



**Housing for Health Partnership Policy Board  
Regular Meeting Agenda  
Virtual/Teleconference**

Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/98109530889>

TELEPHONE: +1 669 900 6833 WEBINAR ID: 981 0953 0889

**June 8, 2022; 4 pm – no later than 7 pm**

**INTRODUCTORY ITEMS**

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
2. Additions and Deletions to the Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes
4. Announcements/Information Sharing
  - a. Project Homekey Application Status – 4 applications submitted, requested up to \$53.5M, one award to date for Veterans Village for \$6,425,000, other applications still pending decision
  - b. Preliminary Point In Time (PIT) and Housing Inventory Chart (HIC) data submitted to HUD – final report due in July 2022
  - c. HMIS Policies and Procedures – significant feedback received; final proposed new policies delayed until next Board Meeting
5. Public Comment

**ACTION ITEMS**

6. Approve the transfer of two Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project (YHDP) HUD CoC rapid rehousing grants totaling \$415,820 from their current grant recipients to Covenant House and authorize Housing for Health Division (H4H) staff to work with CSFC, Inc. and Covenant House to pursue Project Homekey and Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) funding for the creation of a new 20-bed youth transitional house project at a former licensed children’s residential care site located at 2714/2716 Freedom Blvd. in an unincorporated area near Watsonville.
  - a Youth Transitional Housing and Rapid Rehousing Action Item



7. Authorize Housing for Health Division staff to submit a joint, collaborative [Housing Homeless, Assistance and Prevention \(HHAP\)-3](#) Local Homelessness Action Plan and Application to the California Interagency Council on Homelessness (Cal ICH) requesting the Watsonville/Santa Cruz City & County CoC allocation of \$3,243,331 and Santa Cruz County allocation of \$3,027,108 with a minimum of 10% for services for unaccompanied youth between 12 and 24 years old. *CoC Board review and approval requested for proposed spending plan, outcome goals, and joint application submission for CoC and County.*
  - a Santa Cruz County HHAP 3 Local Action Plan and Application

#### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

8. Housing for Health Division staff update and discussion on status of revisions to Continuum of Care (CoC) Coordinated Entry System policies, procedures, and associated forms. *CoC Board feedback requested on 1) Housing Needs Assessment and Scoring; 2) H4H Connector Expectations; 3) Format and usefulness of Households with Minor Children System Map Overview.*
  - a Housing Needs Assessment and Action Plan for Testing April 28 Update
  - b Proposed Scoring and Information for the Housing Needs Assessment April 28 Update
  - c Why is H4H not using the VI-SPDAT
  - d H4H Connector Expectations
  - e Households with Minor Children System Map Overview
9. Next Meeting August 17, 2022 from 4-7 pm - *Brief Survey on Virtual vs. In-Person Preference*

#### **MEETING ADJOURNED**



**Housing for Health Partnership Policy Board  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
April 20, 2022; 4-7 pm**

**INTRODUCTORY ITEMS (4 – 4:30 PM)**

1. Call to Order/Roll Call  
*Present: Heather Rogers, JP Butler, Lee Butler, Manu Koenig, Mariah Lyons, Martine Watkins, Stephanie Sonneshine, Susan True, Suzi Merriam, Tamara Vides, Tiffany Cantrell-Warren, Judy Hutchison*  
*Absent: Ryan Coonerty and alternate Rachel Dann*
2. Additions and Deletions to the Agenda: *None*
3. Approval of Minutes: *Not Applicable*
4. Announcements/Information Sharing: *None*
5. Public Comment: *None*

**REGULAR ITEMS PART 1 (4:30 – 5:15 PM)**

6. City of Santa Cruz staff requests Continuum of Care (CoC) Policy Board Member input on proposed uses of a \$1,434,354 allocation of federal Housing and Urban Development (HUD) HOME American Rescue Plan Program (HOME-ARP) funds to serve households at-risk of or experiencing homelessness. Includes review of HOME-ARP survey results and next steps.

*City of Santa Cruz staff presented materials on their HUD HOME Investment Partnerships American Rescue Plan (HOME-ARP) fund allocation of approximately \$1.4M and eligible uses of these funds including: 1) Production or Preservation of Affordable Housing; 2) Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA); 3) Supportive Services, Homeless Prevention Services, and Housing Counseling; and 4) Purchase and Development of Non-Congregate Shelter. Staff presented on initial survey results for feedback on desired uses of funding showing initial prioritization for affordable housing investments and 25% of respondents with indicating a history of homelessness. Survey is still open for feedback. Staff initial recommendation to bring to City Council on May 10, 2022 is to allocated funds to production of affordable housing. Anticipate award date from HUD after July 2022.*

*Update on City of Santa Cruz affordable housing development pipeline. 1) Cedar St. Family Apartments – 100% affordable, 65 rental apartments, one to three bedroom units, AB2162 streamlined approvals for 25% unit set-aside (16 units targeted to households experiencing homelessness or at-risk of homelessness), construction start in May 2022, lease up Summer 2023, required to partner with CoC and Housing Authority on lease-up process through coordinated entry. Plan for lease-up six months in advance with key parties. Fully funded. 2) Pacific Station South – 100% affordable, 70 rental apartments, studios to three bedroom units, 17 units targeted to homeless/at-risk of homeless, lease-up March 2024. Fully funded; 3) Jessie Street – 50 apartments, 100% PSH, still looking for gap*



financing; 4) Pacific Station North – potential site for HOME-ARP funding; 95 units, 100% affordable, one to three bedroom units, 25 units focused on serving homeless/at-risk (AB2162) + 2 Family Unification Program (FUP) units, this project is looking for gap financing. Total of 110 units targeted to households experiencing or at-risk of homelessness. “Affordable” follows Tax Credit Allocation Committee (TCAC) definition. All these projects include units at 60% of area median income or below. Takes 6-7 funding sources to get fully affordable projects “off the ground.” Average cost per affordable housing unit >\$500K/unit for a mix of various reasons, e.g., inflation, prevailing wage, on-site services, etc. HOME funding would help close financing gap for approximately 6-7 units for at least 30 years.

Pallet shelters not eligible for HOME-ARP funding under non-congregate shelter category. Staff to check on if mobile homes are an eligible use of HOME-ARP funds. Board member asked about benefits of using funding for rental assistance or homelessness prevention. Fund technically could be spent outside of city limits but unlikely for Council to approve funds outside of city based on city needs within city. Funds can be used to reimburse initial predevelopment costs but cannot be first funds awarded. Highlighted need for additional predevelopment sources to get projects going. Board members commented on benefit of creating new housing to pair with services funding from managed care/CalAIM.

Request to see grid showing funding sources, allowed uses, and system gaps. Staff to share California example of funding analysis. Area for further legislative advocacy around greater consistency of funding streams and regulations. [Putting the Funding Pieces Together - California Interagency Council on Homelessness](#)

State HOME-ARP funding available for CoC discussion at a future meeting estimate of between \$4-6M allocation.

7. Housing for Health Division staff request initial Policy Board feedback on [Housing Homeless, Assistance and Prevention \(HHAP\)-3](#) required Local Homelessness Action Plan and Application and the selection of a Policy Board working group to support staff in preparing final materials for Board review on June 8, 2022 Board meeting and submission for funding by June 30, 2022. HHAP-3 funding available includes Watsonville/Santa Cruz City & County CoC allocation of \$3,243,331 and Santa Cruz County allocation of \$3,027,108 with minimum of 10% for services for unaccompanied youth between 12 and 24 years old.

Board asked questions about HHAP funding and other sources. Comments made on challenge of mix of one-time funding sources. HHAP-3 funding must be spent by June 30, 2026. Application development support team recommendations include – Kate Nester from Central California Alliance for Health, Supervisor Koenig, Judy Hutchison, Tiffany Cantrell-Warren.

8. Housing for Health Division staff request initial Policy Board feedback on proposed changes to the Continuum of Care (CoC) Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) policies, procedures, and associated forms. Input requested on feedback gathering process, DRAFT documents, and Board needs for formally considering and voting on proposed changes on June 8, 2022, Board meeting.

*Question about if there are ways to incentivize HMIS participation and improved data quality and link with rating and ranking of proposals and funding opportunities. If we move in this direction, need to keep in mind potential unintended consequences.*

*Discussed importance of HMIS data increasing among government agencies and funders, e.g., national reports on homelessness, California Homeless Data Integration System (HDIS) for tracking metrics. Probably best but incomplete source of information on what is happening related to housing and homelessness in a given community, e.g., HMIS shows #s experiencing homelessness over the year is 2-3x numbers in point-in-time count.*

*Board interested in understanding how policies and procedures impact staff time and financial cost trade-offs. Request to understand current users of the system and numbers and how these users overlap with other data sharing efforts, e.g., a visual showing potential linkages among systems.*

*Public comment on need for more information on mobile technology equipment and security on mobile devices. Greater clarity needed on agency and user HMIS access authorization process and decision-making.*

9. Housing for Health Division staff request initial Policy Board feedback on proposed changes to the Continuum of Care (CoC) Coordinated Entry System policies, procedures, and associated forms.

*Discussed ways to consider difficult prioritization tradeoffs. One board member proposed A) Public risks and costs; B) Next Dollar with Biggest Impact (“biggest impact per dollar”); C) “Morality” or valuing certain subgroups. Discussion of Disability Adjusted Life Years (DALY) approach.*

*In future discussion, recommend analyze tradeoffs – who is harmed and who benefits from proposed policy and review trade-offs.*

*Board member commented on upstream investments with a focus on children and youth as a priority for reducing future harm and public costs. Explore scoring around those with children generally as opposed to prioritizing just a subset of families.*

*Board member asked if we could use HMIS data to understand community need and match against resource availability. Suggestion to also look at data on new households homeless for the first time versus those returning to homelessness. Explore where are our “blindspots”, i.e., communities underrepresented or underserved in current system and approach?*



*Explore doing a comparison of proposed new assessment questions with prior VI-SPDAT questions. Request to see study on disparities and the VI-SPDAT.*

*Discussed commitment to work together to align coordinated entry assessment process with CalAIM expectations related to housing needs assessment for services.*

*Public comment – prior approach prioritized “vulnerability” and if not “vulnerability” describes overall approach and priority. Consider using tiered approach to match households to specific interventions rather than only referring those with the “highest” score to all types of resources. Try to match the resource type or intervention to the most appropriate level of need and barriers to housing.*



## **Housing for Health Partnership Policy Board Agenda Action Item Submittal**

**From:** County of Santa Cruz, Human Services Department, Housing for Health Division (H4H)

**Subject:** Approve Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project (YHDP) HUD CoC rapid rehousing grant transfers and authorize H4H staff to pursue California Project Homekey and Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) funding to create a new youth transitional housing project.

**Meeting Date:** June 8, 2022

### **Formal Title:**

Approve the transfer of two Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project (YHDP) HUD CoC rapid rehousing grants totaling \$415,820 from their current grant recipients to Covenant House and authorize Housing for Health Division (H4H) staff to work with CFSC, Inc. and Covenant House to pursue Project Homekey and Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) funding for the creation of a new 20-bed youth transitional housing project at a former licensed children's residential care site located at 2714/2716 Freedom Blvd. in an unincorporated area near Watsonville.

