



## New Report - Latina GDP Rivals Florida's Economy

New research on the economic impact of Latinas to the U.S. economy show that Latinas contributed \$1.3 trillion to the U.S. economy in 2021, surpassing Florida's total GDP. The inaugural U.S. Latina GDP Report was presented on April 15 at Oxnard College. I was honored to be part of the program and join incredible panel of Latinas to discuss the report and its policy – and personal – implications for Latinas in our county.



The research and data presented by Dr. Matthew Fienup (California Lutheran) and Dr. David Hayes-Bautista (UCLA) underscored that Latinas are drivers of economic growth and are outperforming other groups in educational attainment and labor force participation. The data also shows important economic shifts – like the earning power of Latinas and their role as heads of households.

Dr. Celina Benavides, Vanessa Calderón, Nancy Mendez and I then took the stage to discuss our own perspectives – as Latina educators, an elected official, and a business owner – on how Latinas contribute to our local economy, and how we can be role models for our daughters, nieces, and younger Latinas around the County.

## Communities Represented

Central and Southern portions of the City of Oxnard, City of Port Hueneme, Oxnard Plain, Oxnard Shores, Mandalay Bay, Silver Strand, Hollywood Beach, Hollywood by the Sea, Channel Islands Harbor, California State University Channel Islands, Naval Base Ventura County, California Air National Guard, Oxnard Airport, Ormond Beach Wetlands, and Channel Islands National Park.

## Contact My Office

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## Sharing Paletas at Southwinds Park



Thank you to everyone who stopped by my first Paletas in the Park on Saturday April 26 at Southwinds Park.

I was thrilled to connect with so many folks in our community, snack on paletas and chat about our neighborhoods. A brief rain cloud passed through during our first hour, but the sun came out and neighbors came together for an afternoon of delicious treats. A special thank you to Councilmember Michaela Perez for joining me as a special guest. Stay tuned for updates on future Paletas in the Park dates and locations.

We can't wait to share more sweet moments with you!

## Community Celebrates Linda Parks Park with Ribbon Cutting



More than 50 members of our community came together at the invitation of the Ventura County Parks Department and my office to celebrate the opening of Linda Parks Park, a beautiful outdoor space in the Fifth District on Lewis Road adjacent to Growing Works Nursery.

The park is named in honor of former Supervisor Linda Parks, whose years of service were defined by her love of nature and dedication to community mental health and well-being. Friends, former colleagues, and supporters joined Linda to mark the occasion. With native plants, peaceful walking paths, and a meditation path for quiet reflection, the park reflects the spirit of Growing Works and invites visitors to connect with the land - and with each other.

## Dozens Graduate from Building & Construction Trades Program

Congratulations to the dozens of Ventura County graduates who completed the Pre-Apprenticeship Building and Construction Trades Training Program and celebrated on Saturday, April 5 at Goodwill Industries. Friends and family joined graduates as they were each recognized for their achievements, received certificates, and enjoyed fun and festivities. Graduates completed a 12-week nationally recognized Multi-Craft Core Curriculum that explores the many crafts and is designed to prepare graduates to succeed in future apprenticeship programs. The program is a collaboration of many partners, including the County's Workforce Development Board and the Tri-County Building and Construction Trades Council.

Any interested individual from any of the tri-counties – Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo – can learn more about joining the pre-apprenticeship program at <https://www.tricountyhrcc.org/>

## There are New(ly Promoted) Sheriffs in Town

I shared in celebrating and sending congratulations to the more than 40 employees at the Sheriff's department who met milestone anniversaries and earned promotions within the Department. Dozens of men and women were recognized on April 10th at the Ventura County Aviation Unit Hanger at the Camarillo Airport – the huge hanger was overflowing with dozens of friends, families, and colleagues. The celebration was a reminder of the dedication and efforts of every one of these individuals and the support of their families as they serve our community.

