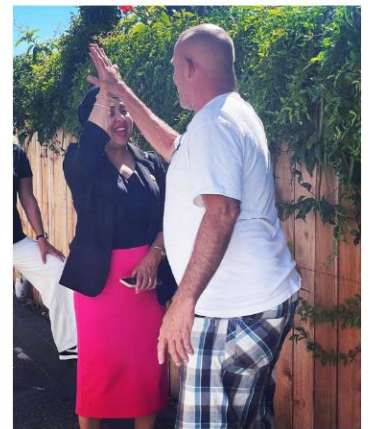




# Santa Barbara County Community Action Plan to Address Homelessness *Year 3 Progress Report*



# 3-YEAR PROGRESS SUMMARY

## Community Action Plan to Address Homelessness

In fall 2019, the County and the Continuum of Care hosted community dialogue sessions, one-on-one meetings, and focus groups with key stakeholders countywide. The resulting Community Action Plan to Address Homelessness was adopted by the Continuum of Care in January 2021, the Board of Supervisors in February 2021, and by jurisdictions throughout the county in spring 2021. The Plan outlines five key strategies with goals to address homelessness in a detailed implementation plan.



Since February 2021, the region has collectively **ended homelessness** for **3,646** people.

### More Housing

- 322 new interim housing beds
- 496 new units of permanent housing
- Increased pool of funding
- 35% increase in dedicated housing inventory



### Meet Individual Needs

- 913 persons receiving Medi-Cal billable services
- BeWell Housing Assistance and Retention Team launched

### Obtain and Maintain Housing

- 57% reduction in Veteran Homelessness
- 700 encampments resolved countywide through collective efforts

### Collective Action

- Adopted Plan
- Data-driven culture (45 organizations participating)
- Interactive Homelessness Data Dashboard



### Build Provider Capacity

- Major investments by CenCal Health and Philanthropy
- Increased System Coordination



**321** permanent housing units & **95** Interim housing beds  
*in the development pipeline*

The Community Action Plan to Address (CAP) Homelessness was adopted by the County of Santa Barbara’s Board of Supervisors on February 23, 2021. The Plan outlines five key strategies to address homelessness which were included with further elaboration in a detailed implementation plan. Since February 2021, the region has collectively ended homelessness for 3,646 people. This was done in part through increasing the housing inventory dedicated to persons experiencing homelessness by 35%. 322 new interim housing beds and 496 new permanent housing units through development or long-term rental subsidies paired with services are creating opportunities for our unhoused neighbors to transition out of homelessness. Major investments have also been made in support services both for persons living unsheltered through inter-disciplinary outreach and enhanced care management and community supports funded by Medi-Cal for persons experiencing homelessness to obtain and maintain housing.

**Table 1: Reflects housing goals and progress based on gaps analysis completed for CAP**



	<b>Permanent Housing:</b> new units and long-term rental subsidies paired with supportive services	<b>Interim Housing:</b> emergency shelter, low-barrier navigation centers, transitional housing, and/or bridge housing	<b>Rapid Re-Housing:</b> time-limited rental assistance with wraparound case management
<b>Estimated Gaps in Beds/Units</b>	<b>1,366</b>	<b>563</b>	<b>1,053</b>
<b>Progress</b>	<b>496</b> secured	<b>322</b> created	<b>436</b> funded
<b>Remaining Need</b>	<b>870</b> still needed	<b>241</b> still needed	<b>617</b> still needed



