



County of Santa Cruz



HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY
Behavioral Health Division
Administration

1400 Emeline Ave. Building K, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
Phone: (831) 454-4767 Fax: (831) 454-4663

Salud Mental y
Tratamiento del Uso
de Sustancias

Press Release

For Immediate Release

Contact: Sandra Hughes

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Sandra.hughes@santacruzcountyca.gov

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND COMMUNITY FOUNDATION ANNOUNCE OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUND GRANTEES

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY, CA –The Health Services Agency’s Behavioral Health Division and Santa Cruz County Community Foundation have announced the non-profit organization awardees of the Santa Cruz County Opioid Settlement Funds Community Grant Program. Grant awards will enable these organizations to provide prevention, early intervention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery of opioid-related disorders and harm.

The grantees are:

Organization:	Award amount:	Program:
Encompass Community Services	\$97,448	For the Zero Overdose program
Health Improvement Partnership of Santa Cruz County (HIPSCC)	\$218,917	For the Adolescent & Young Adult Substance Use Disorder Learning Collaborative, Medication Assisted Therapy Advisory Group, and education and technical assistance for community organizations.
Homeless Garden Project (HGP)	\$47,341	For the Employment for People in Recovery from Opioid Addiction program
Pajaro Valley Prevention and Student Assistance	\$50,000	For the Opioid Awareness Initiative and youth outreach work led by Empower Watsonville
Santa Cruz Barrios Unidos (SCBU)	\$50,000	For their youth-focused Opioid Treatment and Prevention Program
Santa Cruz Community Health (SCCH)	\$286,294	For adolescent Opioid Use Disorder screening, prevention, treatment and recovery, and the Substance Use Disorder Learning Collaborative
Siena House	\$60,000	To expand residential and aftercare program capacity for women at risk of or experiencing Substance Abuse Disorders

The grants were competitive, with a total of \$3,656,321 in requests and \$810,000 available for distribution in Fiscal Year 2024-2025, covering a performance period through June 2026. "We are proud to partner with these exceptional organizations in our collective effort to respond to the opioid epidemic," said Tiffany Cantrell-Warren, Behavioral Health Director. "Together, we will build a sustained and comprehensive approach to prevention, treatment, and recovery."

"While these grants mark an important step in addressing the opioid epidemic in Santa Cruz County, we recognize that the complexity of opioid-related harm in our community requires continuous oversight, collaboration, and adaptability," said Mónica Morales, Health Services Agency Director. "We are committed to maintaining strong partnerships with these organizations and the wider community, continuously learning and refining our approach to ensure the most effective response."

Santa Cruz County Opioid Settlements are funds received from opioid manufacturers, pharmaceutical distributors, and pharmacies as a result of litigation brought against these companies for their role in the opioid epidemic. Santa Cruz County is anticipated to receive \$29 million over 16 years for the purpose of [opioid remediation activities](#) defined as "care, treatment and other programs and expenditures designed to (1) address the misuse and abuse of opioid products, (2) treat or mitigate opioid use or related disorders, or (3) mitigate other alleged effects of, including on those injured as a result of the opioid epidemic."

In 2023, the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors approved a two-year spending plan, which included the distribution of funds to non-profit organizations providing opioid use disorder prevention, treatment, and other services to Santa Cruz County residents through a [community grants program](#) administered by Community Foundation Santa Cruz County.

"Our hearts go out to families who have felt the pain of the opioid crisis. This first distribution of Santa Cruz County's opioid settlement dollars are an investment in prevention and treatment systems that move us closer to recovery from this epidemic, said Susan True, CEO, Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County. "We cast a wide net for new ideas, and we're investing in those that show great promise accelerating progress on this public health challenge."

If you or someone you know needs access to substance use disorder support resources, visit the [Santa Cruz County Opioid Prevention and Response webpage](#) or call 2-1-1, now available 24-hours a day, 7 days a week.

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