## Fire Paramedics Administer First Prehospital Whole Blood Transfusion



Photo Credit: Ventura County Fire Department

Ventura County Fire Department (VCFD) successfully administered the first ever prehospital whole blood transfusion in California during an emergency incident in Oxnard. Thanks to the collaboration of VCFD, Ventura County Emergency Medical Services, and Ventura County Medical Center (VCMC), this new and advanced lifesaving technology was brought to the field just days after its public announcement. After the transfusion was administered, the male victim's vitals improved, and he was able to regain consciousness while in transit to VCMC.

This milestone is a game changer for prehospital trauma care in our community. This innovation and collaboration in prehospital trauma care demonstrates the County's efforts in providing top quality care for the people of Ventura County. Learn more from [VCFD](#).



## Fifth District Youth Advisory Council Continues Work



The Youth Advisory Council continues their twice-monthly meetings with speakers and local experts to help them become more civically engaged and become more knowledgeable about community issues.

This April the Council participated in an interactive exercise from the County Executive Office to learn about community outreach and

stakeholder engagement. The Council also met with local attorney Vanessa Frank to discuss how youth may get into the field of law and advocate on behalf of their communities.

I continue to be impressed by the work ethic of this Council and I look forward to continue working with them for the betterment of the Fifth District.

## 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Ventura County Fire Department Awards

On April 24 the Ventura County Fire Department held its 28th Annual Awards Ceremony, honoring the dedication and service of its firefighters and staff. Families, friends and community members came together to recognize those who went above and beyond in the past year. The awards included: Medal of Valor, Meritorious Service Award, Lifesaving Award Medal, Lifesaving Citation, Dispatcher of the Year, Firefighter of the Year, Employees of the Year, Certificates of Recognition & Appreciation.

These awards are reminders of the courage and commitment of the Ventura County Fire Department, and they proudly celebrate the local heroes who keep our county safe.



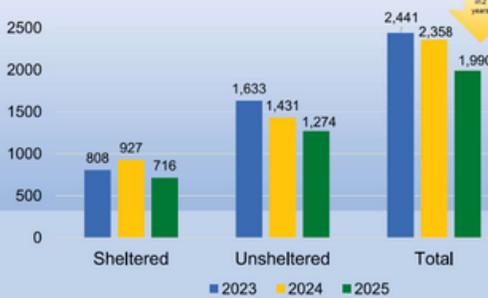
Photo Credit: Ventura County Fire Department

# Fewer People Experiencing Homelessness in Ventura County



## 2025 Homeless Point In Time Count

Comparison of 2023 to 2025 Homeless Counts



- Overall decrease of 18.5% since 2023.
- Sheltered count decreased by 211 persons or 22.8% since 2024.
- Unsheltered count decreased by 157 persons or 11% since 2024.

The annual “Point in Time” count – a one-day survey of all residents experiencing homelessness, shows that Ventura County has seen an 18.5 percent overall reduction in homelessness since 2023, including a 53 percent decrease in unhoused veterans and a 34 percent drop in chronic homelessness.

Since 2024, 117 permanent support housing units have been added across Ventura County, creating more opportunities for people experiencing homelessness to have a safe home. Additionally, thanks to the County’s expanded outreach and service delivery, including mobile healthcare teams and a fully staffed Sheriff’s Homeless Liaison Unit, the county has been able to resolve over 350 encampments in 2024 through coordinated cleanup and restoration efforts.

While the work is far from over, through continued investment, community collaboration, and care-driven solutions, Ventura County is building a future where everyone has a place to call home.

# Board Continues Efforts to Bring State Dollars to Create Housing



## Homekey+ Proposed Project Lewis Road

- ▶ Up to 90 Permanent Supportive Housing Units
- ▶ Many Mansions to be long term operator, property manager and service provider
- ▶ Dignity Moves to be Developer
- ▶ 18-24 month build timeline, if awarded
- ▶ County seeking to submit application to State by April 10
- ▶ Awards expected on a rolling basis (likely late summer/fall of 2025)



My colleagues and I on the Board of Supervisors continue efforts to address homelessness and behavioral health needs across the County. Last month, our Board approved an application for funds for a new housing project on Lewis Road that could create up to 90 permanent supportive housing units.

