base allocation(s);
- 100 percent of the HHAP-5 Planning allocation(s); and
- 100 percent of the Initial Supplemental Funding allocation(s).

**The youth set-aside must total at least 10% of all monies received.**

Administrative costs **may not exceed 7%** of all monies received.

Up to 1% of all monies received may be budgeted for costs related to the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). Related costs include HMIS licenses, training, system operating costs, and costs associated with carrying out related activities. Upon agreement between Cal ICH, the grantee, and the Homeless Management Information System lead entity, the grantee shall transfer the authorized amount of funds directly to the HMIS lead entity.

Each funding plan must include:

- Identification of all Eligible Use Categories the Administrative Entity anticipates using
- **Dollar amount** budgeted per eligible use category. Again, this must account for 100 percent of the HHAP-5 Base allocation(s) and 100 percent of the Initial Supplemental Funding allocation(s) which the Administrative Entity will be responsible for administering.
  - If applicable, **dollar amount** from the selected eligible use category that will be designated under the Youth Set-Aside. **Reminder: the youth set-aside must total at least 10% of all monies received.**
  - Administrative costs **may not exceed 7%** of all monies received.
  - Applicants may budget **up to 1%** for costs related to the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). Related costs include HMIS licenses, training, system operating costs, and costs associated with carrying out related activities. Upon agreement between Cal ICH, the grantee, and the Homeless Management Information System lead entity, the grantee shall transfer the authorized amount of funds directly to the HMIS lead entity.
- A brief description of activities HHAP-5 funds will support in each selected eligible use category.
- An explanation of how the activities therein align with the state's HHAP-5 priority to sustain existing investments towards long-term sustainability of housing and supportive services and prioritize permanent housing solutions.
- Certification that the Administrative Entity does not intend to support new interim housing solutions using HHAP-5 funds.
  - If an Administrative Entity proposes to use HHAP-5 funds to support any new interim housing solutions outside of the youth set-aside and/or interim housing for youth in excess of 10% of the total HHAP-5 allocation, **the region** will be asked to demonstrate how it has dedicated sufficient resources from other funding sources to long-term permanent housing solutions and the need for new interim housing.
  - Reminder: per HSC section 50230(v) "region" means the geographic area served by a county, including all cities and CoCs within it. For the LA region, this means all eligible applicants within the County of LA.

**To add another funding plan for an additional Administrative Entity, copy the entire funding plan section (including the "New Interim Housing Certification" and "Demonstrated Need" Subsections) and paste at the bottom of the template.**

Funding Plan – [Administrative Entity Name: \_\_\_\_\_]

Eligible Use Category	Dollars Budgeted	If applicable, Dollars Budgeted for the Youth Set-Aside	Activities these funds will support	How are these activities aligned with the State's priorities?
Rapid Rehousing				
Prevention and Shelter Diversion				
Delivery of Permanent Housing and Innovative Housing Solutions				
Operating Subsidies - Permanent Housing				
Operating Subsidies - Interim Housing				
Improvements to Existing Interim Housing				
Interim Housing				
Street Outreach				
Services Coordination				
Systems Support				
Administrative Costs				
Additional 1% for HMIS				

**New Interim Housing Certification**

Does this budget propose to support any new interim housing solutions outside of the youth set-aside?

No

Does this budget propose to support new interim housing solutions for youth in excess of 10% of the total HHAP-5 Dollars budgeted?

Yes/No

If yes to **either** of the above questions, identify **the region and Eligible Applicants in the region**. Then, respond to all of the below prompts under Demonstration of Dedicated, Sufficient Resources for Permanent Housing. In reviewing whether a region has

dedicated sufficient resources from other sources to long term permanent housing solutions, Cal ICH will evaluate financial resources and policy actions related to reducing and ending homelessness, as well as demonstrated need for additional interim housing.

### Demonstration of Dedicated, Sufficient Resources for Permanent Housing

Applicants must respond to this section **when** they have responded “Yes” to either of the questions under “New interim Housing Certification”. At a minimum, this section must reflect all eligible applicants in the region where the eligible applicant is proposing to fund new interim housing.

