



# County of Santa Cruz

## IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES PUBLIC AUTHORITY

500 Westridge Drive, Watsonville, CA; P.O. Box 1300, Santa Cruz, CA 95061  
(831) 454-4036 FAX: (831) 763-8906

### Notice of Public Meeting and Agenda

#### IHSS Advisory Commission

**Date:** Friday, January 23, 2026

**Time:** 1:00PM to 3:00PM

**Location:** 1020 Emeline AVE, Building B, Room 259. Santa Cruz, CA

**Virtual (Public only):**

**Zoom Link:** <https://santacruzcounty->

[us.zoomgov.com/j/1601829795?pwd=1FfDlkVWVavAZXYRt9LSmqrCzl72DpP.1](https://us.zoomgov.com/j/1601829795?pwd=1FfDlkVWVavAZXYRt9LSmqrCzl72DpP.1)

**Telephone** +1 669 254 5252

**Webinar ID:** 160 182 9795 **Passcode:** 005474

*The use of facemasks is recommended for all attendees of the IHSS Advisory Commission meeting.*

#### Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Agenda Review
4. Public Comment: *Anyone wishing to address the commission on any item within the jurisdiction of the Commission and not listed on the agenda may do so at this time. Comments are limited to three (3) minutes in duration.*
5. Consent Agenda
  - a. Meeting Minutes
    - i. November 21, 2025.....Page 3.
  - b. Commission Vacancies
    - i. Four (4) – Consumer Representatives (A)
    - ii. One (1) – Provider (B)
    - iii. Two (2) – Representative of Advocate Organization or Representative of Commission on Disabilities (C)
6. Guest Speaker: Sarah Emmert:
  - a. County Strategic Plan: Community Care & Resilience.....Page 6.
7. Regular Agenda – Action Items
  - a. Biennial Report – Review and Approval.....Page 18.
  - b. Public Participation – IHSS Advisory Commission
  - c. Recruitment Strategies: IHSS Advisory Commission Vacancies
8. Regular Agenda – Information Items

The County of Santa Cruz complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. This meeting room is accessible for people with disabilities. If you wish to discuss reasonable modifications or accommodations, please call 454-4036 prior to the meeting. For the comfort of those with allergies and chemical sensitivities, please do not wear perfume or scented products to the meeting.

- a. Information Sharing
    - i. Announcements
    - ii. Topics & Speakers
  - b. Commission Budget.....Page 25.
  - c. Registry Data.....Page 28.
  - d. IHSS Provider Training Platform.....Page 30.
  - e. IHSS Consumers
  - f. IHSS Providers
  - g. IHSS Program and Public Authority Updates
9. Report Outs
- a. Legislative – Volunteer needed.
  - b. CICA Conference Calls
  - c. Seniors Commission
10. Future Agenda Items
- a. Commission Re-Set: Goals and Objectives
11. Correspondence
12. Adjournment

**Next Regular Meeting:** February 27, 2026, 1:00PM – 3:00PM @ 1400 Emeline AVE, Building K, Room 207, Santa Cruz.



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## IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES PUBLIC AUTHORITY

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(831) 454-4036 FAX: (831) 763-8906

### IHSS Advisory Commission

#### Meeting Minutes

Date: Friday, November 21, 2025  
Time: 1:00PM to 3:00PM  
Location: 1400 Emeline AVE, Building K, Room 206. Santa Cruz, CA  
Present: Lois Sones (Seniors Commission), Maria Arreola (Provider), Stephanie Auld (Consumer),  
Excused: Foster Andersen (Consumer)  
Staff: Juan Magaña (Staff), Julie Gabriel (Staff), Bertha Z. Paredes (Sr. Analyst)

*The use of facemasks is recommended for all attendees of the IHSS Advisory Commission meeting.*

#### Agenda

1. Call to Order
  - a. Meeting called to order at 1:04pm; a quorum was present.
2. Roll Call
3. Agenda Review
  - a. Staff reported that no IHSS Program or Public Authority Updates were provided, so item 7f would be removed from the agenda.
4. Public Comment
  - a. No members of the public were present
5. Consent Agenda
  - a. Meeting Minutes
    - i. October 24, 2025
  - b. Commission Vacancies
    - i. Four (4) – Consumer Representatives (A)
    - ii. One (1) – Provider (B)
    - iii. Two (2) – Representative of Advocate Organization or Representative of Commission on Disabilities (C)
  - c. Motion to approve consent agenda was called by:
    - i. First/Second: Auld/Arreola
    - ii. Ayes: Sones, Auld, Arreola
    - iii. Noes: None
    - iv. Abstain None
  - d. Motion passed unanimously

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## 6. Regular Agenda – Action Items

### a. IHSS Advisory Commission Website

#### i. Recommended Changes - Adam Spickler

1. Adam Spickler provided an overview of the recommended changes to the IHSS Advisory Commission website
2. Commission members provided feedback on recommended changes

#### ii. Motion to implement recommended changes and have staff present updated website at next commission meeting was called by:

1. First/Second: Auld/Arreola
2. Ayes: Sones, Auld, Arreola
3. Noes: None
4. Abstain: None

#### iii. Motion passed unanimously

### b. Biennial Report

#### i. The commission reviewed the biennial report and made updates.

#### ii. A motion to have staff finalize the report, provide a final copy for the commission to review, approve, and authorize submission to the Board of Supervisors at the January 23, 2026 commission meeting was called by:

1. First/Second: Auld/Arreola
2. Ayes: Sones, Auld, Arreola
3. Noes: None
4. Abstain: none

#### iii. Motion passed unanimously

### c. Public Participation – IHSS Advisory Commission

#### i. Staff advised that we are finalizing a location that can facilitate a hybrid meeting so members of the public can attend. Staff will provide updates to the commission when this is done.

