



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS**  
OF MID CENTRAL COAST

# Report

# Community

# Listening Tour

# 2025



[www.centralcoastkids.org](http://www.centralcoastkids.org)

901 N Railroad Avenue, Santa Maria, CA 93458



## Event Overview

As part of our shared commitment to community-informed decision-making, Boys & Girls Clubs of Mid Central Coast conducted a Community Listening Tour across San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties during Summer 2025. This effort was a core component of our Strategic Planning and Strategic Growth work and was intentionally designed to elevate community voices and ground our long-term direction in the lived experiences of families, educators, service providers, and community partners.

The tour engaged stakeholders from Shandon, Paso Robles, Atascadero, Creston, Santa Maria, and Guadalupe and included facilitated panel discussions focused on understanding the regional landscape and identifying opportunities to strengthen youth and family supports. We are deeply grateful to the many stakeholders who generously shared their time, insights, and lived experience; their candor and commitment were essential to the depth and quality of the dialogue.

Across both sessions, participants explored three core areas:

- Current opportunities within their communities—what is working well and where momentum exists
- Gaps and unmet needs impacting children, youth, and families
- Existing and potential partnerships that can help close identified gaps and expand collective impact

The tour also included guided site visits throughout the communities we serve. These visits provided an opportunity to experience Club environments firsthand, deepen understanding of local contexts, and reflect on how facilities, partnerships, and geographic realities influence access and service delivery.

Insights gathered through the Community Listening Tour are directly informing Board- and leadership-level decision-making as we refine program priorities, assess growth opportunities, and strengthen partnerships that support long-term sustainability and high-impact services.

With the continued support of our partners and community members, we remain steadfast in our commitment to ensuring every young person across the Mid Central Coast has access to safe spaces, caring mentors, and meaningful opportunities to learn, grow, and thrive.

With gratitude,



*Maria Fabula*  
Chief Executive Officer  
Boys & Girls Clubs  
of Mid Central Coast



*Debbie Perrault*  
Board Chair  
Boys & Girls Clubs  
of Mid Central Coast



## Opportunities & What's Working Well

Stakeholders from various sectors noted that North San Luis Obispo County is strengthened by well-established community institutions, expanding educational efforts, and dynamic youth engagement programs.

*“... grateful for the partnerships and all the communication and ... I'm very excited about the future and what we're going to be able to do.” —*

Kim Gaspar, PRJUSD

### Strong Collaboration and Shared Purpose

- Paso Robles Joint Unified School District (PRJUSD) reported serving nearly 1,000 students in collaboration with the Boys & Girls Clubs, YMCA, and People's Self Help Housing—an increase of 225 students just at the start of the 2025-2026 school year.

### Expanding Educational and Career Pathways

Paso Robles Youth Arts Center now offers 40+ arts classes per session and recently launched a culinary arts program through a community-funded kitchen expansion.

- Local education leaders have prioritized career and college readiness through Career Technical Education (CTE), dual enrollment, and programs such as Cuesta College's Get Focused, Stay Focused.
- These initiatives give students early exposure to potential careers while promoting workforce development aligned with local economic needs.

### Civic and Philanthropic Engagement

- Philanthropic leadership through Must! Charities and community-based volunteerism continue to strengthen youth voice and leadership.

### Creative and Cultural Enrichment Opportunities

- The Paso Robles Library provides bilingual early literacy programs, teen internships, and mobile book services, while Cuesta College is developing free community and parent education programs to make learning more accessible.
  - Early literacy, bilingual storytimes, and workforce preparation for teens are expanding in reach and in impact.

*“I just appreciate everyone's time and coming and investing in this time together. I think it's so important to be collaborating, especially these days. We all have strengths and assets that we can leverage to help serve our working families and our kids.”*

*- Kris Beal - City of Paso Robles Councilmember, District 1*



# Atascadero

## Population

~29,735 total  
**~4, 954** Youths 5-17 yrs.  
 \*Second largest youth population in SLO County

## Gender

~ 2,774 male 5-17 y/o  
 ~ 2,180 female 5-17 y/o

## Atascadero Unified School District

### Elementary Schools:

- Monterey Road
- Carrisa Plains
- Creston
- San Benito
- San Gabriel
- Santa Margarita
- Santa Rosa