### **Recommended Action(s):**

1. Authorize H4H Division staff acting on behalf of the CoC to support the transfer of the remaining balance of the YHDP New Roots Permanent Housing (PSH to RRH) HUD CoC 2020 grant of \$192,753 for the period 1/1/2022 to 12/31/2022 from the Housing Authority of the County of Santa Cruz to Covenant House and subsequent renewals of this grant through annual HUD funding competitions;
2. Authorize H4H Division staff acting on behalf of the CoC to support the transfer of the remaining balance of the YHDP Youth Rapid Rehousing Grant (RRH) HUD CoC 2020 grant of \$226,067 for the period 1/1/2022 to 12/31/2022 from Housing Matters to Covenant House and subsequent renewals of this grant through annual HUD funding competitions;
3. Authorize H4H Division staff to work with CFSC, Inc. and Covenant House to pursue Project Homekey and Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) funding for the transition of a formerly children's licensed residential care facility ("Tyler House") into a new 20-bed youth transitional housing project linked with the aforementioned HUD Rapid Rehousing grants at 2714/2716 Freedom Blvd. in an unincorporated area near Watsonville;

### **Executive Summary**

In 2017, the County of Santa Cruz CoC and other community partners secured a competitive, multi-year, Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Department Youth Homelessness



Demonstration (YHDP) grant for approximately \$2.2 million to expand services and housing resources for youth experiencing homelessness within the County. Part of the community plan for this original funding included a goal to establish a youth-focused shelter or transitional housing program linked with rehousing resources. There is a current opportunity for the CoC to mobilize on this original concept. Two current YHDP HUD grant recipients expressed an interest in grant transfers to a single youth-focused provider. An owner of a property previously used as a licensed residential treatment facility for children has expressed an interest in partnering with the County and a community partner to create a 20-bed youth transitional housing project. A CoC Board sponsored selection process resulted in the selection of Covenant House as the service provider partner to receive the two HUD YHDP grants and to work collaboratively with the County and property owner on the development of a new youth transitional housing project. Staff are seeking CoC Board authorization to proceed with supporting the HUD YHDP grant transfers and the capital facility development fundraising and implementation process for the proposed youth transitional housing project.

### **Background**

In 2016, Santa Cruz County CoC and community leaders worked together to submit a HUD Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project (YHDP) competitive grant proposal to help meet the needs of unaccompanied youth under age 24 experiencing homelessness. Santa Cruz County was one of the first ten communities in the nation to receive this funding in 2017. The community received \$2.2 million for a two-year period. Since the end of the original grant period, Santa Cruz County receives annual HUD YHDP renewal grants currently worth over \$1.2 million per year.

One of the original visions articulated in the community plan to address youth homelessness included the creation of a youth-focused shelter or transitional housing project linked with rehousing resources. For many reasons, primarily inadequate start-up and operating funding and the absence of a clear and approved location, the community has not established a stable youth-focused shelter or transitional housing project. During the COVID-19 pandemic, a youth-focused temporary housing program using mobile trailers was established. The program provided an opportunity for the community and youth service providers to experience the value of a youth-focused shelter in helping homeless youth on a path to permanent housing. After the closure of the COVID-19 youth shelter, YHDP providers expressed a continuing desire and need for a youth-focused temporary housing site.

Near the time of the closure of the COVID-19 youth shelter, several YHDP grantees reached out to H4H staff expressing an interest in transferring their YHDP HUD grants to another provider. The Housing Authority of Santa Cruz wanted to transition their YHDP New Roots permanent supportive housing grant. The small grant proved administratively burdensome for the Housing Authority. They are willing and able to provide housing subsidies for youth already participating in the program within their current budget and do not need these specific funds



going forward. The Housing Authority agreed to submit a proposal to transition their permanent supportive housing grant to a rapid rehousing grant as part of the 2021 HUD CoC funding competition.

Housing Matters has had a YHDP youth rapid rehousing grant for multiple years. They expressed a willingness to transfer their grant to another provider to help consolidate YHDP grants into a larger overall youth rapid re-housing grant. The willingness of the Housing Authority and Housing Matters created an opportunity to work toward consolidating these two grants into a single YHDP youth rapid rehousing program. The 2020 Housing Authority grant amount for the period January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022 is \$192,753. The 2020 Housing Matters grant amount for the period January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022 is \$226,067. Together, the current grants total \$418,820.

H4H staff learned about the pending closure of Tyler House, a licensed children's residential facility at 2714/2716 Freedom Blvd. in an unincorporated area of the County near Watsonville. CFSC, Inc. owns the property and Encompass Community Services was operating the specialized children's behavioral health residential program at the site. Due to inadequate demand and funding for operations of the current program at the site, all parties involved agreed to move toward program closure. The program site is on the same campus as Freedom Cottages, a permanent supportive housing project for adults.

Through a variety of planning discussions with CSFC, Inc. and their partners, a mutual interest was established to explore the possibility of converting the site to a youth transitional housing project through a Project Homekey funding application for rehabilitation and state HHAP funding for operations.

The prior CoC board approved of H4H staff sending out a formal Letter of Interest (LOI) to identify potential regional housing and service providers in the region with an interest in working with the County, CoC, and CFSC, Inc. to establish a youth transitional housing program with linked HUD rapid rehousing grants. A copy of the LOI solicitation is included as an attachment with this memo. In March 2022, the LOI was distributed publicly on the CoC website and through targeted emails to regional providers with a history of working with youth experiencing homelessness. H4H staff received two formal responses to the LOI from interested community partners.

### **Analysis**

A variety of factors have come together that present the County and CoC with an opportunity to secure the resources necessary to create a youth-focused transitional housing project coupled with rapid rehousing resources. H4H staff believe the availability of one-time state Project Homekey and HHAP funding make the project financially viable on the development and operational side for at least a five-year period, if the necessary funds can be secured and



committed to the proposed project.

The LOI solicitation resulted in formal responses from two organizations, Covenant House and the Community Action Board (CAB). Only Covenant House expressed an interest in both the transitional housing project *and* the rapid rehousing grant transfers. The Community Action Board was not interested in the proposed transitional housing component of the overall project concept.

The LOI specifically stated a preference for an organization that met minimum qualifications and committed to work toward a combined transitional housing and rapid rehousing project. Only Covenant House met all these criteria. CFSC, Inc., the owner of the potential project site, expressed their support for working with Covenant House on the proposed project.

The transitional housing component requires one-time capital and development funding and ongoing operational funding. H4H and CFSC, Inc. staff participated in a required California Housing and Community Development (CA HCD) Project Homekey pre-development consultation meeting related to the proposed project. CA HCD staff expressed strong support for the proposed project concept and encouraged the project team to submit a youth-specific application for the next round of Homekey funding in the fall of 2022. H4H is working with CSFC, Inc. to secure predevelopment funding to help with preparing a Homekey application. If Homekey funding cannot be secured, alternative sources are needed to keep the project moving forward.

Ongoing operations of the transitional housing project will require a commitment of ongoing funding. California HHAP youth set-aside funding remains the most appropriate and viable source of funding for this proposed use. If HHAP funding diminishes or gets eliminated from future state budgets, alternative sources of funding become necessary. To mitigate against the future risks associated with the loss of this operational funding, the proposed property redesign will convert the building from a shared housing physical structure into ten private studio efficiency units with shared communal spaces. While operating as transitional housing, each unit will provide housing for two youth and meals will be prepared centrally. The physical design change allows for the conversion of the site from transitional to permanent housing units if necessary for financial reasons.

Staff from the regional HUD Community Planning and Development Division have expressed support for the proposed transition of the existing HUD grants and the linkage of these grants with a transitional housing site. HUD staff provided detailed and specific instructions on the steps required for the grant transitions. The transition process could take several months to fully complete once initiated. H4H staff will work with current grantees and Covenant House to support transition of these grants.

**Financial Impact**

Project Homekey or other funds are needed to support the development of the proposed transitional housing site. HHAP funding will be required to support transitional housing project operations after construction. Funding for this proposed project is included in the draft HHAP-3 local homelessness action plan and application. H4H staff time and additional one-time resources are necessary to support pre-development work associated with the proposed transitional housing project.

**Housing for a Healthy Santa Cruz Strategic Framework Elements**

The recommended actions further a variety of specific goals articulated in the Housing for a Healthy Santa Cruz Framework. The changes will expand temporary and rapid re-housing capacity and help increase connections and permanent housing exits for youth experiencing homelessness.

**Attachments:**

- YHDP TH and RRH Request for Letters of Interest



## Request for Letters of Interest

### Youth Transitional Housing Partner & Rapid Rehousing Grant Transfer Opportunity

The Housing for Health Partnership (H4HP) is seeking a nonprofit agency or agencies to operate programs for transition age youth (TAY) experiencing homelessness in Santa Cruz County. H4HP is seeking organizations with a history of serving TAY experiencing homelessness and an interest in receiving funding and resources to support the operation of a TAY transitional housing program combined with rapid rehousing resources. By combining TAY-specific transitional housing with rapid rehousing, H4HP hopes to effectively support participants to attain and maintain permanent housing. H4HP will also consider letters of interest from organizations only interested in operating the TAY-specific rapid rehousing or the transitional housing program. However, preference will be given to an organization interested in operating a combined program that includes both transitional housing and rapid rehousing.

The rapid rehousing component will be funded through two existing Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Continuum of Care (CoC) Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) renewable grants being voluntarily relinquished and totaling approximately \$418,820 annually. The transitional housing program will involve the collaborative development of an application for Project Homekey youth set-aside funding to convert an existing residential treatment facility for children and youth into a transitional housing program. H4HP will also contribute youth set-aside funding from state grants to support the operations of the transitional housing site. This Request for Letters of Interest (LOI) is intended to initially identify qualified, interested agencies. The H4HP's recommended new program operator must be approved by the funder, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), current grant recipients, and the owner of the potential youth transitional housing property.

LOIs in response to this request must be submitted to [robert.ratner@santacruzcounty.us](mailto:robert.ratner@santacruzcounty.us) and [tonygardnerconsulting@yahoo.com](mailto:tonygardnerconsulting@yahoo.com) **no later than Friday, April 15, 2022 at 3 PM.**

### Background

In 2016, a collaboration of service providers, system leaders, and transition age youth (TAY) representing the Santa Cruz County Continuum of Care (CoC) successfully developed and was funded for a local YHDP Initiative. Key aspects of the initiative include:

- A vision of a community in which all youth and young adults are housed, thriving and experience a healthy transition into adulthood;
- A goal of preventing and ending homelessness among youth and young adults (YYA);
- A strategic plan entitled Ignore No More, the Santa Cruz County YHDP Coordinated Community Plan, which provides a roadmap for achieving this vision and goal; and
- HUD YHDP funding, which included an initial \$2.2 million for two years, followed by annual renewal-based funding of approximately \$1.27 million to support a continuum of YHDP projects

including shared housing, rapid rehousing (RRH), permanent supportive housing (PSH), a drop-in center, integrated supportive services, and a youth coordinated entry system (CES).