## MORE HOUSING

### Increase Access to Safe, Affordable Housing

#### Key progress

- ❖ Increase Inventory of Affordable and Permanent Supportive Housing:
  - ✓ Permanent housing inventory has increased by 496 units through development of new units and securing new long-term rental subsidies paired with services. An additional 326 units are in the development pipeline with all projects projected to be completed by December 2027.
  - ✓ Rapid Rehousing has fluctuated during the plan implementation period based on available funding. Supportive Services for Veterans and Families (SSVF) has experienced consistent growth and improved our ability to reduce Veteran homelessness by providing rental assistance and several options to rapidly rehouse Veterans.
  - ✓ The Housing Element created and updated goals, policies, and programs to overcome barriers and enhance housing production, including an inventory of sites for housing and shelter an action in the CAP.
- ❖ Expand and Enhance the Shelter System and Implement Best Practices:
  - ✓ 322 interim housing beds have been added including over 200 non-congregate shelter units through modular cabins. Residents in non-congregate shelter are often staying until they transition to permanent housing.
  - ✓ Continuum of Care invested \$1.1 million of Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention Program funding for service enhancements at Good Samaritan and PATH congregate shelters.
- ❖ Develop and Improve Partnerships with Landlords to Secure Housing in the Private Rental Market:
  - ✓ 531 new landlords have made units available to persons transitioning out of homelessness.
  - ✓ Incentives are used to engage new landlords.
  - ✓ Emergency Housing Voucher model demonstrated success in improving partnerships when rental subsidy, landlord incentives and supportive services are provided together.

**Ending unsheltered homelessness through interim and permanent housing is a focus of the Community Action Plan**



- This effort includes an essential public private partnership with DignityMoves to develop interim supportive housing units. As of April 2024, the partnership has created over 200 temporary interim supportive housing units on three sites.
- Each unit provides safety, privacy and dignity. Sleeping cabins come with a bed, dresser, lights, air conditioning, heating and a door that locks.
- DignityMoves has raised over \$12 million in private donations toward the development of the projects.



❖ Increase the Pool of Funding Available to Provide Housing and Services: Maintain list of funds dedicated to homelessness

- ✓ In FY 23-24, \$112 million was invested throughout the County in housing, shelter and services dedicated to addressing homelessness; this is an increase from prior years (in FY 22-23, the investment was \$83 million). 46% is administered by the County of Santa Barbara, the remainder flows directly to housing and service providers.
- ✓ Much of the funding are one-time investments or require a competitive renewal process preventing it from being used for long-term rental subsidies or programs.
- ✓ There is uncertainty regarding the level of State and Federal funding that will be dedicated to homelessness in future years.
- ✓ \$134 million in new funding resources have been added to the system of care since the CAP was adopted (detail in Table 2).

# Annual Funding 2023-2024

*Where does the money come from, and where does it go?*

Multiple factors contribute to homelessness in Santa Barbara County: high housing costs, low-wage jobs, affordable housing shortages, and discharges into homelessness. Santa Barbara County's homeless response system has served XX people since February 2021. County departments continue to expand services and supports, leading the way to dramatically reduce homelessness in the region.

Funding dedicated to homelessness

**\$112 million**

*Santa Barbara County has been awarded in competitive funding cycles from both state and federal sources. These initiatives continue to increase resources for housing, shelter and services. However, the funding is coming in heavily prescribed, restrictive programs from multiple agencies with detailed requirements, and a significant administrative burden.*

Where did it come from?

**49%** Federal

**27%** State of California

**10%** Local (county and cities)

**15%** Private (philanthropic)

**Table 2: New Funding Awards since Adoption of Community Action Plan**

Amount	Funding Source
\$25,953,701	CA Homekey (Hedges House of Hope and Buena Tierra)
\$24,302,056	American Rescue Plan Act State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (Santa Barbara County Housing & Homelessness)
\$12,600,000	CenCal Health Housing and Homelessness Incentive Program
\$10,293,105	CA Emergency Solutions Grant – Coronavirus
\$12,176,624	CA Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention Program
\$9,932,242	Behavioral Health Bridge Housing
\$7,552,606	Mental Health Services Act Innovations Award – Housing Retention Team
\$5,648,348	CA CalWORKs Housing Support Program
\$5,167,564	Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP)
\$4,647,509	HOME-American Rescue Plan
\$3,053,440	CA Housing and Disability Advocacy Program
\$8,520,000	CA Encampment Resolution Fund
\$2,031,048	CA Home Safe
\$1,484,884	CA Bringing Families Home
\$772,384	CA Department of Social Services Re-housing
\$651,538	CA Permanent Local Housing Allocation dedicated to homelessness
<b>\$134,787,049</b>	<b>Total new awards since February 2021*</b>