### d. Recruitment Strategies: IHSS Advisory Commission Vacancies

#### i. Staff reported that the flyer that was approved by the commission was sent to all IHSS recipients and providers with an email on file. Staff received several responses from individuals interested in joining the commission, they were invited to attend the meeting, but none showed up.

## 7. Regular Agenda – Information Items

### a. Information Sharing

#### i. Announcements

#### ii. Topics & Speakers

### b. Commission Budget

- i. Commission budget was included in the meeting packet.
- c. Registry Data
  - i. Registry data was included in the meeting packet.
- d. IHSS Consumers
  - i. No report out
- e. IHSS Providers
  - i. No report out.
- ~~f. IHSS Program and Public Authority Updates~~
- 8. Report Outs – These items were not discussed.
  - a. Legislative – Volunteer needed.
  - b. CICA Conference Calls
  - c. Seniors Commission
- 9. Future Agenda Items
  - a. Commission Re-Set: Goals and Objectives
- 10. Correspondence
  - a. None
- 11. Adjournment
  - a. Meeting adjourned at 3:01pm

**Next Regular Meeting:** January 23, 2026, 1:00PM – 3:00PM @ 1020 Emeline AVE, Building B, Room 250, Santa Cruz.



County Executive Office

# **Strategic Plan 2032**

## *Focus Areas and Priorities*

# Session Overview

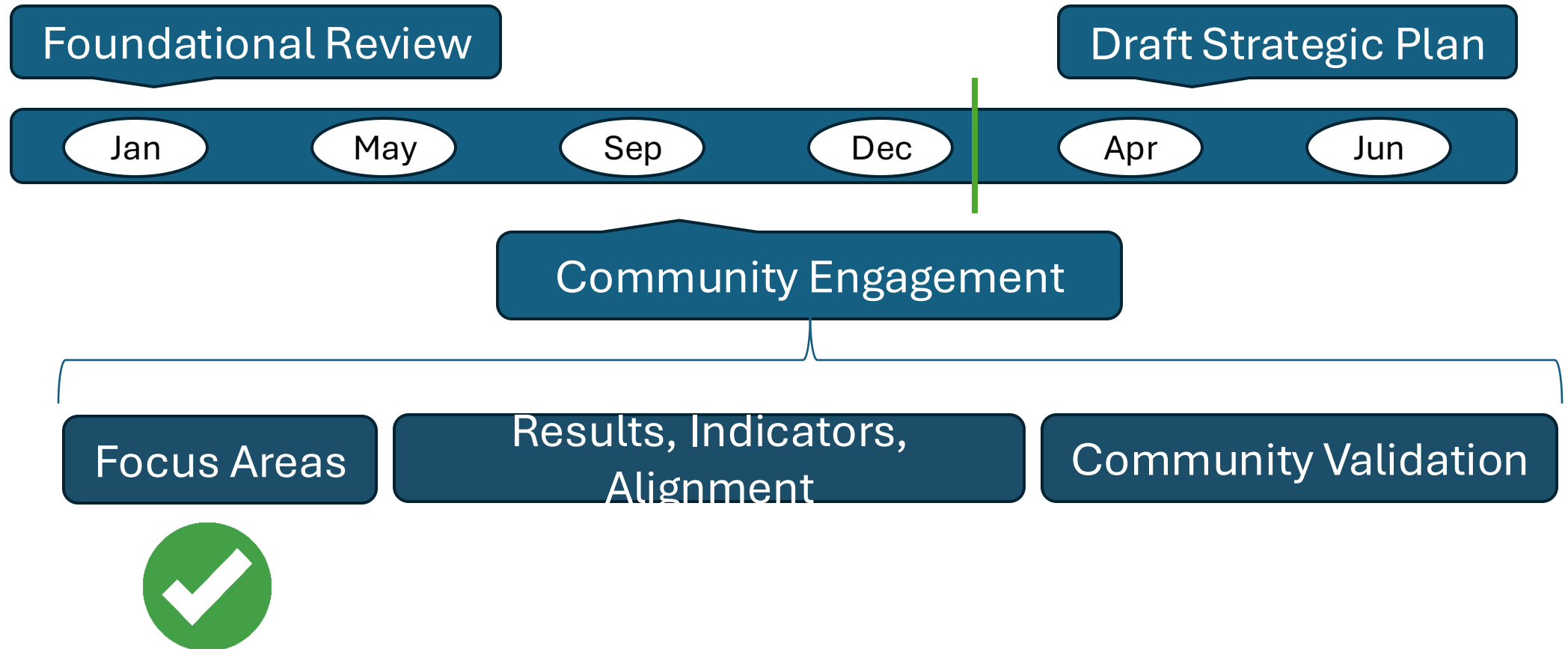
- Introductions
- Strategic Planning Timeline
- Focus Areas
- Results & Indicators
- Factor Analysis

# Welcome & Introductions

- Name
- Organization/ Community of Residence
- Check-in: If you could tell County leadership one thing about what individuals need when navigating County systems of support, what would it be?



