



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

**Santa Cruz County
Housing for Health Partnership (H4HP) Policy Board
Regular Meeting Agenda**

June 8, 2026; 11am-1pm

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

Zoom Conference Link: <https://santacruzcountyus.zoomgov.com/j/1651241588>

Call-In Number: +16692545252 Webinar ID#: 165 124 1588

Call to Order/Welcome/Introductions

Non-Agenda Public Comment

Brief Action Items {11:05 – 11:15 pm}

1. Review and Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes: April 20, 2026
2. Policy Board Co-Chair Nomination

Discussion/Action Items (11:15 – 12:30 pm)

3. Brown Act Information, Question and Answer Session
4. CoC Funding NOFO Information and Proposed Actions

Lived Expertise Workgroup Updates {12:30 – 12:45 pm}

5. Status Update

Information/Potential Action Items {12:45 – 1:00 pm}

6. Point-in-Time Count Update

Board Member Announcements

Adjournment

Next Meeting: August 10, 2026, 11 am – 1 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.

Brief Action Item 1: Review and Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes – April 20, 2026**Brief Action Item 2: Policy Board Co-Chair Nomination**

Brief Action Item 1:

Recommended Action: Approve the April 20, 2026, Housing for Health Partnership Policy Board Regular Meeting minutes.

Attachments: April 20, 2026, Housing for Health Partnership Policy Board Regular Meeting Minutes

Brief Action Item 2:

Recommended Action: Approve the nomination of Sam Altis, Executive Director, Association of Faith Communities to serve as one of two co-chairs for the Housing for Health Partnership Policy Board, through December 31, 2027.

Background: Sam Altis currently works as the Executive Director of the Association of Faith Communities (AFC). AFC supports a wide range of programs to help people experiencing or at-risk of homelessness throughout Santa Cruz County including rotating faith shelter, safe parking, mobile shower services, sock distribution, and mobilization of faith-based groups around housing related issues. Sam also serves as a co-chair for the Continuum of Care (CoC) operations group and has supported faith-based housing development education and advocacy sessions in partnership with Housing Santa Cruz County and Housing for Health Partnership. Sam has graciously expressed a willingness to serve as a co-chair of the CoC Policy Board.

Staff are still actively seeking another Board member to serve as co-chair through at least the end calendar year 2026.



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Housing for Health Partnership (H4HP) Policy Board Regular Meeting Minutes April 20, 2026; 11 am

Call to Order/Welcome

Present: Elaine Johnson, Heather Rogers, Leo Moreno, Manuel Caceres, Nick Calubaquib, Sam Altis, Serg Kagno, Shebreh Kalantari-Johnson, Terence Concannon

Absent: Connie Moreno-Peraza, Dr. Faris Sabbah, Eric Krebs, Justin Cummings, Marni Sandoval, Monica Martinez, Radovan "Mish" Radich, Rosie Garcia, Sarah Ryan, Susie O'Hara

Additions and Deletions to the Agenda: None

Non-Agenda Public Comment

Action Items (vote required)

1. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes: February 9, 2026

Discussion: None

Public Comment: None

Motion: Move to approve Regular Meeting Minutes: February 9, 2026

Motion to Approve: Serg Kagno

Motion Seconded: Shebreh Kalantari-Johnson

Abstentions: Leo Moreno, Nick Calubaquib, Sam Altis

Board Action: Motion passed

2. Approval of CoC Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) preparation

Discussion: Housing for Health staff provided an update on the federal HUD Continuum of Care (CoC) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) process and discussed potential changes to federal homelessness funding priorities. Staff explained that the local CoC currently receives approximately \$7.7 million annually, primarily supporting permanent housing and rental assistance programs for individuals experiencing homelessness. Recent federal actions delayed significant proposed funding changes, allowing existing programs to continue at current funding levels; however, staff noted that future NOFOs may include changes shifting funding priorities away from Housing First approaches toward treatment, services, outreach, and transitional housing programs. Board members discussed the uncertainty surrounding the FY 2026 NOFO and the potential impacts on local



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programs and funding allocations. Staff indicated that changes to HUD scoring criteria and funding requirements could require substantial adjustments to local project selection, ranking, and funding strategies to remain competitive and preserve federal funding for the community. Discussion also included potential ethical and operational challenges associated with anticipated federal policy changes and the importance of maintaining services for vulnerable populations. Staff reviewed possible strategies to address future funding shifts, including evaluating alternative funding sources, coordinating resources across housing and shelter programs, and leveraging newly opened shelter and transitional housing facilities. The Board discussed the need to prepare for a shorter federal timeline and supported forming a workgroup to review the NOFO upon release, analyze funding impacts, and develop recommendations for the local application and project ranking process. The Board also supported providing staff with flexibility to convene meetings as needed to respond to federal requirements.

Public Comment:

None

Motion:

Move to approve the Continuum of Care (CoC) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Preparation and Rating and Ranking Workgroup, retaining some consistent participants from previous years and authorizing staff to add a non-conflicted service provider representative if appropriate. Further authorize staff to convene the workgroup upon issuance of the FY 2026 HUD NOFO, prepare recommendations for the local application, rating, ranking, and review process, and organize a special meeting of the CoC Policy Board, if necessary, to meet the FY 2026 NOFO timeline requirements.

Motion to Approve:

Terence Concannon

Motion Seconded:

Heather Rogers

Abstentions:

None

Board Action:

Motion passed

Discussion/Action Items

3. CoC Gaps and Needs Analysis

Discussion:

The Board received a presentation from Housing for Health staff regarding the Santa Cruz County Housing for Health Response System HUD Needs and Gaps Analysis. This presentation provided an overview of homelessness trends, housing affordability challenges, and system performance. The presentation highlighted that homelessness remains a significant issue in Santa Cruz County, with housing affordability identified as a primary contributing factor. Data showed that renters



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face substantial housing cost burdens, particularly those with extremely low incomes, and that more than 95 percent of individuals experiencing homelessness fall within the extremely low-income category. Staff noted that housing production has not kept pace with the needs of this population and emphasized the importance of increasing long-term affordable housing options and stabilizing funding sources for housing and homelessness programs. Staff reviewed preliminary Point-in-Time Count data, reporting that most individuals experiencing homelessness were unsheltered. Discussion included shelter capacity, utilization rates, and research indicating that Point-in-Time Counts may underestimate the total number of individuals experiencing homelessness. Data from the Point-in-Time Count and the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) indicated that most individuals experiencing homelessness last resided in Santa Cruz County. Board members discussed data collection methods and inquired about the feasibility of gathering information regarding individuals experiencing homelessness who may be residing temporarily in hospitals, treatment facilities, or other institutions that are not included in HUD count requirements.