### System Level Goals

- ❖ More Housing System Level Goal Increase housing inventory (units and beds) dedicated to homelessness and affordability.
- ❖ **35% increase** in the number of beds (2,232 in 2021 to 3,002 in 2024) dedicated to persons experiencing homelessness. This goal is measured through the annual Housing Inventory Chart submitted to the Department of Housing and Urban Development for the night of the Point in Time Count.

### Up Next

- An increase in housing for persons with behavioral health challenges is coming through several funding initiatives. California's *No Place Like Home* program funded four projects; Cypress and 7<sup>th</sup>, Hollister II (Sanctuary Centers) and Hollister Lofts are under development, West Cox Cottages opened in 2021. The County of Santa Barbara Behavioral Wellness Department has been allocated Behavioral Health Bridge Housing to provide more immediate options for persons with behavioral health challenges including units at La Posada. It was recently announced that Proposition 1 was passed by voters in the March 2024 primary election. Proposition 1 includes funding to pay for treatment beds and permanent supportive housing.



*It has been an exciting time in housing development. This map highlights many groundbreaking and ribbon-cutting events, and shows a snapshot of clients moving into their new homes.*



## MEET INDIVIDUAL NEEDS

Use Best Practices to Deliver Tailored Supportive Services

### Key progress

- ✓ Implemented Medi-Cal billable support services for **913 persons** (in HMIS) now enrolled in either Enhanced Care Management or Community Supports focused on housing navigation and maintaining housing. Just over a year ago, the number of persons receiving these services was zero.
- ✓ Over 350 persons housed through the Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV) program supported by an inter-disciplinary team with 90% retention.
- ✓ Over \$7 million Mental Health Services Act Innovations awards for Behavioral Wellness to implement a Housing Assistance and Retention Team (HART)
- ✓ 306 persons with disabilities have received services through a new State-funded Housing and Disability Advocacy Program.

### System Level Goals that will be reported for this strategy in future reports

- ❖ Reduce length of time experiencing homelessness
- ❖ Housing retention
- ❖ Increasing income of participants

### Up Next

- Continue to increase the number of people who are receiving Enhanced Care Management and Community Supports funded by Medi-Cal (CalAIM)
- Expand employment programs



A client holds up his key in front of his new home after receiving housing navigation services through the CalAIM expansion.

### California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) Implementation



- Over 900 individuals actively recorded in the Homeless Management Information System are now benefiting from Medi-Cal billable supportive services under CalAIM
- This remarkable progress underscores the transformative potential of targeted funding programs when coupled with informed implementation strategies.
- The success story of California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) exemplifies the power of awareness and understanding in navigating complex funding programs. The rollout of CalAIM for the Homeless Population of Focus has brought about a significant increase in resources available for services to individuals experiencing homelessness and those transitioning to housing.



## OBTAIN AND MAINTAIN HOUSING

Strengthen Support Systems Available to Help Residents Obtain and Maintain Housing

### *Key progress*

- ❖ Reductions in veteran homelessness because of robust housing and services resources.
- ❖ Expanded reach to persons experiencing unsheltered homelessness though \$8.5 million in Encampment Resolution Funding awards, new interim housing units, establishing County cross-departmental Multi- Disciplinary Team
- ❖ Increased prevention programs through Emergency Rental Assistance programs, multi-lingual housing access line, shelter diversion programming to quickly intervene when a housing crisis occurs