# Strategic Plan Project Timeline

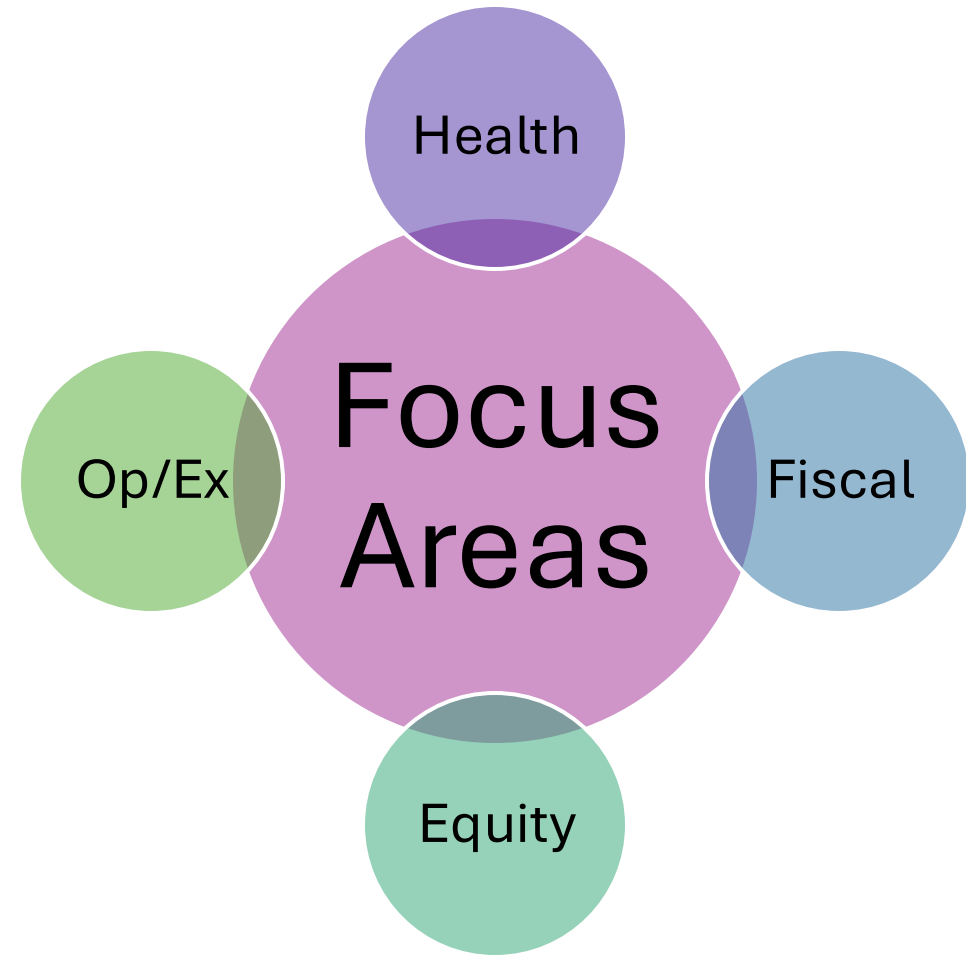


## **Focus Areas:** Broad areas of interest in the County's influence



# Applying Health, Equity, and Fiscal Lenses

- Health in All Policies:  
Advancing wellbeing in decision making
- Equity: Increasing belonging, inclusion, and access
- Fiscal: Ensuring sustainability and accountability
- Operational Excellence:  
Getting stuff done



# Focus Area: Community Care and Resilience

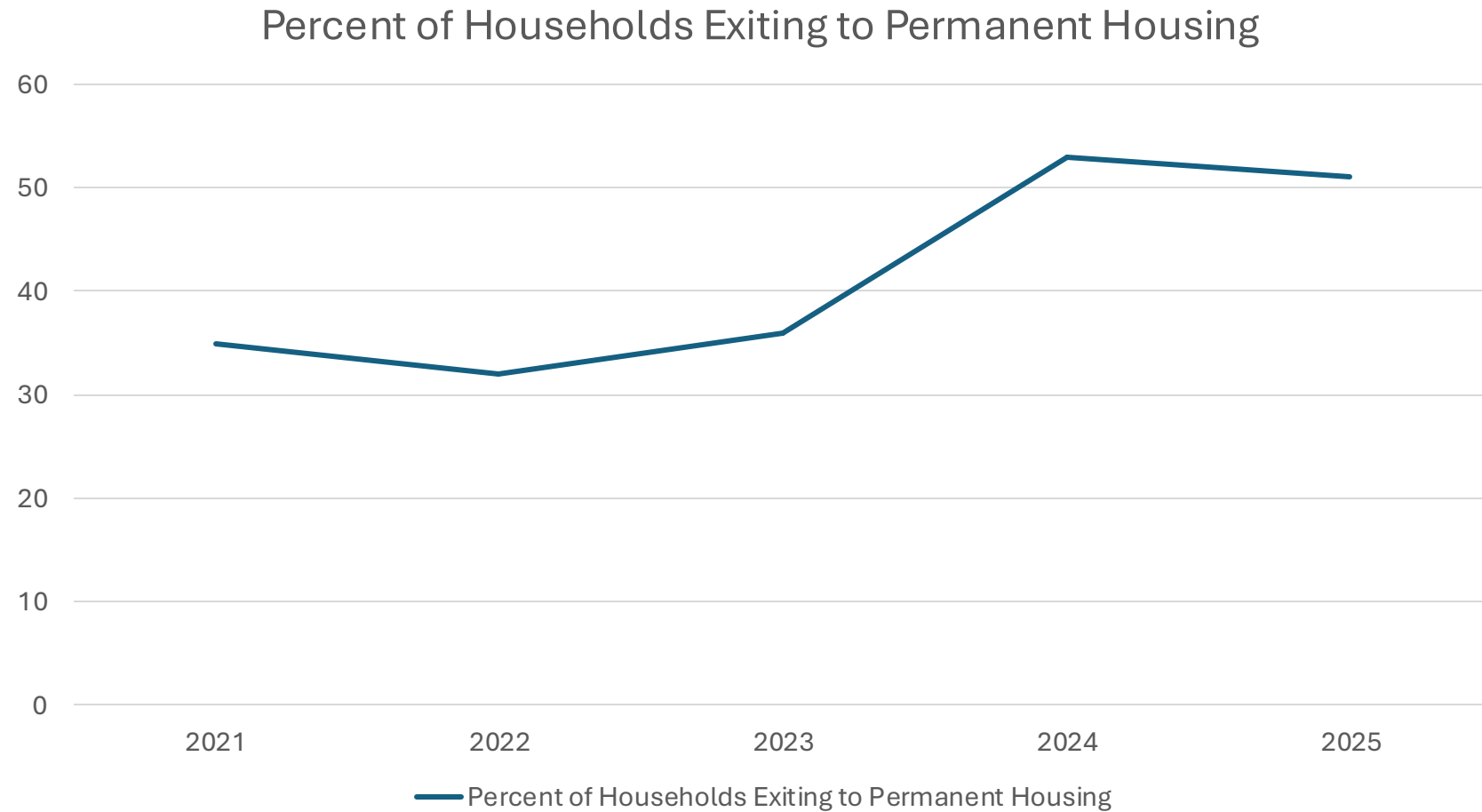
## Result Statement:

