



Public Health Division

County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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SANTA CRUZ COUNTY MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS IS AWARDED A \$10,000 GRANT

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY - The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) has awarded a competitive grant to the Santa Cruz County Medical Reserve Corp (MRC). The County's MRC unit has been activated since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in February of 2020. Throughout the pandemic medical and public health volunteers have contributed to communicable disease contract tracing/investigation, sheltering vulnerable community members, supporting the Health Services Agency Department Operations Center (DOC) and the County Emergency Operations Center (EOC). MRC volunteers provided medical care, compassionate support, and health guidance throughout the devastating CZU wildfire evacuations and sheltering. "As a long-time member of the Medical Reserve Corps in Santa Cruz County, I could not be prouder of the MRC disaster response work that has brought veteran and new MRC volunteers together in this massive effort to SAVE Lives," said Lora Bate, EMT/vaccinator.

As COVID-19 surged globally, hundreds of community members volunteered during these unprecedented disasters to provide support to the County healthcare delivery system. MRC volunteers have been the backbone of the County mass vaccination clinics, local healthcare clinics and the Vaccine Strike Team (VST) that was formed to provide vaccine to vulnerable and medically fragile elders and homebound individuals. The NACCHO grant recognizes these efforts, and the funds will be used to further training, policies, personal readiness, and After-Action Review of the pandemic response to inform corrective actions and improvement planning.

Founded sixteen years ago, the MRC was established to provide a way to recruit, train, and activate medical and health professionals to respond to community health needs, including disasters and other public health emergencies. MRC volunteers stand as a pillar of emergency preparedness, with a strong belief that personal, family and business readiness are actions steps for all, and that preparedness is our path forward to increasing local resilience. To learn more about the Santa Cruz County MRC go to: <http://www.santacruzhealth.org/HSAHome/HSADivisions/PublicHealth/MedicalReserveCorps/AboutUs.aspx>