The H4HP is seeking increased program efficiency and effectiveness in permanently housing TAY by consolidating smaller grants and securing property for youth transitional housing. Mainstream resources from the Housing Authority of Santa Cruz will help support the transition of a HUD permanent supportive housing grant to rapid rehousing.

## **Resources Available**

### Youth Transitional Housing Property Opportunity:

The County of Santa Cruz has identified a potential location and real estate partner to help establish an 8-10 room transitional housing program for TAY with an estimated 16-20 bed capacity at 2716 Freedom Blvd. in unincorporated Santa Cruz County. The County and property owner are committed to securing the one-time and ongoing funding necessary to transform this location into a TAY-specific transitional housing site. The supportive service partner selected to manage the available rapid rehousing grants will have the chance to help design the proposed new transitional housing program.

### Rapid Re-Housing Program:

The TAY Rapid Rehousing program will be funded with approximately \$418,829<sup>1</sup> in annually renewable funding for from two existing YHDP project grants being voluntarily relinquished by their current grant recipients:

1. Housing Matters, Youth RRH: Housing Matters is voluntarily relinquishing its Youth RRH project funding. The current grant is \$226,067 and the grant year is from January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022. Housing Matters recently submitted a renewal application for \$226,067 for the grant year from January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023. The project targets young adults (18-24) without dependent children referred through the H4HP coordinated entry process. The amount available from the 2022 grant to be transferred to the selected new program operator will depend on Housing Matters program spending prior to the transfer and plans for meeting the needs of youth currently enrolled in the program. The entire 2023 grant will be available to the new recipient.
2. Santa Cruz County Housing Authority, New Roots PSH/RRH: The Housing Authority of the County of Santa Cruz (Housing Authority) is voluntarily relinquishing its New Roots Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)/RRH project funding. The current grant is a PSH project for \$192,753 and the grant year is from January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022. The Housing Authority recently submitted a YHDP replacement project request to replace the PSH renewal grant with a new RRH grant for \$192,753 for one year to begin once the HUD contract process is complete. The new project targets young adults (18-24) with or without dependent children. The Housing Authority is interested in transferring the grant as soon as possible pending selection of a new grant recipient and approval from HUD.

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<sup>1</sup> The actual amount available may change based upon HUD budget modifications in line with changes to area fair market rates (FMRs) for rental units.

H4HP will support the merging of the above HUD grants into a single grant according to HUD guidance on the timing and process for grant consolidations.

H4HP has initiated an inquiry with HUD to clarify the process and steps for each grant transfer.

Attached please find a more detailed summary of each of the RRH projects.

### **LOI Anticipated Timeline**

- March 25, 2022 – Deadline for optional brief email indicating intent to submit an LOI.
- April 15, 2022 – Deadline to submit an LOI.
- April – May 2022 – Recipient selection process.
- April – May 2022 – Preparation of Project Homekey transitional housing application.
- June 8, 2022 – Latest date for selection of new recipient.
- June – July 2022 – Transfer of grants to new program operator.
- July 2022 – New program operator starts services utilizing the remainder of available grant funds.
- Fall – Winter 2022 – New program operator applies to renew and consolidate the grants in the 2022 HUD CoC competition.
- Spring 2023 - Projected opening of new transitional housing program site.

### **New Program Operator Eligibility**

Eligible program operators must be a:

- Nonprofit organization;
- State or local government (including instrumentalities of state or local government); or
- Public housing agency.

### **New Program Operator Expectations**

The new Program Operator must:

- Be in good standing with HUD (if a current or prior HUD recipient or sub-recipient);
- Be willing to enter into grant transfer agreements with both current funding recipients and directly assume the responsibilities of both HUD grant agreements;
- Coordinate with the current grant recipients, H4HP, and HUD to plan and carryout the grant transfers;
- Participate as a full member in all local YHDP initiative activities;
- Participate as a H4HP member agency;
- Participate in the Coordinated Entry System (CES) and fill all units associated with the grants through the Youth CES process;
- Participate in the Santa Cruz County Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) by entering client data into the system in accordance with local HMIS policies and procedures;
- Use Housing First principles and other appropriate best practices for serving TAY experiencing homelessness;

- Meet HUD 25% cash and/or in-kind match requirements;
- Submit the HUD Annual Progress Report (APR) via the Sage reporting portal no later than 90 days after the end of the grant year;

### **Selection Factors**

Agencies exhibiting the following characteristics will be more likely to be selected as a program operator for these grants and the transitional housing program:

- History of success in serving TAY experiencing homelessness or a similar transition age youth (TAY) population;
- Prior experience and success in implementing a RRH or similar housing program to help participants achieve positive housing outcomes and stability;
- Prior experience operating temporary housing or residential programs for TAY experiencing homelessness;
- Prior experience implementing HUD CoC and/or YHDP projects;
- Demonstrated capacity to effectively manage federal funding awards;
- Willingness to be the lead operator of a new youth transitional housing program;
- Track record of leveraging mainstream resources to benefit participants;
- Existing partnerships and collaborations with local CoC and YHDP providers and mainstream resources for TAY;
- Active participation on the H4HP and local YHDP initiative, and demonstrated commitment to collaborative problem solving;
- Demonstrated use of Housing First and other youth-related best practice service approaches; and
- Commitment to actively involving youth participants in program philosophy and design issues.

### **Letter of Interest Requirements**

Interested agencies should send a brief email indicating the intent to apply to [Robert.ratner@santacruzcounty.us](mailto:Robert.ratner@santacruzcounty.us) and [tonygardnerconsulting@yahoo.com](mailto:tonygardnerconsulting@yahoo.com) **by Friday, March 25, 2022 at 3 PM**. While this is not mandatory, it will help H4HP staff prepare for submission review and will facilitate staff's ability to provide applicant support.

Interested agencies must submit a formal LOI to [robert.ratner@santacruzcounty.us](mailto:robert.ratner@santacruzcounty.us) and [tonygardnerconsulting@yahoo.com](mailto:tonygardnerconsulting@yahoo.com) **no later than Friday, April 15, 2022 at 3 PM**.

The letter of interest should:

- Be on letterhead;
- Be signed by an authorized person;
- Identify the point of contact with phone number and email address;
- Not exceed 4 typed pages with 1-inch margins and no less than 11-point font;
- Confirm the agency will meet all the above New Program Operator Expectations; and
- Address how the agency meets the above Competitive Characteristics.

**Additional Information**

If you have questions or need any further information, please contact Robert Ratner at [Robert.ratner@santacruzcounty.us](mailto:Robert.ratner@santacruzcounty.us) or (831) 454-4925.

Attachment - Summary of Projects to Be Transferred

**Attachment**  
**Summary of Projects to Be Transferred**

**Housing Matters, Youth RRH**

<b>Current Grant Year</b>	January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022
<b>Housing Units Funded</b>	
1-bedroom (HUD funded)	5 units, 5 beds
Shared housing (non-HUD-funded)	5 units, 5 beds
<b>Participants</b>	
Single Young Adults (18-24)	10
<b>Annual HUD Budget</b>	
Rental Assistance	\$110,016
Supportive Services	\$86,126
HMIS	\$15,465
Admin	\$14,460
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$226,067</b>
<b>Minimum Match</b>	\$56,517

**Santa Cruz County Housing Authority, New Roots PSH/RRH**

<b>Current Grant Year (PSH) and Proposed Grant Year (new RRH)</b>	January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022 (PSH) June 1, 2022 – May 31, 2023 (proposed in new RRH application; actual year depends on HUD contract)
<b>Housing Units Funded (in RRH Application)</b>	
1-bedroom (HUD funded)	3 units, 3 beds
2-bedroom (HUD funded)	1 unit, 2 beds
<b>Participants (in RRH Application)</b>	
Young Adults (18-24) with Children	5 (2 parents, 3 children)
Single Young Adults (18-24)	3
<b>Annual HUD Budget (in RRH Application)</b>	
Rental Assistance	\$118,764
Supportive Services	\$58,499 (includes \$27,686 for sub-recipient ECS)
HMIS	\$4,125
Admin	\$11,365
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$192,753</b>
<b>Minimum Match</b>	\$48,188 (\$49,254 was proposed in new RRH application)

**Watsonville/Santa Cruz City & County  
Continuum of Care (CoC)**

**&**

**County of Santa Cruz**

**Homeless Housing, Assistance Prevention  
Round 3 (HHAP-3)**

**Local Homelessness Action Plan and  
Funding Application**

**June 2022**

## Applicant Information

This application represents a joint application for HHAP-3 funding on behalf of the following eligible applicant jurisdictions:

- Santa Cruz County
- CA-508 Watsonville/Santa Cruz City & County CoC

Funds awarded based on this application will be administered by the following **Administrative Entity**:

Administrative Entity Information	
<b>Administrative Entity:</b>	County of Santa Cruz, Human Services Department, Housing for Health Division
<b>Contact Person:</b>	Sheryl Norteye
<b>Title:</b>	Senior Human Services Analyst
<b>Contact Phone Number:</b>	(831) 454-7329
<b>Contact Email Address:</b>	Sheryl.norteye@santacruzcounty.us

## Part I: Landscape Analysis of Needs, Demographics, and Funding

### A. Landscape Analysis of Needs and Demographics

Table 1. Landscape Analysis of Needs and Demographics		
	People Experiencing Homelessness	Source and Date Timeframe of Data
<b>Population and Living Situations</b>		
<b>TOTAL # OF PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS</b>	2,299	2022 Santa Cruz County Preliminary PIT Count Data
# of People Who are <b>Sheltered</b> (ES, TH, SH)	525	""
# of People Who are <b>Unsheltered</b>	1,774	""
<b>Household Composition</b>		
# of Households <b>without Children</b>	1,908	""
# of Households with <b>At Least 1 Adult &amp; 1 Child</b>	50	""
# of Households with <b>Only Children</b>	0	""
<b>Sub-Populations and Other Characteristics</b>		
# of Adults Who are Experiencing <b>Chronic Homelessness</b>	921	""
# of Adults Who are Experiencing <b>Significant Mental Illness</b>	818	""
# of Adults Who are Experiencing <b>Substance Abuse Disorders</b>	1,073	""
# of Adults Who are <b>Veterans</b>	351	""
# of Adults with <b>HIV/AIDS</b>	159	""
# of Adults Who are <b>Survivors of Domestic Violence</b>	86	""
# of <b>Unaccompanied Youth (under 25)</b>	222	""
# of <b>Parenting Youth (under 25)</b>	6	""
# of People Who are <b>Children of Parenting Youth</b>	4	""

Gender Demographics		
# of <b>Women/Girls</b>	741	""
# of <b>Men/Boys</b>	1,526	""
# of People Who are <b>Transgender</b>	11	""
# of People Who are <b>Gender Non-Conforming</b>	21	""
Ethnicity and Race Demographics		
# of People Who are <b>Hispanic/Latino</b>	896	""
# of People Who are <b>Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino</b>	1403	""
# of People Who are <b>Black or African American</b>	270	""
# of People Who are <b>Asian</b>	23	""
# of People Who are <b>American Indian or Alaska Native</b>	79	""
# of People Who are <b>Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander</b>	11	""
# of People Who are <b>White</b>	1700	""
# of People Who are <b>Multiple Races</b>	216	""