All people can meet basic needs and access coordinated care that promotes stability and dignity.

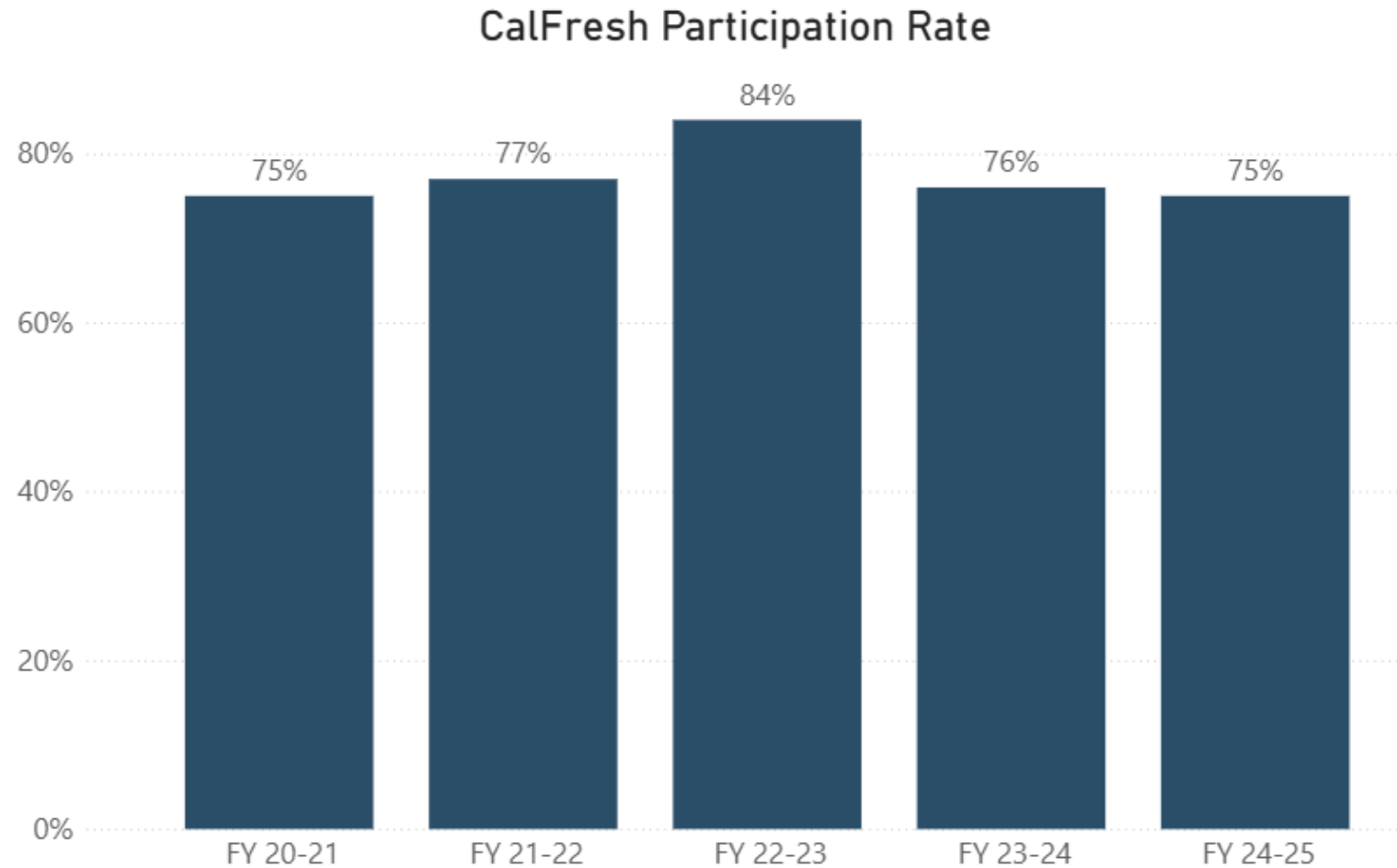
Does this result statement resonate with you?

What, if anything, feels missing or unclear?

# Community Care and Resilience Indicator



# Community Care and Resilience Indicator



**Note:** Participation rate is the average monthly percentage of eligible recipients who are enrolled in CalFresh over the FY.

# Measurement Discussion

- What stands out in these trends?
- Do these indicators capture what matters most for this focus area?
- Are there other ways we could measure progress?

# Helping & Hindering Factors

- What factors are helping us make progress on this driver?
- What factors are hindering or limiting progress?
- What conditions would need to shift for more equitable results?
- Where do you see opportunities for innovation and new approaches?



