



# Santa Cruz County Seniors Commission

701 Ocean Street, Room 510, Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
P: (831) 454-2772 F: (831) 454-2411 TTY/TDD 711

[commissions@santacruzcountyca.gov](mailto:commissions@santacruzcountyca.gov)

[www.sccseniors.org](http://www.sccseniors.org)

## Notice of Public Meeting and Agenda

**DATE:** Tuesday, December 19, 2023  
**TIME:** 12:30 PM – 2:30 PM  
**LOCATION:** United Way of Santa Cruz County  
4450 Capitola Road, Ste 106, Capitola, CA 95010

*\*\*As a courtesy to those who are affected, kindly attend the meeting **scent-free** and **smoke-free**.\*\**

### AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Agenda Review
2. Approval of *October 17, 2023 Meeting Minutes*
3. Public Comment  
*Any member of the public may address the Commission for a period not to exceed 3 minutes on any issue within the jurisdiction of the Commission not on the agenda.*
4. New and Continuing Business/Action Items:
  - 4.1. Consider 2022-2023 Biennial Report
  - 4.2. Consider Advocating for the Seniors Commission to Continue as a Distinct Advisory Body
  - 4.3. Senior Center Assessment/Survey Report
5. District Reports
  - 5.1. District 1
  - 5.2. District 2
  - 5.3. District 3
  - 5.4. District 4
  - 5.5. District 5
6. Senior Legislature Report
7. Staff Report
8. Correspondence
9. Emerging Matters and Commissioner Announcements
10. Adjournment

**Next Regular Meeting: February 20, 2024 at 12:30 PM, United Way, Capitola**

*The County of Santa Cruz does not discriminate on the basis of disability, and no person shall, by reason of a disability, be denied the benefits of its services, programs, or activities. If you are a person with a disability and require assistance to participate in the meeting, please contact (831) 454-2772 TTY/TDD:711 at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting to make arrangements.*



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## Meeting Minutes

DATE: Tuesday, October 17, 2023

TIME: 12:30 PM

LOCATION: United Way, 4450 Capitola Road, Ste 106, Capitola CA 95010

PRESENT: Dena Taylor (1<sup>st</sup> District), Suzanne Doty (1<sup>st</sup> District), Antonio Rivas (Vice Chair - 2<sup>nd</sup> District), Mark Johannessen (2<sup>nd</sup> District), Lois Sones (3<sup>rd</sup> District), Patricia Fohrman (4<sup>th</sup> District), Katie Limas (4<sup>th</sup> District), Carol Childers (Chair - 5<sup>th</sup> District),

EXCUSED: Lynn McKibbin (5<sup>th</sup> District)

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Kaite McGrew (Commissions Manager)

GUESTS: Kimberley Peterson (Deputy Director HSD) and 1 member of the public were present.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Agenda Review

Meeting convened at 12:33 PM.

**Motion to amend the agenda adding two time-sensitive action items to the agenda including a presentation on CORE funding from Peterson and consideration of proposed CSL legislation.**

Motion/Second: Childers/Doty

**Motion passed unanimously.**

2. Motion to Approve August 15 Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve minutes as written.

Motion/Second: Taylor/Doty

**Motion passed unanimously.**

3. Public Comment

Sones arrived.

4. New Business/Action Items:

4.5. Live Oak Senior Center Update

Commission reviewed a letter sent by Supervisor Koenig to the Live Oak School District (LOSD). The Commission will continue to monitor the situation and advocate where appropriate.

4.6. County CORE Funding Overview

Peterson provided an overview of the CORE (Collective of Results and Evidence-Based Practices) funding process including how funding was allocated to programs serving seniors during the summer of 2022. Funding for seniors was reportedly increased by more than \$250K compared to the prior cycle. Funds were carved out of the CORE process to pay for the administrative costs of running the Area Agency on Aging and senior home meal delivery programs were removed from the competitive application process to automatically be funded at the large tier level.

Commission expressed a need for a more effective community engagement strategy.

Commissioners plan to attend upcoming community engagement meetings. The Draft RFP will be presented to the Board in spring of 2024 and open for applications in summer 2024.

4.7. California Senior Legislature Proposed Legislation

Rivas provided a summary of the CSL's proposed bills that will be presented in Sacramento.

