

LIST OF RECOMMENDED AND NOT RECOMMENDED AWARDS FOR CORE INVESTMENTS

CORE Investments FYs 2025–28: Recommended Awards, Fall 2024

Below in green is a list of awards recommended through the CORE RFP process (pages 1 – 13). The awards as recommended would be distributed across CORE Conditions and Tiers.

CORE CONDITION

Lifelong Learning & Education:

Equitable access to high-quality education and learning opportunities.

Tier I (\$150,001–\$500,000)

<i>Agency</i>	<i>Program</i>	<i>Program Description</i>	<i>Amount Requested</i>
Ventures	Semillitas	Ventures will continue to expand its countywide Semillitas College Savings Account program that includes providing seed deposits and milestone contribution opportunities for children from working-class households. This innovative program approaches Lifelong Learning & Education through a multi-generational approach that addresses equitable access to high-quality education and learning opportunities for parents and their children. During the grant, Semillitas is poised to impact 6,000 Medi-Cal eligible households in Santa Cruz County (SCC).	\$500,000

Tier II (\$25,001–\$150,000)

<i>Agency</i>	<i>Program</i>	<i>Program Description</i>	<i>Amount Requested</i>
Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County, Inc.	Day Worker Center	Day Workers, who are primarily Spanish speaking, undocumented Latino immigrants, average 7 years of education and have few lifelong learning opportunities in SC County. They have the added barrier of the need to unceasingly search for and provide largely manual labor with little time for a classroom. CAB's Day Worker Center will	\$150,000

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increase access to lifelong learning opportunities through the Center’s quality learning opportunities that fit into day workers’ schedules. These learning opportunities will lead to an increase in confidence, income and a sense of inclusivity.

Tier III (\$25,000 and Under)

<i>Agency</i>	<i>Program</i>	<i>Program Description</i>	<i>Amount Requested</i>
Volunteer Center of Santa Cruz County	Literacy Program	California ranks 49th in Adult Literacy rates, with 1 in 4 California Adults unable to function at an 8th grade competency. Our Literacy Connection engages well trained volunteers providing intensive, targeted instruction one to one and in very small groups to help local people learn rapidly, study subjects that are immediately helpful to their families using a mix of standard curricula and Survival English Skill Units. We meet learners where they are, when they need services with customized strategies that deliver measurable results using California Standardized Adult Skills tests.	\$23,000
Homeless Garden Project	Educational Workforce Development and Job Search Skills Training for People Experiencing Homelessness	Providing workforce development and job search skills training sessions to people experiencing homelessness. We are requesting support for the educational training component of our main transitional employment program. Transitional employment is a proven method to reach vulnerable populations, providing opportunity and access to training for individuals who need income to afford basic necessities. These workforce readiness sessions are critical to help individuals set career pathways and obtain steady employment and housing.	\$25,000

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CORE CONDITION
Thriving Families:
Increased resilience of children and youth

Tier I (\$150,001–\$500,000)

<i>Agency</i>	<i>Program</i>	<i>Program Description</i>	<i>Amount Requested</i>
Community Bridges	Family Resource Collective	Our Family Resource Centers provide evidence-based solutions to prevent child welfare involvement by strengthening families and preventing childhood adversity. CORE funding will improve the lives of children trapped in the abyss of poverty, academic challenges, child abuse and mental health struggles. Our program is critical to provide these families with the tools to build better futures. By investing in culturally competent mental health services, academic support, and resource brokering, we help them steer away from violence, incarceration, and a lifetime trapped by circumstances.	\$247,500
Encompass Community Services	Youth & Family Partners: Bridging Gaps in Services Awareness, Engagement and Advocacy	To improve youth & family’s equitable access and engagement with resiliency-building behavioral health services and elevate staff with lived experience, we propose to integrate a youth peer partner into two of our programs. Our youth peer partner would engage in activities for services outreach, rapport building, and behavioral health literacy with youth & families participating in our Fuerte wraparound program and our comprehensive outpatient substance use program. We expect youth and families to report improved behavioral health literacy from interactions with the youth peer partner.	\$240,765

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Tier II (\$25,001–\$150,000)

<i>Agency</i>	<i>Program</i>	<i>Program Description</i>	<i>Amount Requested</i>
Jacob's Heart Children's Cancer Support Services	Jacob's Heart Children's Cancer Support Services	Childhood cancer diagnosis affects the entire family. But Latino families who lack insurance, face language barriers, or have low-income are less likely to receive adequate care. This program will improve access to bicultural support services for families of medically fragile children. We will prevent immediate crises and lay a foundation for children and youth to thrive despite times of adversity or hardship. Jacob's Heart will deliver practical, financial, and behavioral health support to 122 children with cancer and 522 siblings and family members in Santa Cruz County - at no cost to them.	\$149,227
Big Brothers Big Sisters Agency of Santa Cruz County, Inc	Big Brothers Big Sisters Agency of Santa Cruz County, Inc	In Santa Cruz County, many children face mental health challenges without adequate support systems. At Big Brothers Big Sisters, we uphold values of commitment and compassion, recognizing the transformative power of mentorship in their lives. Through fostering meaningful relationships, we provide the necessary support to navigate life's hurdles, addressing social isolation and instilling confidence and resilience in the youth we serve. By connecting children with caring adult mentors, we empower them to overcome obstacles and build a brighter future.	\$90,000
Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Cruz County	SMART Moves: Youth Mental and Behavioral Health Support	Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Cruz County will deliver SMART Moves, an evidence-based program developed by Boys & Girls Clubs of America that helps youth build foundational social-emotional skills, develop healthy coping and self-regulation strategies, build positive self-image, and gain a positive view of their future. Our dedicated Behavior Specialist will serve 120 youth ages 5-18 annually via the formal SMART Moves program, as well	\$115,000

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as 180 additional youth with ongoing, informal positive behavior skill-building and support provided during afterschool and summer programs at our three Clubs.

Salad Para La Gente	Health Equity & Resilience for Pajaro Youth	Salud’s project ensures patients aged 0–24 yrs, many of whom reside in the highest need zip codes per SC County’s 2024 Health Equity Index (datasharescc.org), access the health and life care they need to build resilience and thrive. With bilingual, culturally competent care we employ a broad, evidence-based screening program using health, social and life events screenings to identify concerns, make referrals and ensure access to care. Early and frequent health screenings, and identifying health and social factor needs, gives youth and families a pathway to flourish in an abundance of ways.	\$150,000
Court Appointed Special Advocates of Santa Cruz County	Mentorship and Advocacy for Santa Cruz County Foster Children	Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Santa Cruz County recruits, screens, and trains community volunteers to mentor and advocate for children under court jurisdiction due to abuse or neglect. Volunteers offer emotional support, and educational, healthcare, and legal advocacy to address these adverse experiences. Our program provides supportive services to parents to address underlying issues determined by the court to endanger their children. By providing nurturing relationships and resources to overcome inequities, CASA builds resilience, health, and wellbeing of children and families.	\$99,316
Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County, Inc.	Youth Homeless Response Team	The Youth Homeless Response Team (YHRT), part of the local Youth Homeless Demonstration Project (YHDP) Initiative, implements a diverse multidisciplinary service team to work across county systems, agencies and locations, to identify and connect unaccompanied	\$150,000

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homeless youth and young adults (YYA) to individualized services and assist them in resolving homelessness, overcome barriers, and build on strengths. YHRT identifies, outreaches to and provides cross-system support to YYA to access housing, employment, safety net services, education, and other supportive services to help YYA thrive.

Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County, Inc.	Luna y Sol Familia Center	CAB’s Alcance Program, through its Watsonville based Luna y Sol Familia Center (LyS), will engage 60 at-risk youth in regular and drop-in services focused on resiliency by encouraging youth to create a relationship with a caring, competent adult, nurture confidence and self-regulation, and create opportunities to enrich the youth’s developmental assets to elevate decision-making and increase community connectedness. Parents in LyS Cara y Corazon sessions will also increase communications and interactions with their children simultaneously participating in Luna y Sol Program.	\$150,000
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Tier III (\$25,000 and Under)

<i>Agency</i>	<i>Program</i>	<i>Program Description</i>	<i>Amount Requested</i>
Senderos	Juventud saludable a través de la cultura y artes / Healthy Youth Through Culture & Arts	Juventud saludable a través de la cultura y artes / Healthy Youth Through Culture & Arts will provide equitable access to Mexican folkloric dance and Oaxacan banda de viento (wind band) with free after school and weekend classes for low-income Latino youth. Since 2001 Senderos has presented cultural arts events sharing Indigenous traditions of Mexico, strengthening youth resilience with positive activities and pride in their heritage, supporting pathways to higher education, encouraging family unity, creating community	\$25,000

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		connections, and inclusively celebrating the rich diversity of our County.	
Nourishing Generations Educational Project	Starlight Elementary School Nutrition and Culinary Education Program	Nourishing Generations will provide an integrated, experiential nutrition and culinary education program for all students attending Starlight Elementary School in Watsonville, grades TK-5, reaching approximately 400 students total. Students will each participate in a series of 12 one-hour long thematic classes at the Emeril Lagasse Teaching Kitchen on the Starlight campus. The program will be integrated into the students' regular school day and children will participate together with their regular classmates and teacher.	\$25,000

CORE CONDITION
Thriving Families:
Increased resilience among older and dependent adults

Tier I (\$150,001–\$500,000)

<i>Agency</i>	<i>Program</i>	<i>Program Description</i>	<i>Amount Requested</i>
Community Bridges	Elderday	Santa Cruz County's aging residents and their families face a growing challenge: systemic inequities that significantly worsen health outcomes for older adults, particularly those from low-income backgrounds, people of color, those who are socially isolated and unhoused. The scarcity of local, affordable long-term care options exacerbates these challenges, creating a critical need for Elderday, the county's only adult day health program. It offers a lifeline to vulnerable older adults, allowing them to age at home, manage complex medical conditions, and provide respite to family caregivers.	\$200,000

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Dignity Health Dominican Hospital	The Senior and Dependent Adult Program	The Senior and Dependent Adult Program (SDAP) located at the Dignity Health Wellness Center provides accessible, affordable pathways for seniors and adults with disabilities, including dependent adults, to stay as active as possible to maintain independence, quality of life and resilience. The program provides exercise, education, & support under the supervision of licensed therapists, and is clinically integrated with Dominican Hospital programs, physicians, social work and community organizations to reduce barriers to healthcare and wellness access for low-income or marginalized populations.	\$314,356
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Tier II (\$25,001–\$150,000)

<i>Agency</i>	<i>Program</i>	<i>Program Description</i>	<i>Amount Requested</i>
Acupuncturists Without Borders	Colectivo CARE – Focus on Elders Program	The Colectivo CARE Focus-on Elders Program will provide free, integrative, trauma-informed healthcare to Latine* elders in Watsonville/Pajaro Valley. This program addresses the unique physical and emotional healthcare needs of this community. Services will include acupuncture, massage, chiropractic care, indigenous therapies, and “Wellness Circles” that help prevent and reduce chronic disease, pain, and stress. This program is an offshoot of CARE–Community Alliance for Resilience and Equity, currently funded by CORE. *Latine will be used as the inclusive term for Latino/a in this proposal.	\$62,000
Cabrillo Community College District	Stroke & Disability Learning Center	The Stroke and Disability Learning Center (SDLC) is an educational program for adults with acquired physical/neurological deficits. Through peer group classes, the program equips seniors and adults with disabilities to	\$79,575

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maximize functional activity and socio-emotional wellness, remain active community members and reduce further hospitalization. In addition, SDLC events and collaborations educate Cabrillo College students on barriers for adults with disabling conditions, advocating for creative solutions that build an accessible community and support resilience in older and dependent adults.

Family Service Agency of the Central Coast	Bill McCabe	Senior Outreach provides free peer-counseling services in English and Spanish to seniors in Santa Cruz County. Trained peer counselors, who are also seniors themselves, offer in-home, confidential counseling tailored to each client's needs, enhancing their emotional and psychological well-being. They help seniors navigate issues like depression, anxiety, isolation, grief, and loneliness, while also helping them set goals for their futures and access community resources. By addressing these issues, the program builds client resiliency so that they may lead more fulfilling lives.	\$55,000
Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County, Inc	Santa Cruz County Immigration Project	To bridge the equity gap and increase emotional and economic resilience for immigrant elder and dependent adults to thrive, CAB's Santa Cruz County Immigration Project (SCCIP) will annually: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Make 250 outreach contacts at Santa Cruz County senior centers, health clinics, and CBOs to promote our immigration legal services 2. Provide immigration services and legal case management to 150 elder and dependent adults 3. Provide immigration services and legal case management to an additional 50 households that include an elder or dependent adult 	\$100,000
Eat for the Earth	Salud en tu Plato/Community Rx	Studies show good health increases resilience in older adults, and a healthy diet—optimally across the lifespan— is key to	\$150,000

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good health. In our program, we lead people suffering from chronic disease through a 2-week immersion in a whole-food plant-based diet through education, practical support, and mentoring. We provide biometric tests at the beginning and end so participants can see measurable improvements and feel motivated to continue. Because Latinos in our county face disproportionate health barriers, our program is designed to be accessible, effective, and relevant for this population.

Tier III (\$25,000 and Under)

<i>Agency</i>	<i>Program</i>	<i>Program Description</i>	<i>Amount Requested</i>
Seniors Council of Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties	Project SCOUT	Project SCOUT’s free tax program is dedicated to serving low-income residents in Santa Cruz County. As part of CORE’s RFP for 2025–2028, Project SCOUT proposes CORE funding to serve those most at-risk seniors and disabled in the county by Project SCOUT’s IRS Certified Volunteers. Project SCOUT runs day-to-day operations of the free tax preparation for all of Santa Cruz County. As of the end of June 2024, Project SCOUT has saved 1,746 taxpayers about \$248.00 per tax return, while putting back \$2,387,221.00 in the wallets of our clients.	\$25,000
Vista Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired	Vision Loss Rehabilitation Program	Vista Center’s mission is to empower individuals who are blind or visually impaired to embrace life to the fullest through evaluation, counseling, education, and training. Our grant-funded Vision Loss Rehabilitation Program supports blind and visually impaired seniors living in Santa Cruz County by teaching them skills necessary to adjust to vision loss, prevent isolation, regain independence, engage	\$24,882

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in community and live with dignity. Services are itinerant and customized by need.