# Closing & Next Steps

- District Town Halls
- Stay Up-to-date:
  - Website: <https://www.santacruzcountycalifornia.gov/VisionStatement/Cruz/StrategicPlanandEquityFramework/StrategicPlan2032.aspx>
  - E-Blast



# County of Santa Cruz

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## IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION

500 Westridge DR, Watsonville, CA 95076

P.O. Box 1300, Santa Cruz, CA 95061

(831) 454-4036 FAX: (831) 763-8906

LOIS SONES, CHAIR

DATE: January 31, 2026  
TO: Board of Supervisors  
FROM: Juan C. Magaña, Staff  
RE: In-Home Supportive Services Advisory Commission 2024-2025 Report

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Attached is the In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Advisory Commission biennial report. The commission would like to thank the Board for your ongoing support and the opportunity to provide input in the operations of the IHSS program. Currently, there are seven vacancies that the commission is seeking to fill. The Commission appreciates the Board's advocacy in filling these vacancies. Lastly, the Commission would like to recognize the Human Services Department and its staff for its dedication to the Commission throughout the years.

The Commission's goals for 2026–2028 are to support efforts that expand access to affordable housing for caregivers, promote fair and sustainable wages that allow caregivers to remain in the community, and continue advocating to keep the needs of IHSS providers and recipients at the forefront of the Master Plan for Aging.

# **IHSS Advisory Commission**

## **Report - 2026**

2024 - 2025

### **Role of the Commission**

The In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Advisory Commission is a state-mandated advisory board established under AB 1682. The powers and duties of the IHSS Advisory Commission, as defined by Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors' Ordinance #4655, Chapter 2.124.070 of the Santa Cruz County Code, are to:

1. Serve in an advisory capacity to the Board of Supervisors, as the governing board of the IHSS Public Authority, and any administrative body in the County related to the delivery and administration of the IHSS;
2. Review policies related to the delivery of IHSS and make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors regarding any proposed changes;
3. Review pending State and Federal legislation that may impact the IHSS program, consumers, and/or providers and make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors regarding any proposed changes;
4. Stay informed and educated on IHSS and Public Authority issues;
5. Provide a forum for consumers and providers of personal assistance services, advocates and other interested parties to participate in IHSS policy and program development.

### **Meetings dates, time, and location**

The IHSS Advisory Commission meets on the fourth Friday of every month from 1:00 – 3:00PM at 1400 Emeline AVE., Santa Cruz, in Room 206. The commission does not meet in the months of July and December.

### **Commission Structure**

The Commission comprises no more than 11 members, of which a majority must be current or former users of personal assistance services paid for through public or private funds. The remaining slots include: two current for former providers of In-Home Supportive Services; and three at-large members from any of the following: a representative of an organization that advocates for people with disabilities or seniors and/or a representative who also concurrently holds a seat on either the Santa Cruz County Seniors Commission or the Commission on Disabilities.

Currently, there are seven vacancies that the commission is seeking to fill. These vacancies are comprised of four former or current users of personal assistance services, one provider representative, and two representatives from either the Commission on Disabilities or an organization that advocates for people with disabilities or seniors.

### **Commission staff**

The IHSS Advisory Commission is staffed by the Public Authority, under the auspices of the Human Services Department. Staff from the IHSS Program attend each meeting.

### **Attendance 2024 and 2025**

The attendance charts for 2024 and 2025 are attached.

### **Goals and Accomplishments**

During 2024 and 2025, the IHSS Advisory Commission:

1. Hosted the following guest speakers: Lois Sones from Elderday, Sondra Bitonti, Claudia Mendez and Vanessa Segura from Health Projects Center presented on Multi-Purpose Senior Services Program, and Enhanced Care Management, Adam Spickler presented on the California Public Records Act; Tammy Hoeffel from Central California Alliance for Health presented Enhanced Care Management; Cindy James and Lisa Stanford presented on IHSS Eligibility; Meggie Pina from the Diversity Center presented on LGBTQ+ and IHSS; Anna Cerna from IHSS Public Authority presented on the Registry; Tracey Heggum Sr Social Worker presented on Adult Protective Services; Janie Whiteford presented on the California IHSS Consumer Alliance; John Beleutz and Vanessa Aguilar-Viorato from the Health Project Center presented on IHSS Provider Trainings; Jessica Cirksena, IHSS and Public Authority Program Manager presented on IHSS and roles of commission; and Adam Spickler, Public Information Officer presented on Updating the IHSS Advisory Commission webpage..
2. Welcomed Stefanie Auld (consumer) to the commission.
3. Kept informed of state budget issues by California Association of Public Authorities advocates.
4. Received updates of the State Olmstead Advisory Board as relevant.
5. Collaborated with the Health Projects Center to develop training curriculum for IHSS care providers.
6. Monitored the impact of the COVID-19 health related issues on IHSS recipients and care providers.
7. Kept informed on the Master Plan on Aging (MPA) and participated in developing the local playbook.
8. Continued providing ongoing input to IHSS Public Authority staff for posting relevant and educational information on the IHSS Public Authority website.
9. Shared information with Seniors Commission and Commissions on Disabilities.
10. Developed and distributed Recruitment Flyer, emailed to all consumers and providers, posted by Shared Adventures.
11. Began work on updating commissions website to facilitate community engagement and communication.

