



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

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NEWS RELEASE



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CORE INVESTMENTS APPEALS PROCESS OPENS

\$1.2 Million in Flexible Funding Remains for Board Priorities

As a next step in its commitment to equitably improving the well-being of county residents, the County of Santa Cruz has opened an appeals window for applicants for 2025-28 Collective of Results and Evidence-based (CORE) Investments funding.

Established by the Board of Supervisors and City of Santa Cruz to support community members with unmet needs, CORE Investments is an objective, community-based process to allocate scarce community funding in line with Board and City priorities. While County-funded awards are not final until Board approval, applicants for 26 proposals have received notification that they are being recommended for funding.

CORE Investments screening panels, which include members of the community with subject matter expertise, received 100 proposals and \$15,301,019 in requests from an available CORE Investments budget of \$3.79 million. The Board previously directed that \$1.5 million in CORE Investments funding be set aside to address homelessness, including funding for shelter, low-barrier navigation centers and South County homelessness prevention services.

In addition to recommended awards, more than \$1.2 million in CORE Investments funding has been reserved to be allocated at a later date by the Board and City.

Through the process, applicants were provided with technical support, opportunities for feedback and an appeals process. Under the appeals process, applicants have five working days following a funding recommendation to submit a written appeal, along with the grounds for the appeal. Appeals should be sent to COREAppeal@santacruzcountyca.gov.

Formerly known as Community Programs, the prior funding model did not provide a consistent means for scoring proposals nor measuring the resulting outcomes across participating organizations, making it challenging for newer CORE applicants to access funding. CORE Investments defines community priorities and selection criteria, utilizes community expertise in application review, and promotes equity centered and outcomes driven collective impact results. The program was [praised](#) by the 2023 Santa Cruz County Civil Grand Jury for its integrity and equity of opportunity for all applicants.

For more information on the CORE Investments RFP, including how to request an appeal and to access the timetable of all major dates and all corresponding documents, please visit:

<https://www.santacruzhumanservices.org/Home/FundingOpportunities/COREInvestments>.