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CORE CONDITIONS Healthy Environments:

Safe, affordable, accessible recreation spaces

Tier II (\$25,001–\$150,000)

<i>Agency</i>	<i>Program</i>	<i>Program Description</i>	<i>Amount Requested</i>
Black Surf Santa Cruz	Pop-Up Program (PUP) / Keep PUP and Prepare to Pop-Up Program (P2PUP)	BSSC requests funding for 2 impactful programs for FY 2025–28: -Prepare to Pop-Up (P2PUP): A multi-week ocean comfort program tailored for or beginners, offering in-depth, guided instruction and building confidence in a supportive cohort. -Pop-Up Program (PUP) / Keep PUP: Provides single-day community surf lessons. PUP offers immersive surf experiences and ocean safety education, while Keep PUP encourages continued recreation and functions as a casual meetup with similar educational elements. These programs ensure equitable, safe, and inclusive access to ocean recreation for BIPOC communities.	\$86,870
Friends of Santa Cruz County Parks DBA County Park Friends	ParkRx Santa Cruz County (ParkRx SCC)	ParkRx SCC provides targeted outdoor recreational activities to residents, improving park and health equity as a condition of wellbeing. Trained providers screen for eligibility and prescribe ParkRx when indicated. ParkRx provides an Intake ParkRx Consultation, surveying patient interests, availability and transportation resources. Finally, ParkRx registers patients in matched programs, covering any fees. ParkRx SCC promotes physical and mental health through diverse, patient-driven outdoor activities that reduce stress, increase physical activity, and enhance overall well-being.	\$121,074
O'Neill Sea Odyssey	Tracey Weiss	Climate-resilient communities require a new generation of environmental stewards. The county has prioritized	\$56,865

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equitable access to K-12 climate literacy and readiness. The O’Neill Sea Odyssey is developing a new program to support environmental competence, confidence, connection, caring, character, and a sixth "C" contribution. We'll give teachers professional development, curriculum, and tools for diverse learners. This science, service, and solution-centered education for life on a changing planet will give PVUSD students information, inspiration, and agency for positive community impact.

Tier III (\$25,000 and Under)

<i>Agency</i>	<i>Program</i>	<i>Program Description</i>	<i>Amount Requested</i>
Volunteer Center of Santa Cruz County	Healthy Connections	Healthy Connections is in its 8th year of providing a whole person approach to supporting mentally ill adults in achieving optimal health and wellness in Santa Cruz County through access to exercise opportunities and activities, specialized skill building to help participants with self-management, and healthy food options in conjunction with the Food Bank and community grocery partners. 300 adults a year rely on this growing program to help them live healthier lives by getting the support they need to access outdoor spaces, parks, beaches and healthy foods.	\$25,000

CORE Investments FYs 2025–28: Applications Not Recommended for Award, Fall 2024

The CORE RFP was highly competitive, with over \$15M worth of requests for \$3.79M in available funds. The information below in blue (pages 14 – 41) provides a list of the applications that were not recommended for award. The programs are listed according to CORE Condition and Tiers (award size). Within each category they are listed in rank order with some application scores resulting in a tied rank.

CORE CONDITION
Lifelong Learning & Education:
Equitable access to high-quality education and learning opportunities

Tier I (\$150,001–\$500,000)

<i>Rank</i>	<i>Agency</i>	<i>Program</i>	<i>Program Description</i>	<i>Amount Requested</i>
2	Digital NEST, Inc.	Career Pathways	Digital NEST Watsonville provides free high-quality, tech-focused training for low-income Latinx youth who face systemic barriers to personal and financial success. Grant funding will support 40 youth (17-24 yrs old) who take part in Career Pathways each year. As youth engage in hands-on, project-based learning, they will gain technical and professional skills and confidence needed to launch tech-focused careers. We will integrate artificial intelligence literacy into the program to ensure the youth we serve understand AI principles, applications, limitations, and ethical implications.	\$197,597
3	Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Cruz County	Project Learn	Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Cruz County will deliver Project Learn, an evidence-based practice that improves educational outcomes by increasing students' interest in learning, enhancing academic abilities, and improving school grades. We will serve 1,200 youth ages 5-18 each year via afterschool and summer	\$225,742

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			<p>programs at our three Clubs. Project Learn addresses the inequity in educational outcomes of youth living in low-income households via a range of strategies that include homework help, High Yield Learning Activities, incentives, goal setting, and collaboration with schools and parents.</p>	
4	Your Future is Our Business	YFIOB Foster ED Career Exploration Project	Your Future Is Our Business (YFIOB) is an existing 31-year-old nonprofit founded in 1993. CORE funding in FY 2025–28 will allow YFIOB to continue providing work-based learning opportunities such as expos, panels, speakers, internships for post-secondary students, and more to all students residing in SCC. The organization provides essential resources to combat the education system social and racial inequities, such as limited access to resources and support services. YFIOB ensures lifelong learning & education and equitable access to high-quality education and learning opportunities.	\$500,000
5	Arts Council Santa Cruz County	Mariposa Arts	In Mariposa Arts, high school students find their voices and discover their creative gifts through training that supports the development of life and job skills through the arts. Professional teaching artists mentor high school students who develop and deliver culturally relevant arts lessons in afterschool programs at 15+ PVUSD schools. Trained and mentored youth co-teach lessons and share creative experiences with students at elementary and middle schools. Through programs in visual art, drama, and guitar, high school students become leaders, mentors, and role models.	\$285,317
6	United Way of Santa Cruz County	Julio Andrade, Director C2SCC	C2SCC will support families' hopes and dreams by providing students with educational support, connecting families to vital resources, and building a community dedicated to equity. By fostering thriving school environments and supporting parents	\$497,360

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to find their voice, C2C will create opportunities for marginalized and minoritized communities. We partner with schools to build strong, culturally responsive family relationships and support three districts in overcoming educational disparities for lifelong learning and a strong, vibrant community.

Tier II (\$25,001–\$150,000)

<i>Rank</i>	<i>Agency</i>	<i>Program</i>	<i>Program Description</i>	<i>Amount Requested</i>
2	Coastal Watershed Council	Watershed Rangers	The Coastal Watershed Council’s (CWC) Watershed Rangers program provides critical learning opportunities for 225 youth annually in the Santa Cruz City Schools Elementary District, particularly Latinx and English Language Learners most in need of support. Watershed Rangers increases scientific literacy, improves problem-solving, and supports social-emotional development. Importantly, as this is a school-based program, this project ensures we reach those youth who experience barriers to accessing educational opportunities. This project impacts the CORE Condition of Lifelong Learning & Education.	\$135,667
3	Walnut Avenue Family & Women’s Center	Early Education Center	Walnut Avenue Family & Women’s Center Early Education Center serves children infancy- Prekindergarten in a state-subsidized childcare center. Families enroll their child, for little to no cost, if they need to work, seek work, seek housing or attend school and eligible is based on income, open child protective services case or exceptional developmental needs of a child. We support families, value diversity and celebrate dual language learning. This is accomplished with anti-bias curriculum, hiring bilingual staff that reflect the ethnicity of families and involving parents in decision making.	\$128,000

CORE Investments FYs 2025–28: Applications Not Recommended for Award, Fall 2024

4	United Way of Santa Cruz County	United Way of Santa Cruz County United 4 Youth Santa Cruz County	United 4 Youth Santa Cruz County (U4Y) is a neighborhood program offering vulnerable youth unique wrap-around services and leadership support. It focuses on college and career readiness, health and wellness, economic mobility, and community engagement – aligning academic support, outdoor recreation, and peer-to-peer mental health activities to foster equitable access to high-quality education and learning opportunities. U4Y serves over 800 youth in Live Oak and Watsonville based on input from local youth and community partners with plans to expand to Capitola and Scotts Valley.	\$150,000
5	Santa Cruz Mountains Trail Stewardship	Stewardship Corps	Building upon our 7 years partnering with the City of Santa Cruz to provide the Summer Youth Trail Program, Santa Cruz Mountains Trail Stewardship (SCMTS) plans to expand this work into a robust workforce development program for underserved youth, aged 18-27 in Santa Cruz County. This program, Stewardship Corps, will employ 2 cohorts of 8 youth for 6 months each (January-June and July-December), providing them with salary, technical training, work experience, and building their professional networks.	\$150,000
6 – tied	Santa Cruz Toddler Care Center	Santa Cruz Toddler Care Center	Since 1977, the Santa Cruz Toddler Care Center (SCTCC) has provided high quality, award winning, affordable childcare and wraparound services – including nutritious hot meals, supportive home visits and parent support and education – to a diverse population of Santa Cruz families with 1-3 year olds. Our robust scholarship program has allowed us to serve hundreds of low income children. Funding from CORE Investments would allow SCTCC to expand enrollment and further subsidize our high quality childcare program for low	\$107,462

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			income Santa Cruz County families by 25% – over FY 2025 – 2028.	
6 – tied	Save Our Shores	Save Our Shores Junior Sanctuary Stewards Program	Save Our Shores Junior Sanctuary Stewards (JSS) is an existing 12-week afterschool program for middle school students. Developed with a high-school Youth Advisory Board, JSS offers weekly field trips to different ecosystems, engaging students in hands-on environmental education. The program addresses transportation barriers, ensuring safe supervised experiences. Key objectives include increasing access to coastal ecosystems, fostering environmental stewardship, and introducing youth to conservation careers in underserved communities, aiming to inspire the next generation of ocean leaders.	\$72,421
7	Santa Cruz Children's Museum of Discovery	Santa Cruz Children's Museum of Discovery Science Playdate in the Park/Cita de Juegos Científicos en el Parque	The Santa Cruz Children's Museum of Discovery proposes an extension of our 10-years of providing robust science education in our county by taking our early childhood learning into South County Parks. Our proposed "Science Playdate in the Park/ Cita de Juegos Científicos en el Parque" Program would set up monthly, bilingual playdates in popular South County Parks where families (especially those with preschool-aged children) would engage in open-ended exploration fostering curiosity, problem-solving skills, and critical thinking—crucial for equitable access to future academic success.	\$56,517
8 – tied	El Sistema Santa Cruz/Pajaro Valley	El Sistema Santa Cruz/Pajaro Valley	As a well-established afterschool music program serving 1,200 preK-12 students in Watsonville, we recognize that our youth are potential leaders who may not yet realize their full potential. To support their growth, we propose starting a Youth Elevate Cohort to achieve the following goals through music: - Cultivate leaders who can advocate for themselves and their peers, driving positive change within the community.	\$32,712

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8 - tied	Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History	Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History	<p>- Strengthen community ties, increase youth visibility and contributions, and foster a sense of belonging and pride.</p> <p>SCMNH’s Education Program serves thousands of SCC youth annually with hands-on learning experiences both on-site & at local parks. We provide K-5 nature science school programs and youth programs for students across Santa Cruz County. Programming includes: Our Animal Neighbors (K-2nd Grade), The First Peoples of Santa Cruz (K-4th Grade), Nature Rangers (4th Grade), & After School Programs (K-8th Grade). In 2024, we provided over 6,000 SCC youth with education experiences through 293 school programs.</p>	\$50,000
9	Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County, Inc.	Floreciendo en Comunidad	<p>In Santa Cruz County (SCC) & Pajaro Valley (PV), poverty harms Indigenous language speakers (ILS) at a disproportionately higher rate than other demographics, remaining least connected to systems & services. Language barriers compound existing inequities for ILS & exacerbate their inability to access high quality education & learning opportunities. Through Floreciendo en Comunidad, CAB will mentor & develop leadership skills of ILS promotores and connect them & their ILS contacts to yearly quality learning opportunities, increasing their access to resources & sense of community connectedness.</p>	\$120,000

Tier III (\$25,000 and Under)

<i>Rank</i>	<i>Agency</i>	<i>Program</i>	<i>Program Description</i>	<i>Amount Requested</i>
3	Senderos	Plaza Comunitaria: Aprendiendo a su propio ritmo /	Plaza Comunitaria (PC) is a free education and resource center for adults that presents different activities throughout the year. The primary goal for PC is promoting literacy with	\$25,000

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		Learning at your own pace	Spanish speaking adults who may have little or no formal education. PC offers basic education skill building in Spanish literacy, basic English, computer literacy training, financial education, and a pathway to further learning at Adult Education or Cabrillo College. Activities are presented in Spanish and English in person and online at an accessible school location provided by Santa Cruz City Schools.	
4	X Academy	X Academy	The X Academy requests operating support for middle school Math Circle and Math Festivals for 5th to 8th grade students. Funds will enable the Executive Director to build trusted relationships with school administrators, teachers and parent clubs at underserved schools to identify and personally invite talented students to benefit from STEM offerings. Staff will mentor a Digital NEST intern to supplement outreach with parent communications and organize a network of STEM program providers to expand student participation countywide through collective efforts.	\$25,000

CORE Investments FYs 2025–28: Applications Not Recommended for Award, Fall 2024

CORE CONDITION
Thriving Families:
Increased resilience of children and youth

Tier I (\$150,001–\$500,000)

<i>Rank</i>	<i>Agency</i>	<i>Program</i>	<i>Program Description</i>	<i>Amount Requested</i>
3	Pajaro Valley Prevention and Student Assistance	Renforzando Familias-Reinforcing Families	“Together we do much more” this is how the idea of Renforzando Familias (Reinforcing Families) came about. The implementation of Renforzando Familias will be a two-part process. With the implementation of strengths and evidence based, culturally community accepted programming via the utilization of both La Cultura Cura and Positive Discipline curriculums. Participants will take part as a family in multiple programming depending on their age. Part one will compromise in engaging in La Cultura Cura curriculum part two will be the continuum with Positive Discipline.	\$315,582
4	SANTA CRUZ BARRIOS UNIDOS INC	Barrios Unidos Youth Program	Santa Cruz Barrios Unidos requests funding for FY 2025–28 to support our Youth Program under the Thriving Families grant through CORE. Our program aims to provide comprehensive support to children and adolescents, focusing on academic enrichment, emotional well-being, economic support, leadership development, and cultural empowerment. We serve diverse, underserved populations, promoting equity and inclusion through culturally relevant activities. Our goal is to foster a safe, supportive environment where youth can thrive academically, emotionally, and socially.	\$166,666
5	Housing Matters	Childcare Navigation & Assistance for	Our childcare navigation and assistance program builds on the foundational support provided by our Rebele Family Shelter, which offers safe, temporary shelter for families with	\$156,141

