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HOUSING FOR HEALTH PARTNERSHIP SECURES ADDITIONAL FUNDING TO MEET LOCAL HOUSING AND SERVICE NEEDS

(February 14, 2024) SANTA CRUZ COUNTY, CA – The County of Santa Cruz Housing for Health (H4H) Partnership today announced \$6.014 million in federal funding and \$3.58 million in state funding from the Homekey Program has been awarded to support housing and services projects across Santa Cruz County.

“These critical federal and state resources are much needed and bolster our plan to address homelessness throughout our county,” said Robert Ratner, the County of Santa Cruz H4H Division Director. “Housing Matters’ new 180 Together project is the latest example of our growing collaboration with nonprofits and the Central California Alliance for Health to benefit community members.”

Federal Funding Award

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funded 17 projects that were submitted from Santa Cruz County. These include two new projects: \$270,910 for a Housing for Health Partnership planning grant and \$313,548 for Housing Matters’ 180 Together permanent supportive housing project. The 180 Together project will provide rental subsidies for 13 unhoused individuals and family members.

The HUD grant award represents a 65 percent increase in funding compared to 2019, the year prior to the creation of the County of Santa Cruz Housing for Health Division in 2020.

Eight of the projects requested funding to renew existing successful programs. These awards totaled \$4.15 million, mostly to provide housing and services for helping adults and families experiencing homelessness in the community to obtain and remain permanently housed.

Seven projects specifically requested funding for the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program. These projects were awarded \$1.28 million, dedicated to

providing a range of service and housing opportunities to youth experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness.

State Funding Award

A \$3.58 million Homekey Round 3 award was secured to develop a new 21-bed youth transitional housing project on Freedom Blvd., near Watsonville. The project involves the conversion of a former children's residential treatment program into new housing units for youth. CFSC Inc., Front St., and Covenant House partnered on this youth housing application. The partners aim to have the site ready for use by the end of 2024 or early 2025.

For a full list of the CoC awards in Santa Cruz County, [click here](#).

About the Homeless for Health Partnership

The Housing For Health Partnership is a collaboration of the County and each city within Santa Cruz County, along with local homeless 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 H4HP.