



SANTA CRUZ COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES

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News Release



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Change in South County Human Services Department Location

Public Services Available Starting May 20, at 500 Westridge Dr., Watsonville

In alignment with its commitment to improve delivery of critical services for South County residents, the County of Santa Cruz is pleased to announce a major step forward in its recent acquisition of 500 Westridge Drive in Watsonville, to open a South County Government Services Center.

Beginning Monday, May 20, 2024, the Human Services Department will begin providing its full array of social services from the new South County Government Services Center. A grand opening celebration for 500 Westridge is being planned for June 11, with additional details to come.

“Our agency has been proudly assisting South County residents with public benefits and social services from our 18 West Beach Street location for nearly 25 years,” said Kimberly Petersen, the Human Services Department’s Deputy Director. “While this move to the new South County Government Services Center marks a change in location, we are excited to continue offering essential public services as part of a one-stop center for South County residents accessing County services.”

The Human Services Department’s move marks the largest agency use of the new Government Services Center, and also one of the earliest. Additional departments with plans to serve South County will join the Human Services Department at 500 Westridge Drive during the summer of 2024.

Meanwhile, South County residents seeking assistance with benefits such as Medi-Cal, CalFresh and Cash Aid can continue doing so at the 18 West Beach Street location in Watsonville, and via the Call Center’s 1-888-421-8080 phone line, until 3:00 PM on Friday, May 17, 2024. The Human Services Department will then open its doors to the public at the new 500 Westridge Drive location in Watsonville for its full array of in-person employment services, public benefits assistance, and other social services supports at 1:00 PM on May 20, 2024. Call Center phone lines for benefits inquiries will re-open at 7:30 AM the morning of May 20. The Human Services Department offices on Emeline Avenue in Santa Cruz will remain open for North County residents.

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STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITY BY IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF ALL COUNTY RESIDENTS