The presentation also identified strengths within the local homelessness response system, including successful placements into permanent housing, positive outcomes for youth, families, and veterans, and the absence of significant racial disparities in available program data. Staff discussed challenges related to limited affordable housing, inconsistent outreach coverage, unstable funding sources, and service gaps for chronically homeless individuals and adults with disabilities. Additional concerns included the number of individuals exiting programs without income or public benefits and higher rates of return to homelessness compared with statewide averages. Board members discussed factors contributing to homelessness, including housing instability following shelter exits, the availability of follow-up support services, and differences among shelter program models. Members also discussed the challenges developers face in constructing affordable housing for extremely low-income households, including financing and regulatory barriers. Staff described ongoing efforts to improve coordination among jurisdictions, address development obstacles, and strengthen collaboration between housing, behavioral health, and substance use treatment systems.

4. Strategic Plans and Goals Alignment

Discussion: Housing for Health staff presented a comparison of homelessness-related strategic plans, including the Housing for a Healthy Santa Cruz Framework, the City of Santa Cruz Homelessness Response Strategic Plan, the City of Watsonville Homelessness Strategic Plan, and the Housing Matters Strategic Plan. The purpose of the presentation was to identify areas of overlap, differences in priorities, and



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opportunities for greater alignment among local governments, service providers, and community partners. Discussion highlighted that while many goals are shared across the plans, cities tend to focus more on public space management and community impacts, whereas county and nonprofit efforts focus more on behavioral health and supportive services. Board members discussed the importance of strengthening coordination among housing, behavioral health, substance use treatment, law enforcement, and social service systems. Staff noted that individuals experiencing homelessness often interact with multiple systems simultaneously and that improved communication and collaboration among agencies could lead to more effective service delivery. Staff provided updates on initiatives to improve cross-system data sharing, expand residential treatment and behavioral health resources, and develop flexible funding strategies to support housing stability for individuals with behavioral health needs. The Board expressed support for continued collaboration, data-sharing efforts, and strategies that align resources and services across the county.

Lived Expertise Workgroup Updates

5. Status Updates

Discussion:

Housing for Health Staff provided an update on the Lived Expertise groups, which were established at the direction of the Board to engage individuals with lived experience of homelessness, including a youth group and an adult group. Staff reported that a transition in service providers required a temporary pause in activities after the previous partner organization was no longer able to continue its role. Homebase agreed to assume additional responsibilities to support and facilitate the groups, allowing the initiative to move forward. Staff explained that the program structure was revised to simplify administration and better support participant engagement. Members are now serving as volunteers and will receive compensation through a stipend model. Funding previously designated for individual support requests, such as transportation, technology, and childcare assistance, was incorporated into the stipend process to streamline operations. Staff reported that contracts with Homebase have been finalized and recruitment efforts have resumed. Most existing members have chosen to remain involved, and recruitment was conducted to fill a vacant position. A recent gathering was held to reconnect with participants, provide updates, and reaffirm commitment to ensuring that individuals with lived expertise continue to have a meaningful role in informing homelessness response efforts.



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Information/Potential Action Items

6. Policy Board Co-Chairs - Seeking Interest/Nominations

Discussion: Housing for Health Staff announced an open call for nominations for Co-Chair positions and invited interested Board members to submit their names for consideration. Staff reviewed the responsibilities of the Co-Chair role, which include collaborating with staff to develop meeting agendas, reviewing and discussing potential agenda topics, and assisting with meeting facilitation. Staff noted that the role typically requires few hours of preparation before each meeting. Staff indicated that one Co-Chair position is currently needed through the end of the calendar year and expressed a preference for identifying a member willing to serve through 2026 and 2027.

7. Future Agenda Topics

Discussion: Board member requested that the CoC Needs and Gaps Analysis remain an ongoing topic for future meetings to support continued discussion. Another board member expressed interest in receiving a summary sheet of Robert's Rules.

Board Member Announcements

Board member Terence Concannon announced the opening of the new Santa Cruz County Visitor Center, which includes interactive exhibits, educational displays, and visitor amenities designed to enhance public engagement and tourism. Santa Cruz County is hiring artists to paint the red ball into a soccer ball for FIFA and then repaint it red in July outside the Museum of Art History.

Board member Heather Rogers announced the creation of the Bridge Foundation, a new nonprofit organization, established to raise and distribute funds to address unmet material needs of public defender clients and their families. The organization aims to help with expenses and opportunities not otherwise covered by existing programs and to encourage community awareness and support for the effort.

May is Affordable Housing Month. Santa Cruz Housing will have 27 events throughout Santa Cruz.

Next Meeting: Monday, June 8, 2026, 11:00 am

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Discussion / Action Item 3: Brown Act Information, Question and Answer Session

Discussion / Action Item 4: CoC Funding NOFO Information and Proposed Actions

Discussion / Action Item 3:

Recommended Action: None. Information only.

Background: Policy Board members have requested background information on the Brown Act in California and how it applies to the Housing for Health Partnership Policy Board. The Santa Cruz County counsels' office prepared a Brown Act summary for Board members and will be present at the meeting to answer questions related to the Act.

Attachment: Brown Act Summary.

Discussion/Action Item 4:

Recommended Actions:

- 1) Approve the staff recommended 2026 Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Continuum of Care (CoC) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) local process timeline;
- 2) Approve the staff recommended 2026 HUD CoC NOFO local application checklist;
- 3) Approve the staff recommended 2026 HUD CoC NOFO local application scoring criteria;
- 4) Review and develop recommended actions for improving CoC system performance to increase our competitiveness for HUD CoC funding in FY 2026 and future fiscal years.