1. Identify Region and all eligible applicants in the Region.
2. Provide required metrics and narrative under “Status of Financial Resources”
3. Complete the 5 tables under “Status of Policy Actions
4. Provide required metrics and narrative under “Demonstrated Need”

#### Guidance

*Per HSC section 50230(v) “region” means the geographic area served by a county, including all Cities and Continuums of Care within it. For the LA region this means all eligible applicants (Large Cities, CoCs, and the County) within the County of LA.*

#### Region

#### Eligible Applicants in the Region

### Status of Financial Resources

Provide the following financial resource metrics for the region.

#### Guidance

*Per HSC section 50230(v) “region” means the geographic area served by a county, including all Cities and Continuums of Care within it. For the LA region this means all eligible applicants (Large Cities, CoCs, and the County) within the County of LA.*

- *For Single County CoCs and the LA region: the application is already aligned with the “region” definition. Therefore, the first two metrics must exactly reflect the information in [“Plan to Utilize Local, State, and Federal Funds to End Homelessness”](#) above. In the Cognito Form, the first*



two metrics will automatically populate from the information provided. The applicant will need to provide the “Percent dedicated to interim housing solutions”.

- For multi-county CoCs: because the participating eligible applicants may or may not exclusively align with the “region” definition, the applicant will need to assess and summarize the relevant information from the in “[Plan to Utilize Local, State, and Federal Funds to End Homelessness](#)” above. Here relevant information refers to the aggregate dollars available to the [Eligible Applicants](#) listed the tables directly above, in alignment with the “region” definition.

**Total amount of funds the region is using from its available federal, state, and local dollars to prevent and end homelessness as described in the Action Plan Section: Utilization of Local, State and Federal Funds to End Homelessness**

\$

**Percent of the above that is dedicated to permanent housing solutions**

**Percent of the above that is dedicated to interim housing solutions**

%

%

Describe the impact your proposed use(s) of HHAP-5 dollars would have on the above percentages.

### Status of Policy Actions

Provide a status update for each Eligible Applicant in the region on the following policy actions related to reducing and ending homelessness.

#### Guidance

*Per HSC section 50230(v) “region” means the geographic area served by a county, including all Cities and Continuums of Care within it. For the LA region this means all eligible applicants (large cities, CoCs, and the county) within the County of LA.*

Each of the following tables must be fully filled out for **every** Eligible Applicant in the Region

- The Italicized text in the table provides selections available

### Housing Element

Eligible Applicant	Is this Eligible Applicant's Housing Element Compliant?	If <u>no</u> , provide a timeline of plans to submit revisions to HCD and request technical assistance to address remaining issues
	Yes/No	

### Prohousing Designation

Eligible Applicant	Current Prohousing Designation Status	If the Eligible Applicant has not been designated <u>Prohousing</u> , identify Prohousing policies that this Eligible Applicant has adopted or plans to adopt in the future.
	<i>Has been designated Prohousing/ Has applied for Prohousing Designation/ Plans to apply for Prohousing Designation</i>	

### USICH Seven Principles for Addressing Encampments

Eligible Applicant	Does the Eligible Applicant have a current practice or commitment to follow the Seven Principles?
	<i>Has a current practice of following the Seven Principles/ Has made an active commitment to follow the Seven Principles/ Neither of the above</i>

### Housing Law Violations

Eligible Applicant	Does this Eligible Applicant have any outstanding housing law violations with HCD's housing accountability unit or the Attorney General's Office?	If the Eligible Applicant has an outstanding housing law violation, provide a plan to resolve issues or plans to request technical assistance to address remaining issues.
	Yes/No	

**Surplus Land**

Eligible Applicant	Does this Eligible Applicant have a current practice or commitment to identify local surplus land that could be encouraged for use as housing?
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Has a current practice of identifying local surplus land for housing.</li> <li>2. Has a current commitment to identifying local surplus land for housing.</li> <li>3. Requests technical assistance from HCD's Surplus Land Unit to analyze local surplus land for potential use as housing.</li> </ol>

**Demonstrated Need**

Additionally, consistent with previous rounds of HHAP, interim housing is limited to clinically enhanced congregate shelters, new or existing non-congregate shelters, and operation costs of existing navigation centers and interim housing based on demonstrated need. Demonstrated need for purposes of this paragraph shall be based on the following for the region:

<b>Number of shelter beds in the region</b>	#
<b>Number of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness (PIT)</b>	#
<b>Percentage of exits from emergency shelters to permanent housing solutions</b>	%

A plan to connect residents to permanent housing.

