



Public Health Division

County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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For Release: Immediately

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Date: October 29, 2020

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COUNTY AWARDS \$619,900 IN CARES ACT HEALTH EQUITY GRANTS

Santa Cruz County, Calif. – The Santa Cruz County Public Health Division is pleased to announce that it has awarded \$619,900 in health equity grants to 20 organizations to help address disparities among populations impacted by COVID-19.

“Although the virus that causes COVID-19 does not discriminate, inequitable access to health and social resources can impact some communities more than others,” said Mimi Hall, Director of the Health Services Agency. “The effects of poverty, unemployment and inadequate access to affordable housing and other basic needs makes it more difficult for communities to seek healthcare, stay home from work, quarantine when needed, and sustain resiliency for themselves and their families.”

Grantees were chosen based on plans to support those most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and address social determinants of health that contribute to health inequities. COVID-19 has revealed stark inequities in the health and economic security of California’s communities, with particularly alarming disparities in health outcomes by race and ethnicity. In Santa Cruz County, the Latinx population makes up two thirds of all COVID-19 cases, while only being one third of the overall population.

Using CARES act funding, Public Health leaders invested in health equity using data as a guide to distribute funds. Awards are representative of the geography of the virus, with the majority of funds going to south county. A list of the awardees is attached.

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CARES Act Health Equity Grant Awardees

Cabrillo: Student Health Services
City of Watsonville: Watsonville Campesino Appreciation Caravan
Coastal Watershed Council: Watershed Rangers
Community Bridges: Elderday & Family Resource Collective
Dientes Community Dental Care: Integrated Dental Care for Our Community
Easterseals Central California
Encompass Community Services (PPE4CC)
Family Services Agency of the Central Coast
HOPE Services: Multiple programs
Jacob's Heart
Janus
Pajaro Valley Prevention & Student Assistance, Inc.
Physicians for a Healthy Central Coast
Salud Para La Gente: Community Health Center
Santa Cruz Community Health Centers: Cradle-Career
Santa Cruz Community Ventures: Familias Con Mas: SEEDS
Second Harvest: Esperanza Community Farms
Tannery World Dance and Cultural Center: Community Programs/Diaspora Project + Community Connection thru COVID
Teen Kitchen Project
Watsonville Law Center