



# COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

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## PRESS RELEASE

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### LANDLORDS NEEDED TO HELP CZU FIRE SURVIVORS

The County of Santa Cruz invites property owners and managers to assist in meeting the medium- and long-term housing needs of CZU Lightning Complex fire survivors.

If you are a landlord with vacancies who is willing to accept fire survivors with or without access to FEMA and other survivor assistance programs, the County is asking for your support in meeting the critical housing needs of the community. Flexibility on pets, credit scores and other usual screening criteria is especially helpful.

If you are interested in helping survivors, please fill out a brief survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HFCT6TL>.

More than 100 households are still in need of permanent housing following the CZU Lightning Complex fires. Many have received FEMA Rental Assistance, which can pay up to 150 percent of fair market rents and can be provided for a period of up to 18 months after the fire. Some households are move-in ready, and include singles, couples, and families with children.

Many are long-term residents of Santa Cruz County who wish to remain in the area, and units close to their original neighborhoods would be welcomed. However, FEMA assistance can be used up to 50 miles from Santa Cruz County.

The County offers landlords interested in renting to these families verification that the tenant was displaced by the CZU Lightning Complex and information about FEMA rental assistance and/or other rental assistance programs. Households will also have access to continuing case management and other support services.