***NOTE: If there are multiple Administrative Entities applying as part of this regional application, copy and paste the above Funding Plan template here, one for each additional Administrative Entity.***

DRAFT

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## Action Item 5: Review and Approval of Proposed Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention – Round 5 (HHAP-5) Budget

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(Action required) – Robert Ratner

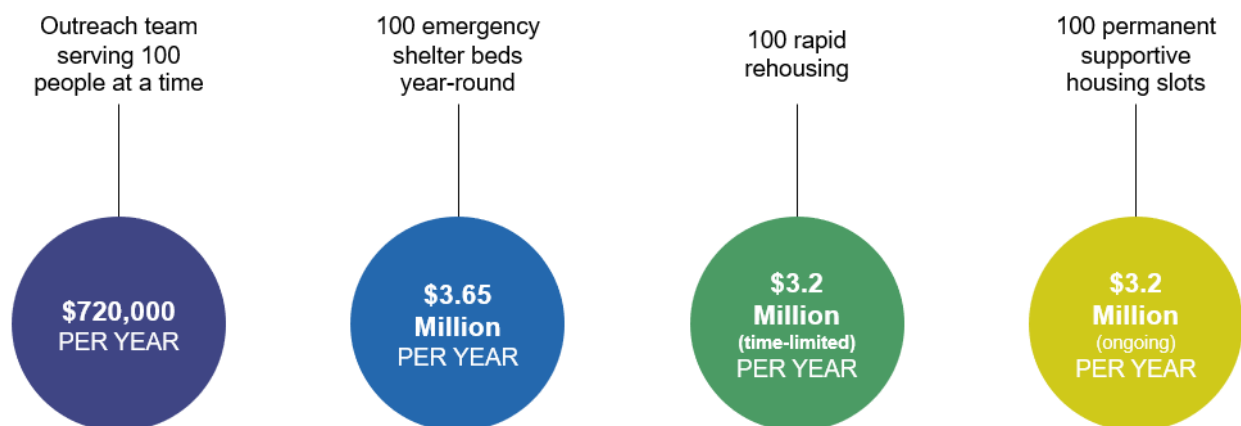
### Recommendation

Approve recommended HHAP-5 proposed budget in the combined County and CoC application for HHAP-5 funding.

### Background

See Action Item 4 for additional background on HHAP-5 funding. Since HHAP Round 3, made available in 2021, the County and CoC have combined available HHAP funding into a single pot of funds to be managed by the County of Santa Cruz Human Services Department, Housing for Health Division. State block grant funding to address homelessness and housing needs at the local level has varied significantly over time since funds first became available in 2018. The highest allocation of nearly \$11.1M occurred in 2018 and the lowest allocation of just under \$2.3M occurred in 2020. The combined CoC and County HHAP-5 allocation is just under \$5.1M representing a more than \$800,000 decrease in funding compared to our 2022 allocation. The allocation declined because of a reduction in our local Point-In-Time (PIT) count of persons experiencing homelessness between 2021 and 2023. **Figure 1** shows the relative cost of specific housing and service interventions to provide some guidance on potential programmatic impacts of HHAP dollars.

