



# Santa Clara County Climate Collaborative (SC4) Resilience Hub Work Group (RHWG)



  
County of Santa Clara Office of Sustainability



November 14 2025

# Agenda

- Welcome + Introductions
- Group Icebreaker
- Our Purpose + Your Role
- Discussion part I
- Steps to plan a Resilience Hub
- Deep Dive: Local Needs Assessment
- Discussion part II
- Wrap-Up + What's Next
- Lunch + Optional Agreement Review

# SO EXCITED TO HAVE YOU HERE

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## Meeting Goals

- Ground participants in the Resilience Hubs effort and broader county-wide context
- Establish group purpose and expectations
- Build relationships and shared understanding across participants
- Introduce steps to the planning process
- Introduce the Partnership Agreement and invite participants to opt in

# SC4 and the Resilience Hub Working Group

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The Collaborative is a multi-sector network and community of practice for public agencies, academia, nonprofit and community-based organizations, and business and community leaders to advance regional solutions to climate change through resource and expertise sharing, joint-funding opportunities, and partnership development.

Leadership Advisory Team approved formation of the Resilience Hubs Working Group (RHWG) in 2025 to connect all these threads

# Office of Sustainability and Resilience

Santa Clara County  
Climate Collaborative



The **Office of Sustainability and Resilience (OSR)** seeks to build and maintain a healthy and safe County by reducing climate pollution, adapting to a changing global climate, enhancing natural resources and the environment, fostering a prosperous and just regional economy, and improving community health to ensure all people have equitable opportunities to reach their full potential.



# Public Health Department

COVID-era partnerships have transitioned into a coordinated effort to build Resilience Hubs that:

- Meet community needs through trusted, accessible service
- Connect residents to resources, trainings, and preparedness support
- Strengthen long term community resilience and well-being





# Public Health Department

## Resilience Hub Sites (past and current):

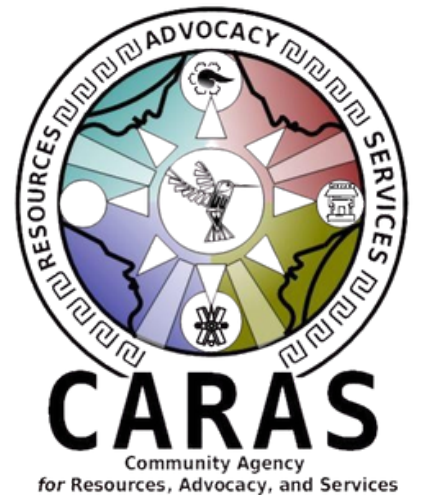
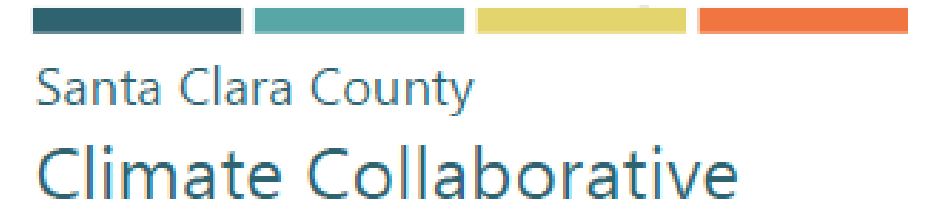
- Story Road Hub
- Nueva Vida (Gilroy)
- SOMOS Mayfair/Veggielution
- Community in Action Team (CAT)
- Regional Pacific Islander Taskforce



# Santa Clara County Resilience Hubs Collaborative

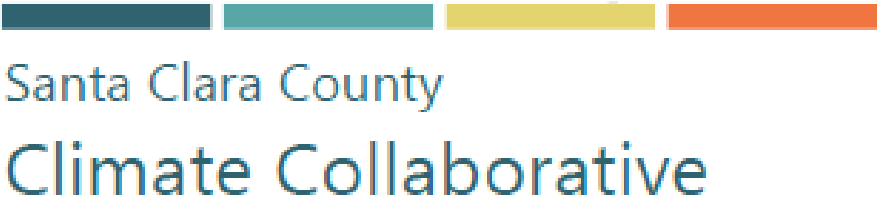
Our vision is to establish Resilience Hubs in Gilroy and East San José.

