



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Phil Kramer, Housing Matters
pkramer@housingmatterssc.org
(831) 458-6020

Jason Hoppin, County of Santa Cruz
Jason.Hoppin@santacruzcounty.us
(831) 454-3401

State awards Housing Matters \$18M to build Permanent Supportive Housing

California's "No Place Like Home" Program to help fund Harvey West Studios, addressing a critical need for individuals experiencing chronic homelessness

SANTA CRUZ, CA — October 5, 2022 — Housing Matters and the County of Santa Cruz jointly announced today that the State of California is awarding Housing Matters \$18.2M in funding to build Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) on the Housing Matters campus.

The award is through the California Department of Housing and Community Development's No Place Like Home Program, which funds the development of permanent supportive housing for individuals in need of mental health services who are experiencing chronic homelessness or are at risk for chronic homelessness. Awards are granted based on a County's population and overall need, as determined by Homeless Point-in-Time Count data.

"From the work we do, we know that stable housing is foundational for health," said Phil Kramer, Housing Matters CEO. "Yet locally and across the state, a lack of affordable housing and permanent supportive housing is contributing to people experiencing chronic homelessness in greater numbers. We see this award as a recognition of housing as healthcare, and the critical need for permanent supportive housing in our community."

"The County is pleased to commit our support for the use of the County's No Place Like Home allocation to this project and to provide ongoing services to residents," Santa Cruz County Behavioral Health Director Erik Riera said. "More Permanent Supportive Housing is necessary to address local homelessness, and Harvey West Studios is a significant step in the right direction."

There were 2,299 people experiencing homelessness in Santa Cruz County as of February 2022, according to the most recent Homeless Point-in-Time Count, a federally mandated census.

Harvey West Studios to provide PSH to County residents

Currently in development, the 120-unit residence planned for the Housing Matters campus will provide permanent supportive housing and on-site medical and mental health services for adults who are experiencing chronic homelessness — by definition, individuals who have been living unhoused for a year or more, or who have experienced homelessness repeatedly, and who struggle with one or more disabling conditions.

Designed by David Baker Architects, Harvey West Studios will utilize modular, ultra energy-efficient construction and feature both recuperative care and health clinics on the ground floor, as well as community space for case-management and peer support services. Permitting is now 95% complete; construction is set to begin in Spring 2023.

For more information on Harvey West Studios, visit buildingwithpurpose.org. For information on California's No Place Like Home Program, visit hcd.ca.gov/no-place-like-home.

###

About Housing Matters

Housing Matters partners with individuals and families to create pathways out of their homelessness into permanent housing. Housing Matters offers emergency shelter programs, case management, and day services — including hot showers, public bathrooms, and a mailroom—to people experiencing homelessness. Our campus shares space with Homeless Persons Health Project, a County-operated healthcare clinic and Dientes, a full-service nonprofit dental clinic, making these services easily accessible to Housing Matters' guests. Our case management and housing navigation programs help end homelessness for hundreds of individuals and their families every year. Plans to build 120+ permanent supportive housing units are currently underway. Learn more at www.housingmatterssc.org or connect with us on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter.