

Contact Information

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Project Budget:

CDBG \$350,000



CDBG Success Story

Homeless Emergency Shelter Facility Improvements Project

City of Santa Maria, Santa Barbara County

Problem or need addressed: Homelessness is a national problem. Although progress has been made in providing permanent housing for persons moving from homelessness, the number of homeless individuals and households continues to grow. Countywide, 2,119 persons experienced homelessness in 2024. Emergency shelters are a fundamental and critical component of a Continuum of Care's system of care. Quality maintenance and operations of emergency shelter facilities is crucial; however, identifying funding to address this need is both limited and challenging.

Solution: Utilize CDBG funds provided to Santa Barbara County's CDBG Urban County for rehabilitation, improvement, and enhancement of the Continuum of Care's network and inventory of emergency shelters and homeless-serving facilities. Investment of CDBG grant funding for emergency shelter facilities ensures these resources remain available and operational throughout the year, and prevents community members from sleeping on the street and other areas not intended for human habitation.

Results: The Santa Maria Emergency Shelter provides 90 emergency shelter beds for homeless persons and families living in the Santa Maria Valley. Annually, at full capacity, it may provide up to 32,850 bed-nights. Utilizing \$350,000 in CDBG funds, emergency shelter restrooms and showers were completely rehabilitated. Improvements included demolition of existing restrooms and showers, replacement of sub-flooring, installation of new flooring, installation of new shower stalls, toilets, and urinals. Project funds provided increased ADA accessibility, new plumbing, new electrical, new lighting, new heating and circulation systems, new countertops and vanities, partitions, and new paint. County CDBG funds in the amount of \$75,000 were also allocated to remove shelter flooring and replace with more durable plank flooring. Shelter resources include case management, meals, laundry facilities, personal storage, and supportive services. Unhoused community members now have improved access to these resources meet their most basic needs.