**Childs established the Ad Hoc Executive Subcommittee** to review the proposed bills and select those that they recommend the Commission advocate on behalf of. **Members include Childs, Doty, Taylor and Johannessen.**

**Motion authorizing the Subcommittee to identify legislative priorities and advocate for them on behalf of the Commission.**

Motion/Second: Childs/Doty

**Motion passed unanimously.**

5. District Reports:

5.1. District 1:

Taylor expressed her disappointment in the LOSD's response to her advocacy letter and suggested that the Commission invite a representative from the Mid-County Senior Center to speak to the commission. Doty reported asking for Supervisor Koenig's support for a proposed questionnaire that the Commission could send to all the County Senior Centers.

5.2. District 2:

Rivas reported that the Watsonville Senior Center's "Senior Prom" was very successful. Elected officials made proclamations, Elderday and Sones were recognized, youth assisted with set-up and the event was well-attended. Johannessen provided an update on the Senior Needs Assessment. The survey is now closed, and results should be available before the end of the year. The next step will be a Solutions Summit held in May 2024 to address the needs identified by the survey. The AAA will host a 2024 candidate forum with a focus on issues impacting seniors.

5.3. District 3:

Rivas reported that the new Elderday Watsonville location grand reopening celebration was well attended and encouraged Commissioners to visit the beautiful facility.

5.4. District 4:

Limas and Fohrmann attended a very successful and interesting Commissioners appreciation wine soiree hosted by Supervisor Hernandez and learned about upcoming events in District 4. Recent storms resulted in flooding at Bay Village senior community. Additionally, recent flooding at Corralitos Creek has changed the creek's course and there are now jurisdictional issues around who has responsibility to address issues related to the creek.

5.5. District 5:

Childers reported that roads in District 5 continue to be reopened as recovery is ongoing.

6. Senior Legislature Report: No Report

7. Staff Report: No Report

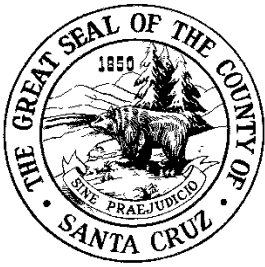
8. Emerging Matters and Commissioner Announcements:

Staff will share information on the link to the County's Emergency Action Plan so that Commissioners can offer community feedback.

9. Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted by: Kaite McGrew, *Commissions Manager*



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## Santa Cruz County Seniors Commission 2022 - 2023 Biennial Report

### 1. THE ROLE OF THE COMMISSION

The Seniors Commission is an advisory body to the Board of Supervisors on issues affecting seniors in Santa Cruz County. The Commission was established to:

- a. Advise the Board of Supervisors on all matters affecting senior citizens and make recommendations to the County Administrative Officer and the Board of Supervisors on any senior citizens program proposal to be considered by the Board of Supervisors;
- b. Review the needs of senior citizens in the County, and develop a set of comprehensive goals and objectives for effectively meeting those needs;
- c. Monitor the various services made available to senior citizens by public and private agencies in this County to ensure efficient delivery of those services; and
- d. Communicate with Federal and State agencies and commissions serving senior citizens, and assist in the preparation, implementation and review of any regional plan or program designed to serve senior citizens. [Ord. 3464 § 1, 1983; Ord. 2119, 1975; prior code § 3.25.020].

### 2. MEETINGS DATES, TIME, AND LOCATION

Seniors Commission meetings are scheduled for the third Tuesday of every other month (February, April, June, August, October and December), from 12:30 until 2:30 PM at the United Way of Santa Cruz County office (4450 Capitola Rd, Suite 106, Capitola, CA 95010). Because of the pandemic, all meetings in 2022 and one meeting in 2023 were held remotely.

In 2023, one regularly scheduled meeting was canceled for lack of a quorum.

### 3. COMMISSION STRUCTURE

The Seniors Commission is composed of ten voting members; two appointed by each of the five County Supervisors to represent their districts. Elections for Commission Chair and Vice Chair are held each year during the April regular meeting.

On December 31, 2023, the Seniors Commission membership was as follows:

District	Commissioners
1 <sup>st</sup> District	Dena Taylor, <b>Suzanne Doty (Vice Chair)</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> District	Antonio Rivas, Mark Johannessen
3 <sup>rd</sup> District	Lois Sones, Seat Vacant
4 <sup>th</sup> District	Patricia Heath Fohrman, Katie Limas
5 <sup>th</sup> District	<b>Carol Childers (Chair)</b> , Lynn McKibbin

Commissioners who completed their terms, resigned, vacated their seats under the provisions of SCCC Chapter 2.38.200(A)(1) or were replaced during the reporting period were Tom Haid and Enda Brennan. Commissioners who were appointed during the reporting period were Suzanne Doty and Katie Limas. Commissioners Patricia Heath Fohrman and Lois Sones were reappointed.