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		Families Experiencing Homelessness	children who are experiencing homelessness. Our new initiative will enhance our shelter’s core services by addressing the critical need for early, after-school, and summer childhood care. The program will help families secure subsidized childcare for children aged 12 and under, allowing parents to focus on finding stable housing and employment while ensuring their children receive essential education and stability.	
6	Santa Cruz Community Health Centers	Advancing Pediatric Health Equity: Preparing for School Success	Santa Cruz Community Health (SCCH) will support the resilience of SCC youth by increasing the engagement of patients ages 3-17 in pro-health activities linked to resiliency and school success. These evidence-based practices include well-child visits, screening and preventive care, counseling, chronic disease management, mental health integration, family-centered care, and care coordination. During the grant period, SCCH will ensure that an increased percentage of their children/adolescent patient population engage in these activities and receive additional services, as necessary.	\$400,000
7	Second Harvest Food Bank Santa Cruz County	Program Alimentaria	Second Harvest Food Bank Santa Cruz County (SHFB SCC) is a nonprofit founded in 1972. CORE funding for FY 2025-28 will enable SHFB SCC to: 1) address the high percentage of children in Santa Cruz County (SCC) experiencing food insecurity; 2) promote health and wellness programs in SCC schools & increase participation; 3) tackle the poor health outcomes children in SCC face due to food insecurity; and 4) improve equitable access to anti-poverty benefits for at-risk families in SCC. SHFB SCC aims to support thriving families, ultimately enhancing the resilience of SCC children and youth.	\$500,000

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8	United Way of Santa Cruz County	United Way’s Santa Cruz County Youth Action Network	United Way’s Santa Cruz County Youth Action Network (YAN) empowers youth and transforms communities by connecting them to resources, catalyzing positive change, and amplifying their voices in decision-making. YAN cultivates leadership through workshops and mentorship, equipping young citizens to influence local governance and civic affairs. It bridges generations through collaborations that foster innovative solutions and mutual growth, promoting equity and inclusion for all youth. YAN sparks community resilience and address social issues, shaping a future where every young person can thrive.	\$300,001
9	Families In Transition - Santa Cruz	Guaranteed Income Pilot: Project Cosecha"	Guaranteed Income projects are being rolled out across the nation to assess efficacy in their use as a means to help close California’s racial wealth gap. The project will serve children 0-18 years of age and 18-24 year old head of households with \$1,000 monthly cash payments for up to 3 years with no restrictions on how funds are spent. Outcome goals are to increase participant resilience and well-being by reducing stress caused by income volatility, food insecurity and uncertain time available for participants to access community resources and experience community interconnectedness.	\$180,000

Tier II (\$25,001–\$150,000)

<i>Rank</i>	<i>Agency</i>	<i>Program</i>	<i>Program Description</i>	<i>Amount Requested</i>
6	Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County, Inc.	Rental Assistance Program	CAB’s Rental Assistance Program (RAP) is a long-standing eviction prevention program that assists low-income people, primarily families with children, across the County and City of Santa Cruz who struggle to make rent. RAP’s vital rent	\$150,000

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			assistance is an effective homelessness prevention program that allows families with children and low-income households to stay housed and thrive in our high cost of living area through temporary challenges to housing and family stability such as unplanned medical or car bills, or other financial crises such as job loss/reduction or family transitions.	
7	Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County, Inc.	Davenport Resource Service Center	CAB's Davenport Resource Service Center will offer 45 rurally isolated, low-income North County youth a spectrum of Youth Resiliency building services/programs to counter the inequities and barriers they face. Based on the Search Institute's Youth Developmental Assets Framework, services/programming will include: Homework Club (Tutoring), Teen Center (Mentoring support), Summer Recreation/Food Program, Leadership Development (Ambassadors ages 18-24 and Youth Congress ages 8-18), and monthly Food Distributions. Case management will also enable parents to support their youths to thrive.	\$125,000
8 - tied	LATIN ADVOCACY NETWORK-LATINAN	Claudia Abasto	LATINAN will be the first nonprofit in Santa Cruz County, specifically in Watsonville, offering free family law services. Unaccompanied minors, who have faced abandonment or violence, must navigate both family law and immigration processes to stay in the U.S. Currently, we refer these children to family law attorneys before assisting with their immigration needs. By hiring a family law attorney, LATINAN will provide seamless legal support, ensuring these vulnerable minors get comprehensive help without being referred elsewhere.	\$131,844
8 - tied	Mountains 2 Sea Inc.	Mountains 2 Sea	Mountains 2 Sea (MTNS2SEA) partners with alternative high schools to support youth with a weekly, off-campus healing	\$28,762

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experience in nature. MTNS2SEA is designed to provide youth with tools to manage stress and anxiety, learn ways to enjoy the benefits of nature, build confidence through challenging activities, and develop healthy relationships with peers and caring adult mentors. To achieve lasting impact, each group leaves campus to adventure in nature one day per week for 12-weeks to develop sustained personal growth and increased resilience.

8 - tied	Walnut Avenue Family & Women's Center	Youth Violence Prevention Program	Walnut Avenue's Youth Prevention Program utilizes EB curricula and a Positive Youth Development framework to increase resiliency in children and youth, amplify youth voices, and raise expectations for healthy relationships, equipping marginalized youth with the necessary tools for equity and positive social change for themselves and their community. Our programs use a gender-inclusive, anti-racist, strengths based, and healing centered perspective to support participants to overcome the impact of ACE's, strengthen family bonds and increase safety for the community.	\$134,354
9	FoodWhat Incorporated	FoodWhat Incorporated	At FoodWhat (FW), we provide a meaningful space where youth define and cultivate their empowerment, liberation and well-being by developing relationships with land, food, and each other. FW youth use organic farming, nourishing food, and loving community as vehicles to grow on their own terms and in lasting ways. On the farm, youth access growth opportunities related to 1) deep relationships with healthy food 2) economic security through paid whole-person job training 3) socioemotional health 4) environmental connectedness and 5) personal empowerment.	\$145,000

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10	Santa Cruz City Schools	Family Engagement Initiative	Santa Cruz City Schools seeks funding for the Family Engagement Initiative to boost parent involvement in combating chronic absenteeism, youth violence, and adverse childhood experiences linked to poverty. This initiative aims to improve student and family wellness by helping connect the community with support and resources. A Family Engagement Coordinator will lead the district-wide implementation of new and existing programs, prioritizing outreach to our highest-need families, with a focus on our Latino and socioeconomically disadvantaged communities.	\$150,000
11	NAMI Santa Cruz County	Mental Health Support for Thriving Youth	Requested funding will support inclusive and equitable no-cost mental health services for youth and their families which foster empowerment, build resilience, and strengthen supportive connections so that youth can thrive and have healthy futures. NAMISCC’s Youth Mental Health Program provides educational presentations for youth, in-depth multi-week classes for caregivers, and support groups for caregivers of youth who struggle with their mental health. All services are led by trained “peers” who have lived experience of mental health challenges, either their own or those of a child/loved one.	\$108,756
12	Monarch Services-Servicios Monarca	Salud y Monarca	We are requesting funding for a Salud y Monarca, a youth empowerment, safety, and wellness enrichment program designed for middle and high school students in Santa Cruz County. This school-based initiative aims to enhance self-confidence, safety, and leadership skills among students, with a special focus on at-risk Latinx youth. These students statistically face higher risks of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, and adverse childhood experiences.	\$139,978