Background:

On June 1, 2026, HUD released the federal fiscal year 2026 HUD CoC NOFO. The full NOFO can be found at this website - [FY 2026 Continuum of Care Competition and Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program Grants NOFO](#). Santa Cruz County received over \$7.5M in HUD CoC funding from FY 2025 CoC funding. The NOFO process includes two key components: (1) The development of a community-wide application, completed by Housing for Health staff and consultants; (2) Management of a local, competitive funding application process for organizations interested in applying for HUD CoC NOFO funding as a renewal, modified, or new project. This local process must result in a locally ranked and prioritized list of applications for funding.

Tony Gardner and Housing for Health Division staff reviewed the FY 2026 NOFO and prepared a set of initial recommended actions to launch the required local application submission, review, rating, and ranking process. As anticipated, the NOFO contains many significant changes from prior NOFOs issued over the past ten plus years. Some key changes include but are not limited to: (1) A 60% cap on Tier 1 applications (non-competitive), likely to be renewed grants, increasing the probability of some current

projects losing funding; (2) Up to 40% of our current funding could be lost in the national competition process. (3) Incentives to apply for services only and transitional housing grants; (4) Encouragement for faith-based organizations to apply for funding; (5) A shift away from “Housing First” to requiring treatment and services as a condition of participating in housing programs; (6) An emphasis on employment and increasing “self-sufficiency”; (7) An emphasis on increasing competition for funding rather than renewing most program grants. Housing for Health Division staff and consultants will present additional background information on the NOFO at the Board meeting.

At the April 20, 2026, meeting of the Board, Board members developed a recommended list of participants for our local HUD CoC NOFO review, rating, and ranking committee. This committee will be responsible for reviewing application submissions and working with H4H staff and consultants to develop a ranked list of project applications to HUD. The committee will also have an opportunity to provide recommendations on actions our region can take to improve our overall scoring in the national funding competition. The committee’s recommendations will be presented to the CoC Policy Board at its August meeting for review and final approval prior to submission of the full application to HUD.

The Board packet includes multiple attachments related to recommended action items for the local NOFO process.

Attachments:

- Current list of HUD CoC grant recipients by program and dollar amount
- Recommended HUD CoC NOFO local process timeline
- Recommended HUD CoC NOFO local application checklist
- Recommended HUD CoC NOFO application scoring rubric
- HUD CoC NOFO analysis with options to consider for improving our community-wide score in the national competition



BROWN ACT GUIDELINES FOR LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Introduction. Enacted in 1953, the Brown Act is a California state law that promotes transparency and public participation in meetings of local legislative bodies, including county boards of supervisors, city councils, and the subsidiary and advisory bodies that they create.

These guidelines summarize key Brown Act requirements to help local advisory body members comply with the law. However, this document is only a summary. If a specific situation arises that is not covered below, please contact the staff liaison for your advisory body for further guidance. They will consult with the Clerk of the Board and/or County Counsel, if necessary.

1. **Understanding What Constitutes a "Meeting"**

A fundamental aspect of complying with the Brown Act is identifying when a “meeting” is occurring or may occur. The Brown Act defines a “meeting” as any occasion where **a majority (50% +1) of a legislative body gathers to hear, discuss, deliberate, OR take action on any matter within their subject matter jurisdiction.** This includes:

- Formal meetings and study sessions;
- Informal gatherings, such as “field trips” and retreats; and/or
- Telephone calls, emails, and text exchanges among a majority of members.

Common Situations That Are Not Meetings:

- Individual discussions with citizens (unless a majority is present);
- Social gatherings where no official business is discussed; and/or
- Attendance at public meetings, conferences, and gatherings of another agency or organization where participation is limited to the scheduled program.

Importantly, *it is irrelevant whether the body is taking formal action or voting on any matter.* Any gathering where a majority of committee members hear, discuss, or deliberate any topic within the jurisdiction of the committee constitutes a meeting under the Brown Act.

Best Practice: *If a situation develops into a "meeting," please refrain from further discussion and propose continuing it at a properly scheduled meeting.*

2. **Notice and Agenda Requirements**

Required Notice Periods:

- **Regular Meetings:** Notice posted in an accessible location at least 72 hours prior.
- **Special Meetings:** Notice posted in an accessible location at least 24 hours prior.

Agenda Content Requirements (Almost Always Included with the Notice):

- A brief, general description (usually 20 words or less) of each item to be discussed must be included.
- Related written materials (e.g., staff reports) must be made publicly available at the same time when provided to advisory body members.

During a Public Meeting, members may:

- Hear, discuss, deliberate, or take actions on matters included in the posted agenda;
- Provide brief responses to public comments on non-agendized items; and/or
- Make requests for staff to follow up and/or include as a future agenda item.

Adding “emergency” items or other topics that arose after the posting of notice/agenda are limited and rare exceptions which must meet certain legal requirements. These may only be utilized after staff consults with the County Counsel’s Office.

Best Practice: *Post agendas in a public location accessible 24/7 for the required period and ensure electronic copies of meeting materials, including staff reports, are timely provided to the public, such as by posting online, distributing to an interested parties list via email, and/or providing copies at the meeting.*

3. Remote Participation

Despite the increased use of virtual meeting technology in society, the Brown Act generally requires in-person meeting participation. Limited exceptions exist but are complex to implement.

- Advisory body members **must** attend meetings in person unless an exception applies.
- While Zoom, Teams, or similar links **may** be provided for public participation, but this does not excuse advisory body members from attending in person.

Best Practice: *Staff will consult the County Counsel’s Office before attempting to use remote participation exceptions to ensure legal and technical requirements can be met.*

4. Avoiding Inadvertent Brown Act Violations

Common violation scenarios include:

- **Serial meetings:** When a majority communicates in sequence outside of a public meeting (e.g., an advisory body member or staff intermediary shares information with a majority in separate conversations).
- **Electronic communications:** Emails, texts, or social media posts with substantive discussions on matters within the jurisdiction of the body can create an accidental virtual meeting.