**Figure 1: Relative Costs of Housing and Service Interventions in Santa Cruz County**



To date, the state has not committed to ongoing, predictable, HHAP funding allocations on an annual basis. This presents a challenge for local governments, housing, and service providers to develop sustainable and impactful interventions. To partially address this issue, the County and CoC began budgeting HHAP funds in particular categories at consistent percentage levels with each allocation. For example, 70% of funds were set aside for interim housing (shelter,

transitional housing) operations. HHAP regulations require that at least 10% of funds be set aside for serving youth at-risk of or currently experiencing homelessness. The County and CoC have historically significantly exceed this recommended percentage as part of a strategy to secure Homekey Round 3 funding to establish a transitional housing project for youth. The strategy resulted in a successful Homekey Round 3 award of \$3.58M to build out the new housing project in 2024. The HHAP-4 budgeted youth allocation represented 30% of the total funding. The proposed HHAP-5 budgeted youth allocation represents 26% of the funding. The emphasis on investing in youth programming also represents a priority investment area identified by the CoC Policy Board and County Board of Supervisors. Remaining funds have historically been budgeted as follows – 13% for permanent supportive housing landlord incentives, outreach, and services; 9% for one-time flexible housing assistance funds, and 4% for outreach and Housing for Health connectors. The County currently covers the administrative and HMIS costs associated with managing HHAP-5 funds, so all HHAP dollars go directly into service programming.

The proposed HHAP 5 budget compared with the approved HHAP-4 budget are included as an attachment with the Policy Board Packet. The HHAP program allows for budget amendments throughout the term of the HHAP contract so that budgets can be adjusted as needed over time.

#### **Suggested Motion**

I move to approve the proposed HHAP-5 budget as included in the Policy Board packet for submission as part of our community application for HHAP-5 funding.

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

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## **Action Item 6: Review and Approval of Housing for Health Partnership Key Action Steps Over the Next Three Years (January 2024 – 2026)**

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(Action required) – Robert Ratner

### **Recommendation**

Approve recommended Housing for Health Partnership key action steps over the next three-year period January 2024 – December 2026.

### **Background**

The Housing for Health Division of the County of Santa Cruz Human Services Department formed in November 2020 as part of a regionally adopted three-year action plan known as the [Housing for a Healthy Santa Cruz Framework](#). The Framework established specific regional goals and action steps to reduce housing instability and homelessness within the County. The three-year framework expired December 31, 2023, and requires an update.

HHAP-5 requires the creation of a Regionally Coordinated Homelessness Action Plan and the gathering of input from community members on recommended action steps to ensure residents have safe, stable, and healthy places to live. Housing for Health Division staff conducted two community meetings to gather input for updating the Housing for a Healthy Santa Cruz Framework and the HHAP-5 required Action Plan. Two input sessions were held, one on February 6 and the other on February 7, with a combined 70 participants at the two sessions. Detailed notes from the two sessions were posted publicly on the Housing for Health Partnership website on February 14, 2024.

Housing for Health staff synthesized feedback from the two sessions into proposed broad core action steps for inclusion in updates to the Housing for a Healthy Santa Cruz Framework and in the HHAP-5 Regionally Coordinated Action Plan. The proposed action steps are divided into four action areas identified in the original Housing for a Healthy Santa Cruz Framework: (1) Increase Connections; (2) Build a Coalition; (3) Expand Permanent Housing; and (4) Prevent Homelessness. Pending approval by the Housing for Health Partnership Policy Board and County Board of Supervisors these broad action steps will be incorporated into an updated Framework and Regionally Coordinated Action Plan. Broad proposed actions will be utilized to develop six-month cycle action plans for implementation. This practice has been used since the Framework document was approved.

A copy of the proposed broad action steps is included in the Policy Board packet. The document includes relative weights of given recommendations based on the number of community input session participants that supported a particular action.



### **Suggested Motion**

Approve the proposed broad core action steps for inclusion in updates to the Housing for a Healthy Santa Cruz Framework and the HHAP-5 regionally coordinated homelessness action plan and direct Housing for Health Division staff to utilize the document as a guide for priority work areas over the next three-year period.