### Middle Schools:

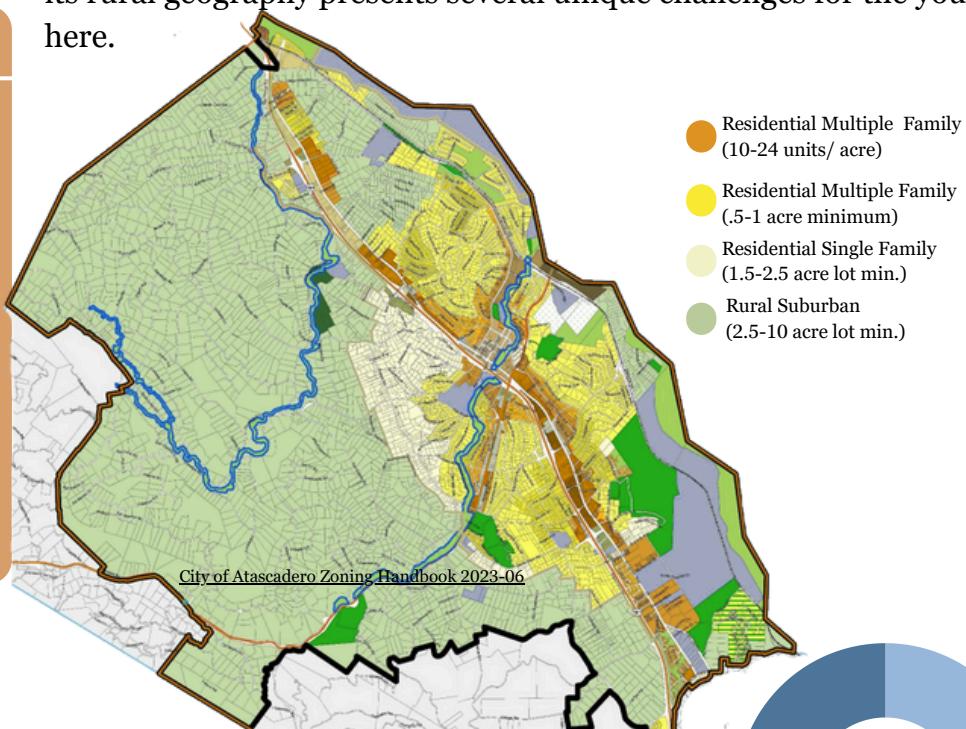
- Atascadero Middle
- Fine Arts Academy

### High Schools:

- Atascadero High
- Paloma Creek High

Atascadero, California, is a growing semi-rural community in the heart of San Luis Obispo County with a total population of just under 30,000. It is home to the second-largest youth population cohort in the County.

Many of the challenges that the city's youth face stem from the nature of Atascadero's rural geography, especially for those from under-resourced households. While the community values education and youth development, its rural geography presents several unique challenges for the youth who live here.



## Youth Challenges in Atascadero

- Atascadero's spread-out neighborhoods and limited public transit make it difficult for many families to get around—especially those without a private vehicle.
- Public transportation is sparse, and long distances make walking or biking unrealistic for most youth.
- Extracurriculars outside central Atascadero are often out of reach for low-income or single-parent households.
- Most AUSD schools and services like tutoring, counseling, or specialized support are in central Atascadero, requiring longer travel times for students in outlying areas.
- Few youth-serving organizations or community hubs are within walking distance of rural neighborhoods.
- Teens in rural areas face reduced opportunities for connection, with few youth-friendly spaces outside of school.

48%

<https://www.ed-data.org/ShareData/Html/125774>  
 of AUSD students qualify for Free or reduced-price lunch.

15%

<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/elpasoderoblespasoblescitycalifornia/PST045224#PST045224>  
 of children under 18 live below the poverty line



## Gaps & Unmet Needs

While the Paso Robles region benefits from dedicated partners and innovative programs, participants identified significant challenges that continue to limit equitable access to services. These gaps—many of which are structural—highlight the need for sustained collaboration, funding, and system-level solutions.

### Transportation as a Critical Barrier

- Transportation surfaced as the most significant barrier for youth participation in after-school programs, sports, and enrichment activities—particularly in rural areas like Shandon and San Miguel.
- The high cost of bus services (estimated at \$300,000 annually) makes equitable access to services a persistent challenge.

*“Transportation, trust, education, all of those barriers are something that we see every day.”*  
-Alexandra Chamberlain, Executive Director, Tolosa Children’s Dental Center

### Equity and Access

- Despite Paso Robles’ outward image of affluence, many families experience economic hardship, housing instability, and food insecurity.
- Non-English-speaking and BIPOC families face additional barriers due to language, cultural differences, and limited access to bilingual staff or services.
- Many students achieve academic success but lack access to extracurricular opportunities, which limits scholarship potential and social development.
- Participants emphasized the need for earlier career exposure and adult mentoring to keep youth engaged through adolescence.