#### 4. COMMISSION STAFF

Kaite McGrew (*Commissions Manager*) staffed the Commission for the entirety of the reporting period.

Between Commissions meetings, County Staff was available by phone, email, or in-person for information and referrals. The County EEO Commissions Office is located in the County Government Center (701 Ocean Street, Room 510, Santa Cruz, CA 95060).

#### 5. ATTENDANCE

Please see attached *Seniors Commission 2022-2023 Attendance Report*.

#### 6. COMMISSION OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The Commission's priorities and subsequent activities are determined by the Commission's mandate and emerging needs as expressed by the community and identified by the Commissioners.

##### OBJECTIVE 1:

##### ***Conduct outreach and advocacy to elected officials on behalf of Santa Cruz County Seniors***

During the reporting period, Commissioners monitored the following government-related activities and advocated with the following elected officials and government representatives:

- Individually communicated Commission activities and priorities to appointing District Supervisors
- Participated in a District 1 Town Hall event regarding the Live Oak School District property
- Reviewed, discussed and advocated with the Board of Supervisors for California Senior Legislature's top legislative priorities
- Monitored local efforts to attain *AARP Age-Friendly Community* designation
- Monitored the County's implementation efforts related to Governor Newsom's *Master Plan on Aging*
- Monitored California Senior Legislature activities
- Monitored Santa Cruz County Commission on Disabilities activities
- Monitored Santa Cruz County Strategic and Operational Plans
- Monitored Watsonville City Council activities
- Monitored the County's Employee Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Survey process
- Monitored the County's Equal Employment Opportunity/Cultural Plan update process

##### OBJECTIVE 2:

##### ***Promote the interests of Santa Cruz County seniors through community outreach, advocacy and the provision of resources***

During the reporting period, Commissioners conducted the following outreach, advocacy and provision of the following resources to the community:

- Advocated for a proposed veteran's housing project to prioritize placement for unhoused senior veterans
- Promoted senior participation in the AAA Senior Needs Assessment
- Promoted senior participation in the A Santa Cruz County Like Me community workshops
- Promoted community feedback on the County's Emergency Action Plan.

##### OBJECTIVE 3:

##### ***Monitor and assess local services, resources, programs and agencies to advocate for effective service delivery to Santa Cruz County Seniors***

During the reporting period, Commissioners monitored the following services, resources, programs and agencies:

- Ben Lomond Senior Center activities
- Ben Lomond Community Clinic

- Community Bridges Meals-on-Wheels Program
- Community Bridges Services and Programs
- Disability and Aging Community Living Advisory Committee
- Elderday Adult Day Healthcare Services
- Farmers Markets Food Distribution
- Hwy 9 Proposed Veteran’s Housing Project
- LiftLine Taxi Scrip Program
- Live Oak Senior Services
- Retired Public Employee Association articles of local interest
- RTC/METRO Services E&D TAC
- Seniors Council/Area Agency on Aging efforts
- Senior Network Services
- Watsonville Senior Center

During the reporting period, Commissioners heard reports from the following services, resources, programs and agencies:

- Alicia Morales (HSD Director for the Adult and Long-Term Care Division) provided an overview of County Social Services including Adult and Long-term Care Division services, Master Plan on Aging implementation process, efforts to address senior homelessness issues, and shortages in the senior caregiver workforce.
- Supervisor Koenig and Jamie Sehorn (District 1 Analyst) on his efforts to negotiate an extended tenancy agreement between the Live Oak School District (LOSD) and the seniors’ services being threatened with eviction
- Steven Matzie (Long Term Care Ombudsman Coordinator for Advocacy Inc.,) providing an overview of the LTC Ombudsman program, including the lack of County CORE funding in 2022
- Corey Azevedo (Senior Network Services) on the status of the possible eviction of senior services tenants at the LOSD property
- Sven Stafford (CAO’s Office Principal Administrative Analyst) on the 2023-2025 Operational Plan Process and the A Santa Cruz County Like Me (ASCCLM) initiative
- Kathleen McLaughlin (Climate Policy Student Worker & Environmental Science Masters Candidate) on the Santa Cruz County Climate Action and Adaptation Draft Plan
- Coco Raner-Walter (SLV Senior Center President) on recent developments at the SLV Senior Center related to available funding, services provided, and upcoming or recent events
- Clay Kempf and Zachary Johnson (Seniors Council) on CORE funding concerns
- Alicia Morales (HSD Director for the Adult and Long-Term Care Division) on the Public Guardian’s conservatorship programs and the State-mandated Community Assistance and Recovery Empowerment Court (CARE Court)
- Heather Miller (County Public Defender) on the new Public Defender’s Office programs and services