## B. Landscape Analysis of People Being Served

Data Source:

- California Homeless Data Integration System (HDIS) Data for Calendar Year 2020 People Served Data, Accessed 5/16/2022
- Data comes from Santa Cruz County Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Data exports to HDIS data team

Table Key:

- Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)
- Rapid Rehousing (RRH)
- Transitional Housing (TH)
- Interim Housing or Emergency Shelter (IH/ES)
- Housing Problem Solving/Supportive Services Only (SSO)
- Homelessness Prevention Services and Assistance (HP)
- Outreach and Engagement Services (O/R)
- Coordinated Entry (CE)

Table 2. Landscape Analysis of People Being Served								
	PSH	RRH	TH	IH/ES	SSO	HP	O/R	Other: Coordinated Entry
<b>Household Composition</b>								
# of Households <b>without Children</b>	165	244	49	1537	1996	91	191	230
# of Households with <b>At Least 1 Adult &amp; 1 Child</b>	6	227	32	109	98	143	0	0
# of Households with <b>Only Children</b>	0	0	0	6	36	2	9	1



	PSH	RRH	TH	IH/ES	SSO	HP	O/R	Other: Coordinated Entry
<b>Gender Demographics</b>								
# of <b>Women/Girls</b>	70	499	94	712	980	387	72	88
# of <b>Men/Boys</b>	115	454	69	1151	1363	309	116	145
# of People Who are <b>Transgender</b>	1	1	0	10	15	0	3	0
# of People Who are <b>Gender Non-Conforming</b>	0	3	0	1	11	0	1	0
<b>Ethnicity and Race Demographics</b>								
# of People Who are <b>Hispanic/Latino</b>	32	511	110	716	630	518	88	80
# of People Who are <b>Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino</b>	152	442	52	1061	1683	173	98	148
# of People Who are <b>Black or African American</b>	7	38	1	103	146	16	11	13
# of People Who are <b>Asian</b>	0	3	0	14	20	2	1	3
# of People Who are <b>American Indian or Alaska Native</b>	12	39	7	75	93	12	7	10
# of People Who are <b>Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander</b>	1	16	1	20	21	4	3	2
# of People Who are <b>White</b>	144	794	143	1377	1857	465	132	179
# of People Who are <b>Multiple Races</b>	21	42	9	77	169	108	7	17

### C. Landscape Analysis of State, Federal, and Local Funding

Funding Program	Anticipated Fiscal Year(s) for Funding Use	Total Amount Invested into Homelessness Interventions	Funding Source	Intervention Types Supported with Funding	Brief Description of Programming and Services Provided	Populations Served
Homekey (via HCD)	FY 2021-2025	\$6,425,000	State Agency	Permanent supportive and service-enriched housing	Vets Village Homekey Award Announcement April 2022	Formerly homeless veterans
Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) – via Treasury	FY 2020-2022	\$36,410,930	Federal Agency	Diversion and Homelessness Prevention; Systems Support Activities; Administrative Activities	Housing Is Key funding that includes Santa Cruz and state share for region; shows maximum funding available	County residents with housing at-risk of losing housing due to COVID
Emergency Solutions Grant – CV (ESG-CV) – via HCD	FY 2020-2023	\$9,950,258	Federal Agency	Rental Assistance; Non-Congregate Shelter/Interim Housing; Outreach and Engagement; Permanent Supportive and Service-Enriched Housing; Administrative Activities	Focus of funds on rehousing wave to help those in COVID shelters secure permanent homes	Homeless, COVID high-risk group (65 and older and/or those with chronic health conditions)
Community Development Block Grant – CV (CDBG-CV) – via HCD	FY 2022-2023	\$1,329,727	Federal Agency	Non-Congregate Shelter/Interim Housing	Planned extension of non-congregate, health-focused shelter beyond FEMA authorization	Medi-Cal/CalAIM eligible – homeless, prioritized health risks
Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) – via HCD	FY 2022-2024	\$500,000	Federal Agency	Outreach and Engagement	Street outreach in unincorporated areas of County	All people experiencing homelessness

Funding Program	Anticipated Fiscal Year(s) for Funding Use	Total Amount Invested into Homelessness Interventions	Funding Source	Intervention Types Supported with Funding	Brief Description of Programming and Services Provided	Populations Served
No Place Like Home (NPLH) – via HCD	FY 2021-2023 (some longer term)	\$5,378,524	State Agency	Permanent Supportive and Service-Enriched Housing	Permanent supportive housing – Eden Housing Projects – Miles Lane, Freedom Blvd., Mid Pen Housing – 17 <sup>th</sup> /Cap	Homeless with a serious mental illness
Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program (HHAP) – via Cal ICH	FY 2021-2024	\$13,477,078	State Agency	Systems Support Activities; Administrative Activities; Non-Congregate Shelter/Interim Housing; Rental Assistance	3 rounds of funding; multiple uses; primary focus on low-barrier housing navigation center operations and TAY transitional housing project	All people experiencing homelessness
Encampment Resolution Grants – via Cal ICH	FY 2021-2024	\$2,370,460	State Agency	Rental Assistance; Outreach and Engagement; Systems Support Activities	Housing Pathways scholarships and housing navigation/tenancy sustaining services for those living in an encampment in City of Santa Cruz	Those living in a specific encampment area
Project Roomkey and Rehousing – via CDSS (includes 3 rounds of funding)	FY 2021-2024	\$5,322,913	State Agency	Non-Congregate Shelter/Interim Housing; Permanent Supportive and Service-Enriched Housing	Used to support extensions of Project Roomkey sites and Rehousing Wave programs	Homeless, COVID high-risk group (65 and older and/or those with chronic health conditions)

Funding Program	Anticipated Fiscal Year(s) for Funding Use	Total Amount Invested into Homelessness Interventions	Funding Source	Intervention Types Supported with Funding	Brief Description of Programming and Services Provided	Populations Served
FEMA Public Assistance Program Category B – via FEMA	FY 2020-2023	\$73,000,000 (estimated total claim)	Federal Agency	Non-Congregate Shelter/Interim Housing	Estimated FEMA claim for non-congregate shelter programming since beginning of pandemic	Homeless, COVID high-risk group (65 and older and/or those with chronic health conditions)
CalWorks Housing Support Program (HSP) – via CDSS	FY 2021-2024	\$4,300,112	State Agency	Systems Support Activities; Rental Assistance	Rapid rehousing program for CalWorks recipients	Families experiencing homelessness receiving CalWorks
Housing and Disability Advocacy Program (HDAP) – via CDSS	FY 2021-2024	\$4,427,154	State Agency	Systems Support Activities; Rental Assistance; Permanent Supportive and Service-Enriched Housing	Rapid rehousing for disabled individuals not receiving social security, social security benefits advocacy, permanent supportive housing investment fund	Homeless, disabled, not receiving social security benefits
Home Safe – via CDSS	FY 2021-2024	\$892,083	State Agency	Diversion and Homelessness Prevention; Outreach and Engagement; Rental Assistance; Systems Support Activities	Homelessness prevention and rehousing services and flexible financial assistance for seniors and people with disabilities referred to APS	APS clients at-risk of or currently experiencing homelessness

Funding Program	Anticipated Fiscal Year(s) for Funding Use	Total Amount Invested into Homelessness Interventions	Funding Source	Intervention Types Supported with Funding	Brief Description of Programming and Services Provided	Populations Served
Bringing Families Home (BFH) – via CDSS	FY 2021-2024	\$1,585,609	State Agency	Systems Support Activities; Rental Assistance	Rapid rehousing program for child welfare involved families experiencing homelessness	Child welfare involved families experiencing homelessness
Continuum of Care Program (CoC) – via HUD	FY 2021-2023	\$5,207,237	Federal Agency	Systems Support Activities; Administrative Activities; Non-Congregate Shelter/Interim Housing; Rental Assistance; Permanent Supportive and Service-Enriched Housing; Diversion and Homelessness Prevention; Outreach and Engagement	Core funding from HUD for range of activities related to helping people experiencing homelessness	All people experiencing homelessness
Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHVs) – via HUD	FY 2021-ongoing	\$6,994,000 (estimated/year)	Federal Agency	Systems Support Activities; Administrative Activities; Rental Assistance; Permanent Supportive and Service-Enriched Housing	One-time dedicated long-term housing assistance vouchers locally targeted to households experiencing homelessness (269 vouchers)	Local priority for subgroups among households experiencing homelessness, including those fleeing domestic violence

Funding Program	Anticipated Fiscal Year(s) for Funding Use	Total Amount Invested into Homelessness Interventions	Funding Source	Intervention Types Supported with Funding	Brief Description of Programming and Services Provided	Populations Served
Housing Choice Vouchers (HCVs) – via HUD	Prior to FY 2021-ongoing	\$4,704,000 (estimated/year)	Federal Agency	Systems Support Activities; Administrative Activities; Rental Assistance; Permanent Supportive and Service-Enriched Housing	196 set-aside vouchers for a mix of subpopulations experiencing homelessness (people with disabilities, families with children <18)	People experiencing chronic homelessness, families with children experiencing homelessness
Supportive Services for Veterans Families Program (SSVF) – via VA	FY 2022-2023	\$523,702 (minimum amount of funding available/year)	Federal Agency	Systems Support Activities; Rental Assistance; Diversion and Homelessness Prevention	Rapid rehousing program for homeless veterans;	Veterans and their families experiencing homelessness
Local General Fund	FY 2021-2022	\$3,006,343	Local Agency	Systems Support Activities; Administrative Activities; Non-Congregate Shelter/Interim Housing; Outreach and Engagement; Diversion and Homelessness Prevention	City and county funding primarily used for supporting service-enriched shelter operational costs	All people experiencing homelessness

Funding Program	Anticipated Fiscal Year(s) for Funding Use	Total Amount Invested into Homelessness Interventions	Funding Source	Intervention Types Supported with Funding	Brief Description of Programming and Services Provided	Populations Served
Other (SAMHSA)	FY 2021-2022	\$3,300,000 (estimated)	Federal Agency	Outreach and Engagement	Outreach and housing navigation for homeless individuals with a serious mental illness and/or substance use disorder	People experiencing a serious mental illness and homelessness and/or substance use disorder
Other (HRSA – Health Care for the Homeless)	FY 2022-2023	\$1,000,000 (estimated grants + revenue)	Federal Agency	Systems Support Activities; Supportive and Service-Enriched Housing	Federally designated Health Care for the Homeless program operated by County staff as part of the Homeless Persons Health Project	Health services for people currently experiencing or at-risk of homelessness as primary target population