### *System Level Goals*

- ❖ Prioritize ending or dramatically reducing homelessness for Veterans, Youth and Families with children
  - ✓ Santa Barbara County's reduction in Veteran homelessness was [featured in a VA news publication](#).
  - ✓ Implementation of Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program. A Youth Action Board is leading effort to end homelessness among persons ages 18-24 in our community. With an initial grant award of over \$5 million, there are now 5 projects underway with a coordinated community plan.
- ❖ Create a culture of shelter diversion and prevention across the homeless response system.
  - ✓ Over 4000 households were assisted with eviction prevention funding through Emergency Rental Assistance Programs.
  - ✓ Prevention Diversion and Rehousing program has established a multi-lingual housing access line and problem- solving housing case management in all three regions. This program also assists with relocation assistance.

### *Up Next*

- Housing Prevention and Retention CoC workgroup is Reducing unsheltered homelessness as measured by the annual Point in Time Count.
- Focus on Families with minor children experiencing homelessness through intervening before housing is lost or assist to quickly re-enter housing.

## The Way Home



- The 69 year old Veteran in the photo had been living in encampments and shelters for several years.
- Outreach teams built a trusted relationship to guide him through the housing navigation process; together they worked to obtain and maintain housing.
- He recently moved into Buena Tierra Permanent Supportive Housing, where supportive services are provided by Good Samaritan Shelter.







## BUILD PROVIDER CAPACITY

Address the Needs of Specific Populations

### Key progress

- ❖ CenCal Health incentive funding programs invested in service providers (\$8 million)
- ❖ Private philanthropic investment
- ❖ Consistent training and monitoring on best practices and funded technical assistance
- ❖ Increased coordination through regular case conferencing and by-name lists
- ❖ Expansion of Community Services Department Homeless Assistance Program Team through state and federal funding for more provider coordination and system management

System Level Goal that will be reported for this strategy in future reports

- ❖ Improve overall homeless system performance

### Up Next

- ❖ Expand number of organizations providing Medi-Cal (CalAIM) funded services.

Spotlight on private philanthropic investment



Good Samaritan Shelter is the largest shelter and provider of services to persons experiencing homelessness in Santa Barbara County. Private investment by the BalayKo Foundation allowed GSS to lease the land from the County around the Bridge House shelter and establish a farm with fruit and vegetables. The produce is then moved to the commercial kitchen in Santa Maria on the Morrison Ave. campus. There, Chef Michael trains shelter residents and prepares meals for the residents at the Morrison Ave. campus and nearby Hope Village.



A commercial kitchen is under construction at Hedges House of Hope to replicate the model in South County. Bridge House farm produce and culinary arts training programs will feed the residents at Hedges House of Hope, La Posada and the Santa Barbara Street Village. This provides valuable savings and efficiency on meals across a number of shelters. Once these projects are established, Good Samaritan intends to grow the farm and culinary program into a social venture of food trucks providing catering and meals for sale to the public. This will provide jobs to persons residing in the shelters as they prepare for permanent housing.

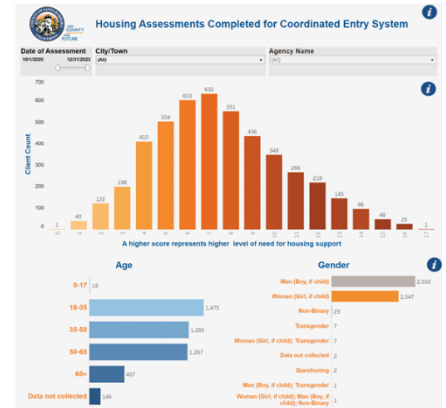


## COLLECTIVE ACTION

Build a Collective Action Plan; Improve Data Sharing

### Key progress

- ❖ Adopted Plan by Board of Supervisors, Continuum of Care and seven local cities.
- ❖ 45 Organizations are part of coordinating care through the Homeless Management Information System, 10 new organizations since 2021.
- ❖ Youth Action Board established to address youth homelessness.
- ❖ Increase in Homeless Management Information System End Users from 185 to 311
- ❖ 96% of active adult HMIS participants have a signed Release of Information
- ❖ Community accessible [Interactive Homelessness Data Dashboard](#)