**Housing for Health Partnership – Community Meeting  
 Updating Action Plans Community Input Sessions  
 Consolidated and Prioritized Actions in Framework Categories**

*NOTE: Numbers in parenthesis after each item reflect the number of times a proposed action item area came up during community input sessions.*

*Increase Connections*

- Expand, update, and improve **sheltering options** for specific target populations not just highest need – smaller in overall size, more widely distributed throughout the County, space for partners/pets/possessions/privacy, housing-focused services available, more self-organized/empowerment philosophy, electricity, energy efficiency/solar, bathrooms, community space; use government or other vacant/underutilized properties, open 24/7, allow families to stay together, childcare in family shelters, youth welcomed (73)
- **Improving connection services** – more “warm handoffs”, active support to make connections, connect before release from institutions, tablets/internet access for mobile work, incentives, basic need resources, language and culturally accessible, flexible, non-traditional hours, authenticity, transparency, relationship, trust building, employment/educational opportunity outreach, more community health workers/peers/lived experience as Connectors, link with specific institutions and populations, more targeted outreach and location partnerships, {emergency departments, schools, meal programs} (52)
- More **service center/hubs** in strategic locations to engage specific populations – include north and south locations, space for outside organizations to offer services/programs on-site, access to bathrooms, showers, laundry, storage, garbage disposal, social and community connection opportunities, community garden spaces, open during daytime and when needed in a specific area, help navigate services and resources, food/meals (37)
- **Centralized, coordinated, updated real-time resource guide** information available in multiple formats, language accessible (web, phone call, smart phone app, printed guides) – bed availability as example build from 2-1-1 service, more widely distribute and accessible information on connectors and coordinated entry, reduce fear/barriers to accessing resources (34)
- Expand **low-barrier safe parking options** for vehicles of multiple sizes. Sites should have showers, bathrooms, community room/kitchen. Consider UCSC, Cabrillo, publicly owned land, underutilized parking lots. (23)
- **Hotel voucher options** for specific populations (14)
- **Mobilize volunteer support** (8)
- **Discharge with adequate transition resources** (2) – medications, transportation assistance, place to go, etc.

*Build a Coalition*

- Support access to and **improvements with CalAIM** resources – pair services with institutions/programs with intention, better reimbursement rates, ease administrative burden, expand providers and provider capacity, lower number of clients served per person or team (22)
- **Improve community outreach, education, and messaging** – more storytelling, more social media, increase public awareness, cultural/language accessibility, stigma reduction, opportunities to get involved (21)
- **Develop and foster workforce and educational partnerships** - computer literacy, school partnerships, higher education, internships, tax incentives for businesses, work with Workforce Development Board/Workforce Improvement Opportunity Act resources, trade groups, etc. (21)
- **Standards of care and evidenced based practices**, improve quality of care, expanded training on key topics, implement evidenced-based practices – mental health, substance use, ACT teams, housing first fidelity, discharge protocols and plan exits early (15)
- **More mentoring/lived experience paid involvement** in effort and training for organizations to implement, county develop specific positions, include as contract expectation (11)
- **Build cross-system collaboration networks** especially with institutions/entities that serve lots of unhoused individuals – emergency departments/hospitals, substance use programs, foster care – and partners with resources/value to add to efforts; more co-location of services and “in-reach” (10)
- **Improve coordination and approach to encampments**, reduce criminalization of living unsheltered and poverty, help address basic human needs (9)
- **Stable, ongoing funding** and distribute with **geographic equity** in mind (4)
- **Improve tracking** of services, outcomes, and disparities (4)
- **Learn from other communities** that are showing positive results, e.g., Coalition for the Homeless, Houston, Harris County, that increase coordination and reduce duplication of services and programs (1)
- Better public **interagency data sharing** (1)
- **Expand diversity of staff** providing services and in leadership positions (1)