## Part II: Outcome Goals and Strategies for Achieving Those Goals

<b>Outcome Goal #1a: Reducing the number of persons experiencing homelessness.</b>		
<b>Baseline Data: Annual estimate of number of people accessing services who are experiencing homelessness</b>	<b>Outcome Goals July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2024</b>	
	<b>Decrease/Increase in # of People</b>	<b>Decrease/Increase as % Change from Baseline</b>
2,629	2,892	Increase of 10%
<b>Optional Comments</b>		
Given increased street outreach capacity through one-time grants, an anticipated increase in the number of households losing housing due to pandemic related impacts and a continuing tight housing market, we anticipate an increase in the # of people served over the next three years.		
<b>Describe Your Related Goals for Underserved Populations and Populations Disproportionately Impacted by Homelessness</b>		
<b>Describe any underserved and/ or disproportionately impacted population(s) that your community will especially focus on related to this Outcome Goal and how this focus has been informed by data in your landscape assessment:</b>	<b>Describe the trackable data goal(s) related to this Outcome Goal:</b>	
2022 PIT data shows an increase in the number of people experiencing homelessness among subgroups. These include veterans, individuals with behavioral health conditions, and individuals with HIV/AIDS. Given expansions in street outreach capacity we anticipate more contact with unhoused veterans through outreach programs. We are working closely with our local Medi-Cal managed care plan, Central California Alliance for Health, to expand temporary housing capacity, housing navigation, and tenancy sustaining services over the next three years for people experience homelessness with significant health conditions. We anticipate seeing an increase in documented program enrollments and services for these populations.	Increased outreach enrollments and contacts among veterans and those with health conditions; increased enrollments of those with health conditions in temporary housing and CalAIM community support services	

**Outcome Goal #1b: Reducing the number of persons experiencing homelessness on a daily basis**

<b>Baseline Data:</b> <b>Daily Estimate of # of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness</b>	<b>Outcome Goals July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2024</b>	
	<b>Reduction in # of People</b>	<b>Reduction as % Change from Baseline</b>
1,700	1,615	-5%

**Optional Comments**

Given the availability of one-time resources from CalAIM, HHAP, and other state sources, we anticipate expansion in outreach and services capacity as well as movement toward year-round low barrier navigation center programming. These increased efforts should contribute to reductions in unsheltered homelessness unless the number of individuals losing housing increases at a higher rate than prior trends.

**Describe Your Related Goals for Underserved Populations and Populations Disproportionately Impacted by Homelessness**

<b>Describe any underserved and/ or disproportionately impacted population(s) that your community will especially focus on related to this Outcome Goal and how this focus has been informed by data in your landscape assessment:</b>	<b>Describe the trackable data goal(s) related to this Outcome Goal:</b>
2022 PIT count data for the County shows an estimated 65% increase from 2019 in the number of unsheltered Blacks/African Americans in the County. Other HMIS data sets also show lower levels of access to services and housing resources among this population. Over the next three years, the community should focus attention on ensuring equitable and culturally affirming access to services and housing resources for this population.	Increase access to HMIS using programs among the Black/African American community.

<b>Outcome Goal #2: Reducing the number of persons who become homeless for the first time.</b>		
<b>Baseline Data: Annual Estimate of # of people who become homeless for the first time</b>	<b>Outcome Goals July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2024</b>	
	<b>Reduction in # of People</b>	<b>Reduction as % Change from Baseline</b>
1,229	1,204	-2%
<b>Optional Comments</b>		
<p>The County will be investing nearly \$1M in homelessness and eviction prevention resources in FY22-23 with an intention of reducing the number of households losing housing and entering homelessness. The ending of COVID-related eviction protections in a county identified as "high-risk" for housing instability in a UC Berkeley Turner Center for Housing Innovation report raises concerns about higher rates of evictions, displacement, and homelessness. We're projecting a slight decrease in the # of new people becoming homeless for the first time due to these competing forces.</p>		
<b>Describe Your Related Goals for Underserved Populations and Populations Disproportionately Impacted by Homelessness</b>		
<b>Describe any underserved and/ or disproportionately impacted population(s) that your community will especially focus on related to this Outcome Goal and how this focus has been informed by data in your landscape assessment:</b>	<b>Describe the trackable data goal(s) related to this Outcome Goal:</b>	
<p>Comparing data from the 2019 and 2022 count shows the greatest increase (more than 50%) in homelessness among certain subpopulations including those with behavioral health conditions, HIV/AIDS, and Black/African Americans. Further information is needed to understand ways in which the community could prevent these populations from becoming homeless. One area for focus is deepening collaborations with health and behavioral health system providers to ensure appropriate institutional discharges, follow-up services, and linkages with housing-focused supportive services. CalAIM partnerships over the next three years will be critical for improving prevention efforts among these populations.</p>	<p>Develop local HMIS measures to track the demographics more closely on households experiencing homelessness for the first time and create partnerships with health care providers to understand the linkages between health systems and services and housing-related resources through CalAIM capacity building.</p>	

**Outcome Goal #3: Increasing the number of people exiting homelessness into permanent housing.**

Baseline Data: Annual Estimate of # of people exiting homelessness into permanent housing	Outcome Goals July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2024	
	Increase in # of People	Increase as % Change from Baseline
558	614	10%

**Optional Comments**

Expanded resources, planned permanent supportive housing projects through Project Homekey, and a systemwide focus on improved housing outcomes should result in increases in the number of people exiting homelessness to permanent housing. These efforts will be tempered by deepening affordability and rental vacancy challenges in the County as rental costs continue to increase with low rental unit supply.

**Describe Your Related Goals for Underserved Populations and Populations Disproportionately Impacted by Homelessness**

Describe any underserved and/ or disproportionately impacted population(s) that your community will especially focus on related to this Outcome Goal and how this focus has been informed by data in your landscape assessment:	Describe the trackable data goal(s) related to this Outcome Goal:
According to HDIS data, exit percentages from homelessness to permanent housing are greater from white, hispanic/latinx groups compared to other racial/ethnic groups. According to 2021 HDIS data, 38.3% of exits to permanent housing were among white, hispanic/latinx groups and they represented 31.4% of those served. Whites, non-hispanic/non-latinx groups, represented 35.6% of exits to permanent housing and 44% of the population served. Blacks/American Americans and Multiple Race groups showed lower percentages of exits to permanent housing when compared to the % of population served among these groups.	Goal over the next three years is to work on reducing these racial/ethnic differences in exits to permanent housing.

<b>Outcome Goal #4: Reducing the length of time persons remain homeless.</b>		
<b>Baseline Data:</b>	<b>Outcome Goals July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2024</b>	
<b>Average length of time (in # of days) persons enrolled in street outreach, emergency shelter, transitional housing, safehaven projects and time prior to move-in for persons enrolled in rapid rehousing and permanent housing programs"</b>	<b>Decrease in Average # of Days</b>	<b>Decrease as % Change from Baseline</b>
152	137	-10%
<b>Optional Comments</b>		
The prior three years of HDIS data indicate a gradual increase in the # of cumulative days homeless. We plan to work toward decreasing this trend through expanding outreach and incentives for private landlords to partner with existing RRH and PSH programs and with making changes to shelter standards and operational resources.		
<b>Describe Your Related Goals for Underserved Populations and Populations Disproportionately Impacted by Homelessness</b>		
<b>Describe any underserved and/ or disproportionately impacted population(s) that your community will especially focus on related to this Outcome Goal and how this focus has been informed by data in your landscape assessment:</b>	<b>Describe the trackable data goal(s) related to this Outcome Goal:</b>	
HDIS data shows different durations of time between enrollments in rapid rehousing and permanent supportive housing programs and time to move-in. Over the next three years, the community would like to see greater consistency among these lengths of time to move-in dates for different racial and ethnic groups.	HDIS racial disparities in permanent housing services median number of days to move-in for rapid rehousing and permanent supportive housing.	

<b>Outcome Goal #5: Reducing the number of persons who return to homelessness after exiting homelessness to permanent housing.</b>		
<b>Baseline Data: % of people who return to homelessness after having exited homelessness to permanent housing</b>	<b>Outcome Goals July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2024</b>	
	<b>Decrease in % of People who return to Homelessness</b>	<b>Decrease as % Change from Baseline</b>
6%	5%	-1%
<b>Optional Comments</b>		
Working over the next three years to provide housing/tenancy sustaining services for those exiting to permanent housing will be a priority over the next three years, particularly for those with behavioral health conditions.		
<b>Describe Your Related Goals for Underserved Populations and Populations Disproportionately Impacted by Homelessness</b>		
<b>Describe any underserved and/ or disproportionately impacted population(s) that your community will especially focus on related to this Outcome Goal and how this focus has been informed by data in your landscape assessment:</b>	<b>Describe the trackable data goal(s) related to this Outcome Goal:</b>	
HDIS baseline data over the past three years shows higher rates of returns to homelessness among those with behavioral health conditions particularly those with substance use disorders. Working toward reducing the risk of relapse and housing loss will be an important area of focus over the next three years.	Returns to homelessness among those with a substance use disorder.	

<b>Outcome Goal #6: Increasing successful placements from street outreach.</b>		
<b>Baseline Data: Annual # of people served in street outreach projects who exit to emergency shelter, safe haven, transitional housing, or permanent housing destinations.</b>	<b>Outcome Goals July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2024</b>	
	<b>Increase in # of People Successfully Placed from Street Outreach</b>	<b>Increase as % of Baseline</b>
0	50	N/A
<b>Optional Comments</b>		
Historically, the community has not operated sustained street outreach projects that utilize HMIS data for tracking their efforts. One-time funding has been secured by the County Behavioral Health Department to expand street outreach for those struggling with behavioral health issues and the Housing for Health Division also secured one-time funding for outreach to unincorporated areas of the County. In addition, the County has invested in the development and utilization of an outreach module within its HMIS system over the next three years.		
<b>Describe Your Related Goals for Underserved Populations and Populations Disproportionately Impacted by Homelessness</b>		
<b>Describe any underserved and/ or disproportionately impacted population(s) that your community will especially focus on related to this Outcome Goal and how this focus has been informed by data in your landscape assessment:</b>	<b>Describe the trackable data goal(s) related to this Outcome Goal:</b>	
2022 PIT count data indicates significant increases in the # of unsheltered individuals struggling with behavioral health conditions, HIV/AIDS, and veterans. Over the next three years, we hope to see increased street outreach enrollments among these groups and linkage of these groups to pathways to permanent housing.	Program outreach enrollment among unsheltered priority groups via demographic data; see increase in # of people transitioning from street outreach to a housing pathway.	