System Level Goal that will be reported for this strategy in future reports

- ❖ Create a data-driven culture and use data to drive decision making

### Up Next

- Implement Youth Coordinated Community Plan and dedicated funding
- Review Homeless Management Information System Software and Implementation
- Healthcare partners were working on a health data exchange
- Increase sharing of performance data with the community at large

### Spotlight on Youth Action Board



The Continuum of Care established a Youth Action Board in 2019. The YAB meets weekly to create community among youth with similar experiences, provide feedback to the homelessness response system, and plan community outreach events and support for youth with lived experience like the tabling events pictured. The YAB was instrumental in achieving an award of \$5.3M from the Department of Housing and Urban Development for the Youth Homeless Demonstration Program. As a YHDP community, youth drafted a Coordinated Community Plan to address youth homelessness in Santa Barbara County and direct youth specific funds to projects that best meet the needs of people age 18-24. The YAB and YHDP team elevate youth voices and needs to augment the existing Community Action Plan, the homelessness response system, and youth point in time count.

## New Housing Project Profiles

Permanent Housing is tracked in two ways development/acquisition or through long term subsidies paired with supportive services: 143 Permanent Housing units secured through development/acquisition | 692 permanent housing units are still needed (total need: 835)

- **7 individual units created through acquisition:** People’s Self-Help Housing’s [Heath House](#), a newly renovated home in downtown Santa Barbara, features seven private bedrooms, five bathrooms, multiple common areas, and a shared kitchen and dining room for women moving from homelessness. The project, funded by State HCD, the Housing Trust Fund, Santa Barbara HCD and the City of Santa Barbara, opened in spring 2021.
- **2 family units developed:** Two accessory dwelling units in the City of Lompoc, opened in June 2021, to provide permanent housing for formerly homeless families at the Marks House.
- **12 youth beds created through acquisition:** [Turner Foundation supported Youth and Family Services](#) with youth housing in Santa Barbara; beginning July 1, 2021, twelve young people ages 18-24 had a place to call home!
- **29 units in Santa Maria** at West Cox Cottages, developed by the Housing Authority of the County of Santa Barbara; the individuals moving from homelessness into these affordable housing units will receive supportive services through Good Samaritan Shelters.
- **3 family units in Santa Barbara:** The City Housing Authority purchased a building located on Santa Barbara’s Westside with the help of funding from the County of Santa Barbara, to provide affordable housing for extremely low-income families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Built in 1960, the two-story building contains three apartments: one 3 bedroom/1bath apartment and two 2 bedroom/1bathroom apartments. The three units can house up to 12 persons.



- **3 houses** for families: Buckley-Kelley Place was acquired by Transition House and named after long time volunteers Jim Buckley and Patty Kelley. In 2023 extensive renovations were completed and 3 families were welcomed home.



- **28 permanent housing units:** Vera Cruz Village is a project developed by the Housing Authority of the City of Santa Barbara in downtown Santa Barbara. The project provides on-site supportive services.

- **59 permanent supportive housing units:** Buena Tierra is a project of the [Housing Authority of the County of Santa Barbara from acquisition and rehabilitation of a Super 8 hotel in Goleta](#). Residents began moving in February of 2024. The project provides permanent supportive housing with wraparound services for formerly homeless residents including persons experiencing chronic homelessness and transitional age youth. The project received a State Homekey award of \$18,958,701. Required match funding was provided by the County of Santa Barbara and City of Goleta.

