



# County of Santa Cruz



## HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

Behavioral Health Division

Administration

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Salud Mental y  
Tratamiento del Uso  
de Sustancias

## Press Release

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For Immediate Release

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### **SANTA CRUZ COUNTY ANNOUNCES THE OPENING OF THE CRISIS STABILIZATION UNIT AT THE HOPE FORWARD YOUTH CRISIS CENTER**

Santa Cruz County Behavioral Health, in partnership with Aspiranet, is pleased to announce the official opening of the Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) at the Hope Forward | Esperanza Adelante Youth Crisis Center.

**LOCATION:** 5300 Soquel Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95062

**HOURS:** Available 24/7, 365 days a year.

To request services, call: **831-540-4141**

#### **About the Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU)**

The CSU provides assessment and short-term stabilization, with an average stay of less than 24 hours. The CSU provides a safe, supportive, and trauma-informed space for youth experiencing a mental health crisis. Services focus on stabilizing immediate concerns, assessing needs, and connecting youth and families to ongoing care—helping reduce unnecessary emergency department visits and out-of-county placements. **Services are available regardless of insurance status.**

#### **Who the Youth CSU will serve:**

- Youth ages 5–17
- Young adults ages 18–20, when developmentally and clinically appropriate

#### **How youth can arrive at the CSU:**

- Self-refer (walk-ins accepted)
- Be brought in by parents, caregivers, or legal guardians
- Families who can safely transport youth are encouraged to come directly. Calling ahead is recommended at **831-540-4141** to support coordination and reduce wait times.
- Youth may also arrive under a psychiatric hold (5585/5150) if they are a danger to self or others.

“The Crisis Stabilization Unit at Hope Forward offers a safe and supportive option for youth going through a mental health crisis,” said Dr. Marni R. Sandoval, Director of Santa Cruz County Behavioral Health. “With the opening of Hope Forward, Santa Cruz County is expanding timely, local, and equitable mental health care for young people. Families no longer need to look outside the county for urgent support—help is now available right here at home.”

“The Hope Forward–Esperanza Adelante Youth Crisis Center expands access to timely, compassionate care for youth and their families when they need it most,” said Mike DeRose, Aspiranet Behavioral Health Division Director. “By enhancing the local continuum of crisis services, this program brings together the right level of care at the right time to stabilize, support, and guide young people toward recovery. Aspiranet is proud to deliver high-quality, acute behavioral health services that strengthen and support the Santa Cruz County community.”

### **Mobile Crisis and Emergency Support**

- For immediate safety concerns or life-threatening emergencies, call **911**.
- The Santa Cruz County Mobile Crisis Response Team is available 24/7 for community-based crisis intervention at **800-952-2335**. Visit [santacruzhealth.org/crisisresponse](https://santacruzhealth.org/crisisresponse) for more information.
- Suicide and Crisis Lifeline: Call or text 988 or chat at [988lifeline.org](https://988lifeline.org) for free and confidential support with trained counselors. Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

**For more information about the Santa Cruz County Hope Forward–Esperanza Adelante youth crisis center, including updates on the official opening of the Crisis Residential Program, visit [santacruzhealth.org/YouthCrisis](https://santacruzhealth.org/YouthCrisis)**

### **About [Aspiranet](#):**

Aspiranet is a California-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit that has partnered with Santa Cruz County Behavioral Health to operate the Hope Forward | Esperanza Adelante youth crisis center.

Mission: To provide and strengthen youth and families with a foundation of support so they can succeed at home, school, and in their communities.

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