**OBJECTIVE 4:**

***Monitor and assess issues impacting Santa Cruz County seniors and advocate on their behalf***

During the reporting period, Commissioners monitored and/or took action on the following issues impacting Santa Cruz County seniors:

- Available beds in skilled nursing and senior care homes
- State funding for programs serving seniors
- County CORE funding for programs serving seniors
- Changes in the County’s mobile and manufactured home rent control ordinance impacting seniors in senior parks.
- Eighty percent increase of the County’s senior population since the last census
- Scarcity of available IHSS caregivers for seniors and people with disabilities
- County and community efforts to address the immediate and lasting impact of storm damage and flooding on Santa Cruz County seniors in affected areas
- County efforts to negotiate with Live Oak School District on continued use of the
- County and community efforts to attain *AARP Age-Friendly Community* designation
- Senior food insecurity and State and local funding for senior nutrition programs
- South County’s flood recovery efforts
- North County’s storm damage recovery efforts including first responder efforts and key community stakeholder participation
- Vandalism and crime in South County senior communities
- Road repairs and transportation barriers exacerbating social isolation in rural seniors

## 7. COMMISSION MEMBERSHIPS & AFFILIATIONS

During the reporting period, Commissioners served as members of, were affiliated or engaged with the following commissions, organizations, and community partners:

- Area Agency on Aging
- California Senior Legislature
- Elderday Adult Day Health Care
- Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Commission (E&D TAC)
- Grey Bears
- Housing Advisory Commission
- IHSS Advisory Commission
- Master Plan for Aging Steering Committee
- Meals on Wheels - Community Bridges
- Mid-County Senior Center
- Mid-Valley Democratic Club
- Retired Public Employees Associate Board
- RTC/METRO Services E&D TAC
- San Lorenzo Valley Highlands Senior Center
- Santa Cruz County Bar Association
- Santa Cruz County Superior Court
- Santa Cruz County Sheriff’s Office
- Seniors Council
- Valley Women’s Club
- Watsonville City Council
- Watsonville City’s Senior Advisory Board
- Watsonville Senior Center

## 8. COMMISSION SUBCOMMITTEES

During the reporting period, the Commission established the following ad hoc subcommittees:

- Ad Hoc CSL Legislative Subcommittee (membership included Childers, Doty, Taylor and Johannessen) to identify and advocate for CSL legislative priorities

## 9. COMMISSION ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND SPECIAL PROJECTS

### During the reporting period, the Commission addressed the following issues:

- Letter to the Board of Supervisors advocating for their support for community partner efforts to find alternative solutions to the proposed LOSD eviction of organizations serving seniors
- Letter to the Board of Supervisors advocating for support for the California Senior Legislature proposed legislation

### During the reporting period, the Commission participated in no special projects

Because the compounded natural disasters disproportionately impacted County seniors (particularly those in vulnerable communities), throughout the reporting period, special projects were postponed to allow the Commission to focus on programs, services and community efforts to protect the senior community.

Because of the complexity and scope of these intersecting crises, the Commission focused the majority of its resources, time and efforts on monitoring the developing situation, sharing information and resources where appropriate, and providing a platform for the community to offer feedback on the most pressing issues facing seniors during the reporting period.