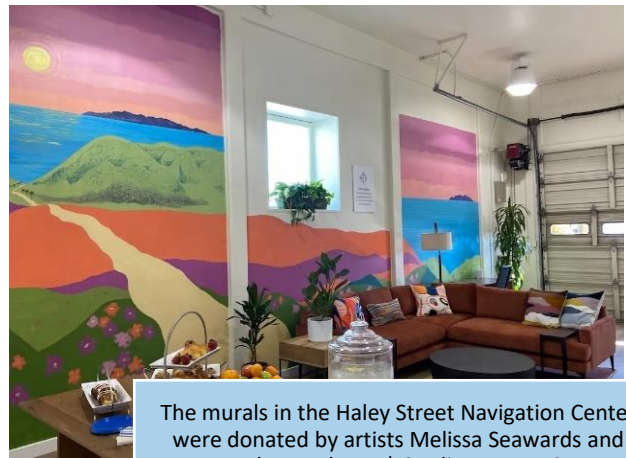


*Long-Term Subsidies/Rental Assistance: 353 Long-term subsidies funded | 178 long-term subsidies/rental assistance vouchers are still needed (total need: 531)*

- **272 Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV):** 272 Emergency Housing Vouchers have been utilized to provide housing stability for over 350 persons. American Rescue Plan [Emergency Housing Vouchers](#) were allocated to both local Public Housing Authorities. Santa Barbara County was successful in leasing the vouchers quickly due to a comprehensive program for landlords to provide private market rental units including incentives, supportive services and competitive fair market rents.



- **30 units:** A Permanent Supportive Housing program operated by PATH, funded under HUD Continuum of Care program, provides long term rental subsidies and intensive supportive services.
- **13 units:** Fighting Back Santa Maria Valley Scattered Site Permanent Supportive Housing is dedicated to youth 18-24 experiencing homelessness in Northern Santa Barbara County funded by the Youth Homeless Demonstration Program.
- **8 units:** CIYMCA Youth and Family Services Permanent Supportive Housing is 8 scattered site beds in South County for youth ages 18-24. These beds will provide long-term housing and support for formerly homeless youth and is funded by the Youth Homeless Demonstration Program.
- **30 units:** Foster to Youth Initiative (FYI) vouchers were awarded to the Housing Authority of the County of Santa Barbara to serve former foster youth ages 18-24.



The murals in the Haley Street Navigation Center were donated by artists Melissa Seawards and Wendy Atterbury. | Credit: Ryan P. Cruz

*Rapid Rehousing: 436 Rapid Re-housing openings created | 617 rapid re-housing units/subsidies are still needed (total need: 1,053)*

- **436 “slots” of Rapid Rehousing (RRH)** were added through the first two years of the CAP implementation largely due to pandemic related funding. It has been a challenge to turn all funded slots into housing due to the tightening in the rental market and rising rents. The Veterans Administration has expanded RRH under their Supportive Services for Veterans and Families. The Continuum of Care recently invested over \$1 million of HHAP Round 5 funds in supporting RRH. It has been difficult to capture the number of slots as the funding sources are dynamic. Future reports won’t track new funded slots but will track change in the Rapid Rehousing slots through the annual Housing Inventory Chart.



*Interim Housing: 322 beds created | 241 beds are still needed. Interim Housing is inclusive of emergency shelter, low-barrier navigation centers, transitional housing, and bridge housing. (total need: 563 beds)*

- **50 Beds:** Hedges House of Hope opened in July 2021 as a new emergency shelter and navigation center focused on serving people experiencing homelessness in Isla Vista and Goleta. The project has 22 sleeping rooms which can provide shelter to up to 50 persons. The site is currently undergoing a major kitchen remodel and some other plumbing repairs. The rehabilitation is limiting occupancy to 32 beds. The project received nearly \$7 million State of CA Homekey Award.



- **6 Beds:** Oak Street Women’s transitional housing program in Lompoc opened March 1, 2021. The project is funded under the HUD CoC Program.

- **6 Beds:** A Stabilization Center in Santa Maria providing 6 emergency shelter beds for persons under the influence opened April 23, 2021 supported by homelessness funding. The beds are now funded through Medi-Cal under the CalAIM Community Supports for Sobering Centers.

