



# APRIL & MAY UPDATE

A newsletter for our allies



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

## Housing Advocacy Network

Visit and sign up with our new [ACTION NETWORK](#) site and use the site's tools to help us to announce the presence of the new Housing Advocacy Network. Smart Solutions to Homelessness belongs to this network along with 35 other community organizations. We are insisting that our local elected officials commit to taking specific steps to address the housing crisis for working families and vulnerable populations this year.

In addition, you can follow housing advocacy issues at the Network's [Facebook Page](#).

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## South County Leadership Council: May 30



Smart Solutions' upcoming Leadership Council will be taking place Tuesday, May 30 from 5:30 to 7pm at the Watsonville Civic Plaza Community Room.

We will be hearing from the South County Homelessness Steering Committee on their mission and progress. This steering committee is a part of the fulfilling the All In Strategic Priority #6: Addressing Needs in South County. The South County Homelessness Steering Committee's core values include teamwork, faith in the strength of community, equity and connection.

This event is open to all of our Smart Solutions Allies and we encourage you to join us. Free parking in the Civic Plaza parking garage. Light refreshments will be provided.

**It's Time to Take Action on Housing  
(Housing is the key to ending homelessness!)**

More info can also be found at our [website](#).



## What Are Smart Solutions?

1. Evidence-based
2. Produce measurable results
3. Cost effective
4. Benefit the entire community
5. Take a step toward ending homelessness
6. Support the dignity of each individual

In alignment with our current advocacy priorities, Smart Solutions has helped build the local Housing Advocacy Network along with several partners. We have begun to expand the network and its advocacy activity. This month, the Network has zeroed in on the issue of short term vacation rentals and their impact on rental housing availability. In a nutshell: we can't afford to lose local rental housing units to tourists as local residents suffer through a terrible housing crisis, and we cannot lose sight of the fact that a lack of available rental housing is an impediment to both preventing and ending homelessness.

We invite you to click [here](#) and send a message to the City of Santa Cruz Planning Commission to strengthen regulations and limit the impact of short term vacation rentals. Please take action and send a message now.

In addition, you can follow housing advocacy issues at the Network's [Facebook page](#).

More info can also be found at our [website](#).

**Our VISION is a Santa Cruz County in which every community member has some form of safe shelter, and where homelessness is a rare occurrence.**

**Our MISSION is to build the community will to reduce and ultimately end homelessness in Santa Cruz County through education and collaborative action.**

## Community Conversations on Homelessness



We held our most recent Community Conversation on Homelessness on April 1 at Peace United. Fifteen community members gathered to learn more about homelessness in Santa Cruz County, hear from people with lived experience with homelessness and discuss smart solutions.

Smart Solutions continues to strategically plan out our next Community Conversations, as they are a key part of our educational work. We are



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to Homelessness



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United Way of  
Santa Cruz  
County

continually looking for new locations to host a Community Conversation on Homelessness. We need your assistance to create more of these valuable community conversations. If you have a space or have connections to a suitable space please contact us at [info@smartsolutionstohomelessness.org](mailto:info@smartsolutionstohomelessness.org).

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## In Other News...

Santa Cruz approves 20-solution homeless strategic plan. Read more [here](#).