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\$6.63M IN FEDERAL FUNDING AND HOUSING VOUCHERS AWARDED TO HOMELESS SERVICES PROJECTS IN SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

(April 19, 2023) SANTA CRUZ COUNTY, CA – The County of Santa Cruz Housing for Health Division today announced that homeless services projects across Santa Cruz County have been awarded \$6.63 million in federal grant funding, representing the largest competitive federal Continuum of Care (CoC) allocation in County history.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funded all 21 projects that were submitted from Santa Cruz County. This includes three new projects: Housing Matters' permanent supportive housing project at 801 River Street, as well as Walnut Avenue Family & Women's Center and Monarch Services, programs that provide refuge to domestic violence survivors.

"It is great that every single project was awarded with funding, securing essential support needed to provide housing and services for those experiencing homelessness," said Robert Ratner, the County of Santa Cruz's Housing for Health (H4H) Division Director.

Also, among the projects are seven that specifically requested funding for the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP). These programs were awarded \$1,285,268, dedicated to providing services to youth experiencing or at risk of homelessness. One project, Covenant House, received approximately one-third of the total allocation to provide rapid rehousing services to youth.

In addition, over \$1,055,674 was granted to Housing Matters to provide operational support for Harvey West Studios, Housing Matter's upcoming project that will build 120 units of permanent and supportive housing. This was a highly competitive supplemental award under HUD's new unsheltered homelessness initiative.

Finally, HUD announced the award to the Santa Cruz County Housing Authority of 41 Stability Vouchers intended to subsidize permanent housing for households with severe needs and histories of unsheltered homelessness.

The total HUD federal award represents a 21% increase compared to last year's award total, plus the 41 stability vouchers. For a full list of CoC , YHDP and Unsheltered awards in Santa Cruz County, [click here](#).

The Housing for Health Partnership is a collaboration of the County and each city within Santa Cruz County, along with local homelessness service providers. It acts as the federally-designated continuum of care for Santa Cruz County and helps allocate State and federal funding to address homelessness. The County of Santa Cruz serves as lead agency for the H4H Partnership.