



Homelessness Response Accomplishments 2023

Progress in Homelessness Response

In 2022, the City of Santa Cruz launched a three-year Homelessness Response Action Plan. As we hit the halfway point of our three-year plan, we are cautiously optimistic that our program and outreach efforts are making a positive impact in our community and helping people get housed.

In Santa Cruz County, about 1,804 citizens are experiencing homelessness. Approximately 1,028 of them are living in the City of Santa Cruz. This is a **29 percent decrease** in one year in the number of unhoused people within City limits.

We are investing in transformative solutions to homelessness. Our primary focus is to meet individual, family, and community needs along the full spectrum from prevention to long-term, stable housing.



Priority Projects

- Two Safe Sleeping Programs – 1220 River Street Transitional Community and City Overlook Shelter
- Safe Parking Program – emergency, overnight, and long-term options
- Encampment Response and Clean up
- Homelessness Response Team
- Navigation Center at Coral Street Campus
- Severe Weather Shelter



Homelessness Response Accomplishments 2023



948
Tons of Refuse
Removed from
Public Spaces



960
New Affordable
Housing Units



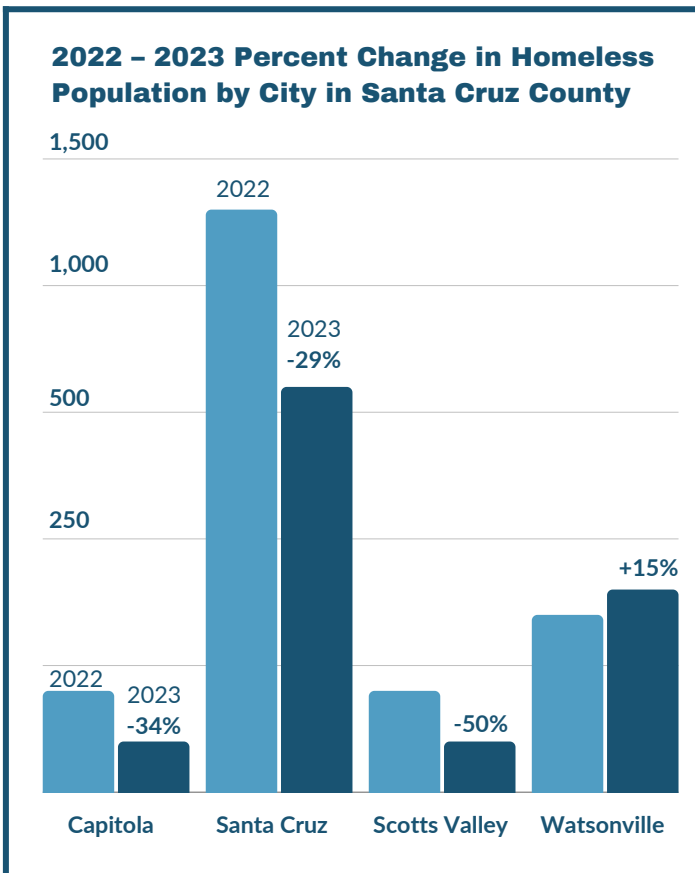
725
Emergency Beds
During Severe
Weather Events

New Facilities

- We've invested in new facilities and completed hygiene bay upgrades.
- Renovations have begun on the Paul Lee Loft Shelter at Housing Matters.
- On Coral Street, we purchased property to serve the unhoused population with a navigation center, geographically positioned to collaborate with other service providers.

New Services

- Our outreach team helps people to access services such as domestic violence support, job search assistance, veteran's services, health care, mental health services, and substance abuse counseling.
- We built an **active homelessness response unit** with new team members who collaborate effectively with nearly every department across the City including: personal outreach to unhoused people; wildfire and flood protection; encampment management; and stewarding relationships with the community.
- Everyday our outreach workers are **removing barriers** to housing entry and helping people toward stable housing.
- We work closely with the County and community partners to **coordinate outreach and data collection** to help us make effective use of limited resources, improve our planning, and track our progress.
- We provide ongoing **stewardship of our natural environment** – protecting our parks, beaches, forests, waterways, rivers, and oceans, ensuring that they are safe and accessible for the community now and for future generations.



Data for this report comes from the 2022 & 2023 Point in Time counts required by federal and state agencies. Published September, 2023.. Program data reflects accomplishments from program inception - 2023.



109
People Have
Reconnected with
Family & Friends