## A. Strategies for Achieving Outcome Goals

Table 5. Strategies to Achieve Outcome Goals	
Strategy	Performance Measure to Be Impacted (Check all that apply)
<b>Description</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 1. Reducing the number of persons experiencing homelessness. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2. Reducing the number of persons who become homeless for the first time. <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Increasing the number of people exiting homelessness into permanent housing. <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Reducing the length of time persons remain homeless. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5. Reducing the number of persons who return to homelessness after exiting homelessness to permanent housing. <input type="checkbox"/> 6. Increasing successful placements from street outreach. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Focused on equity goals related to underserved populations and populations disproportionately impacted by homelessness.
Eviction and homelessness prevention investments	
<b>Timeframe</b>	
June 2022 - June 2023	
<b>Entities with Lead Responsibilities</b>	
Housing for Health Division; Emergency Rental Assistance Local Partner Network Providers	
<b>Measurable Targets</b>	
# of households assisted to secure prevention funding; # that receive tenancy sustaining services; racial/ethnic groups receiving assistance	

DRAFT

Strategy	Performance Measure to Be Impacted (Check all that apply)
<b>Description</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1. Reducing the number of persons experiencing homelessness. <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Reducing the number of persons who become homeless for the first time. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3. Increasing the number of people exiting homelessness into permanent housing. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4. Reducing the length of time persons remain homeless. <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Reducing the number of persons who return to homelessness after exiting homelessness to permanent housing. <input type="checkbox"/> 6. Increasing successful placements from street outreach. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Focused on equity goals related to underserved populations and populations disproportionately impacted by homelessness.
Permanent supportive housing expansions through Project Homekey applications and projects and real estate partnership incentives	
<b>Timeframe</b>	
Present - June 2024	
<b>Entities with Lead Responsibilities</b>	
Housing for Health Division, Housing Authority	
<b>Measurable Targets</b>	
Increase # of build permanent supportive housing units (Homekey + other funding); increased utilization of dedicated Housing Authority vouchers in private market; access to PSH for those with behavioral health conditions, HIV/AIDS, and other chronic health conditions	

DRAFT

Strategy	Performance Measure to Be Impacted (Check all that apply)
<b>Description</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1. Reducing the number of persons experiencing homelessness. <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Reducing the number of persons who become homeless for the first time. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3. Increasing the number of people exiting homelessness into permanent housing. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4. Reducing the length of time persons remain homeless. <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Reducing the number of persons who return to homelessness after exiting homelessness to permanent housing. <input type="checkbox"/> 6. Increasing successful placements from street outreach. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Focused on equity goals related to underserved populations and populations disproportionately impacted by homelessness.
Low barrier housing navigation center program development and improvement countywide	
<b>Timeframe</b>	
Present - June 2024	
<b>Entities with Lead Responsibilities</b>	
Housing for Health Division, local/city partners, Central California Alliance for	
<b>Measurable Targets</b>	
Increase baseline capacity from pre-COVID period; improved income, benefit, and housing outcomes among programs; # of referrals of unsheltered to shelter; race/ethnicity review of access to and outcomes from programs; reduced lengths of stay	

DRAFT

Strategy	Performance Measure to Be Impacted (Check all that apply)
<b>Description</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 1. Reducing the number of persons experiencing homelessness.
Expanding and improving street outreach countywide	<input type="checkbox"/> 2. Reducing the number of persons who become homeless for the first time.
<b>Timeframe</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3. Increasing the number of people exiting homelessness into permanent housing.
Present - June 2024	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4. Reducing the length of time persons remain homeless.
<b>Entities with Lead Responsibilities</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 5. Reducing the number of persons who return to homelessness after exiting homelessness to permanent housing.
Housing for Health Division, Behavioral Health Department, city partner	<input type="checkbox"/> 6. Increasing successful placements from street outreach.
<b>Measurable Targets</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Focused on equity goals related to underserved populations and populations disproportionately impacted by homelessness.
# enrolled in street outreach programs, exits from street outreach to housing programs, demographics of those contacted by street outreach programs	

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Strategy	Performance Measure to Be Impacted (Check all that apply)
<b>Description</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1. Reducing the number of persons experiencing homelessness. <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Reducing the number of persons who become homeless for the first time. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3. Increasing the number of people exiting homelessness into permanent housing. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4. Reducing the length of time persons remain homeless. <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Reducing the number of persons who return to homelessness after exiting homelessness to permanent housing. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6. Increasing successful placements from street outreach. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Focused on equity goals related to underserved populations and populations disproportionately impacted by homelessness.
Centralized housing problem solving and rehousing fund	
<b>Timeframe</b>	
July 2022 - June 2024	
<b>Entities with Lead Responsibilities</b>	
Housing for Health Division, CBO fund manager	
<b>Measurable Targets</b>	
# served, # exiting to permanent housing, racial/ethnic data on access and outcomes; 3 and 6 month follow-up after assistance	

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## **Part III: Application Narrative Responses**

### Jurisdictional Coordination

In November of 2020, the County of Santa Cruz established a Housing for Health Division within its Human Services Department to help coordinate efforts related to preventing and ending homelessness within the County. The local Continuum of Care (CoC) Board approved of the new Division serving as the CoC administrative entity, lead applicant for HUD NOFOs, the HMIS lead, and the Coordinated Entry lead for the CoC. The new Division worked with the current CoC board to establish a new CoC governance structure that was approved on June 18, 2021.

The new governance structure includes an updated CoC Board structure. Current Board members include city and county jurisdictional representation including elected officials, housing and service provider representatives, the CEO of our local managed care plan, the CEO of a local community foundation, a UC Santa Cruz representative, the Public Defender for the County, and the County's assistant health services agency director.

The CoC board approved of a joint County and CoC application for HHAP funding in November 2021. Key jurisdictional partners have established commitments to supporting the implementation of the [Housing for a Healthy Santa Cruz Framework](#) through local city council and board actions.

### Funding Partnerships

The new Housing for Health Division (H4H) operates within the County Human Services Department. As a result, the Division has built-in opportunities for collaboration around California Department of Social Services (CA DSS) programming related to housing and homelessness. All CA DSS grant programs are now managed by Housing for Health Division staff in partnership with other Division leaders. These programs include Home Safe, Bringing Families Home, the Housing and Disability Advocacy Program, the CalWorks Housing Support Program, and Project Roomkey. The Division is also building partnerships with the local Workforce Development Board including funding partnerships related to Cal Fresh Employment and Training funding. Other opportunities exist within the department related to helping consumers access public benefits including Medi-Cal, General Assistance, CalFresh, CalWorks, and In-Home Supportive Services. Operational partnerships exist with Adult Protective Services and Family and Children's Services within the Department.

Santa Cruz County has one Medi-Cal managed care plan, the Central California Alliance for Health (CCAH). The CEO of CCAH is a member of the CoC Board and staff from CCAH and H4H are currently collaborating on a variety of funding related projects including HHAP and CalAIM incentive program funds. By layering funding resources together, CCAH and H4H hope to have a more significant and lasting impact in the community.

The County Health Services Agency (HSA) includes environmental health, public health, clinics, and behavioral health operational divisions. The assistant director of the Agency sits on the CoC Board and H4H staff partner with multiple staff within HSA on a variety of projects. Some examples include SAMHSA funding for outreach and case management for people experiencing homelessness struggling with serious mental health issues, federal health care for the homeless funding and programs, public health support for homeless families with pregnant mothers and young children, and environmental health involvement in ensuring safe public spaces and buildings. HSA and HSD leadership meet on a regular basis and have an established funding and operational partnership agreement that gets updated on a regular basis.

Partnership with justice system entities is also in place and evolving. One of our community-based organization partners works with the Sheriff to help coordinate safe discharges of women from the local jail. Our new Public Defender sits on our CoC Board. H4H staff collaborate with the Sheriff's community policing unit on outreach and engagement efforts. The Sheriff also supports a collaborative project with Behavioral Health to serve people experiencing homelessness with repeated histories of legal system involvement. Probation staff have participated in linking people to resources through the Coordinated Entry process.

H4H also partners with the County Office of Education and McKinney-Vento liaisons at local school districts. The liaison for the County Office of Education co-chairs a local youth provider meeting and helped coordinate shared funding planning with H4H to help families with students experiencing homelessness. One of the districts in the County and the County Office of Education collaborated with H4H on a state application for family homelessness challenge grant funding.

H4H works with Applied Survey Research (ASR) to support the implementation of the Point-in-Time count and over the next year will be working with ASR to create a Housing for Health consumer evaluation team that would collect and provide ongoing feedback to CoC leaders on the quality of system services and suggestions for improvement.

### Racial and Gender Equity

H4H is undertaking a variety of steps to identify and address racial, ethnic, and gender disparities in our work. All Housing for Health Division staff are participating in one-on-one and group coaching sessions on racial and ethnic disparities as part of a department-

wide commitment to addressing this issue. In partnership with the Human Services Business Analytics Division, H4H established a specific county operational objective to ensure Latinx/Hispanic households living in COVID-19 shelters received equitable access to permanent supportive housing services and resources. The same Division helps H4H disaggregate data by race, ethnicity, gender, and other subpopulations as needed to identify potential disparities. Internal recruitment and hiring practices are being evaluated with changes being implemented to help diversify the workforce. H4H maintains several bilingual designated positions to help address language access barriers. Our community is changing our coordinated entry assessment tool to address established racial and ethnic biases inherent in the VI-SPDAT tool currently in use. We will be monitoring the implementation of a new coordinated entry tool to work toward ensuring it does not introduce other bias into the assessment, matching, and prioritization process.

### Institutional Coordination

H4H staff have continued and initiated new efforts to increase coordination with institutional partners. H4H is working with the local managed care plan and hospitals to increase coordination and capacity for recuperative care services for those exiting health care institutions. CalAIM resource deployment is part of this discussion, including planning for short-term post-hospitalization housing. Deeper and additional partnerships are needed with behavioral health care institutions and their relationships with recuperative care.

The local Monarch Services program supported with California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) funding designed to link all women released from jail with appropriate exit resources is a model partnership program within the County. The program reaches women while in jail and provides them with contact information prior to release. They offer a 24/7 confidential, bilingual crisis support line, a safe release emergency shelter, peer counseling, legal assistance and advocacy, and additional services. Their approach represents a local community best practice regarding institutional partnerships.

H4H staff work with Adult Protective Services (APS) and Family and Children's Services (FCS) staff within the department to engage in collaborative planning and direct services support for APS and child welfare involved families. H4H will be co-implemented the Home Safe program with APS in the upcoming year that will include a housing navigator/tenancy sustaining social worker and flexible housing assistance funding for APS clients at-risk of or currently experiencing homelessness. FCS staff work with H4H to link child-welfare involved families with rapid rehousing and permanent housing subsidies from the Housing Authority.

### System Improvements

The Human Services Department provides a range of ongoing staff development and training resources with some of these resources available to community partners. These resources include trainings on understanding race and systemic racism, culturally relevant practice, mental health first aid, and customer-centered services delivery. The H4H Division currently sponsors training, coaching, and technical assistance for some providers around the evidenced-based practice of strength-based case management. H4H intends to make this a foundational practice among providers within the H4H provider network. Our County Behavioral Health Department is making available training and coaching on the evidenced-based practice of Critical Time Intervention (CTI) for programs in the community that operate time and outcome-bound programs. As part of our local coordinated entry redesign, we are working toward a housing needs assessment and housing problem solving tool, resources, and training curriculum for community providers.

The local CoC is currently updating its HMIS policies and procedures, including update the section on HMIS data quality. The CoC and our HMIS vendor host a monthly HMIS lead and users meeting with a regular focus on improving data quality and providing related technical assistance to HMIS users. Local H4H contracts include performance metrics related to improving data quality.

H4H has been developing its capacity to pool and align housing and services funding from multiple sources. The internal contract and finance team now helps manage over 40 discrete funding contracts and helps leverage additional federal funding for human services related activities of the Division. H4H is working with County contract procurement professionals to establish a housing for health qualified vendor pool to allow for streamlined provider selection, pooling or collaborative funding, and streamlined contract execution for housing and services programs related to addressing homelessness within the County.