## 10. FUTURE GOALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### In 2024-2025, the Seniors Commission will continue to:

- Monitor and support disaster recovery efforts for Santa Cruz County seniors
- Monitor and support County efforts to attain *AARP Age-Friendly Community* designation
- Monitor and participate in activities that promote accessible, affordable housing for seniors, particularly those that support age-in-place opportunities
- Monitor and advocate for the availability of accessible, affordable transportation for seniors and persons with disabilities
- Monitor and support County and community *Master Plan on Aging* implementation efforts
- Monitor funding, availability, and access to community services and programs that support vulnerable seniors
- Monitor the developing tenancy situation for organizations serving seniors in the LOSD's property and advocate for efforts to find resolution.
- Promote awareness of the Commission by attending and supporting local events aligned with the Commission's scope and purpose

### In 2024-2025, the Seniors Commission recommends that the Board of Supervisors take the following actions:

- Provide policy leadership and funding to legislation, programs and policy supporting disaster recovery for Santa Cruz County seniors impacted by recent natural disasters
- Continue to provide policy leadership and funding support to agencies tasked with leading County efforts to attain *AARP Age-Friendly Community* designation.
- Provide policy leadership and funding to legislation, programs and policy promoting accessible, affordable housing for the senior community, particularly those that support age-in-place opportunities
- Provide policy leadership and funding to legislation, programs and policy to increase the availability of accessible, affordable transportation for seniors and persons with disabilities
- Provide policy leadership and funding to support to local *Master Plan on Aging* implementation efforts



- Provide policy leadership and funding to support to community services and programs that specifically address the needs identified by the 2023 Senior Needs Assessment and prioritized in the findings

Approved by the Seniors Commission at the December 19, 2023 regular meeting.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the *Santa Cruz County Seniors Commission*,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Carol Childers, *Commission Chair*

December 19, 2023

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Suzanne Doty, *Commission Vice Chair*

December 29, 2023

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

DRAFT


## SENIORS COMMISSION 2022-2023 ATTENDANCE REPORT

District/ Supervisor	Commissioner	Feb 2022	April 2022	June 2022	Aug 2022	Oct 2022	Dec 2022
<b>1st District</b> Supervisor Manu Koenig	Dena Taylor	P	P	P	MEETING CANCELED FOR LACK OF QUORUM	P	P
	Tom Haid	A	A	-		-	-
	Suzanne Doty	-	-	-		-	P
<b>2nd District</b> Supervisor Zach Friend	Antonio Rivas <b>Vice Chair</b>	P	P	P		P	P
	Mark Johannessen	P	P	P		P	P
<b>3rd District</b> Supervisor Ryan Coonerty	Lois Sones	P	P	P		P	P
	Enda Brennan	P	A	P		P	P
<b>4th District</b> Supervisor Greg Caput	Patricia Heath Fohrman	P	A	P		P	P
	Seat Vacant	-	-	-	-	-	
<b>5th District</b> Supervisor Bruce McPherson	Carol Childers <b>Chair</b>	P	P	P	P	P	
	Lynn McKibbin	P	P	P	E	P	
Ex Officio Non-Voting Member California Senior Legislature	Seat Vacant	-	-	-	-	-	

**Attendance:** P=Present A=Absent E=Excused (-) = Not Seated

District/ Supervisor	Commissioner	Feb 2023	April 2023	June 2023	Aug 2023	Oct 2023	Dec 2023
<b>1st District</b> Supervisor Manu Koenig	Dena Taylor	P	P	P	P	P	
	Suzanne Doty <b>Vice Chair</b>	P	P	P	P	P	
<b>2nd District</b> Supervisor Zach Friend	Antonio Rivas	P	E	P	P	P	
	Mark Johannessen	P	P	P	P	P	
<b>3rd District</b> Supervisor Justin Cummings	Lois Sones	E	P	P	P	P	
	Enda Brennan	A	-	-	-	-	-
<b>4th District</b> Supervisor Felipe Hernandez	Patricia Heath Fohrman	P	P	P	P	P	
	Katie Limas	-	P	A	P	P	-
<b>5th District</b> Supervisor Bruce McPherson	Carol Childers <b>Chair</b>	P	P	P	P	P	
	Lynn McKibbin	P	P	E	P	E	
Ex Officio Non-Voting Member California Senior Legislature	Antonio Rivas	-	-	P	P	P	

Submitted by:



Kaite McGrew  
Commissions Manager

December 31, 2023

Date



**County of Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors  
Agenda Item Submittal**

**From:** Human Services Department: CORE Investments  
(831) 454-4130

**Subject:** Presentation - CORE Report Back

**Meeting Date:** December 12, 2023

**Recommended Action(s):**

- 1) Consider presentation on the CORE Annual Report for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-23 and report back on community engagement;
- 2) Provide direction on staff recommendations for prioritization for the next CORE RFP funding cycle; and
- 3) Direct the Human Services Department to return on or before April 30, 2024, with recommendations for the draft of the next cycle of the CORE Investments RFP.

