State News

California considers using budget surplus to aid homeless

SACRAMENTO >>
Responding to pleas from 11 big-city mayors grappling with the alarming rise of homelessness, California lawmakers on Wednesday announced two proposals that would devote over half of the state’s $6.1 billion budget surplus to the crisis. A bipartisan bill from Assemblyman Phil Ting, D-San Francisco, and backed by Republican Assemblyman Brian Maienschein of San Diego, calls for a one-time infusion of $1.5 billion in matching funds for cities.

"Homelessness is not just an issue. It is the most pressing issue facing California cities today," said San Diego Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer"
Central California Alliance for Health is a regional non-profit Medi-Cal health plan that promotes access to quality health care services for more than 350,000 low income residents of Santa Cruz, Monterey and Merced counties. The Alliance works with Medi-Cal members experiencing homelessness to provide access to health care services to improve health and increase stability in the members’ lives. The Alliance’s Care Management staff directly engages with members experiencing homelessness to identify needs and coordinate care. In addition, the Alliance has invested nearly $2M in grants to community partners in Santa Cruz County...

Volunteer Opportunity:
City of Santa Cruz River Street Camp
Food Service
Volunteers Needed
The River Street Camp is seeking volunteers for dinner service daily between 4:30 pm and 6:00
South County Spotlight:

Pajaro Valley Shelter Services
Moving Families Out of Homelessness

Pajaro Valley Shelter Services has been serving families experiencing homelessness since 1983. The organization runs an Emergency Shelter for women and children, and thirteen units of Transitional Housing, and four units of Long-Term Supportive Housing. While at PVSS families find stable employment, save money and move into homes of their own. Last year the organization worked with 80 families with children. If you would like to help support families experiencing homelessness you can find out how by going to their website at www.pvshelter.org or you can participate in their spring fundraiser on May 13, 2018 by registering for their 34th Annual Mother's Day Run. See details below.

LET'S OUTRUN FAMILY HOMELESSNESS
Register for
Pajaro Valley Shelter Services' Mother's Day Run/Walk for Shelter
Sunday, May 13, 2018
Early Bird until 3/20
www.pvshelter.org

WELCOME To Smart Solutions!
Intern, Lindsay Peterson

Lindsay Peterson is our new intern who will be assisting Smart Solutions to Homelessness with community organizing. She is currently a Collaborative Human and Health services student at California State University Monterey Bay with a dual concentration in Social Work and Public Health. She was born and raised in Santa Cruz where she has seen an increasing need for community dialogue on homelessness that promotes equity, compassion, and dignity for all residents. She is eager to get started with her work serving our most vulnerable population and making connections and
Take action and support housing solutions!

JOIN the

Housing Advocacy Network
Sign up to the ACTION NETWORK to help take steps to address the housing crisis for working families and vulnerable populations.

The Housing Advocacy Network (HAN) was co-founded by Smart Solutions as a coalition of organizations in Santa Cruz County dedicated to addressing the housing shortage. Mobilizing broad support for government policies and community solutions that facilitate the creation and preservation of housing units and supports specific housing development projects. More info can also be found at the HAN website or follow on the Facebook Page.

Let's create a community where all those who are most vulnerable and those working families have housing!