The \$30 million application to the state for Homekey+ funding would provide most of the funds for the new housing. This project is specifically designed to serve people experiencing homelessness, especially those with serious behavioral health or substance use challenges.

I am proud that our County continues to demonstrate that we will lead with compassion, innovation, and action by moving forward real solutions for those who need them most.

## Ventura County Board Proclaims Earth Day



On At the April 8 Board of Supervisors meeting, the Board proclaimed Earth Day in Ventura County and recognized Coastal Keepers, a Latino-led grassroots organization in Ventura County, for bridging the gap between policymakers and the communities of South Oxnard and Port Hueneme. Through well-researched reports and community-driven insights,

they consistently highlight social and environmental injustices impacting these coastal regions. Since its founding in 2020, Coastal Keepers has conducted over 50 community cleanups, removing more than 5.5 tons of waste from Ormond Beach and its surrounding areas.

Guided by their five foundational pillars - Comunidad, Creatividad, Conciencia, Cultura, and Corazón - the organization works to restore and improve access to the Ormond Beach Lagoon while cultivating the next generation of local Latino environmental leaders. To learn more about their inspiring efforts, visit [Coastal Keepers](#) and follow their journey toward a cleaner future.

## Supervisors Celebrate Arts Month in Ventura County

The Board of Supervisors proclaimed April as Arts, Culture, and Creativity Month in Ventura County. The County of Ventura recognizes arts, culture, and creativity as vital pillars of a thriving community, fostering connection, resilience, and innovation. This year's theme, "Health, Healing, and Hope," highlighted the transformative role of the arts in supporting mental, emotional, and communal wellbeing. In alignment with this vision, we were honored to recognize Mary Ann McFadden as Ventura County's fourth Poet Laureate. A champion of literary arts, McFadden exemplifies poetry's power to inspire, heal, and unite through her distinguished work, passionate community engagement, and advocacy for creativity as a cornerstone of wellbeing.



As an ambassador for the arts, the Ventura County Poet Laureate fosters civic participation, cultural appreciation, and education by amplifying diverse voices and celebrating the written word across our communities.

## Animals Services Gets a New Mobile Clinic

Ventura County Animal Services (VCAS) department will soon hit the road with a new spay/neuter mobile clinic, thanks to a generous contribution from the Animal Services Foundation of Ventura County for the customized trailer and for four new veterinary staff.

This new program will address the significant gap in accessible low-cost spay/neuter services within Ventura County, specifically within the County's underserved communities. This will provide a proactive approach of addressing pet overpopulation and combating common pet diseases and other veterinary care.



Photo Credit: Ventura County Animal Services

Kudos to the VCAS and the Foundation for this innovative outreach approach and bringing these vital services to the community.

## Grand Opening of New Tattoo Removal Clinic



Goodwill Industries of Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties, in partnership with the County of Ventura, launched a new Tattoo Removal Clinic location on April 17 at their Rice Road offices. Tattoo Removal clinics help residents with the removal of tattoos on their face, hands or arms, associated with gang activity or human trafficking or that may hinder employment, or even just negatively impact their personal well-being.

Participants in the program say they finally feel free from reminders of painful trauma, mistakes or exploitation, and can finally begin social reintegration and seek employment. Priority is given to referrals from agencies including probation, the District

Attorney, Public Defender, Human Services Agency and Ventura Training Center. Tattoo removal is not just cosmetic, these are life-saving interventions. It's not just about erasing ink...it's about restoring dignity, opportunity and hope. More information is available from [Goodwill Industries](https://www.goodwill.org).

## UPCOMING BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

Tuesday, June 3, 2025  
8:30 AM

Budget Hearing Tuesday, June 16,  
2025  
6:00 PM

In-Person at the  
County Government Center  
800 S. Victoria Ave, Ventura, CA 93009

Online at:  
<https://www.ventura.org/board-of-supervisors/agendas-documents-and-broadcasts/>