**Executive Summary**

The Collective of Results and Evidence-based (CORE) Investments is both a funding model and a movement designed to equitably improve the well-being of county residents. In FY 2022-23, 106,935 community members received CORE-funded services, and 94% of surveyed CORE-funded participants reported they were either “very satisfied” or “satisfied” with program services.

The Human Services Department (HSD), in partnership with the City of Santa Cruz, which shares in the funding of CORE programs, has completed the progress report of the FY 2022-23 Annual Summary of CORE Investments funded programs. The annual report provides a comprehensive analysis and overview of the recently completed first year of the CORE funding cycle.

Furthermore, at the direction of the Board of Supervisors, HSD along with Optimal Solutions Consultants initiated the first phase of the CORE Community Engagement & Public Hearings process, as well as specific CORE Listening Sessions for coalitions and councils. These sessions, by means of virtual, in-person, and online survey formats, provided a space for Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and community stakeholders to provide input, recommendations, and feedback in shaping the next CORE Request for Proposal (RFP) process.

**Background**

On June 28, 2022, the Board of Supervisors voted to approve the final CORE FY 2022-25 recommended awards, which recently completed the first year of the funding cycle. The Board directed HSD to return on or before December 12, 2023, with an update on the FY 2022-23 Annual Summary of CORE Investments funded programs, including performance tracking mechanisms, summary of community impact, and how equity-

work was operationalized.

On April 25, 2023, the Board approved a recommended CORE timeline for the next RFP process. This included continuing engagement of CBOs and stakeholders in the creation of the next CORE RFP through Community Engagement and Public Hearings, beginning in the Summer of 2023. The CORE RFP timeline was based on the continuous quality improvement efforts and recommendations specifically outlined in the 2022 CORE Lessons Learned report.

## **Analysis**

### *CORE Investments Annual Report FY 2022-23*

The CORE contracts for FY 2022-23 have completed the first year of the funding cycle. The programs serve a diverse population and provide an array of services ranging from food and nutrition programs, housing, mental health, immigration assistance, and educational services. At the end of FY 2022-23, each of the 57 programs was required to submit data via a new online portal deployed by HSD to support simplifying and enhancing the data collection process. These reports have been analyzed using the Results Based Accountability reporting framework. Highlights include a variety of programs making strides in operationalizing equity through the hiring of bilingual staff, providing training and workgroups on equity, and sharing best practices. A total of 106,935 community members received CORE-funded services and 94% of surveyed CORE-funded participants reported they were either “very satisfied” or “satisfied” with program services. Attachment A, the CORE FY 2022-23 Annual Report, summarizes the contractual work of all CORE funded programs including program data and outcomes measurements, implementation of program activities, challenges in executing program goals, and how equity was operationalized. Progress reports for each of the 57 programs are provided demonstrating CORE’s commitment to transparency and continuous improvement.

### *2023 CORE RFP Community Engagement & Listening Sessions*

On April 25, 2023, the Board of Supervisors directed HSD to hold community engagement sessions to begin the development of the next CORE RFP. HSD and Optimal Solutions provided an online survey and conducted six community engagement sessions; four were virtual and two were in person in Santa Cruz and Watsonville. Topic areas for discussion were based on the 2022 CORE Lessons Learned Report and feedback received from elected officials and included data prioritization, leveraging funds, past performance measures, funding limits, funding set asides, and if CBO size should be considered in funding tiers.

Themes from the community engagement process include:

- ❖ A need for clarification on the term “safety net” and the purpose of CORE funding.
- ❖ Any prioritization within the RFP should include evidence-based data, full transparency, clear guidelines, and parameters of the process.
- ❖ Most believe that funds should be distributed based on a data and equity framework disaggregated by age, geography, and race/ethnicity.
- ❖ Most believe the RFP *should not* prioritize program’s ability to leverage state and federal funds.