Best Practice: *Please do not conduct commission business and/or engage in discussions via email, text, or social media with a majority of the body. Do not use staff or intermediaries to share views or opinions among members. Limit email to scheduling matters and do not reply-to-all.*

5. Rights of the Public

At meetings, members of the public have the right to:

- Access reports and documents provided to or created by advisory bodies;
- Address an advisory body on any relevant topic, including agenda items and any other matter not on the agenda but within the subject matter jurisdiction of the body.
- Remain anonymous if they choose.

Regulations on public participation must be **non-content based**—for example, time limits are allowed if applied consistently, but restricting speech based on viewpoints is not.

Best Practice: Provide ample opportunities for public comments at meetings and ensure all documents provided to advisory members are simultaneously made available to the public. Acknowledge the opportunity for public comment for each agenda item, even if no members of the public are present during your meeting.

6. **Subcommittees**

All subcommittees, task forces, and similar subgroups created by a legislative body are subject to the Brown Act, **except** for **ad hoc** subcommittees, which:

- Consist of less than a majority of the governing body;
- Are charged with accomplishing or resolving a specific task; and
- Are temporary in nature for a limited duration (less than 6 months under County Code).

Best Practice: When forming a subcommittee, your staff liaison will consult with the County Counsel's Office to determine whether Brown Act compliance will be required.

7. **Closed Sessions**

Most advisory bodies **do not** have grounds to hold closed session meetings that exclude the public. The Brown Act provides limited exceptions to the public meeting requirement, such as:

- Threats to public safety, services, and/or facilities;
- Real Property transactions and negotiations;
- Pending, anticipated, or existing litigation;
- Personnel matters or Labor negotiations.

Best Practice: Never schedule a closed session without prior approval from County Counsel.

8. **Consequences of Brown Act Violations**

Any interested person, including the district attorney, may seek to invalidate certain actions of a legislative body on the grounds of an alleged Brown Act violation after sending proper written notice that complies with certain legal requirements. Any of the following may then be considered:

- **Cure and Correct:** Notice requirements in the Brown Act ensure that legislative bodies typically have an opportunity to rectify alleged violations before legal action proceeds.
- **Civil enforcement:** Violations may result in a court action to nullify the decision in question, with the public agency liable for the plaintiff's attorneys' fees.
- **Criminal penalties:** Egregious violations intended to prevent public participation may result in misdemeanor charges (rare).

Best Practice: If a potential violation occurs, staff will immediately contact the County Counsel's Office to identify corrective actions.

Additional Resources

- [League of California Cities – Open and Public IV: A Guide to the Ralph M. Brown Act](#)
- The assigned Staff Liaison, Clerk of the Board and County Counsel's Office.

With great appreciation to Yolo County for sharing their Brown Act Guide!

Organization Name	Project or Award Name	FY 2025 Amount
Bill Wilson Center	Santa Cruz County Shared Housing 2024 YHDP	\$169,419
Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County, Inc.	Youth Homeless Response Team (YHRT) Renewal 2024	\$112,361
County of Santa Cruz	CA-508 CoC Planning Application FY2024	\$287,157
County of Santa Cruz	County of Santa Cruz Homeless Management Information System	\$76,314
County of Santa Cruz	Coordinated Entry Expansion	\$259,896
County of Santa Cruz	Youth CES	\$67,903
County of Santa Cruz Health Services Agency	MATCH	\$1,240,542
Covenant House California	YHDP_Santa_Cruz_Renewal_2024	\$527,125
Encompass Community Services	Drop-In Center	\$296,167
Families In Transition of Santa Cruz County, Inc.	First Step-Scattered Site Housing for Families with Children Renewal Application 2	\$671,530
Families In Transition of Santa Cruz County, Inc.	YHDP Renewal Application 2024	\$328,896
Housing Authority of the County of Santa Cruz	Shelter Plus Care Consolidated FY 2024	\$1,910,598
Housing Matters	801 River Street	\$302,619
Housing Matters	180 Together Supportive Housing	\$402,661
Monarch Services - Servicios Monarca	DV Bonus Project	\$142,583
Walnut Avenue Family & Women's Center	Walnut Avenue Housing & Employment Program	\$749,441
		\$7,545,212



Santa Cruz 2026 CoC & YHDP NOFO Process Timeline

Each year, the Housing for Health Partnership (H4HP) administers the Program Competition for HUD Continuum of Care (CoC) and Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) funds. This calendar serves as a guide for applicants who are considering applying for new or renewal funds from HUD through the FY 2026 CoC and YHDP Notice of Funding Opportunity (CoC NOFO). Please note the dates are tentative and may change. Please do contact H4HP at Sheryl.norteye@santacruzcountyca.gov or tonygardnerconsulting@yahoo.com with questions.

Event	Date/Deadline
HUD releases 2026 CoC NOFO	June 1, 2026
H4H Policy Board meeting , includes approving local CoC process, timeline, criteria, and priorities, and other key CoC competition planning as needed	June 8, 2026, 11:00-1:00
H4H releases local Public Solicitation of Applications for CoC & YHDP funds & invitation to Applicant Orientation	June 10, 2026
Applicant Orientation Session (recorded)	June 15, 2026, 11:00-12:30
Local deadline CoC and YHDP application materials (via e-mail) and HUD applications (via e-snaps)	July 21, 2026, 5:00
H4H Rating and Ranking Subcommittee meeting to review and rate project applications and develop recommendations on project approvals/rejections, ranking/tiering	July 30, 2026, 3:00-5:00
H4H Policy Board meeting, includes reviewing CoC NOFO recommendations and confirming decisions on project approvals/rejections, ranking/tiering	August 10, 2026, 11:00-1:00
Written decisions sent to applicants (at least 15 days before HUD deadline)	August 11, 2026 (latest)
Appeals Period for applicants that were declined or had funding reduced	August 11, 2026 – August 21, 2026
Deadline for submission in e-snaps of final CoC and YHDP applications	August 21, 2026, 5:00
Web posting of CoC Application and Project Priorities (at least 2 days before HUD deadline)	August 24, 2026
HUD deadline CoC Application & Project Priorities	August 26, 2026, 5:00 PST



