



New transitional housing center set to open in Santa Cruz County



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SANTA CRUZ, Calif. —

Harvey West Studios, a new transitional housing center in Santa Cruz County, is set to open next summer, providing 120 units of permanent and supportive housing near Costco on Coral Street.

Community leaders and development partners recently offered a progress report and a behind-the-scenes tour of the facility, which will be the largest of its kind in the county.

Housing Matters, the nonprofit organization behind the project, is collaborating with several partners to integrate the five-story apartment building into its main campus.

This integration aims to offer residents not only a place to live but also on-site medical and behavioral health services.

Phil Kramer, CEO of Housing Matters, stated, "There will be a medical respite care facility on site, on the ground just one hundred yards away is a medical clinic, we'll have behavioral health care and case management on site."

Kramer explained, "It isn't one size fits all; every household, every family has a different need and trying to identify what is that need and what is that motivating factor for that family or that individual."

The project addresses the critical concern of affordable housing in Santa Cruz County, aiming to assist some members of the unhoused population by providing key support services.

Seve Cain, CEO of UnitedHealthcare of California, said, "Housing is health care, it's really hard to improve your health and get connected with the community if you don't have a stable place to live or a roof over your head."

United Health Care of California has played a significant role in the project's development.

Cain said, "The key is to make sure that the health is sustainable, making sure that there are services around it, both in the physical perspective and mental health perspective, and that's what is really great about the project... combining health on all aspects and housing."

Senator John Laird, who has been vocal about the need for housing and social services, attended the event and remarked, "You can't make a difference unless you actually have supportive housing, so this project adds that to the mix and will make a big difference for Santa Cruz."

There is already a waitlist for the housing units, and applicants will undergo a screening process to select the right tenants.