Through this Planning Grant, we are engaging those who have been left out of climate decision-making and empowering them to take control of their communities' future, equipping them to identify, envision, and activate resilience centers that respond to local climate, social, and economic needs.





# Santa Clara County Resilience Hubs Collaborative



## 1. Community Engagement (Fall 2024-Fall 2025)

Through surveys, focus groups, workshops, conversations, we gathered insights from residents who live and work in Gilroy and East San Jose.

## 2. Stakeholder Engagement (Ongoing)

We bring together key partners to form a Collaborative Stakeholder Structure.

Our stakeholders will help shape the planning process and be part in decision-making

## 3. Site Selection (Spring 2026)

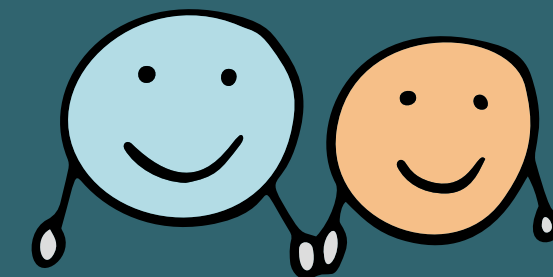
With community and partner input, we identify buildings in Gilroy and East San Jose that can be retrofitted to serve as full-service resilience hubs.

## 4. Implementation Action Plan (Fall 2026)

Finally, we'll co-create a detailed roadmap for development. This plan outlines the hub's day-to-day services, emergency functions, and strategies for long-term sustainability

## Let's get to know you!

- Name and Org
- What community are you representing?
- Why are you here?
- What's one word that comes to mind when you think about community resilience?



# RHWG Purpose

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- Establish community of practice: know who to reach out to when you have a question.
- A space to be intentional and work together
- Helps center community in current planning processes and makes sure everyone is at the table
- Will result in better alignment, more funding, coordination



# Roles + Expectations

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## Core Team

- Victorina, Greenbelt Alliance
- Emily, Office of Sustainability + Resilience
- Tonya, Public Health Department

## Guest Speakers

- Kamille, Climate Resilient Communities
- Lidia, Ashes to Beauty
- Marty, CARAS
- Anyone else who is actively involved in planning or developing a resilience hub in SCC

Core Team is responsible for logistics, agendas, content, etc.

Guest Speakers will help present content as needed

# Roles + Expectations

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## Participants:

- Be strong and vocal advocates for your communities
- Hold us accountable to make sure we continue to center frontline communities and their lived experiences
- Connect to resources when you see the opportunity
- Share institutional knowledge
- Help us align with existing efforts and future county priorities

- *This wouldn't work in my community*
- *This is not what I see in my day to day work*
- *You need to take X into consideration*
- *A solution the community is really interested in is...*
- *We've identified XYZ as a county priority*

## Recovered Food Hub Project

Led by the Food Recovery Initiative of Joint Venture and all the cities in Santa Clara County.

These are “brick and mortar” sites that expand the capacity of local food recovery and distribution sites to process more surplus food safely and safely store more food for distribution to food insecure neighbors.

- Looking for 3 Planning leads- due Dec 1
- Use existing sites, expanding storage
- Could be co-located with a Resilience Hub

*The Initiative strengthens the local food recovery ecosystem by spurring funding and innovation in the fight against food waste; propagating waste prevention and recovery strategies; and supporting local government programs to better understand, educate, and regulate the food sector.*



# Discussion Time!

**As a table, reflect on what you've heard.**

- What's clear about the goals, structure, purpose of the WG?
- What questions do you still have?

**Discussion Prompts:**

- What parts of this effort feel aligned with your work?
- Are there terms or concepts that need more clarity?

Record key themes to share out loud.