2026 Santa Cruz County CoC/YHDP Local Application Instructions and Checklist

Local Application Deadline: **Tuesday, July 21, 2026, 5 pm**. Submit via e-mail (no paper copies) to: Sheryl.norteye@santacruzcountyca.gov AND tonygardnerconsulting@yahoo.com

Completed Local CoC/YHDP Application

Attachments:

- A CoC HMIS Annual Progress Report (APR) for the period July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026, or comparable data from a comparable data system for DV providers. If the applicant does not participate in HMIS or currently utilize a comparable data system, they should provide program outcome data from a recent similar project using data currently available. *Renewals converting from one project component to another may use an APR for the project being converted (e.g., RRH project converting to a TH project may submit an APR for the RRH projects).*
- Any H4HP or HUD Letters with Monitoring Findings, dated 7/1/25 or later, relating to your project including follow up correspondence. *Applicants with no prior HUD CoC grants should submit comparable evidence from another funding source including any funder findings and a funder program report show the report due date and date the applicant submitted the report.*
- Most recently Single Audit for your agency if required as a result of receipts of \$1 million or more in federal funding per fiscal year. If not required, provide your most recent Financial Audit.
- Participant supportive services participation agreement (or SUD participation agreement) for the proposed project.
- Copy of the complete file (complaint, agency responses, resolution etc.) relating to any written participant complaints or other public complaints your project has received since 7/1/25.
- eLOCCS printout of all drawdowns completed during the last completed contract year and the current contract year to date. *Renewals converting from one project component to another may use eLOCCS drawdown data from the project being converted. Applicants with no prior HUD CoC grants should submit comparable evidence of drawdown completeness from a similar government funding source.*
- TH Only: Evidence of housing resource and healthcare resources commitments, if available.

IMPORTANT: Projects selected to move forward to the HUD stage of the application process will be required to submit project applications in HUD's grant management system called e-snaps. Further information will be provided.

Please do not hesitate to contact H4H at Sheryl.norteye@santacruzcountyca.gov or tonygardnerconsulting@yahoo.com if you have any questions.

Santa Cruz County 2026 CoC Project Scoring Tool

Reviewer: _____ Check that not conflicted per CoC policy ___

Agency/Project: _____

No.	Scoring Criteria	Points Possible	Reviewer Points
1	<p>Housing/Project Type</p> <p>15 pts for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PSH renewals CES renewal (CoC only) <p>7 ½ pts for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DV TH new (created through <i>transition</i> of DV RRH renewals, or DV bonus) CoC TH new (created through <i>transition</i> of CoC RRH or joint RRH-TH renewals, <i>reallocation</i> of other CoC funds, or CoC bonus) YHDP TH new (created through <i>replacement</i> of YHDP RRH, joint TH-RRH, or Shared Housing, or <i>reallocation</i> of other YHDP funds) YHDP SSO renewals <p>0 pts for: – All other projects.</p>	<p>15 PTS POSSIBLE</p> <p>15 pts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PSH and CoC CES renewals <p>7 ½ pts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New TH projects and YHDP SSO renewals <p>0 pts: Other</p>	
2	<p>Priority Population Served –Chronically Homeless, DV, or youth population served by project</p> <p>The project meets the needs of a high priority population as described below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experiencing chronic homelessness with disability Survivors or domestic violence Youth Seniors (55 and older) 	<p>5 PTS POSSIBLE</p> <p>CH w/disability, DV, Youth, Senior pops:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 pts – 100% 4 pts – 70-99% 3 pts – 50-69% 2 pts – 25-49% 1 pt – 1-24% 0 pts – 0%. <p>(CES & HMIS 5 pts)</p>	
3	<p>PERFORMANCE MEASURES</p> <p>The project has met or exceeded measurable performance expectations in the below areas based on HMIS APR data for renewals and other projects that use HMIS (or other data systems where the project does not yet participate in HMIS)</p>	<p>20 PTS POSSIBLE (CES & HMIS 15 pts)</p>	
3A	<p>Housing Stability and Exits (residential and SSO projects):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For PSH renewals, did you meet the standard in helping leavers and stayers combined retain PH for 7 months or more? – at least 90% For RRH renewals, did you meet the standard in helping leavers find and move into housing? – at least 80% For new TH, have you previously met in prior RRH, TH, or other comparable project(s) the standard in helping leavers find and move into PH? – at least 85% For SSO renewals, did you meet the standard in helping leavers fund and move into PH? For new SSO, have you 	<p>7 Pts Available</p> <p>PSH:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 pts – 90% + 3 pts – 80-89% 0 pts - <80% <p>TH:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 pts – 80% + 3 pts – 70-79% 0 pts - <70% <p>RRH:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 pts – 85% + 3 pts – 75-84% 	