The local CoC approved of moving from a point-in-time (PIT) count every two years to funding an annual count. The 2022 count included the introduction of a mobile application to the field-based counting process. The PIT has been collaboratively planned with Applied Survey Research (ASR) for multiple local counts allowing for more consistency in count administration and involvement. In addition to the county, H4H plans to work with HSR to create an ongoing consumer research evaluation team that will help with the PIT and evaluation of the coordinated entry system and resources within the system.

The local coordinated entry system is currently being redesigned, in part to eliminate racial bias identified in the currently used VI-SPDAT assessment tool. The community is working toward utilizing a housing needs assessment tool that can be utilized by CalAIM providers as well as H4H currently contracted providers. The tool focuses on asking actionable questions related to barriers to obtaining and maintaining housing and to help with matching people to specific resources. The draft, locally created, tool is currently undergoing testing with an intention of implementing a new coordinated entry approach in FY 22-23. The tool is being

tested among different population groups to determine if changes are necessary. The proposed new approach includes establishing specific Housing for Health connector agencies and staff with training in using the tool, incorporating data into HMIS, engaging in housing problem solving, and linking people with immediate steps they can take to help them get on a path to permanent housing. There will be specific connector roles for subpopulations including youth. Earlier rounds of HEAP and HHAP funding have been used to support the creation of a youth-specific drop-in program in the City of Santa Cruz. This HHAP-3 proposal includes a budget request to support the creation of a youth-focused transitional housing program.

### Coordinated Entry System Connections

H4H serves as the coordinated entry administrative entity for the CoC. Our community is currently undertaken a coordinated entry redesign process that includes changing our current assessment, matching, and prioritization process. At the same time, we are updating our Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) policies and procedures to clarify the interface between coordinated entry redesign and access to HMIS for local agencies and providers.

H4H staff are working with the Central California Alliance for Health (CCAH), local Medi-Cal managed care plan, to determine how to link our coordinated entry process and assessment with CalAIM enhanced care management and community support resources for their members experiencing homelessness that are eligible for their services. The partnership with CCAH also involves working through data sharing agreements between our county Health Services Agency, Human Services Department, and our local Health Information Exchange nonprofit known as the Santa Cruz Health Information Organization.

**Part IV: HHAP-3 Funding Plan**

**Table 6. Funding Plans**

Activity to be funded by HHAP-3 (choose from drop down options)	Eligible Use Categories Used to Fund Activity										Total Funds Requested:	Description of Activity
	1. Rapid rehousing	2. Operating subsidies	3. Street outreach	4. Services coordination	5. Systems support	6. Delivery of permanent housing	7. Prevention and diversion	8. Interim sheltering (new and existing)	9. Shelter improvements to lower barriers and increase privacy	10. Administrative (up to 7%)		
Administrative Activities	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 438,860.00	\$ 438,860.00	Supports HMIS and H4H staff fiscal/grant management
Non-Congregate Shelter/ Interim Housing	\$ -	\$ 4,388,607.32	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 250,000.00	\$ -	\$ 4,638,607.32	Funding to support low-barrier housing navigation center operations + youth transitional housing
Outreach and Engagement	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 250,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 250,000.00	Funds to sustain outreach efforts in unincorporated areas
Permanent Supportive and Service-Enriched Housing	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 350,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 350,000.00	Real estate partnership contract and incentives for private landlord participation in permanent supportive housing projects
Rental Assistance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 591,971.71	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 591,971.71	Flexible, centralized rehousing/housing problem solving fund for community
<b>Totals:</b>	\$ -	\$ 4,388,607.32	\$ 250,000.00	\$ -	\$ 350,000.00	\$ -	\$ 591,971.71	\$ -	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 438,860.00	\$ 6,269,439.03	

**Explanation of How the Proposed Use of Funds Will Complement Existing local, state, and federal funds and equitably close the gaps identified in the Local Landscape Analysis**

The proposed use of funds covers activities not covered by other funding sources, with an emphasis on creating and sustaining low-barrier housing navigation centers distributed throughout the County. Focus on low-barrier navigation centers reflects alignment with Housing for a Healthy Santa Cruz framework goals and a strong community desire to reduce the number of households and people experiencing unsheltered homelessness. Centralized flexible rental assistance funding will help providers access funding for rehousing and housing problem solving needs including housing deposits, move-in furnishings, application fees, transportation expenses, etc. Outreach and engagement funds designated to continue funding for street outreach efforts to unincorporated areas of the county. The proposed permanent supportive housing investment extends outreach and incentives for private landlords to participate in permanent supportive housing voucher programs.



ELIGIBLE USE CATEGORY	FY21/22	FY22/23	FY23/24	FY24/25	FY25/26	TOTAL	Initial	Remainder
<i>Interim sheltering: youth set-aside</i>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Shelter improvements to lower barriers and increase privacy	\$ -	\$ 150,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 150,000.00	\$ -	\$ -
<i>Shelter improvements: youth set-aside</i>	\$ -	\$ 100,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100,000.00	\$ -	\$ -
Administrative (up to 7%)	\$ -	\$ 219,430.00	\$ 219,430.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 438,860.00	\$ -	\$ -
<b>TOTAL FUNDING ALLOCATION</b>						\$ 4,469,439.03	\$ -	\$ -
	<b>FY21/22</b>	<b>FY22/23</b>	<b>FY23/24</b>	<b>FY24/25</b>	<b>FY25/26</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>		
Youth Set-Aside (at least 10%)	\$ -	\$ 950,000.00	\$ 850,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,800,000.00	\$ -	\$ -

**COMMENTS:**

Actual breakout of funds over each fiscal year will depend on funding available from other sources and start dates for programs.

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Key to colors/bolding:

- **May come from Enrollment or Profile** (not necessarily as worded on enrollment/profile forms)
- **Bolded = Scored item**

## Housing Needs Assessment (HNA) and Housing Action Plan (HAP)

**Document Description:** This document details the questions people experiencing homelessness will be asked to assess housing need and support access to housing resources (i.e., the Housing Needs Assessment). This information will also connect directly to an individually tailored housing action plan.

Participant name:

Connector name:

HMIS ID (if known):

Date:

### HNA Section 1: Household Composition

1. **Including yourself, how many total members are in your current household?**

*Indicate whether this number may change as they search for housing.*

2. **Are you or anyone in your household currently pregnant?**

Yes  No

*If yes, please indicate who is pregnant.*

*If yes, what is the expected due date?*

3. **Do you currently have any children (under age 18) in your household?**

Yes  No

*If yes, provide details (name, DOB/age, gender, school, and school district).*

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4. Do you have pets?

Yes  No

*If yes, indicate the type of pet (e.g., dog, cat, etc.), if they are service animals, emotional support animals, or companions.*

*If they are service animals, what are they trained to do?*

*If yes, provide information about their shots, license, vets, food, and whether they are spayed/neutered.*

*If yes, indicate whether they will only accept housing that allows pets (i.e., would they be willing/able to find another home for their pet if available housing did not allow pets)?*

## HAP Section 1: Household Composition

Identify what, if anything, from the household composition portion of the HNA is a priority for us to work on together to help you find and get a permanent place to live.

## HNA Section 2: Housing History

5. **When was the last time you or any adult household member had a lease or owned a home in your or their own name?**

Never or more than 5 years ago  Within last 1-5 years  Within last year  Currently

6. **Have you or any adult in your household had a formal eviction in the last five years (had a legal paper taped to your front door, or might show in your credit report, court records, tenant screening databases)?**

Two or more prior rental evictions  One prior rental eviction  No prior rental evictions

7. **Have you or any adult household members currently or previously had housing in Santa Cruz County?**

Yes  No

*If yes, provide details (who, when, where, for how long).*

# DRAFT

8. Have you or any adult household members had housing outside of Santa Cruz County?

Yes  No

*If yes, provide details (who, when, where, for how long).*

## HAP Section 2: Housing History

Identify what, if anything, from the housing history portion of the HNA is a priority for us to work on together to help you find and get a permanent place to live.

## HNA Section 3: Social Support

9. Do you have a former property manager or landlord who can provide you with a positive reference?

Yes  No

10. Do you or any adult household members have relationships with others who support you and you feel connected to (family, friends, other communities of support)?

Yes  No

11. Are there friends or family members you'd like to reconnect with?

Yes  No

12. Are there any friends or family members that could help you/your household with housing, like providing a place to live, be a roommate, help cover housing costs?

Yes  No  Maybe

13. If yes to the previous question, if we could provide you some short-term assistance such as a contribution toward rent, groceries, utilities, or a rental deposit, do you think you could live with any of these people for a while?

Yes  No  Maybe  N/A

# DRAFT

## HAP Section 3: Social Support

Identify what, if anything, from the social support portion of the HNA is a priority for us to work on together to help you find and get a permanent place to live.

## HNA Section 4: Income, Employment, Benefits, Health Insurance and Credit

14. **What is the total amount of cash income that you and other household members receive from any source each month?**

*Provide details (source and amount).*

\$0  \$1 - \$2,385  \$2,386 - \$4,770  > \$4,770

15. **Are you or any other adult household members currently employed or enrolled and attending school?**

Yes  No

16. **Are you or other adult household members looking for work or planning on enrolling in school?**

Yes  No

17. **Do you or anyone in your household receive any non-cash benefits, i.e. CalFresh (Food Stamps), WIC, CalWorks services, etc.?**

Yes  No

18. Do you have active health insurance coverage?

Yes  No

*If yes, please provide the type of insurance.*

# DRAFT

19. Do you or other household members have any problematic outstanding debt, financial, or credit issues that might show up on your credit report?

Yes  No

*If yes, please provide details (who, what)*

## HAP Section 4: Income, Employment, Benefits, Health Insurance, and Credit

Identify what, if anything, from the income, employment, benefits, health insurance, and credit portion of the HNA is a priority for us to work on together to help you find and get a permanent place to live.

## HNA Section 5: Documentation

20. Do you or any adults in your household need help to get or store copies of critical documents, i.e., ID card, Driver's License, Social Security Card, Birth Certificate, etc.?

Yes  No

## HAP Section 5: Documentation

Identify what, if anything, from the documentation portion of the HNA is a priority for us to work on together to help you find and get a permanent place to live.

## HNA Section 6: Legal Issues

21. How many times in the past five years have you or other adults in your household been arrested or picked up by police (more than a warning or citation)?

5 or more  1 – 4  None

22. Do you or any other adult household members have a criminal record for arson, drug dealing or manufacture, or felony offense against persons or property?

Yes  No

# DRAFT

23. Do you or other household members have other legal matters that are not felonies that need support to resolve? (i.e., record clearing, expungements, debts, etc).

Yes  No

## HAP Section 6: Legal Issues

Identify what, if anything, from the legal issues portion of the HNA is a priority for us to work on together to help you find and get a permanent place to live.

## HNA Section 7: Health

24. Do you or any household members have disabling conditions (physical disability, developmental disability, chronic health condition, HIV-AIDS, mental health disorder or substance use disorder)?

Yes  No

25. Do you or anyone in your household need help with any activities of daily living? (bathing, feeding, cleaning, etc.)

Yes  No

26. Do any of your or a household member's health challenges interfere with your ability to get or stay housed?

Yes  No

27. Does any member of your household have a condition that requires housing for those struggling with a mobility, hearing, or visual impairment?

Yes  No

# DRAFT

<b>HAP Section 7: Health</b>
Identify what, if anything, from the <u>health</u> portion of the HNA is a priority for us to work on together to help you find and get a permanent place to live.
<b>HAP Section 8: Housing Preferences</b>
28. Which of the following unit types would you be willing to accept? <input type="checkbox"/> 2+ Bedroom Unit <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Bedroom Unit <input type="checkbox"/> Studio Apartment <input type="checkbox"/> Shared Housing (bedroom) <input type="checkbox"/> Shared Housing (common areas, eg., kitchen, bathroom) <input type="checkbox"/> Single Room Occupancy (SRO) <input type="checkbox"/> Studio/Efficiency <input type="checkbox"/> Any of the above <input type="checkbox"/> None of the above
29. What school district(s) are your children attending? Is it important to keep them in the same school/school district?
30. What school district(s) are your children attending? Is it important to keep them in the same school/school district?

# DRAFT

## Interviewer Observations (Respond after completing the rest of the form with the participant)

31. Does the participant, or any member of their household, appear to be particularly fragile or at high risk of suffering from an illness that makes them particularly vulnerable to staying outdoors?

Yes  No

32. Does the participant or any members of their household, have any observed but not reported disabilities (mental health, physical health, substance use issue, etc.) that may impact their ability to find or maintain housing?

Yes  No

33. Do you have significant concerns about the safety of the participant, and/or any member of their household? For example, if they are newly unsheltered &/or homeless, unable to protect themselves, isolated vs. part of a larger group etc.?

Yes  No

34. **ADMINISTRATIVE DATA.** Based on analysis of available administrative data what is the health and safety risk level for this participant?

## Draft Proposed Scoring and Information for the Housing Needs Assessment

To Be Eligible for any Queue	Source	Options
Current Living Situation	Current Living	Must be Homeless

To Determine Which Queue	Source	Options
HH Type	Client Profile	TAY, Families, Adults, Vet, CH

Preference for Housing Match	Source	Options
Last permanent Address	Client Enrollment	Santa Cruz vs. Other

HNA #	Scored Items	Source	Options	Minimum	Maximum
1	HH Size	Client Profile	1 point if HH is 3 or more	0	1
2	Pregnant Household member	HNA Review	0 = No 1 = Yes	0	1
3	Children in Household under 5 years old	Client Profile	0 = No 2 = Yes	0	2
NA	Fleeing DV	Enrollment	0 = No 2 = Yes	0	2
NA	Age	Client Profile	2 points if 62+ or 18-24	0	2
NA	# Times Homeless in 3 years	Enrollment	0 = 1 time 1 = 2 or 3 times 2 = 4 or more times	0	2

HNA #	Scored Items	Source	Options	Minimum	Maximum
NA	# Months Homeless in 3 years	Enrollment	0 = < 6 mos 1 = 6-12 mos 2 = > 12 mos	0	2
14	Total HH Income	Enrollment	2 = \$0 - \$2,385 1 = \$2,386-\$4,770 0 = > \$4,770	0	2
NA	# Disabilities	Enrollment	0 = No 1 = One 2 = 2 or more	0	3
5 6 9 10 19 20 21 22 25 27	Resources/Barriers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>History of lease</li> <li>Evictions</li> <li>Negative/no rental reference</li> <li>Lack presence of social support</li> <li>Credit issues</li> <li>Need for documents</li> <li>Arrests</li> <li>Felonies</li> <li>ADL support</li> <li>Accessibility needs</li> </ul>	HNA Review	5 = 9/10 barriers 4 = 7/8 barriers 3 = 5/6 barriers 2 = 3/4 barriers 1 = 1/2 barriers 0 = 0 barriers	0	5
24	Disability Impact - Participant	HNA Review	0 = Not at all 1 = Some 2 = A lot	0	2
31	Physical Acuity – Connector	HNA Review	0=not at all, 1=some, 2=a lot	0	2
32	Disability Impact – Connector	HNA Review	0=not at all, 1=some, 2=a lot	0	2
33	Safety - Connector	HNA Review	0=not at all, 1=some, 2=a lot	0	2
34	Health System High Need/Risk (Placeholder)	Data Match	TBD	0	2
<b>Total</b>				<b>0</b>	<b>27/32</b>

## WHY SANTA CRUZ HOUSING FOR HEALTH IS MOVING AWAY FROM THE VI-SPDAT

### What is the VI-SPDAT and why did Santa Cruz County choose it?

- The VI-SPDAT is a tool used by coordinated entry systems to assess the vulnerability of individuals experiencing homelessness. It contains a set of questions about a person or household's experiences and characteristics which generate a numeric score. That score is typically used to place people on a ranked list to allocate housing and support resources.
- In addition to giving each person a score, the VI-SPDAT scoring rubric includes recommendations for the type of intervention each household should be offered based on their score.
- The VI-SPDAT was created in 2013 by Community Solutions<sup>1</sup> and OrgCode Consulting<sup>2</sup> by merging two prior tools developed for different reasons - the Vulnerability Index (VI) for determining who is most likely to die on the streets, and the Service Planning and Decision Assistance Tool (SPDAT) which was a case management planning tool.
- As part of its mandate for communities to implement coordinated entry, HUD required communities to use "one or more standardized assessment tools."<sup>3</sup> The VI-SPDAT came standard in many HMIS systems, was readily available for free, and fulfilled HUD's requirement.<sup>4</sup>
- Many communities, including Santa Cruz County, adopted it.

### Criticisms of the VI-SPDAT

- Some of the questions in the VI-SPDAT are considered deeply personal (such as questions about personal unsafe practices and substance use) and assessors and participants have reported it is uncomfortable to ask or be asked these questions, especially upon a first meeting.
- In 2019, it was widely reported that the VI-SPDAT produced higher vulnerability scores for White individuals as compared to Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) despite their historic and ongoing over-representation among individuals experiencing homelessness.<sup>5</sup> Additional research since that time has corroborated these findings.
- The VI-SPDAT questions are generally set up as yes/no questions with each question valued at one point. It cannot measure acuity or be weighted to reflect different priorities.
- The VI-SPDAT is deficit-oriented and does not help to identify where participants have strengths or resources that can assist them.

### Discontinuation by developer

- In December 2020, in the wake of the findings related to racial disparities, Orgcode Consulting announced they were phasing out the VI-SPDAT and in 2022 they will cease all support for the tool.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://community.solutions/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.orgcode.com/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/5340/coordinated-entry-core-elements/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/24/578.7>

<sup>5</sup> [https://c4innovates.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/CES\\_Racial\\_Equity-Analysis\\_Oct112019.pdf](https://c4innovates.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/CES_Racial_Equity-Analysis_Oct112019.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.orgcode.com/blog/the-time-seems-right-lets-begin-the-end-of-the-vi-spdatt>

### **Who are H4H Connectors?**

Santa Cruz is changing the way people experiencing homelessness get access to housing and services. Only a small number of people can be helped with the limited resources the Housing for Health (H4H) system has available, but anyone experiencing homelessness can get assistance with developing a plan for housing and meeting other needs. The people who do this work are referred to as *H4H Connectors*. H4H Connectors may work as part of an outreach team, drop-in center, multi-service, or other program, so long as they are able to meet with participants and assist them with self-identified needs and connections to resources.

### **What do H4H Connectors do?**

- Identify individuals experiencing homelessness, build rapport, identify assets and needs, and make connections
- Conduct initial triage and safety screenings and direct participants to crisis assistance if needed
- Enroll participants in HMIS programs and collect important participant data
- Engage participants in completing a Housing Needs Assessment and problem-solving process
- Support participants to identify housing outside of the H4H system
- Create a Housing Action Plan with participants; identify priorities to work on as pathways to housing
- Make referrals that support participant achievement of the priorities in their Housing Action Plan
- Follow-up on the Housing Action Plan and revise as needed
- Support participants prioritized for housing with the steps needed to connect with the opportunity

### **What are the benefits of being an H4H Connector?**

- Ability to provide financial assistance and support to participants who identify housing opportunities (i.e., problem solving or diversion)
- Helping higher need clients that are eligible considered for targeted housing and services programs, particularly Rapid Rehousing, Permanent Supportive Housing, and other permanent housing options
- Help shape the ongoing implementation of the H4H System in Santa Cruz County
- Engage with others doing similar work to build skills, get peer support, and share ideas and resources

### **What are the expectations of being an H4H Connector?**

Connectors use the Housing Needs Assessment as a framework for collaborative action planning and engagement. Connectors meet people where they are, bringing a strengths-based approach, and flexibility to respond to unique individual assets, resources, and needs. Specific expectations of Connectors include:

- Participation in professional development trainings and peer learning collaboratives
- Working with a reasonable number of participants at any one time to ensure quality services
- Committing to provide services to a minimum number of participants annually
- Collect data in HMIS that is accurate, complete, and high quality
- Complete work from an office setting or field-based location

### **How to become an H4H Connector?**

Agencies that serve people experiencing homelessness in any setting may want to consider having some staff become H4H Connectors. Connectors must be licensed HMIS users and participate in required H4H trainings. Contact H4H to find out more.

**Households with Minors – Sample Housing for Health (H4H) Partnership - Coordinated Entry Summary Chart – June 2022**

2022 Point-in-Time (single night count) Data Shows: 50 households with minors experiencing homelessness on a single day

H4H HMIS Data Shows (Calendar Year 2021): 148 newly homeless households (HH) + 68 returning HH = 216 HH seeking services/year

Service Type	PIT Slots	Slots/Year	Filled via CE Referral	Eligibility	Preferences
Connector/HPS	20	80	No	South County, households with minors experiencing homelessness	N/A
Connector/HPS	4	12	No	Countywide, households with minors experiencing homelessness	N/A
Connector/HPS	20	80	No	North County, households with minors experiencing homelessness	N/A
Connector/HPS	10	40	No	School district, households with minors experiencing homelessness	N/A
<b>Connectors</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>0</b>		
Interim Housing (IH)	32	67	No	Households experiencing or at-risk of homelessness	Agency-specific preferences
IH	28	61	Yes	Literally homeless households with minors prioritized by CES	City of Santa Cruz
<b>IH</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>61</b>		
Rapid Rehousing (RRH)	35	44	No	Mix of programs operated by Families In Transition; no referrals from CE	Mixed
RRH	65	82	Yes	CalWorks, child welfare involved, some general slots	Some geographic preferences for some grants
<b>RRH</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>82</b>		
Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)	6	0.6	No	Pajaro Valley Shelter Services – long-term/permanent housing; internal referral process	South County
PSH	198	10	Yes	Most slots linked with Family Unification Program – child welfare involved families; only one building-based supportive housing project	Some with Housing Authority waitlist preference
<b>PSH</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>10.6</b>	<b>10</b>		