12. Sent a letter to BOS requesting prospective commission members attend meeting prior to their appointment.

### **Future Goals**

The goals of the IHSS Advisory Commission include the following:

1. Renew and re-energize the Commission. Work actively to recruit new involved commissioners and develop a solid action plan.
2. Monitor, understand, and make recommendations related to the effect of HR1 on IHSS services in this county.
3. Monitor, understand, and make recommendations related to changes made by the state on IHSS services in this county.
4. Participate in Public Authority Registry recruitment efforts. Particularly providers willing to work in Santa Cruz and San Lorenzo Valley and/or willing and able to provide care for high needs clients.
5. Develop education/training for IHSS Recipients. Understand current recipient training options and needs.
6. Address need for additional IHSS Provider support.
7. Work collaboratively with the Health Projects Center to develop new on-demand training curriculum platform for IHSS providers.
8. Monitor the ongoing use of the Electronic Visit Verification requirement for IHSS and its impact on consumers and providers.
9. Develop an effective working relationship with union.
10. Network with community-based organizations and other commissions to solve issues that affect IHSS and related services
11. Assure that public from both south and north county have remote access to Commission meetings.
12. Resume new commissioner orientation and conduct annual refreshers for existing commissioners.
13. Advocate for increased livable wages for IHSS care providers.
14. Continue keeping up to date with CalAIM and Medicare Total Health (D-SNP) how they can benefit IHSS consumers. Gain a better understanding of available resources for IHSS consumers and care providers.
15. Advocate for improved north-south access for IHSS providers.
16. Improving visibility, standing and engagement with the community.

### **Recommendations**

Recommendations from the IHSS Advisory Commission include the following:

IHSS Advisory Commission  
2024-2025 Report

1. Advocate for improved affordable housing for caregivers.
2. Advocate for a living wage for caregivers so they can remain in our community.
3. Continue advocacy to assure the needs of IHSS providers and recipients stays prominently in the MPA.

DRAFT

## 2024 Attendance

IHSS Advisory Commission 2024 Attendance Roster											
Name	Affiliation	Ja n	Fe b	Ma r	Ap r	Ma y	Ju n	Au g	Se p	Oc t	No v
Foster Andersen	Consumer (A)	E	X	X	X	C	X	E	E	E	C
Michael Molesky	Consumer (A)	E	X	X	X	C	E	E	X	E	C
Linda Campbell	Consumer (A)	X	X	X	X	C	X	X	X	X	C
Jozett Irgang	Consumer (A)	E	X	X	E	C	X	X	E	E	C
Christine Kiebert-Boss	Consumer (A)	X	X	X	X	C	X	X			
Stephanie Auld	Consumer (A)								X	X	C
Vacant	Consumer (A)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Maria Arreola	Provider (B)	X	X	X	X	C	A	X	X	X	C
Patricia Fohrman	Provider (B)	X	X	X	X	C	X	R	R	R	R
Vacant	Provider (B)							n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Lois Sones	Seniors Commission (C)	X	X	X	X	C	E	X	X	E	C
Becky Taylor	Commission on Disabilities (C)	X	X	X	X	C	X	X	X	X	C
Stephanie Auld	Family Member of Consumer (C)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	C	X	X			
Christine Kiebert-Boss	Family Member of Consumer (C)								X	X	R
Vacant	Family Member of Consumer (C)										n/a

Key:

X = Present

E = Excused

A = Absent

R = Resigned

n/a = Not yet appointed

C = meeting cancelled

## 2025 Attendance

IHSS Advisory Commission 2025 Attendance Roster											
Name	Affiliation	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Foster Andersen	Consumer (A)	X	X	X	X	C	X	E	C	X	E
Michael Molesky	Consumer (A)	A	X	X	X	C	X				
Linda Campbell	Consumer (A)	X	X	R							
Stephanie Auld	Consumer (A)	X	X	X	X	C	X	X	C	X	X
Vacant	Consumer (A)				n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Vacant	Consumer (A)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Vacant	Consumer (A)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Vacant	Consumer (A)							n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Maria Arreola	Provider (B)	X	X	E	A	C	E	X	C	X	X
Charles Walker	Provider (B)	n/a	n/a	X	A	C	E	X	C	R	
Lois Sones	Seniors Commission (C)	X	X	E	X	C	X	X	C	X	X
Becky Taylor	Commission on Disabilities (C)	X	X	X	X	C	X	R			
Vacant	Commission on Disabilities (C)								n/a	n/a	n/a
Vacant	Advocate Agency (C)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

### Key:

X = Present  
 E = Excused  
 A = Absent  
 R = Resigned  
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 C = meeting cancelled



[illegible]



JOHN A. WAGNER  
DIRECTOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**  
744 P Street • Sacramento, CA 95814 • [www.cdss.ca.gov](http://www.cdss.ca.gov)



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER  
GOVERNOR

August 8, 2008

COUNTY FISCAL LETTER (CFL) 08/09-10

TO: COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS  
IHSS PROGRAM MANAGERS  
IHSS PUBLIC AUTHORITIES  
COUNTY FISCAL OFFICERS

SUBJECT: IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES (IHSS) ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE EXPENDITURES

REFERENCE: CFL NO. 00/01-48 DATED DECEMBER 22, 2000; CFL NO. 06/07-02  
DATED JULY 7, 2006

This CFL is to remind counties that funding is allocated each fiscal year specifically for the direct support of the IHSS Advisory Committees. The authority for and the functions of the IHSS Advisory Committees are established in Welfare and Institutions Code Sections 12301.3 and 12301.4. The role of the Advisory Committee is to provide ongoing advice and recommendations regarding IHSS to the county board of supervisors, or any administrative body in the county that is related to the delivery and administration of IHSS.

Funds appropriated for the IHSS Advisory Committees are made available for the Committee's use, provided that those expenditures are used as intended under state statute and meet the federal requirements for the use of Title XIX funds, and in accordance with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-87. The federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services concur with the California Department of Social Services on the use of Title XIX funds for the administrative expenditures listed below. Administrative costs are defined by the Manual of Policies and Procedures Section 25-200.2 as "only those expenditures which are properly claimable and necessary to efficient administration." As with all county expenditures, funds must be approved by the local Board of Supervisors.