No.	Scoring Criteria	Points Possible	Reviewer Points
	<p>previously met in prior comparable project(s) the standard in helping leavers find and move into PH? – at least 40%</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For all renewals, did you meet the standard in helping leavers exit to unsubsidized housing? – at least 20%. For all new projects, have you previously met in prior RRH, TH, SSO, or other comparable project(s) the standard in helping leavers exit to unsubsidized housing? – at least 20% For all renewals, did you meet the standard in avoiding leavers with unknown destinations? – no more than 10%. For all new projects, have you previously met in prior RRH, TH, SSO, or other comparable project(s) the standard in avoiding leavers with unknown destinations? – no more than 10%. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0 pts - <75% <p>SSO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 pts –40% + 3 pts–30-39% 0 pts - <30% <p>All projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ½ pt – at least 20% leavers to unsubsidized housing ½ pt – no more than 10% leavers to unknown dest. 0 pts – did not meet either standard 	
3B	<p>Employment Income (residential and SSO projects):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For all PSH, TH, RRH, and SSO projects, did you meet the standard in helping ADULT leavers and stayers combined gain or increase income from employment ONLY? – at least 25% 	<p>5 Pts Available</p> <p>Employment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 pts – 25% + 3 pts – 12-24% 2 pts – 4-11% 1 pt – 2-4% 0 pts – 0-1% <p>(HMIS & CES 3 pts)</p>	
3C	<p>Non-Cash Mainstream Benefits all (residential and SSO projects):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For all projects, did you meet the standard in helping leavers and stayers combined maintain or increase at least one source of non-cash benefits? – at least 50% 	<p>1 Pt Available</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 pts – 50% + ½ pt – 40-49% 0 pts - <40% 	
3D	<p>Program Occupancy/Enrollment (residential and SSO projects):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For all projects, did you meet the standard in ensuring that average program occupancy / enrollment met CoC standard. – at least 90% for the year 	<p>1 Pt Available</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 pt – 90% + ½ pt – 80-89% 0 pts - <80% 	
3E	<p>Returns to Homelessness (residential and SSO projects):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For all projects except HMIS, did you meet the standard in ensuring that leavers did not exit to non-permanent destinations (e.g., shelters, TH, hotels, motels, and the streets)? – no more than 20% 	<p>5 Pts Available</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 pts –20% max 3 pt – 21-30% 0 pts - >30% 	
3F	<p>Length of Stay/Participation (residential and SSO projects):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For PSH only, did you meet the standard by <u>increasing</u> the annual average LOS in PH for leavers and stayers combined? – higher LOS average than previous APR year For TH, RRH, & SSO, did you meet the standard by <u>decreasing</u> the annual average LOS/participation in TH, RRH, or SSO for leavers? – lower LOS/ participation ave. than previous year 	<p>1 Pt Available</p> <p>PSH:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 pt – + LOS 0 pts – - LOS <p>TH, RRH, & SSO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 pt – - LOS 0 pts – + LOS 	
3G	<p>Victim Service Providers only - Safety:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Propose at least one measure of the degree of participant safety that you will commit to using in the future. 	<p>Not Scored This Year</p>	
4	PROGRAM EFFECTIVENESS	25 PTS POSSIBLE (CES & HMIS 18 pts)	
4A	<p>Coordinated Entry Participation: The minimum percentage of new clients since 1/1/25 who came from CES referral, or who were enrolled in CES for SSO project serving people experiencing homelessness at the time of enrollment.</p>	<p>2 Pts Available</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 pts–95% + 1 pts –85- 94% 0 pts – - 85%. 	
4B	<p>Required Supportive Services Participation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project will require supportive services participation as evidenced by a participant services agreement (e.g., contract, occupancy agreement, lease, or equivalent). Please attach. 	<p>15 Pts Available</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes – 15 pt No 0 pts 	

No.	Scoring Criteria	Points Possible	Reviewer Points
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the case of TH focused 100% on SUD Treatment, the project will require SUD treatment as evidenced by a participant SUD treatment participation agreement (please attach). 		
4C	New TH only: The project commits to making available 20 hours/week of customized services, activities, or employment per program participant, except for participants over 62 or with a physical disability/impairment, or reduced proportionally for employment, school, or volunteering.	5 Pts Available <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes – 5 pts No – 0 pts (non-TH 5 pts) 	
4D	The project will provide SUD services onsite.	3 Pts Available <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes – 3 pts No – 0 pts 	
5	FINANCIAL AND COST EFFECTIVENESS	15 PTS POSSIBLE	
5A	Prioritizing Supportive Service Funding: The percentage of CoC funding proposed to be used on Supportive Services funding.	5 Pts Available <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 pts – 50 - 100% 3 pt – 30 - 49% 0 pts – 30%. (HMIS 4 pts)	
5B	Leveraging Supportive Services: Does the project leverage (leverage, match, and service partnerships combined) total at least 50% of the HUD funds requested	5 Pts Available <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes – 5 pts No – 0 pts 	
5C	Drawdown Completeness: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The percentage of overall HUD grant drawn down in the most recent completed program year recorded in the most recent APR. Applicants with no previous HUD grants may use comparable evidence from another similar government funding source (please attach evidence from the funding source that includes the amount budgeted and the amount spent) 	5 Pts Available <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 pts – 100% 3 pts – 95- 99% 1 pt – 86 - 94% 0 pts – 86%. 	
5D	Leveraging Housing and Healthcare Resources (New TH Only): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project will provide at least 25% of the units included in the project through non-CoC leveraged <i>housing resources</i> (attach commitment letter or similar evidence); AND/OR The project will provide non-CoC <i>healthcare resources</i> as follows: behavioral health resources equivalent to at least 25% of the HUD funds request, or SUD treatment resources available to all project participants who qualify (attach commitment letter or similar evidence). 	5 Pts Available <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes – both Housing and Health leverage – 5 pts Yes – Housing leverage only – 2.5 pts Yes – Health leverage only – 2.5 pts No – both Housing and Health leverage – 0 pts (Non New TH 3 pts)	
6	AGENCY EXPERIENCE/CAPACITY	10 PTS POSSIBLE	
6A	Agency Yrs of Experience: Number of yrs of agency experience in implementing the proposed program OR similar program type (PSH, RRH, TH, SSO, Outreach, CES, HMIS, etc.)	5 Pts Available <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 pts – 8+ yrs 4 pts – 5 to 7 yrs 3 pts – 4 to 6 yrs 2 pts – 2 to 3 yrs 1 pts – 1 to 2 yrs 0 pts – 1 yr 	
6B	Capacity Issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Points will be deducted if in the past year (7/1/25-present): (1) the agency has unresolved H4HP monitoring findings in CoC programs, (2) the agency has unresolved HUD monitoring findings in CoC programs, (3) the agency has significant findings in most recent audit, (4) the agency has been late in submitting a CoC APR, or (5) the agency has one or more unresolved participant or public complaints. 	-5 Pts Deduction Possible <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 pts deduction – unresolved H4HP findings 1 pts deduction – unresolved HUD findings 1 pts deduction – significant audit findings 1 pts deduction – late APR 	

No.	Scoring Criteria	Points Possible	Reviewer Points
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applicants with no previous CoC grants may use comparable evidence from another similar government funding source (please attach evidence from the funding source regarding any monitoring findings, and latest funder report showing due date and submission date) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 pts deduction – unresolved complaint 	
6C	<p>Narrative Responses - Experience in Key Areas: Please describe your agency’s prior experience and success in the following key areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Priority Population Served - Serving clients who are experiencing chronic homelessness, are survivors of domestic violence, are youth, or are seniors Program Design – Operating a similar type of program CES Participation – Accepting and successfully housing program referrals through CES Treatment and Recovery – Providing or assisting participants to access treatment and recovery services Employment & Self-sufficiency – Providing services or referrals for client to become and remain employed and attain self-sufficiency through employment and childcare. 	<p>5 Pts Available</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 pt – Priority population 1 pt – Program design 1 pt – CES participation 1 pt – Treatment 1 pt – Employment & self-sufficiency 	
7	<p>Mainstream Resources The number of strategies the program has identified to help clients access federal mainstream benefits, including Medicaid; State Children’s Health Insurance Program; TANF (CalWORKS); Food Stamps; SSI; Workforce Investment Act; <i>Employment Income</i>; Welfare to Work Grant Programs and Veterans Health Care.</p> <p>Narrative Description: Description of how project completes each of the above strategies must support each strategy checked.</p>	<p>7 PTS POSSIBLE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 pts – 7 - 8 5 pts – 5 - 6 3 pt – 3 - 4 2 pts – 2 1 pt – 1 0 pts – 0 	
8	<p>Community Collaboration and Participation (3 pts possible) To what extent does the applicant agency support the Housing for Health Partnership (H4HP) by: (1) participating in meetings of the H4HP general membership, (2) participating in HMIS by entering client data into HMIS for 100% of its programs that are listed in the 2025 Housing Inventory Chart (HIC); and (3) participating in CES with no housing referral denials except if there is an appropriate reason for denial under the CES P&Ps OR for SSO projects enrolling participants experiencing homelessness in CES?</p> <p><i>Sub-scores will be determined by H4HP staff based upon appropriate H4HP and documentation for the period from July 1, 2025, to the present time.</i></p>	<p>3 PTS POSSIBLE</p> <p>H4HP meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 pt: 75-100% 0 pts: 0-74% <p>HMIS participation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 pt: 100% 0 pts: - 100% <p>CES participation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 pt: Receives referrals, no inappropriate denials 0 pts: No referrals OR has inappropriate denials 	
TOTAL PTS (100 possible)			

HUD's CoC Scoring Factors - What We Can do as a System to Improve Performance

The 2026 HUD CoC/YHDP NOFO has major shifts in the content and weight of key CoC application scoring factors that are driven largely by changed policy preferences and ideologies of President Trump and the new HUD leadership. Overall, CoC's can score up to 200 points and additional points for bonus questions. The following are critical new systems-related changes that carry significant points in the attached CoC scoring matrix. Also included are some suggestions about what we can do as a system to increase our CoC scoring potentials and therefore maximize potential funding for our CoC.

New Performance Metrics

Key new metrics:

- Reductions in encampments and people in encampments – 8 pts
- At least 20% of people exiting TH/RRH/PSH go to unsubsidized housing – 6 pts
- At least 20% of participants had an increase in income from employment and 25% of those exiting CoC-funded programs had an increase in income from employment – 12 pts
- Less than 10% of participants exiting housing projects went to unknown destinations – 2 pts
- Significant changes to all existing performances standards – 30 pts combined

Suggestions:

Most of these use data to measure things that have already happened, so there is little we can do to improve our score. However, we can begin to incorporate the new measures into our ongoing data-based assessments. We need to figure out a way to better track encampments. Finally, we can also incentivize the new measures by including them as performance scoring factors in the local application.

CoC Governance Changes

CoC Board composition must include the following – 8 pts:

- At least 1 person with current or former experience of homelessness
- At least 3 elected public officials
- A representative of the business community, e.g., member of a Business Improvement District
- A representative of law enforcement
- A representative of a recovery housing/sober living provider
- A representative from a behavioral or primary health provider such as from a Federally Qualified Health Center, CCBHC, Healthcare for the Homeless, or care provider
- A representative of a local workforce development organization or system
- A representative from a local court system managing AOT and/or other civil commitment processes; or from specialty courts (e.g., Mental Health Court, Drug Court, Care Court)

CoC's must review the following for all renewal projects in order to reallocate funding from lower performing projects to higher performing projects – 5 pts:

- HUD eligibility criteria published in the NOFO
- HUD risk review criteria

- Data from Annual Performance Reports
- System performance measures
- Other outcome and performance data to reallocate funding from lower performing projects to higher performing projects

Suggestions:

Review and make changes as needed to the Board composition. Revise our reallocation policy to include the above factors.

Service/Treatment Requirements

Treatment and Recovery Services: - 20 pts

- Substance use treatment available on-site for at least 30% of TH/RRH/PSH providers
- For every 2 persons reporting chronic substance us in the PIT, there is at least 1 CoC-funded unit that requires substance treatment participation as a condition of housing
- At least one new or existing CoC project that operates “sober housing”
- Other factors such as demonstrated partnerships with substance use systems

Requiring and Expanding Supportive Services:

- Through proposed CoC funding, leveraging, match, etc., CoC is providing supportive services with a value of 50% of the CoC's ARD, or 30% of their proposed CoC funding is used for supportive services relative to ARD - 8 pts
- Housing projects require participants to take part in supportive services by providing direct language from supportive service agreements (contract, occupancy agreement, lease, or equivalent)
 - 100% of CoC housing projects have participation requirements - 8 pts
 - 50% of CoC housing projects have participation requirements - 4 pts

Suggestions:

Incentivize new requirements through CoC application scoring. Consider requiring service participation agreements and providing model agreements. Have a conversation about values and the new requirements, but also about improving connections with the substance use treatment system.

Encampments and Public Spaces

The following activities relates to clearing encampments and regulating behavior – 14 pts

- CoC does not interfere with and assists law enforcement and other first responders
- Assess local laws, policies, or other practices that help or hinder the CoC's ability to advance the objectives below and provide a plan explaining how the CoC will leverage beneficial policies and implement mitigating steps
 - Clear tents and encampments on public property and connect individuals who are camping in public with appropriate services

- Describe the current status of tents and encampments in the CoC's geographic area.
- Decrease the public use of illicit drugs and quickly connect individuals who are using illicit drug in public with appropriate services and/or law enforcement
- Describe the current status of overdoses and illicit drug use in public spaces
- Utilize standards that address homeless individuals who are a danger to themselves or others (e.g., involuntary commitment.)
- Share information, including location information, in accordance with the [Sex Offender Registry and Notification Act](#) (SORNA).

