

# Supportive Employment & services at Community Connection

Community Connection provides support for folks with mental health challenges. Support groups, employment assistance, free food bags, and more! We connect folks to Community.



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Various Mental Health Supports

Q & A, contact info



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## Why We Use IPS in Supportive Employment

### Individual Placement Supports

IPS is based on 8 principles including:

- Zero Exclusion
- Competitive employment
- Worker Preference
- Rapid job search
- Integrated Mental Health Services
- Job Development
- Benefits Planning
- Follow along supports



## HIGHLIGHTS

# Recovery Model

The philosophy of IPS & Community Connection programs is that **employment is an intervention**. Staff complete a 40+ hour IPS training for certification.

The Recovery Model is a process of change through which individuals improve their health and wellness, live a self-directed life, and strive to reach their full potential.

This means modeling what recovery looks like and empowering clients in their motivation.



## Evidence Based Practice

# RISK AND CHALLENGES

Discussing factors that make employment difficult

- ZERO EXCLUSION
- Symptom management
- Mental Health Support
- Integrated Teams
- Employer Outreach
- Housing connection is essential to success in employment



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# New requirements for CalFresh & MediCaid recipients

These are general guidelines per available information, more specifics from states and federal government expected this year

## General information about upcoming requirements

Individuals aged 19-64 for SNAP or CalFresh recipients, and many MediCaid recipients

Requires working or volunteering 80 hours per month or participation in a work program at least 80 hours a month. Career Services and CalFresh E & T are work programs as defined by these requirements

## Exemptions

- Foster care youth under age 26
- Caregivers of child aged 13 for MediCaid, aged 6 for SNAP, or caregivers of a disabled individual
- Specific medical exemptions
- Disabled veterans w/ specific disability rating
- Individuals participating in qualifying SUD treatment while in the program
- Pregnant or post-partum individuals

New Opportunities ahead for supported employment, October 2026

# CalFresh E & T

Education & Training opportunities and supportive employment will be available soon through additional Fresh Success program for people who receive SNAP benefits/CalFresh

- Training
- Supportive Employment
- Employment Specialists who support job seekers



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# Community Connection IPS programs available now

- Wellness Connect (TAY/ Young Adults)
- Career Services co-op with Department of Rehabilitation and SCCBH
- Resilient Living

Helping with job exploration, resumes, interviews, employer conversations, volunteering, and support on the job.

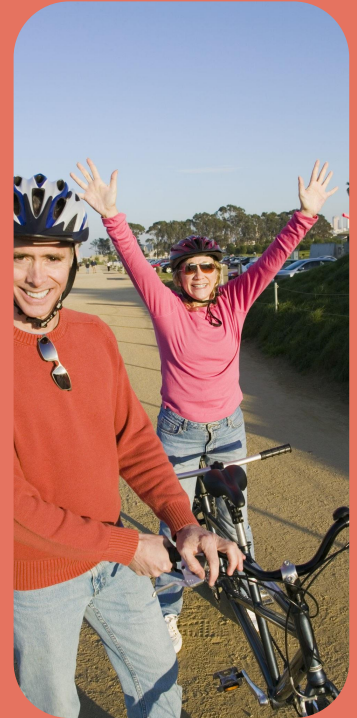
A program connecting people to activities & support

# Resilient Living program

Community Connection Program for  
MediCal recipients

Offering support with employment,  
educational access, & volunteerism for  
adults with mental health challenges who  
live independently or in supported housing.

Includes discussions of mental health  
impact on aspects of the above



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Connect with community for your client's health and happiness

# Volunteer Opportunities

The Volunteer Center has a database of Volunteer Opportunities across the county including one-time events, and long term volunteering with nonprofits or others in our community

- Beach or river cleanup
- Group volunteering
- Helping animals
- Specific Interests from environment to LGBTQ support

The QR Code below leads to the Volunteer Center's database for opportunities across the county



# Tips for getting hired

- Resume gaps, refresh & experience
- What are your transferable skills?
- Hours? What is doable for your mental or physical health? Availability?
- Alignment with values
- Interviewing
- Picking a job with a lot of hiring/job growth
- Online applications: Indeed, Linked In, Craigslist, Santa Cruz Jobs, CalCareers
- Check your email and voicemail
- Beware the ghost job or scams

This QR code links to a list of top growing jobs in Santa Cruz



# More programs

- Mariposa Wellness, Watsonville groups
- Family Partnership, helping families w/ kids
- College Connection, Cabrillo student support
- Opportunity Connection SC day-time groups including art and music
- Healthy Connections, healthy eating & exercise

FREE FOOD BAGS!! w/ pet food

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PLEASE STOP BY FOR FREE FRESH  
PRODUCE AND CANNED GOODS!  
Help out by volunteering @ 10 am on Mondays!



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 Community  
Connection  
831-425-8132 • ccsantacruz.org

# FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Monday - Thursday

9am - 3pm

closure dates: Nov. 26-28, Dec. 22-Jan. 1

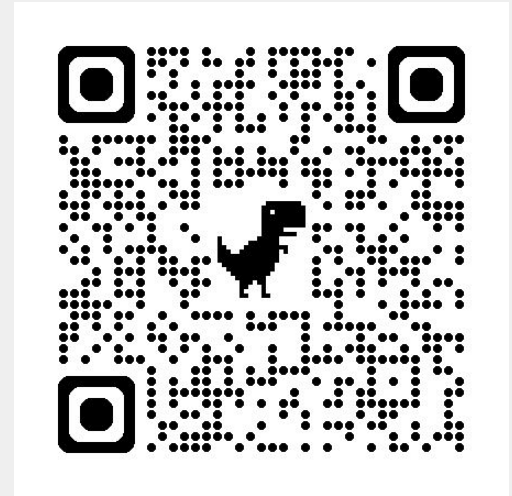
300 Harvey West Blvd., Santa Cruz, CA 95060

10 Carr St., Watsonville, CA 95076

healthyconnections@ccsantacruz.org, 831-425-8132

# Q&A

Any questions?



Scan the QR code for CC program information or visit [scvolunteercenter.org](https://scvolunteercenter.org) and choose Community Connection under the programs tab



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**Thank You!**