**Acceptable Advisory Committee expenditures include:**

- Postage and general office supplies
- Cost of photocopying/printing
- Phones and phone conferencing equipment, computers, office furniture, office/room rental
- Internet access and website maintenance
- Special equipment for the deaf/hearing impaired
- Readers and/or alternate formats (e.g., Braille)
- Translation/interpreter services
- Compensation to attendants for members participating in meetings

- Stipends, travel, mileage, parking fees
- Training on Advisory Committee responsibilities and duties
- Conference registration fees
- Meeting facilitator
- Costs to conduct surveys
- Staff time in support of the Advisory Committee
- Membership dues to state or federal organizations
- Newsletters
- Resource Fairs/Outreach
- Advertisement to recruit for committee vacancies or improve participation

### **Unacceptable Advisory Committee Expenditures**

Assembly Bill 1682 established the formation of Advisory Committees specifically to provide ongoing advice and recommendations to the county regarding the provision of IHSS. It was not intended to provide for any direct services or benefits to consumers such as attendant services not directly related to the Advisory Committee, or training for providers or consumers. In addition, OMB Circular A-87 prohibits the use of federal funds for provider recognition events or items such as small gifts, key chains, coffee mugs, or meals. While the procedures counties employ to review and approve expenditures are at each county's discretion, all costs claimed on the County Expense Claim are subject to OMB Circular A-87 principles which mandate that all costs be necessary and reasonable for the administration of the program.

### **Claiming**

Program Code (PC) 023 captures costs associated with the IHSS Advisory Committees and are tracked against the total IHSS allocation. Costs claimed to this code must be in accordance with allowable activities defined in this CFL. IHSS Advisory Committee expenditures must not be claimed to PC 025, IHSS Advisory Committee San Diego only, as this is no longer a valid program code.

If you have any questions regarding this CFL, please direct them to the Fiscal Systems Bureau electronic mailbox at [fiscal.systems@dss.ca.gov](mailto:fiscal.systems@dss.ca.gov).