- ❖ Most believe the RFP *should not* score past performance of programs.
- ❖ Most believe we should limit large agencies from applying for smaller grant amounts and should define a large agency by both staff and budget size.
- ❖ Most believe the RFP should continue to restrict the total amount an agency can apply for CORE funding.
- ❖ There was *no alignment* on how to prioritize the CORE funding by a population of focus (e.g., children or older adults) or region (e.g., San Lorenzo Valley or South County).
- ❖ There was *no alignment* on whether a percentage of the CORE Funding should be set aside for distribution after the recommended awards and not be included in the RFP process.

In addition to the community engagement sessions, listening sessions were offered to councils and coalitions. Three groups, AAA (Agency on Aging) Santa Cruz County, Pajaro Valley Leaders group, and the Childhood Advisory Council requested a listening session and provided feedback, suggestions, and their perspective on the CORE process and RFP. The feedback from these groups varied based on their past experience of the CORE process. Some examples included increasing the CORE budget to fund more programs, including community residents in the CORE process, providing CORE funding proportional to the identified needs, having panelists that represent the community being served, and older adults, childcare, and South County residents should be prioritized for funding. Attachment B, the CORE Public Engagement report, provides a summary of the engagement and listening sessions.

### Prioritization and Direction

As evidenced by the 2022 Lessons Learned report, Board and City elected feedback, and community engagement, there is a desire to prioritize the limited funding to be the most impactful based on community need. A common theme from the community is for the County to align strategic priorities through an equity framework and use disaggregated data to inform decision making. In response the County has developed a methodology to accomplish our shared goals, as described in Attachment C. The methodology anchors and aligns the CORE framework with the County budget and a review of available County data to reveal opportunities where CORE funding could be used as a catalyst for innovative and supportive intervention. Based on the applied methodology, HSD recommends the following priorities for consideration for the next CORE RFP funding cycle:

- 1. CORE Condition: Lifelong Learning & Education**  
*Budget.* 1% of FY 2023-24 County Expenditures and no current General Fund contribution is allocated to this CORE Condition
- 2. CORE Condition: Thriving Families**  
*Budget.* 3% of FY 2023-24 County Expenditures and no current General Fund contribution is allocated to this CORE Condition
- 3. CORE Condition: Stable, Affordable Housing & Shelter**  
*Budget.* 7% of FY 2023-24 County Expenditures and 3% of the current General Fund contribution is allocated to this CORE Condition

Upon the approval of prioritization, additional parameters as discussed in the community engagement sessions summarized above, will be built into the draft RFP and presented to the Board in the spring of 2024.

**Financial Impact**

There is no financial impact as the funds were already budgeted for the current fiscal year.

**Strategic Plan Element(s)**

1.B (Comprehensive Health & Safety: Community Support) - CORE Investments is a collective impact funding model and movement designed to improve the well-being of county residents.

**Submitted by:**

Randy Morris, Human Services Director

**Recommended by:**

Carlos J. Palacios, County Administrative Officer

**Attachments:**

- a FY22-23 CORE Investments Annual Report - Attachment A (Cover Sheet)
- b FY22-23 CORE Investments Annual Report - Attachment A
- c 2023 CORE RFP Community Engagement Process - Attachment B
- d CORE Prioritization Methodology - Attachment C



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## Scheduled Meetings

Unless otherwise specified, regularly scheduled Seniors Commission meetings are generally held as follows:

DAY: Third (3<sup>rd</sup>) Tuesday  
MONTH: Every other month (February, April, June, August, October, and December)  
TIME: 12:30 PM – 2:30 PM  
LOCATION: **United Way of Santa Cruz County\***  
**4450 Capitola Road, Ste 106, Capitola, CA 95010**

\* Unless noted otherwise below

Changes to the schedule, including special meetings, changes of location, or meeting cancellations, will be listed on the website at [www.sccseniors.org](http://www.sccseniors.org) as soon as information becomes available.

2024 Meeting Dates		
DATE	TIME	LOCATION
February 20, 2024	12:30 – 2:30 PM	United Way
April 15, 2024	12:30 – 2:30 PM	United Way
June 18, 2024	12:30 – 2:30 PM	United Way
August 20, 2024	12:30 – 2:30 PM	United Way
October 15, 2024	12:30 – 2:30 PM	United Way
December 17, 2024	12:30 – 2:30 PM	United Way

### Public Participation

- Please check the meeting agenda to learn details about how to participate in the commission meeting.
- If you need special accommodations, please call 454-2935 or TDD: 711 (California Relay Service) at least 48 hours before the meeting.