*Expand Permanent Housing (including income growth)*

- ***Creating evidence-based, targeted supported employment programs*** - case management, coaching, transportation, clothing, low-barrier entry, soft skills training, job preparedness support, Watsonville Works and Downtown Streets Team to move from stipends to direct pay (22)
- ***Expand housing subsidies/vouchers for key populations***, extend time limits and make subsidies ongoing whenever possible, explore ***shallow subsidy pilot program*** to serve more people (22)
- ***Alternative living option support and promotion*** – mobile home parks, tiny homes, ADUs (18)
- ***Easily accessible, flexible funds*** to help with move-in expenses, housing retention, homelessness prevention, create fundraising campaign (18)
- ***Housing opportunity tracking and pursuit*** – vacant homes and sweat equity, vacant/underutilized public land, and buildings, faith-based partnerships, and others (17)
- ***Landlord outreach, education, support, networking, and incentives***– loan program to fix habitability issues, improved marketing (17)
- Expand ***publicly financed developments at multiple income levels/mixed use***, use incentives for inclusion of supportive/deeply affordable units (14)
- ***Simplify and improve communication with housing programs and vouchers*** – make it easier to get housing resources (14)
- ***Shared housing innovations*** - roommate matching services, co-ops, host homes (14)
- ***Reducing barriers to securing public income and benefits*** – Medi-Cal, CalFresh, Social Security, General Assistance; outstation benefit workers in community settings, (14)
- ***Explore and promote policy changes to support housing stability*** – limits on vacation rentals, explore rent control and just cause evictions, change local zoning, pursue California Housing and Community Development (HCD) prohousing designations at the local level, criminal background screen outs, foster youth supported independent living program allow to keep stipend and get other housing voucher (12)
- ***Reducing barriers to securing employment and educational opportunities*** – childcare, transportation, training, criminal backgrounds, create target programs for unhoused, people with health issues, partnerships with local colleges/universities (9)
- ***Use partnerships to stretch funding and create more housing opportunities*** - service pairing with housing vouchers or buildings, pooling funds to leverage dollars (4)

- ***Pilot guaranteed income, direct cash transfer efforts with unhoused people*** – include research and evaluation (4)
- ***Create banking and financial literacy products, education, and resources*** - early education, “break cycle” with transition age youth, service providers also need education and tools, low barrier banking product, products for undocumented (3)
- ***Rental guarantee/co-signer programs*** (2)
- ***Ensuring adequate, livable incomes from employments and benefit programs*** – living wage ordinances, supplemental payments for those with social security disability (2)

#### *Prevent Homelessness*

- ***Renter/tenant rights, responsibilities, housing search education*** and media campaign (27)
- ***Create an easily accessible, housing retention, multidisciplinary response team*** - legal services/eviction defense, mediation services, flexible funding, short-term supportive services (21)
- ***Support family preservation/support programs*** -reduce need for foster care (12)
- ***Support programs for foster youth/former foster youth*** -mentoring, fundraising (6)
- ***Support “pre-release” service planning and connections*** – institutional early discharge planning (10)
- ***Upstream, early interventions to reduce adverse childhood/life events*** (4)

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**Action Item 7: Authorize Staff to Finalize and Submit HHAP-5 Regionally Coordinated Homelessness Action Plan and Application on behalf of the CoC**

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(Action required) – Robert Ratner

**Recommendation**

Authorize Housing for Health Division staff to finalize the HHAP-5 Regionally Coordinated Homelessness Action Plan and Application for submittal on or before the application deadline of March 27, 2024.

**Background**

As outlined in Action Item 4, the CoC and County must jointly approve a shared application for HHAP-5 funding for the Santa Cruz County region. The application must include an MOU, budget, and completion of a Regionally Coordinated Homeless Action Plan (RCHAP) template. Housing for Health Division staff have requested that Policy Board members approve the proposed MOU and budget for the application in prior Board actions. A copy of the current draft RCHAP template was included with Action Item 4.

Staff will continue to work on finalizing the application and RCHAP over the next several weeks. The process of updating the materials will include incorporated Policy Board approved action steps and recommendations, a public posting of the draft document and solicitation of additional public comments, incorporation of public comments, and finalization of the document.

**Suggested Motion**

Authorize Housing for Health Division staff to finalize the HHAP-5 Regionally Coordinated Homelessness Action Plan and Application for submittal on or before the application deadline of March 27, 2024.