# How to Plan a Resilience Hub in Four Easy Steps

- Local needs assessment
  - Community engagement
  - Identify needs, available services, gaps
- Site feasibility
  - Where would it be?
  - Who owns the building?
  - What updates would it need?
- Operations + Management
  - Daily operations
  - Services on site
  - Programming
  - Maintenance
- Emergency activation
  - Cooling center, clean air space
  - Overnight shelter (with pets?)
  - Food or emergency supply distribution

Local needs assessment deep dive

we did stuff, let me tell you about it



# Planning Process Community Engagement **Gilroy Project Launch** February 24, 2025

- In partnership with CARAS
- Around 150 residents participated
- 120 surveys collected, \$30 stipends
- Provided food and childcare, and distributed emergency supplies
  - Solar-powered lamps, hand warmers, rain ponchos, beanies, masks, hand sanitizer, and thermal blankets.
- Residents learned about Resilience Hubs
- 15 residents participated in a focus group, received \$50 stipends
- All materials/engagement offered in Spanish

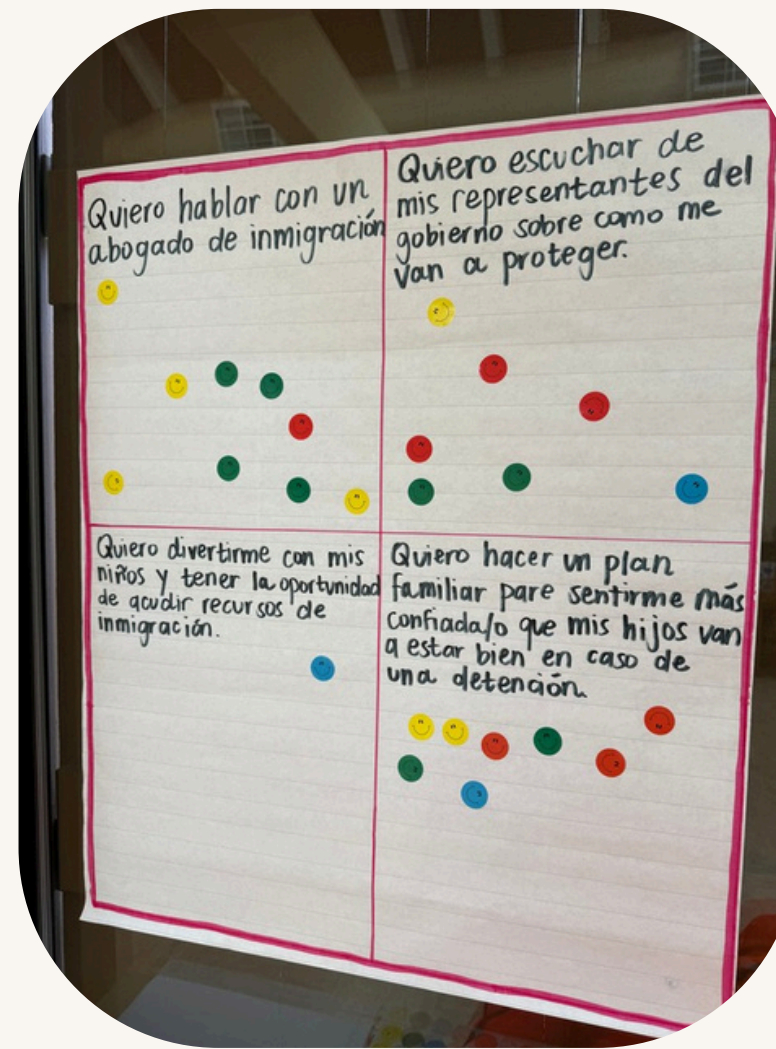




# Planning Process Community Engagement **Gilroy Earth Day**

April 19, 2025

- Led by CARAS
- Around 300 residents came
- 47 surveys collected, \$30 stipends
- Provided food and distributed emergency supplies
  - 55 solar-powered lanterns and 96 solar-powered portable battery chargers
- 23 organizations participated in resource fair
- Family friendly activities
- All materials/engagement offered in Spanish



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# Planning Process Community Engagement **Gilroy Focus Groups** August 2025

- In partnership with CARAS
- We held English and Spanish monolingual focus group
- 20 residents participated in each group, and were able to give in depth feedback on planning process and share lived experiences
- We offered a full dinner, \$50 stipends, childcare, and distributed emergency supplies



*"We're given the option to skip work if the temperatures are over 100 degrees. But we don't get paid. I still have to pay rent, so I still go to work. I work in construction, we can have 10 hour days, no shade, no water, no additional breaks. I can't afford to complain. We've had people faint at work, specially soldering "*  
*-- Gilroy Resident*



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# Planning Process

## Community Engagement

### **ESJ Earth Day Celebration**

April 22, 2025

- Led by Ashes to Beauty
- Over 50 residents came together
- Residents shared creative ways to reduce waste, reuse and recycle
- Neighborhood trash clean up
- Capacity building
- Provided food and drinks
- 10 residents participated in a focus group
- All materials/engagement offered in Spanish



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# Planning Process Community Engagement **Tacos & Planeta** September 23, 2025

- Led by Ashes to Beauty
- Over 60 residents in attendance
- Presentation on climate literay
- Collected 57 surveys
- Individual interviews
- Provided food, childcare, \$20 stipends, first aid kits and solar powered chargers
- All materials/engagement offered in Spanish





# Planning Process Community Engagement **ESJ Canvassing** September 2025

- In partnership with Ashes to Beauty, the School of Arts and Culture, BayREN, and Climate Resilient Communities
- Tabled at food distribution centers, cultural festivals and libraries
- Residents received stipends for participating in the surveys and we gave out more emergency supplies
- Offered materials in five languages
- Collected over 200 surveys





# Local Need Assessment Results

## Gilroy

The **Gilroy Launch Survey** gathered input from 127 residents, primarily to understand local needs and awareness around climate resilience, housing security, and emergency preparedness.

- 63% reported having Spanish-only speakers at home, highlighting the importance of language accessibility
- A majority (69%) had experienced extreme heat or flooding, yet only 36% felt confident knowing what to do in an emergency.
- Housing insecurity appeared moderate, with most respondents (79%) feeling secure, though other indicators pointed to vulnerability
  - only 44% had air conditioning, 30% had air purifiers, and 31% had shaded homes.
- Community awareness of climate change was generally limited, with most participants only somewhat familiar with its impacts.
- Most people received information through community organizations (CARAS or similar), friends, or social media, while fewer relied on local government
- Nearly everyone (95%) agreed that a Resilience Hub is needed in Gilroy, signaling strong community support for the project and the need for trusted, linguistically accessible, and climate-ready spaces.



# Local Need Assessment Results

## Gilroy

The **Gilroy Earth Day survey**, conducted with 47 residents, highlights significant economic and social vulnerabilities in the community alongside strong interest in community resources and resilience initiatives

- Over half of respondents (53%) had skipped meals due to financial hardship, and most (60%) found it difficult to cover rent or mortgage payments
- Only one-third had an emergency plan, and most lacked knowledge of safe, free places to go during extreme heat or cold.
- Food insecurity and limited awareness of reentry and mental health services were evident, though most residents knew of local food pantries. Interest in community-based solutions was high
  - 89% said they would participate in a community food garden
- When asked what would make them feel safe visiting a resilience hub, residents prioritized having staff who speak their language, free services, and convenient hours.
- The top concerns were housing, healthcare, and safety
- Youth programming priorities centered on arts, job training, mentoring, and therapy

# Local Need Assessment Results

## Gilroy

We conducted **three focus groups** in Gilroy, engaging a total of 55 residents. Recurring themes included:

- Employment & Economic Opportunities
  - Residents expressed a need for more job opportunities and training programs.
  - Language barriers, especially for monolingual Spanish and Indigenous language speakers
- Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness
  - Need for emergency response training, particularly for active shooter situations, wildfires, and extreme weather events.
- Access to Shelter & Extreme Weather Support
  - There are no accessible warming centers in Gilroy for people who lack proper heating.
  - The local library is open during the day but closes at night, leaving residents without shelter in cold weather.

# Local Need Assessment Results

## Gilroy

During the focus groups residents highlighted the following programs they would like to see

- Environmental Health
  - Toxic-free homes program
  - Clean air kits and education
- Climate Literacy
  - Climate workshops, climate conversations
  - Climate health and resource library
- Emergency and Disaster preparedness
  - Cooling centers
  - Clean air spaces
- Home and Supportive Services
  - Rent Relief and Eviction Prevention Support
  - Housing Navigation and Resource Clinics
- Immigration
  - Legal Clinics and Know-Your-Rights Workshops
  - Safe Space Resource Days
- Diversion and Re-Entry
  - Job Readiness and Career Coaching
  - Life Skills and Wellness Workshops

# Local Need Assessment Results

## East San Jose

The **East San José September survey** gathered 203 responses across five languages—Vietnamese, Cantonese, Tagalog, Spanish, and English—capturing a diverse cross-section of residents facing overlapping environmental, economic, and health challenges..