Suggestions:

Figure out how to better collect information on encampments, overdoses, and public drug use. Begin an assessment of local laws, policies, or other practices on this topic. Develop outreach provider and law enforcement networks and partnership.

Encouraging new TH and SSO Projects - No pts, but significant funding at stake

- 33% of all funding (\$1.3 billion) will be prioritized by HUD in Tier 2 for new TH and SSO projects
- Pushing out of Tier 2 funding – new/renewal PSH, RRH, joint TH-RRH, HMIS, SSO, and CES

Suggestions:

Encourage existing RRH and joint TH-RRH providers to transition or replace their existing programs to new TH to protect their funding and maximize resources for our county. Provide technical assistance on how to structure and carryout TH. Have a conversation about the uses, value, and models of TH.

System Partnerships

The NOFO suggests or requires CoC partnerships with a broad variety of systems, such as corrections, healthcare, social services, behavioral health, crisis response, peer recovery, housing authorities, and many others. Here we focus on employment systems (of renewed interest to HUD) as follows:

- At least one CoC partnership with employment and workforce development programs and organizations such as the Local Workforce Development Board, American Job Center, etc. – 5 pts

Suggestions:

Begin a conversation about how to better partner with employment and workforce development programs in Santa Cruz County. Consider forming a committee to advance this work.

Prohibiting Illicit Drug “Enablement”

HUD is providing CoC’s with critical bonus points if the CoC has a written policy as follows – 10 pts:

- Policy or statement to ensure that all housing projects submitted by the CoC will not allow or enable illegal drug use. The policy or statement must:
 - Prohibit CoC-funded housing projects from operating drug injection sites or "safe consumption sites," knowingly distributing drug paraphernalia on or off property under

their control, knowingly permitting the use or distribution of illicit drugs on property under their control, or conducting any of these activities under "harm reduction"

- Describe what remedies will be taken for CoC-funded housing projects determined by the CoC to be in violation of the above
- Encourage the provision of substance use disorder treatment and recovery housing within or outside of the CoC
- Not restrict or prohibit CoC-funded housing projects that require program participants to be sober or to participate in treatment as a condition of assistance

Suggestions:

Consider preparing and approving a policy that meets the above requirements.

LEAB/YLEAB Policy Board Updates

June 4, 2026

Joint LEAB/YLEAB Updates

- Both boards resumed joint meetings in April 2026 following a brief administrative pause. Meetings to date have focused on reorienting current members to the work, clarifying board priorities, and supporting recruitment for new members.
- In addition to facilitation and member support, Homebase has begun administering member stipends. The updated stipend structure was developed with input from board members to better reflect the value of their time, expertise, and participation.
- LEAB and YLEAB members will be invited to participate on the Review and Rank Panel as part of this year's NOFO process, ensuring lived experience continues to inform local funding recommendations and decision-making.
- The next Joint LEAB/YLEAB meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 8, 2026.

LEAB Updates

Projects

- LEAB will continue accepting external project requests through its online form. This process allows community partners to request lived experience input on programs, policies, planning efforts, and system improvement activities.

Recruitment

- Four members have recommitted to serving on LEAB.
- LEAB is currently recruiting to fill one open seat.

Committee Representation

- Manuel Caceres will serve as the LEAB Policy Board Liaison, with Rosie Garcia serving as the alternate.
- Lisa Bordenave will attend Operations Committee meetings as the LEAB Operations Committee Liaison.

YLEAB Updates

Recruitment

- Three members have recommitted to serving on YLEAB.

- YLEAB is currently recruiting to fill two open seats.

Projects

- YLEAB will continue accepting external project requests through its online form, supporting community partners seeking youth and young adult lived experience input on relevant programs, policies, and system improvement efforts.

Committee Representation

- Vi Saleem will attend Operations Committee meetings as the YLEAB Operations Committee Liaison.

Point-in-Time Count Update

Summary:

Between 2024 and 2026, the PIT Count went down by 11%. Most other communities are reporting a similar two-year shift. We conduct the count every year instead of the minimum two years. For the annual change, between 2025 and 2026, the PIT Count went up by 12%. There was a large increase in “youth under 24” (24 to 91) and “chronically homeless” (878 to 972). The increase among youth was expected due to changes in our 2026 PIT Count youth outreach approach. Additionally, due to federal and state budget cuts, referrals to permanent housing programs in 2025 declined to focus limited resources on keeping those housed in housing. Resources to exit people from homelessness declined as more people became homeless.

Key takeaways:

- The preliminary 2026 PIT Count overview data was reported to HUD. We anticipate releasing the full report with more detailed information, including region specific information, in July.
- The 2026 PIT Count shows a 11% decrease between 2024 and 2026. Most other communities are reporting on this two-year period while Santa Cruz County conducts an annual count.
- Between 2025 and 2026, the total count increased by approximately 12% from 1,473 to 1,645 (+172) with most of the increase 96% in unsheltered individuals.
- The “youth under 24” count rose from 24 to 91 (+67), accounting for 39% of the overall increase. In 2026, the youth count methodology was changed to identify youth experiencing homelessness more aggressively.
- Those experiencing “chronic homelessness” (disabled and homeless more than 12 months) went from 878 to 972 (+94) accounting for 55% of the increase.

Primary drivers:

- Change in outreach methodology resulted in more aggressively identifying youth experiencing homelessness.
- Due to loss of state and federal funding, available housing program slots (rapid rehousing, affordable housing, and permanent supportive housing) went down significantly in 2025; available slots were used to help those currently housed to stay in housing.

- Decline in available slots meant fewer households exited from homelessness into housing while new households became homeless.

	2024	2025	2026
Sheltered	365	351	358
Unsheltered	1,485	1,122	1,287
Total	1,850	1,473	1,645

Annual growth in sheltered = 7 (2%)

Annual growth in unsheltered = 165 (15%)

Annual growth total = 172 (12%)

Youth under 24 = 67 of 172 total increase

Chronic homeless = 94 of 172 total increase