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13 - tied	Monarch Services- Servicios Monarca	Therapeutic Services for Children and Youth	Individual therapeutic services for child and youth survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking. Family therapeutic services for child and youth survivors of domestic violence, human trafficking and sexual assault.	\$141,589
13 - tied	Paws Helping People DBA: UnChained	Caines Teaching Compassion	Our Canines Teaching Compassion (CTC) program pairs dogs in need of training with at-risk youth to build self-esteem and empathy. Youth train dogs in basic skills, while developing values of patience, respect and responsibility for themselves and others, through the trust and relationship building with their program dogs. Our goal is to prevent youth from becoming involved in the juvenile justice system and to keep them from re-entering, by supporting their life skill development. The number one indicator of adult incarceration is juvenile incarceration.	\$99,890
14	Safe Families for Children Monterey Bay	Safe Families for Children Monterey Bay	Safe Families for Children is a community based program dedicated to keeping kids safe and families together. Stepping in upstream, volunteers come alongside families facing inequity and crisis to provide stabilization and support with the mission of averting potential child abuse and neglect, deflecting children from foster care. Our free program is predicated on the belief that the well-being of children is the responsibility of all of us, and by expanding our volunteer mobilization program we will effectively serve the ever growing number of families seeking our help so they can thrive.	\$53,500
15	Advocacy-Inc	Patient Rights Advocacy	The Patient Rights Advocate Program (PRA) at Advocacy-Inc has been in operation since 1975. PRA is a state mandated program charged with rights protection and advocacy for all	\$108,384

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			<p>mental health consumers. The program consists of two staff members who serve these facilities: Been Lomond, Wheellock, Casa Pacifica, Telos, 7th Avenue and Front Street. The program conducts hearing representations and complaint resolution at Telecare’s Crisis Stabilization Program. We’re preparing for the opening of the first 25 bed inpatient county crisis unit, for minors and assisting with 5150 hearings.</p>	
16	Positive Discipline Community Resources	Less Stess More Joy with Positive Discipline	<p>Positive Discipline (PD) is a relationship-based program providing a reflective, inter-generational healing space for adults and youth to gain social-emotional support and life skills. PD facilitates shifting from punitive punishment, disconnection and shame-based strategies, to strategies that promote mutual respect, dignity and connection. Going beyond changing behavior to viewing all behavior as purposive, PD helps children (and adults) develop a sense of belonging and belief in themselves to develop healthy relationships resulting in happier, healthier families and communities.</p>	\$35,000
17	MENtors Driving Change for Boys, Men and Dads	Deutron Kebebew	<p>Our Thriving Families initiative aims to create safe, nurturing environments that promote optimal health and well-being for all family members across generations. This MENtors program focuses on developing assets, social-emotional regulation, and addressing childhood trauma, abuse, and neglect. By offering comprehensive support, we strive to enhance family resilience, fostering a community where every member can thrive. Our evidence-based strategies are designed to build stronger, healthier families, ensuring long-term positive impacts on their well-being.</p>	\$149,999
18 – tied	Community Health Trust of Pajaro Valley	Roxanne Porter	<p>Community Health Trust (CHT) requests \$150,000 from CORE Funding to support the growth and transformation of the</p>	\$50,000

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Diabetes Health Center (DHC) into a Healthy Living Center. This process entails a focus on empowering individuals to make daily choices that truly impact their well-being. This evolution will allow the Diabetes Health Center to guide and support individuals in cultivating lifestyles characterized by healthy eating habits, consistent physical activity, and mindful decision-making. We aim to inspire a community-wide embrace of wellness as a way of life.

18 - tied	Family Service Agency Central Coast	Suicide Prevention Services	<p>We are requesting funding to support Family Services Agency Central Coast, Suicide Prevention Services Education and Training Program.</p> <p>Suicide Prevention Awareness presentations and trainings (delivered in Spanish and English) will focus on three primary at-risk groups; teenagers, Spanish speaking and suicide loss survivors. Attendees will learn about suicide warning signs, how painful feelings escalate into suicidal thoughts, and how to get help for themselves and/or others.</p>	\$42,525
19	Parents Center	Rooted Support: Thriving Parents Create Thriving Families	<p>Our new program would address the gaps that we have observed both in our own services and county-wide to support struggling families. This program would provide: psychoeducational groups to parents of children and teens that are struggling with their mental health; psychoeducational support groups for parents involved with Family and Children’s Services (FCS); psychoeducational groups for resource (formerly “foster”) families; and Certified Educator of Infant Massage (CEIM) groups. Each group would include food and therapeutic childcare, and a flex fund to address families’ financial needs.</p>	\$149,155

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Tier III (\$25,000 and Under)

<i>Rank</i>	<i>Agency</i>	<i>Program</i>	<i>Program Description</i>	<i>Amount Requested</i>
3	Girls Inc. of the Central Coast	Education and Leadership	We will offer our ECHO Leadership and Mentoring program to young women, ages 15-18, facilitated by trained peer leaders, that focuses on providing them opportunities to explore and envision a future that includes educational attainment and economic self-sufficiency, while helping them overcome substantial cultural and economic barriers to their success. This program inspires girls to achieve lifelong wellness, develop leadership and public speaking skills, advocate for themselves and others, and avoid unhealthy behaviors and relationships that may deter them from accomplishing their goals.	\$14,000
4	Girls Inc. of the Central Coast	Embracing Leadership and Educational Goals	We will offer a week-long summer program for girls entering high school, held on the UC Santa Cruz college campus. This program, updated from our previously funded Smart Choices, offers girls opportunities to experience college life while gaining multiple skills that will help them plan for high school, college and a career, attain optimal health and wellness, and embrace their roles as leaders. The program inspires girls to see themselves as leaders who are educated, self-confident, and healthy young women, capable of overcoming cultural and economic obstacles to their success.	\$19,800
5	Girls Inc. of the Central Coast	Making Healthy Choices	We will offer two programs to girls, ages 9-14, that inspire them to set health and wellness goals that include developing healthy relationships, practicing assertive communication skills, avoiding unhealthy behaviors, managing stress, handling conflict, gaining knowledge of reproductive health, and learning how to identify and stand	\$12,400

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up for their values. Programs are facilitated by two Youth Leaders who are guides and role models for the younger girls.