- Respondents reported widespread exposure to climate-related hazards: 72% experienced extreme heat, 54% poor air quality, and 73% lost electricity, water, or gas at some point.
- Health issues were also prevalent, particularly stress and anxiety (59%), high blood pressure (51%), diabetes (46%), and obesity (39%)
- Residents expressed significant worry about extreme heat (56%) and flooding (50%), and if they had extra money, most would invest in AC, solar panels, home repairs, or healthier food.
- Most lacked flood or wildfire insurance, and many could not afford it. While over half had health insurance, access to emergency or adaptation resources was low; few had evacuation plans, cooling centers, or air purifiers.
- Overall, the results show a multilingual, working-class community deeply impacted by environmental and financial stressors, emphasizing the urgent need for culturally accessible resilience infrastructure, health programs, and climate preparedness resources.

# Local Need Assessment Results

## East San Jose

The **Hillview Library workshop survey**, completed by 54 East San José residents, highlights widespread climate vulnerability, financial precarity, and limited access to resilience resources.

- Most participants were renters (67%), with nearly half relying on public assistance and one in five unable to cover a \$400 emergency
- Environmental and housing challenges were common—63% experienced extreme heat at home, one-third reported mold, and one in four had lost power or utilities for more than a day. 49% experience chronic health conditions or stress.
- Despite high concern about extreme heat and air quality, most respondents lacked basic adaptation tools like cooling centers, air purifiers, sandbags, or evacuation plans.
- Only 4 people had renter's insurance, and the majority had no flood or wildfire insurance, though many expressed interest in learning more
- If given extra money, residents prioritized safety, emergency preparedness, and basic home repairs over clean energy upgrades.



# Local Need Assessment Results

## East San Jose

We conducted **two focus groups** in ESJ, engaging a total of 34 residents. Recurring themes included:

- Housing Insecurity:
  - High costs, scams, and stressful application processes were highlighted.
  - Need for rental assistance, eviction prevention, and housing navigation services.
- Extreme Heat & Air Quality: Many lack AC at home; rely on libraries/malls for cooling.
- Low Preparedness: Few participants had emergency plans/supplies.
- Climate literacy: only a third of people felt comfortable explaining what climate change is, and only 20% understood how it impacts their health
- Barriers to Services: Distrust of systems due to eligibility exclusions (e.g., immigration status), and need for culturally competent staff and clear referral pathways.
- If given extra money, residents prioritized safety, emergency preparedness, and basic home repairs over clean energy upgrades.

# Local Need Assessment Results

## East San Jose

During the focus groups residents highlighted the following programs they would like to see

- Environmental Health
  - Toxic-free homes program
  - Clean air kits and education
- Climate Literacy
  - Youth Climate Leaders Program
  - Climate health and resource library
- Emergency and Disaster preparedness
  - Neighborhood Emergency Preparedness Days
  - Clean air spaces
- Home and Supportive Services
  - Rent Relief and Eviction Prevention Support
  - Support services referrals
- Immigration
  - Legal Clinics and Know-Your-Rights Workshops
  - Immigration lawyer referrals
- Diversion and Re-Entry
  - Job Readiness and Career Coaching
  - Life Skills and Wellness Workshops



# Local Need Assessment Results

## Discussion

- Does this resonate with what you know of your community?
- What is your top priority that you'd work on first before you have a full-blown resilience hub
- What are two things from this assessment that you want to see addressed first?
- Any obvious gaps?

# Wrap up & Next Steps

Aiming for February for our next meeting

- What is a generally a good day and time to meet?
  - Next meeting would discuss site selection, feasibility analysis
  - Homework: think of sites! I will follow up about this

Sharing is caring

- Can share “raw” local needs assessment summaries via email
- Can share final Local Needs Assessment Report in January

Staying in touch

- ad hoc meetings, email updates, quick meetings or calls to ask for your opinion on specific things