- **20 Pallet Shelter Units (up to 40 beds):** Following the use of pallet shelters in Isla Vista, units were moved to the Bridge House campus in Lompoc. An open house in Lompoc was held on August 26, 2021 for Rainbow Village.



- **5 Beds:** The City of Goleta approved a [\\$530,656 contract with City Net](#) to provide outreach and hotel rooms for persons in fire prone encampments beginning September 1. Community Development Block Grant and General funds were sources for funding homelessness initiatives.

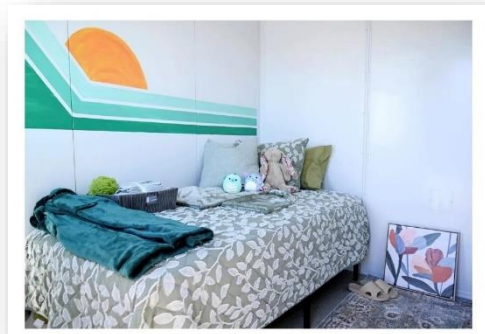
- **34 Beds:** DignityMoves Santa Barbara Village temporary interim housing project in downtown Santa Barbara opened in August 2022 and is operated by Good Samaritan Shelter. A public private partnership between the County of Santa Barbara and DignityMoves. The County provided the land and funding for operations, while DignityMoves was the developer and raised the funds for development.



- **8 beds:** Turner Foundation Transitional Housing is 8 youth beds created through master leasing of 2 properties in south county. These beds will provide short-term support youth 18-24 as they transition from homelessness to permanent housing.



- **94 units:** Hope Village is a temporary interim supportive housing community specifically for people experiencing homelessness in the Santa Maria Valley. It is an innovative public-private collaboration between Good Samaritan Shelter, Fighting Back Santa Maria Valley, Dignity Health’s Marian Regional Medical Center, DignityMoves, community philanthropy, and the County of Santa Barbara. It provides 94 dignified rooms for adult individuals, couples and TAY (transitional age youth ages 18-24), Veterans and persons needing recuperative care after a hospital visit. 39 rooms will focus on ensuring that unsheltered homelessness will be addressed in the residential, retail and commercial areas near the Hope Village project. Each room will have a bed, a desk and chair, heating and air conditioning, a window, and most importantly a door that locks. Good Samaritan Shelter will provide robust support services for project participants.



- **80 units:** La Posada is a temporary interim supportive housing community specifically for people experiencing homelessness. The Project is an innovative public-private collaboration between DignityMoves, community philanthropy, the County of Santa Barbara, and GSS, the selected Project operator and service provider. The Project will provide up to 80 modular housing unit cabins for people experiencing homelessness moving from encampments, and persons eligible under Behavioral Health Bridge Housing (BHBH), many of whom will have been homeless for extended periods of time and have a permanent disability. Each cabin will have a bed, furnishings, heating and air conditioning, a window and, most importantly, a door that locks.

## Regionally Coordinated Homeless Action Plan

State of California Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) Program has required updates to the Community Action Plan to Address Homelessness (CAP). The County Board of Supervisors and Santa Maria/Santa Barbara County Continuum of Care Board have approved additions of State performance metrics and HHAP Round 5 required a [Regionally Coordinated Homeless Action Plan](#) (RCHAP) with specific elements. The CAP strategies and actions were leveraged to identify key actions for the RCHAP. Future CAP Progress Reports will include progress on the following measures.

- Reducing the number of persons experiencing homelessness.
- Reducing the number of persons unsheltered on a single night.
- Reducing the number of persons who become homeless for the first time.
- Increasing the number of people exiting homelessness into permanent housing.
- Reducing the length of time persons remain homeless.
- Reducing the number of persons who return to homelessness after exiting homelessness to permanent housing.
- Increasing successful placements from street outreach.