6	Girls Inc. of the Central Coast	Communication and Exploration	We will offer two programs for girls, ages 8-12, that (1) develop skills in and enthusiasm for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), and career exploration, fitness, nutrition, media literacy, art, and personal development activities; and (2) increase positive communication between mothers, fathers, or guardians and their 10 -12-year-old daughters, helping them discuss questions about sexual behavior and puberty without embarrassment.	\$8,150
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CORE CONDITION

Thriving Families:

Increased resilience among older and dependent adults

Tier I (\$150,001–\$500,000)

<i>Rank</i>	<i>Agency</i>	<i>Program</i>	<i>Program Description</i>	<i>Amount Requested</i>
3 - tied	Community Bridges	Meals on Wheels for Santa Cruz County	As our aging population soars, so does the hidden struggle of food insecurity. Meals on Wheels fosters resilience among older adults who are facing systemic inequities. About 55% are isolated and live alone, and 59% are nutritionally at-risk. Our dedicated staff and volunteers deliver prepared meals to older adults who can no longer afford or make their own meals due to poverty, illnesses and disabilities. We also serve meals at four congregate dining halls to encourage socialization and provide free transportation. Our meals adhere to Dietary Guidelines for Americans over 60 years of age.	\$500,000
3 - tied	Dientes Community Dental Care	Equitable Dental Care for Seniors	Oral health is essential to your overall physical well-being. Yet, 73% of seniors with Medi-Cal are not going to the dentist. Dientes is a critical part of the healthcare safety net, providing 17,000 appointments yearly to approximately 3,000 older adults aged 60+. The 'Equitable Dental Care for Seniors' program offers affordable, high-quality, and comprehensive dental care to seniors with low incomes, removing common barriers like cost and transportation to achieve equitable access to care and provide the dignity that comes with a healthy smile. CORE would fund a critical 1,000 visits.	\$250,000
4	Grey Bears	Healthy Food Program	The Grey Bears Healthy Food Program combats food insecurity and social isolation to achieve improved health and well-being for Santa Cruz County's growing senior population (33% of	\$462,025

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			residents) by offering a consistent source of healthy, low/no cost, mostly organic food through weekly Healthy Food Bag delivery, a free grocery market and daily hot meals onsite. The spectrum of food provision options ensures diverse needs of seniors are met, and as volunteers (67% seniors) engage participants in each food delivery aspect, both build social connections by activating their own whole-person health.	
5	Institute on Aging	Elder Abuse Prevention Program	Institute on Aging’s Elder Abuse Prevention Program will provide education, outreach, and strategic partnerships to prevent and respond to the elder and dependent abuse in SCC. EAP holds Multidisciplinary Team meetings for members of the community, services providers, and local senior programs to present cases and to learn about resources available to elder abuse victims. EAP also provides mandated reporter training and public education sessions virtually and in-person to allow for questions and engagement in English and Spanish, building resilience to support older and dependent adults.	\$347,515
6	Senior Network Services	Aging and Community	Senior Network Services (SNS), a 50 year old nonprofit, is submitting for Aging in Community. The funds will support seniors living in skilled nursing and residential facilities (Ombudsman), seniors on Medicare (HICAP), seniors seeking to remain in their own homes and those seeking a place to live Shared Housing Program (SHP), and Family Caregiver Support Program (FCSP) that provides grants to informal, unpaid, family caregivers to support the caregiving relationship, and the critical Information and Assistance Program (I&A), the starting point and referral source for seniors in the County.	\$206,939
7	Institute on Aging	Friendship Line	The Institute on Aging Friendship Line (FL) has been operating for 51 years and is California’s largest warmline for older adults, people with disabilities and their caregivers who are	\$273,371

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experiencing social isolation and loneliness. The FL is supported by highly trained staff and peers and volunteers that are fluent in English, Spanish, Cantonese, Mandarin, Vietnamese, Korean and Tagalog. The call center staff are trained in emotional support as well as crisis intervention, APS reporting, and suicide assessment and intervention.

8	Institute on Aging	Senior Injury Prevention Program	The Senior Injury Prevention Program (SIPP) aims to reduce falls among older adults, especially in underserved rural areas. It adapts successful elements from Alameda County to Santa Cruz County, focusing on community engagement, partnerships, education, and individualized home assessments. SIPP offers home modifications, prioritizing rural and underserved community members (e.g. CalAIM participants) and leveraging evidence-based practices like Bingocize. The program enhances safety, independence, and quality of life for seniors, addressing inequities in access to care and support.	\$326,614
9	Encompass Community Services	Health Equity II	The “Health Equity II” proposal seeks to improve health equity and lifespans of persons served in our residential treatment service lines. A majority of premature deaths of people who struggle with severe mental illness and substance disorders due to physical medical conditions are preventable. Environments that promote physical activity, healthy eating habits, and community support can have protective effects.	\$373,359
10 - tied	People First of Santa Cruz County	The Village	River Village is a partnership between Downtown Streets Team (DST), People First of Santa Cruz County (PFSCC), The Homeless Garden Project (HGP), the Association of Faith Communities (AFC), and the Coastal Watershed Council (CWC). The proposal is a 24/7, non-congregant, transitional housing Village of 30 Pallet shelters of under 100 sq. ft. for living and community space for sanitary needs and meetings. The area	\$500,000

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			will be fenced and admittance will be controlled. The community will focus on collaboration, sanitation, structure, and social services.	
10 - tied	Santa Cruz Art League	Ageless Arts Initiative	Santa Cruz Art League's Ageless Arts Initiative uplifts Santa Cruz County's seniors, including BIPOC and economically disadvantaged individuals, through subsidized arts access. Our Ageless Arts initiative placemaking efforts address seniors' social, emotional, and cultural needs, fostering creativity, connection, and inclusivity. By mitigating loneliness and isolation through ongoing arts workshops, classes, and community projects, we enhance mental health, cognitive function, and overall well-being, strengthening our diverse community and improving seniors' quality of life.	\$498,200
11	Senior Legal Services	Jude Bedel	Senior Legal Service's Eviction Prevention Collaborative (EPC) seeks funding for FY 2025–28 to provide no-cost legal assistance and eviction protection for underrepresented, low-income, and undocumented populations in Santa Cruz County. Partnering at no cost with Community Bridges' Family Resource Centers for referrals and the Conflict Resolution Center (CRC), the EPC approach includes negotiating new leases, ensuring habitability, and preventing illegal evictions. We leverage local advocacy, legal expertise, and mediation skills to promote stable housing and prevent homelessness.	\$300,000
12	Mental Health Client Action Network	Mental Health Client Action Network	The Living in Dignity program enhances services due to added pressure of laws criminalizing homelessness and includes safe transportation and all essential self-care and self-sufficiency needs and appointments. Maintains a healthy community by providing essential shower and laundry services. The Program addresses the community barriers to access to hygiene services due psychological states. Builds on the availability of a	\$286,482

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full spectrum of services from prevention and early intervention to episodic and ongoing treatment services, including best practice models..

Tier II (\$25,001–\$150,000)

<i>Rank</i>	<i>Agency</i>	<i>Program</i>	<i>Program Description</i>	<i>Amount Requested</i>
6	Vets4Vets Santa Cruz	RESILIENCE BUILDING OF ELDERLY VETERANS	Vets4Vets is a non-profit 503(c)e in Santa Cruz providing a range of services to veterans across the county. Our goal is to expand services to benefit more veterans, especially those who are isolated, unhoused, experiencing chronic physical or mental health challenges/crisis, and disconnected from community life due to poverty or disability. Our expanded programs aim to address veterans' social determinants of health, increase access to physical and mental health, and create pathways to build their resilience, quality of life, re-integration, and ability to thrive in society after service.	\$50,000
7	NAMI Santa Cruz County	NAMI Santa Cruz County	Requested funding will support mental health services for older adults including outreach to people in the community who may need our services, classes to learn about mental health conditions and the resources available, and support groups to build coping skills and reduce isolation. These essential services help older adults to build resilience in the face of mental health challenges, either their own or that of an adult child or loved one. All services are led by trained "peers" (people with lived experience of mental health challenges, either their own or those of a loved one).	\$132,964
8 - tied	Volunteer Center of Santa Cruz County	Empowered Aging	The Empowered Aging Programs offers a pathway of services that promote healthy aging and allow seniors to remain independent, physically active and engaged in community.	\$60,000

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Aging in place and living independently is possible for many people, but doing so requires resources that a lot of our older adult neighbors need support with. Without targeted, easy to access interventions and support, our senior neighbors who are living alone, lower or fixed income, have physical mobility challenges will experience loss of independence, poor quality of life, die younger and have more injuries.

8 – tied	Walnut Avenue Family & Women's Center	Family Fortification Project	The Family Fortification Project addresses the gap in support that survivors of interpersonal violence encounter when crisis intervention services fail to meet all their needs. Walnut Ave. uses a strength-based approach to service provision and by adding case management to our already robust survivor services, we can help navigate the survivor and their families through the myriad of systems designed to support family growth. Walnut Ave has been providing support to families for over 90 years and is well known to provide inclusive, culturally responsive and trauma informed care to survivors.	\$128,201
9 – tied	Senior Citizens Organization of the San Lorenzo Valley	Highlands Park Senior and Community Center	The Highlands Park Senior and Community Center (HPS&CC) serves the San Lorenzo Valley. We help the whole community, especially older adults, remain engaged and involved by offering education, recreation and social programs. CORE funding will (1) expand the utilization of our facility from currently 15 hours per week to 30 hours; (2) support more outreach to partners and Valley residents, increasing participation; and, (3) provide more targeted, effective programming to meet participants' needs. We will add .75 FTE for outreach and program coordination, and 1/2 FTE for facility assistant.	\$50,000
9 – tied	Teen Kitchen Project	Teen Kitchen Project	Teen Kitchen Project (TKP) provides home-delivered, medically tailored meals to critically and chronically ill people in Santa	\$150,000

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Cruz County. Demographics of meal recipients: 60% seniors, 87% low-income. The program has been proven to improve health outcomes and lower healthcare costs. Meals are designed by our in-house Registered Dietitian Nutritionist and Executive Chef, prepared by teen chefs (who learn valuable workforce and life skills while giving back to their community), and delivered by volunteer adults who perform weekly wellness checks for meal recipients.

10	New Way Homes	Housing Santa Cruz County	Housing Santa Cruz County (HSCC) seeks funding for the Affordable Housing Advocacy Training Program, which aims to empower nonprofits and community members with the skills and knowledge needed to advocate for affordable housing solutions. This program will offer workshops, advocacy toolkits, and resources to align efforts with local government initiatives, enhance policy influence, and drive community engagement. We aim to build a strong, informed network capable of advancing housing equity and ensuring sustainable, affordable housing for all.	\$75,000
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Tier III (\$25,000 and Under)

<i>Rank</i>	<i>Agency</i>	<i>Program</i>	<i>Program Description</i>	<i>Amount Requested</i>
3	Association of Faith Communities of Santa Cruz County, Inc.	Mobile Shower Program	AFC's mobile shower program provides the dignity of hot showers to individuals who otherwise wouldn't have access. It primarily serves unhoused residents but also has served children and teen camps, theater groups, and more. Shower guests receive a clean towel, soap and shampoo, clean socks, if needed, and access to resources to help them move forward. The program has historically served north and mid-	\$25,000

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county, but is shifting to focus on south county, where the program currently serves as the only shower option for unhoused residents.

4	Urban Works Santa Cruz	ryan althaus	Seniors and adult children living with a disability share a common theme of loneliness in our fast-paced, tech heavy, world—a world that has largely passed them by. This program pairs the two despondent populations through art, recreation and gardening in a way which allows the unique gifts of each neighbor to heal the other in a compassionate and companionship-oriented way. We will be starting accessible gardens and leading yoga at various senior centers alongside our disabled clientele that unite and empower two subgroups that battle isolation and discrimination.	\$20,000
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CORE CONDITION

Healthy Environments:

Safe, affordable, accessible recreation spaces

Tier II (\$25,001–\$150,000)

<i>Rank</i>	<i>Agency</i>	<i>Program</i>	<i>Program Description</i>	<i>Amount Requested</i>
4	Santa Cruz Lesbian and Gay Community Center	The Diversity Center’s Health and Wellbeing Initiative	Recreation space is defined as a place that provides recreational activities including classes, arts, sports, special events and workshops for youth and adults in the surrounding communities. The Diversity Center is an intergenerational well-being recreational center that faces the challenge of disproportionately high levels of mental and physical health issues including isolation, obesity, sedentary lifestyles, depression, and suicide in the LGBTQ+ community by creating access to safe and affirming recreational activities such as outdoor experiences, physical exercise, and recreation therapy.	\$149,900
5	Central Coast YMCA	Healthy Family Homes	In FY2025–28, Central Coast YMCA will address gaps in health equity among low-income residents in the Watsonville area by establishing its existing Healthy Family Homes program at its Watsonville branch location. During each year of the grant period, Central Coast YMCA will engage 30 low-income families in no-cost exercise, preventive wellness, healthy cooking and eating classes, and community-building events and activities aimed at promoting health and wellness while strengthening community bonds in the Watsonville area.	\$30,000
6	Coastal Watershed Council	River Stewards Program	The Coastal Watershed Council’s (CWC) River Stewards Program engages unhoused individuals in enhancing the public Santa Cruz Riverwalk as they chart a path out of homelessness.	\$149,991

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			<p>This program impacts the CORE Condition of Healthy Environments by creating safe, affordable, and accessible recreational spaces that support the health and well-being of all community members. The program impacts the primary focus population of 25 unhoused individuals per year who participate in the program, and the secondary focus population of 10,061 people living in neighborhoods along the lower San Lorenzo River.</p>	
7	Volunteer Center of Santa Cruz County	YouthServe	<p>Service Camps engage youth in environmental stewardship at parks, nonprofits and open spaces throughout Santa Cruz County. This program improves public parks and recreation areas, while youth connect with their community, develop skills, and build meaningful relationships with supportive adults and peers. Each Service Camp brings together 10–15 kids for meaningful community service, paired with outdoor recreation and environmental education, during school holidays and weekends, building the lifetime habit of service and experiencing the benefits of social connection!</p>	\$35,000
8	Farm Discovery at Live Earth	Farm Discovery at Live Earth	<p>Farm Discovery seeks \$450,000 over three years for the Open Fields Access Program, providing equitable opportunities for local youth and families to engage in farming, hiking, and environmental stewardship. We aim to create a safe environment for connections with nature, using farming for conservation and stewardship. Located on 150 diverse acres in the Pajaro Valley, we restore ecological balance through the ecological justice framework. CORE funding will support farm field trips, summer farm camps, overnight farm school experiences, and community engagement days for underserved neighbors.</p>	\$150,000