

Housing Authority of the County of Santa Cruz

NEWSLETTER



Housing Authority of the County of Santa Cruz County
2160 41st Avenue, Capitola, CA 95010-2040



HACOSANTACRUZ.ORG

(831) 454-9455

MONDAY-THURSDAY
8:00AM-4:30PM
HOURS



2024 New Horizons Scholarship

The Housing Authority of the County of Santa Cruz is proud to announce the success of our 2024 New Horizons Scholarship Program! This year we awarded **\$96,000 to 94 scholars**, helping them pursue their educational dreams.

Together, we are empowering the leaders of tomorrow through education and housing support!

Applications for 2025 scholarships will be available April 2025.



CalKids: The first step towards college

The California Kids Investment and Development Savings Program (CalKIDS) is a children's savings account program, administered by the ScholarShare Investment Board, an agency of the state of California. CalKIDS will provide eligible participants with college savings accounts, including seed deposits and other potential incentives, to help pay for future qualified higher education expenses.

To learn more about CalKIDS or opt out of the program entirely, please see the Program Terms and Conditions at CalKIDS.org or call 1-888-445-2377.

What Home Means to Me Poster Contest

The "What Home Means to Me" contest gives children in housing assisted programs the opportunity to express the significance of their home through art. Three local winners, one from each category will be awarded a gift card.

Additional information will be available soon at hacosantacruz.org. Contact Dalia Calixto at (831) 454-5962 for additional questions.

Age Categories

- Elementary: K to 5th grade
- Middle: 6th to 8th grade
- High: 9th to 12th grade

One regional winner from each age category will be advance to the national competition.

Poster Requirements

- Posters should reflect the theme of "What Home Means to Me."
- Posters must be at least 8.5 x 11 paper size (letter size) and have a LANDSCAPE (HORIZONTAL) orientation.
- Contestants may use marker, crayon, paint, or color pencil.
- Please consider that posters will need to be packaged, mailed and reproduced when choosing materials/mediums.
- Entries must be created by only one person. Entries created by two or more people will not be accepted.



Semillitas: Investing in Santa Cruz County Kids

If your child was born after December 31, 2020, and you are a resident of Santa Cruz County, they qualify for a gift of \$50 towards their higher education.



Enroll in Low-cost Internet Today!

The Affordable Connectivity Program aims to make sure all eligible households can get high-quality home internet at an affordable monthly rate. To access program details, visit www.internetforallnow.org

NASA Climate Kids



Visit climatekids.nasa.gov for interactive modules with downloadable, fun materials designed for kids to explore all the questions they have about climate and more.



Discounted Fare and Passes

Qualifying individuals (adults 62+, people with disabilities, children, and riders in Grades 9-12) are eligible for discounted or FREE rides with Santa Cruz METRO.

To obtain the Discount Fare Application please visit scmetro.org/agency-info/administration

FSS Program

WHAT IS FSS?

The Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program is designed for individuals currently receiving a Housing Choice Voucher. It helps participants grow a savings account, called escrow, over a five-year period. Throughout the program, you'll work with an FSS Coordinator who will support you in reaching your goals.

As your earned income increases, money is put into the escrow account. Once you achieve your educational and career goals, you can graduate from the FSS Program and access your savings to use however you wish.



To learn more about FSS please visit hacosantacruz.org/fss/

Last Names starting with A-M contact:

Andrea Selva | FSS Coordinator
(831) 454-5990
andreas@hacosantacruz.org

Last Names starting with N-Z contact:

Lupe Murguia | FSS Coordinator
(831) 454-5994
lupem@hacosantacruz.org

Relief for Energy Assistance through Community Help (REACH)

REACH is a program administered by the Dollar Energy Fund for PG&E that can help your household pay off overdue energy bills. To qualify, customers must meet income requirements and have received a 15-day or 48-hour disconnection notice.

Apply online at
www.hardshiptools.org/MyApp/Apply.aspx
or visit Santa Cruz's local Salvation Army
for help with your application.

Conflict Resolution Mediation Services

The Santa Cruz Housing Authority and the Conflict Resolution Center (CRC) of Santa Cruz County have joined forces to provide Housing Mediation Services. These services are available for free through CRC and are aimed at helping tenants and landlords resolve disputes peacefully. A mediator, who is a neutral third party, facilitates discussions between tenants and landlords during mediation. The goal of the Housing Mediation Program is to improve housing stability, avoid legal actions, and promote better relationships between landlords and tenants.

To access mediation services, you can contact CRC directly at (831) 475-6617 or email daniela@crcsantacruz.org.

First 5 Santa Cruz County

First 5 is dedicated to ensuring an early childhood system that supports and fosters equitable health, development and well-being for all young children and their families in Santa Cruz County.

Visit first5scc.org/community-resources to access a list of local community resources.



Senior Fair

Attention Seniors! Mark your calendars for February 2025! We're excited to host our very first Senior Fair featuring local agencies and resources just for you.

Details coming soon: www.hacosantacruz.org

