



# APRIL UPDATE



[Smart Solutions to Homelessness- Become an Ally!](#)

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## New Local Study on Homelessness

Civonomics has released a study conducted with UCSC, comparing perceptions and lived experience of local homelessness.

[Read the study](#)

## Veterans Resource Center Receives \$3.7M Grant



## New Countywide Strategic Plan to End Homeless Approved Unanimously



The County Board of Supervisors and all four cities unanimously approved the new countywide strategic plan to prevent, reduce, and eventually end homelessness. Over 80 stakeholders and community members attended the Press Conference & Launch Event on April 8th to kick off the new plan.

The plan was developed after a yearlong strategic planning and community engagement process organized by the Homeless Action Partnership, Smart Solutions, and the United Way. The broad input has created widespread energy and momentum- [join us!](#)

Read the plan here:

[All In- Toward A Home For Every County Resident](#)

[Read the Santa Cruz Sentinel Article](#)

[Watch the KION Report](#)

[Check out Photos from the Press Conference](#)

The VA announced its 2015 Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) awards and the [Veterans Resource Center](#) in Santa Cruz County (listed as Vietnam Veterans of California) was awarded \$3.75 million over three years to assist local veterans in obtaining and retaining housing! This is a big step toward the countywide goal to reach zero Veteran homelessness by 2016. Congratulations to the Veterans Resource Center!

[Learn more](#)

## Join Us on Facebook!



We have recently resurrected our Facebook page and need YOU to [follow us!](#) Stay updated on what we're up to, and help us expand our reach! Thank you!

## What Are Smart Solutions?

Evidence-based

Produce measurable results

Cost effective

Benefit the entire community

Take a step toward ending homelessness

Support the dignity of each individual

Our VISION is a Santa Cruz County in which every community member has some

## Take Action: Opportunity to Educate & Engage



Take action with us and consider [writing a letter to the editor](#) at the Santa Cruz Sentinel. There is a relevant dialogue occurring regarding the suspected practice of "dumping" people experiencing homeless from one city to another.

Rather than siding with one view or another, Smart Solutions is asking that the community focus our energy on long-term solutions that move us towards ending homelessness.

Please consider writing a letter to help move this conversation into productive action. Smart Solutions recommends the following points:

- We need community solutions to this community problem. Our county can and must work together to effectively end homelessness.
- The way we address homelessness must provide solutions to systemic issues, not simply react to immediate problems.
- Our county now has a new countywide [strategic plan](#) to end homelessness. Let's look to the plan's recommendations to work together and solve problems.

Not aware of the dialogue? [-Article-](#) [-Letters-](#)

## Volunteers Needed for Project Homeless Connect Santa Cruz



*The PHC Event Organizing Committee hopes to*

form of safe shelter,  
and where  
homelessness is a  
rare occurrence.

Our MISSION is to  
improve the way  
Santa Cruz County  
works collaboratively  
to reduce and  
ultimately end  
homelessness.

*continue with our PHC efforts until every day  
is a homeless connect day and we can house  
and support folks before they become  
homeless.*

If you are a provider of Homeless services, please click [here](#)  
to complete the participation request form.

**Sign up to volunteer [here](#) !**

**Santa Cruz Event:**

Tuesday, May 12th, 2015  
Kaiser Area, Downtown Santa Cruz

**Watsonville Event:**

Date TBD, November, 2015  
Veteran's Hall, Watsonville

Learn more about [Project Homeless Connect](#)

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Join us at Smart Solutions



Join the conversation on Facebook



Join us at United Way of Santa Cruz County

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