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## **UPDATED THREE-YEAR FRAMEWORK FOR THE COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ**

The Santa Cruz County Housing for Health Partnership is proud to announce the updated Three-Year Framework (2024–2027) has been approved by the Board of Supervisors.

At the beginning of 2024, the Housing for Health Partnership held community meetings to gather innovative ideas and new partnership recommendations to ensure all county residents have stable, safe, and healthy places to live. Information gathered at these sessions helped inform the updated Three-Year Framework for 2024 to 2027.

Building on the goals and successes of the prior Framework, the revised Three-Year Framework includes goals to:

- Lower the average length of time people experience homelessness by 10 percent each year.
- Reduce the number of people returning to homelessness each year by 20 percent.
- Ensure community partners capture data on our outcomes and community needs to help improve local programs.
- Coordinate increased outreach and access to services countywide.

The updated Framework also calls on our community to support all jurisdictions in the county in meeting their Regional Housing Needs Allocation for very low-income housing production goals in order to help reduce homelessness in the community.

The updated Framework can be found [here](#).

At the end of 2020, the County of Santa Cruz launched the initial Three-Year Strategic Framework to Address Homelessness in Santa Cruz County. The Framework outlined the county's actionable steps and measurable goals to reduce the number of those who are unsheltered and unhoused throughout our community from January 2021 to January 2024.

During that period, the Santa Cruz County Human Services Department's Housing for Health Division supported and guided the implementation of the 2021-2024 Framework's plan. This has led to:

- 2023 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count results showed a 21.5 percent decline in the number of people experiencing homelessness in Santa Cruz County. The numbers show the lowest level of homelessness since the first PIT Count was conducted in 2007.
- The California Department of Housing and Community Development's Project Homekey approved three project-specific awards to develop permanent supportive housing: Veterans Village, Casa Azul and Park Haven Plaza.
- In April 2023, the Housing for Health Partnership launched a redesigned Coordinated Entry System. Designated "Connectors" apply housing problem-solving techniques and use new assessment and planning tools. Expansions of housing subsidies from the Housing Authority coupled with supportive services and improvements in our Coordinated Entry System helped contribute to the 911 people who transitioned from homelessness to permanent housing between July 2022 and June 2023.

No individual, organization, city, or County Department can do this work alone. The updated Three-Year Framework is a strategic plan that all stakeholders can use to align, coordinate, and collaborate to accomplish the shared goal of helping unhoused residents in Santa Cruz County secure housing.

#### **ABOUT THE HOUSING FOR HEALTH PARTNERSHIP**

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