## Information Items 8-12

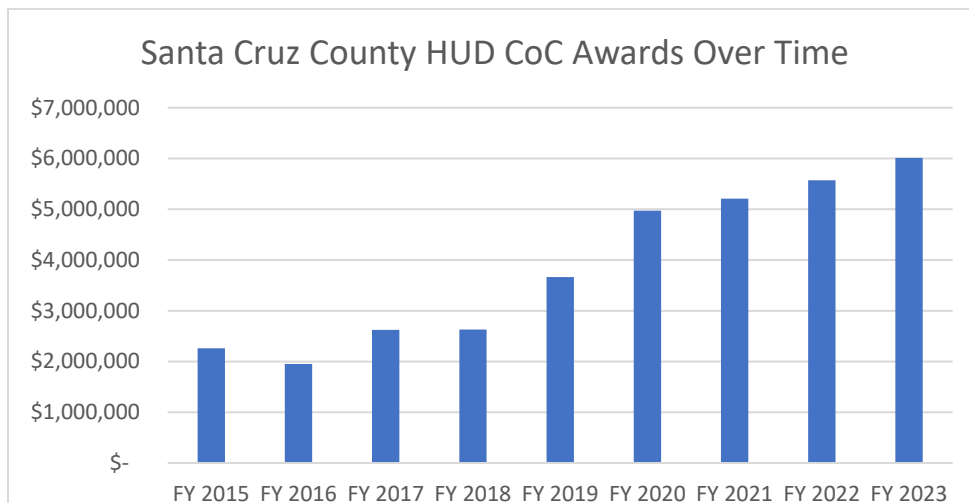
### Item 8: 2024 Continuum of Care (CoC) Awards

The Housing for Health Partnership (CoC) and CoC funding applicants received a formal announcement of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) FY 24 CoC awards totaling \$6.014 million in federal funding for local organizations working to address homelessness. This represents a 65% increase in CoC funding compared with FY19 awards. **Table 1** and **Chart 1** show Santa Cruz County CoC awards over time. Total federal funding has steadily increased over time following the creation of the Housing for Health Division and Housing for Health Partnership. This growth in funding reflects some strategic changes in our application process and positive changes in the work of our CoC.

Two new projects received funding this round, including a Housing Matters 180 Together permanent supportive housing rental assistance project to serve households often ineligible for existing rental assistance programs and a \$270,910 planning grant that will help support and sustain efforts to increase involvement of people with lived experience of homelessness in the Housing for Health Partnership efforts. A list of funding recipients is included in the Board packet.

**Table 1 and Chart 1: Santa Cruz County CoC Funding Awards Over Time**

FY 2015	\$ 2,261,790
FY 2016	\$ 1,953,274
FY 2017	\$ 2,624,602
FY 2018	\$ 2,629,841
FY 2019	\$ 3,662,605
FY 2020	\$ 4,972,008
FY 2021	\$ 5,207,237
FY 2022	\$ 5,570,269
FY 2023	\$ 6,014,046



### **Item 9: Homekey Round 3 Award for Freedom House Youth Transitional Housing Project**

The County of Santa Cruz, CFSC, Inc., and Covenant House were awarded a \$3.58M Homekey Round 3 grant to renovate a former children’s residential program into transitional housing for youth experiencing homelessness at 2716 Freedom Blvd. in an unincorporated area near Watsonville. The funds will be used to create a new 21-bed program operated by Covenant House with referrals to come through the Housing for Health partnership. This represents the fourth Homekey award for Santa Cruz County and the first for a transitional housing project.

### **Item 10: 2024 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count Update**

Housing for Health Division and Applied Survey Research (ASR) staff helped plan and implement the field-based component of the 2024 PIT count on Thursday, January 25, 2024. More than 100 volunteers and paid guides covered the entire count to get an estimate of the number of unsheltered individuals in the County on a single night. A separate group of volunteers helped with a youth-specific count. A significant number of paid guides with lived experience of homelessness helped support the county this year. This field survey data will be combined with Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data, surveys of non-HMIS using temporary housing programs, and a survey sample of people experiencing homelessness to generate a comprehensive report updating PIT data from 2023. Copies of PIT reports from prior years can be found on the Housing for Health Partnership website - [Point-in-Time \(PIT\) Counts \(housingforhealthpartnership.org\)](https://housingforhealthpartnership.org). Preliminary data should be available in May and a final report available by July 2024. Special thanks to Sheryl Norteye from the Housing for Health Division for all her work supporting this effort.