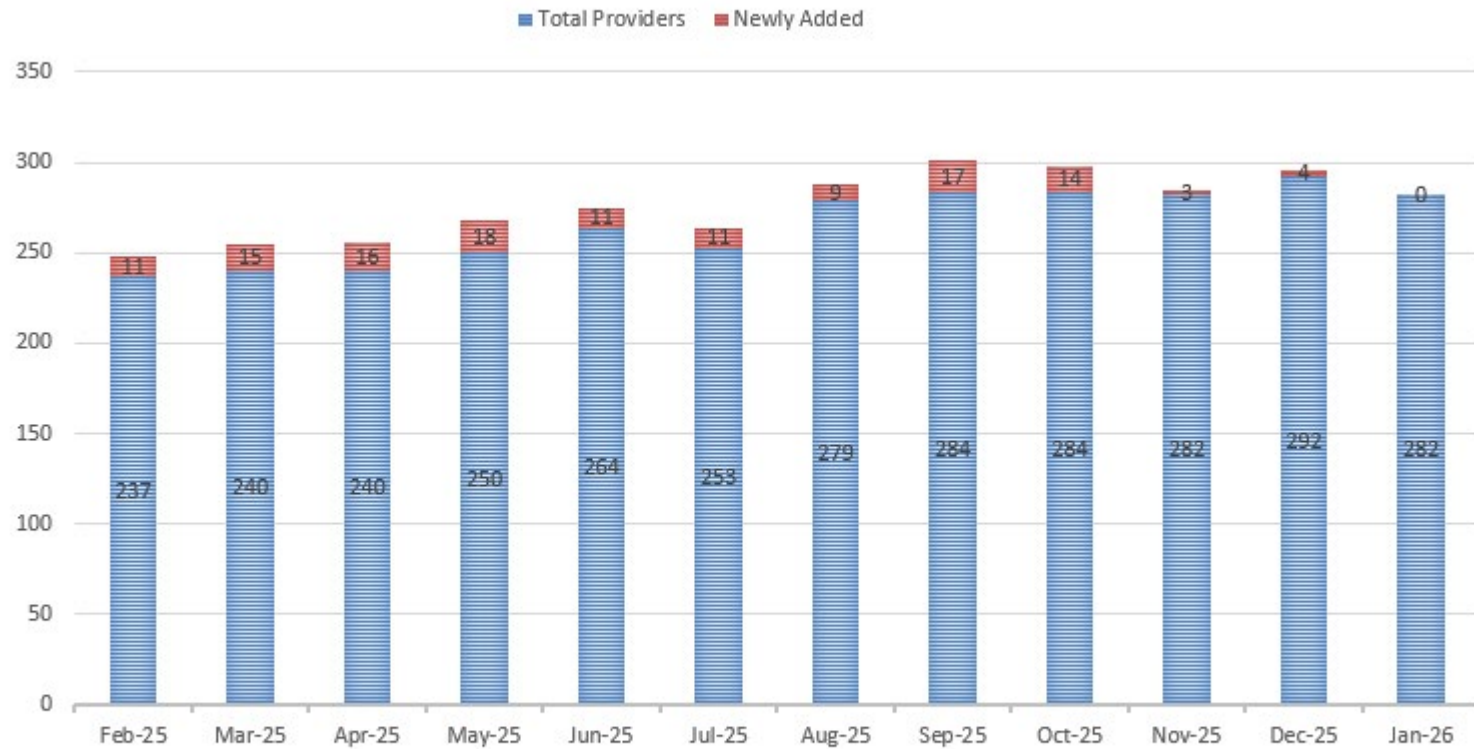
Sincerely,

### ***Original Document Signed By:***

ERIC FUJII  
Deputy Director  
Administration Division

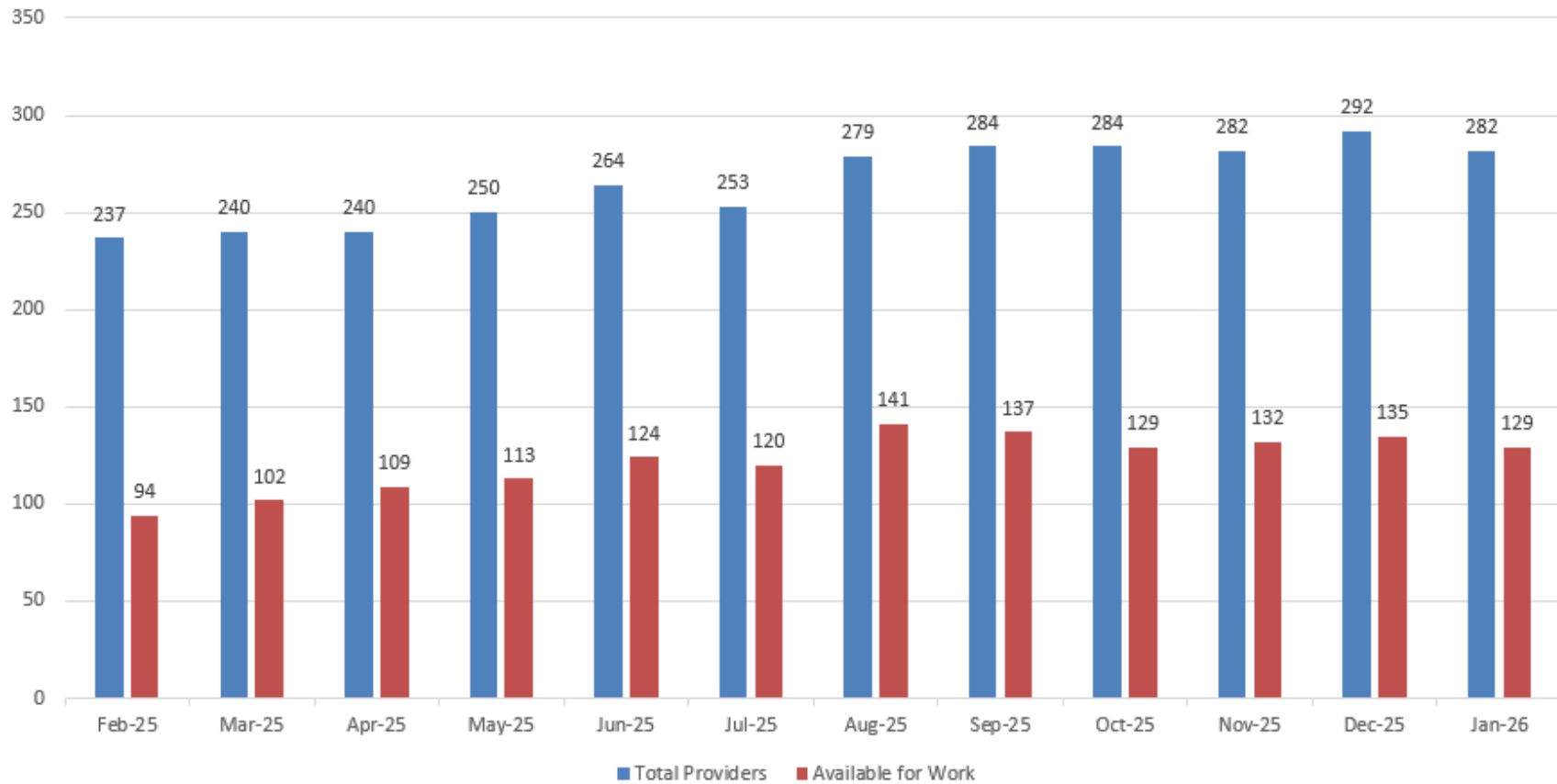
c: CWDA

## REGISTRY PROVIDERS



	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25	Jan-26
Newly Added	11	15	16	18	11	11	9	17	14	3	4	0
Total Providers	237	240	240	250	264	253	279	284	284	282	292	282

### Registry Providers Available for Work



# IHSS PROVIDER TRAINING

## NEW ABSORB PLATFORM

Self paced training



With Absorb Learning Management System (LMS), you now have access to on-demand trainings that you can complete anytime, anywhere, and at your own pace.

### LOGGING IN

Step 1: **Scan QR Code** to sign up for an account

Step 2: Browse available trainings and enroll in the ones you're interested in!



Watch the  
Helpful How  
To Video



### FAQs

**Q: Are the trainings mandatory?**

A: No. Trainings are optional and available to support your professional development.

**Q: How do I qualify for the monthly stipend?**

A: Complete one training each calendar month. Stipends are awarded based on availability, so we encourage early participation!

**Q: What if I forget my password?**

A: Click the "Forgot Password?" link on the login page to reset it.

**Q: Can I use my phone to take trainings?**

A: Yes! Absorb LMS works on smartphones, tablets, and computers.

**Q: Who do I contact if I have technical issues?**

A: Please contact Vanessa at [vanessa@hpcn.org](mailto:vanessa@hpcn.org) or Mariah at [mariah@hpcn.org](mailto:mariah@hpcn.org) for tech support.

### Benefits of Using Absorb



**Flexibility**

*Choose the topics that interest you most, from safety tips to caregiver wellness and more.*



**Self-paced learning**

*No deadlines. Learn when it works best for your schedule.*



**Monthly stipend opportunity**

*Complete one training per month and you'll be eligible to receive a monthly stipend, based on availability.*