



**United Way
of Santa Cruz County**

United Way of Santa Cruz County Programs

We ignite our community to give, advocate and volunteer so that our youth succeed in school and life, our residents are healthy, and our families are financially independent.

Learn about United Way's Programs & Initiatives and how they are connected to our goals of:



YOUTH SUCCESS



HEALTH & WELLNESS



ECONOMIC MOBILITY



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Jóvenes Sanos is a Watsonville-based youth leadership group working to elevate youth voices to shift the stigma around mental wellness and increase youth access to mental health resources. JS seeks to cultivate peer-to-peer connections and promote hope, healing, and resiliency to create a culture of health and thriving.

1 in 5 young people reports that the pandemic had a significant negative impact on their mental health.



Youth Action Network is a countywide youth initiative that works to create a community where youth and adults promote youth well-being by connecting young people to resources and opportunities to create positive community change and elevate youth voices in decision-making.

57.3% of youth in Santa Cruz County believe their participation made a difference in their school or community.
-YAN 2021 Countywide Survey





United 4 Youth is a community empowerment model - assembling teams of nonprofits to co-design innovative, collaborative programs that lead to positive and sustainable outcomes for our youth. Our two cohort grantees are Cradle to Career in Live Oak and Community Action Board's Luna y Sol Center in Watsonville.



400+ youth were supported by United 4 Youth in 22-23



Stuff the Bus is an annual event in partnership with the Santa Cruz County Office of Education that provides back-to-school supplies to students who are experiencing homelessness or other hardships. This is a family-friendly experience that offers a great opportunity for community members to volunteer.



Over 2,000 Backpacks were donated to youth experiencing homelessness & other hardships in August 2023

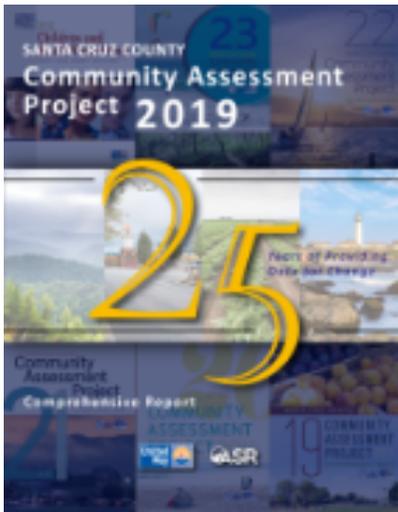


Get Connected. Get Help.™

2-1-1 is a FREE service that connects community members to information about critical health and human services available in their community. 2-1-1 is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. 2-1-1 also provides incident-specific information during times of disaster, including road closures and shelters.



Nearly 10,000 individuals were provided referrals through 211 in 2022



Community Assessment Project (CAP): Spearheaded by United Way of Santa Cruz County and in partnership with Applied Survey Research (ASR), the Community Assessment Project (CAP) is a collaborative effort of nonprofits, businesses, public agencies, and the community working together to improve the quality of life in Santa Cruz County. This is the nation’s longest-serving comprehensive annual report that presents current data and trends on the quality of life for Santa Cruz County residents.



The **Santa Cruz County Shared Safety Workgroup** is a collaborative that works to better meet the needs of survivors and victims of crime. The Workgroup includes representation from justice, government, community members, service providers, and survivors of crime. Shared Safety involves centering on survivors, viewing safety as wellbeing, and emphasizing a public health approach, which works to break the cycle of harm and make the system work.

Crime survivors who receive help are less likely to experience crime again.
-SCC Blueprint for Shared Safety



Children's Network: Bringing together leaders in public education, government, and nonprofit organizations to tackle youth well-being challenges such as improving school attendance and enhance family connection to resources to support children and youth. The network is currently working on how to operationalize the County of Santa Cruz Children's & Youth Bill of Rights.