### **Item 11: Youth Homelessness System Improvement (YHSI) Grant Proposal Submission**

Staff members from the Housing for Health Division worked with youth housing and service providers to prepare and submit a \$625,375 proposal for a Youth Homelessness System Improvement (YHSI) grant funds from HUD. The program is designed to improve or establish local responses to youth homelessness. The grants will focus on systemic changes to improve local efforts including funding to help create and build capacity for Youth Action Boards, collect and use data on at-risk and youth experiencing homelessness, develop local leadership capacity, and improve communication, coordination, operations, and administrative of projects serving youth. Special thanks to Alexandra Dami from the Housing for Health Division team for developing a proposal for this funding within a tight time frame. Award announcements are expected before the summer of 2024.

### **Item 12: Lived Expertise Action Boards – Updates**

Over 60 individuals expressed interest in joining Lived Expertise Action Boards coordinated by the Housing for Health team. There are five spots available for the youth-specific board and five for the other board. Details on the exact number of applicants and their demographics will be available by the next Board meeting. Contracts with Mayeda Consulting and Goodwill Central Coast are in place to help



support the launch of these groups. Mayeda Consulting will be providing comprehensive supports to Housing for Health Division staff and potential participants to help launch and form these groups. Goodwill Central Coast will provide payroll and employment and educational growth supports to participants. Housing and Homelessness Incentive Program (HHIP) funds from the Central California Alliance for Health are helping to make this initiative possible. The recently awarded HUD planning grant and proposed YHSI grant will be used to help sustain and strengthen these groups.

**Final HUD-Approved 2023 Santa Cruz County CoC Project Awards**

<b>Applicant Name</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>New or Renewal Application</b>	<b>Project Type</b>	<b>Total HUD Award</b>
Monarch Services	Monarch DV Bonus	Renewal	PH	<b>\$110,691</b>
Families In Transition of Santa Cruz County, Inc.	Y.A.A.S. (Young Adults Achieving Success)	Renewal YHDP	Joint TH & PH-RRH	<b>\$269,483</b>
Housing Matters	801 River Street	Renewal	PH	<b>\$232,823</b>
Families In Transition of Santa Cruz County, Inc.	First Step-Scattered Site Housing for Families with Children	Renewal - Transitional	Joint TH & PH-RRH	<b>\$571,952</b>
Covenant House	YHDP New Roots RRH	Renewal YHDP	PH	<b>\$202,221</b>
Covenant House	Youth Rapid Rehousing	Renewal YHDP	PH	<b>\$236,147</b>
Bill Wilson Center	Santa Cruz County Shared Housing	Renewal YHDP	TH	<b>\$140,935</b>
Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County, Inc.	YHDP - Youth Homeless Response Team (YHRT)	Renewal YHDP	SSO	<b>\$99,175</b>
Walnut Avenue Family & Women's Center	Walnut Avenue Housing & Employment Program	Renewal	PH	<b>\$545,780</b>
Santa Cruz County HS A	MATCH	Renewal	PH	<b>\$986,928</b>
Housing Authority of the County of Santa Cruz	Shelter+Care Consolidate	Renewal	PH	<b>\$1,406,406</b>
Santa Cruz County HSD	County of Santa Cruz Homeless Management Information System	Renewal	HMIS	<b>\$66,782</b>
Santa Cruz County HSD	Coordinated Entry Expansion	Renewal	SSO	<b>\$228,362</b>
Santa Cruz County HSD	Youth CES	Renewal YHDP	SSO	<b>\$60,000</b>
Encompass Community Services	Drop-In Center	Renewal YHDP	SSO	<b>\$271,903</b>
Housing Matters	180 Together	New - CoC Bonus & Realloc	PH	<b>\$313,548</b>
Santa Cruz County HSD	2023 CoC Planning Grant	New - Non-Competitive	Planning	<b>\$270,910</b>

**Total HUD Award \$6,014,046**

PH = permanent housing (permanent supportive housing or rapid rehousing)  
 Joint TH & RRH = combined transitional and rapid rehousing  
 TH = transitional housing  
 SSO = supportive services only project  
 YHDP = Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program project