### Family & Parent Support

- Many challenges stem from unstable home environments.

Parents often need education, resources, and support—police and schools are frequently asked to fill gaps. This highlights the importance of strengthening parents to better support youth.

### Funding Sustainability

- Much of the current success in expanded learning and afterschool programming relies on temporary funding such as ELOP and time-limited grants.
- Sustainable, diversified funding is needed to ensure program continuity and long-term impact.

*“Paso Robles is often seen as an affluent community, but that perception hides a very different reality. Nearly 70% of students across our schools come from families facing economic hardship, where access to after-school care and transportation remains a significant barrier as parents work multiple jobs just to make ends meet.”*

- Superintendent Loftus

# Creston

## Population

~ 1,229 residents  
~ 199 Youths 5-17 yrs.

## Rural Nature and Commuting

- ~14-15 people / sq mi
- 92%+ of working residents commute

Creston, California, is a rural farm-oriented community located within San Luis Obispo County, approximately 10 miles east of Atascadero. The Creston-assigned area includes ZIP code 93432. This area covers a total of 84.54 square miles and a population of 1,174.

As rural as the area is, commuting is a fact of life with access to highways, including CA State Roads 58, 46, and 41. With approximately 480 family households, of which roughly 35% include children under 18, Creston offers unique insight into the challenges that the youth face when it comes to transportation to their designated school campus and resources in general.

## Education & Local Schools

Creston Elementary hosts K-5 and is the only local school located at 5105 O'Donovan Road.

Enrollment:  
Approximately 68-71 students between 2024-2025

Across Creston:  
108 public Schoolers,  
56 Private schoolers

**No local middle or high school-- students commute to Atascadero or other districts starting from grade 6 onward.**



Average one-way commute  
**30** minutes

**83%**  
of commuters drive to work

## Challenges for Youth in Creston

### 01 Daily Commuting

- No secondary school in Creston means regular travel to Atascadero or Paso Robles begins in middle school, extending commute for after-school programming.

### 02 Academic & Social Resources

- Youth seeking advanced coursework or specialized extracurriculars must travel.

### 03 Rural Isolation

- Geographic spread and limited transit contribute to fewer peer interaction opportunities creating isolation which can factor into mental health.

### 04 Demographic Imbalance

- With more adults than children and an aging median age (55), youth may experience generational gaps in community engagement and programming to which they have readily access.



## Partnerships: Existing & Potential

Collaboration emerged as one of North County's greatest assets. The session underscored how schools, nonprofits, local government, and funders are already working together—and where strategic partnerships could go further to create systemic solutions.

### Existing Collaborations

#### Schools + Community Organizations

- Partnerships among Paso Robles Joint Unified School District (PRJUSD), Boys & Girls Clubs of Mid Central Coast (BGCMMC), YMCA, People's Self-Help Housing (PSHH), Cuesta College, Paso Robles City Library, and the Paso Robles Youth Arts Center focus on expanding access to afterschool programs, enrichment activities, and academic support for youth across North County.

“The question is: how do we build long-term, sustainable revenue systems? We've seen how quickly funding can shift, we can't get complacent - this is the time to diversify revenue and deepen collaboration.”

- Randy Gray, Director of Community Investments, Must! Charities

#### Family-Focused Networks

- Collaborations among Parent Connection, Cuesta Adult Education, Library family programs, and Link Family Resource Centers deliver parenting education, family counseling, and bilingual literacy programs designed to strengthen family engagement and resilience.

### Health Partnerships

- Tolosa Children's Dental Center, in coordination with schools in Shandon and San Miguel, along with local private dentists, provides on-site dental screenings and preventive care, addressing critical gaps in access to children's oral health services.

### Youth Leadership and Civic Engagement

- Must! Charities Youth Board offers leadership training and philanthropy experiences for local teens, connecting them to service learning and civic engagement opportunities that foster community responsibility.

### Higher Education Alignment

- Cuesta College partners with PRJUSD and AUSD to work together on dual enrollment, career technical education (CTE), and early career exploration programs that help students transition smoothly from high school to college or the workforce.

Convene funders, districts, and service providers to align investments around shared priorities—transportation, family support, and youth pathways—and explore pooled or braided funding models.



# Shandon

## Population

~1,168 total  
~274 Youths 5-17 yrs.

## Local School Enrollment

~ 86 High School Students  
~ 157 K-8 Students

## Shandon Joint Unified School District

### Elementary Schools:

- Parkfield Elementary
- Shandon Elementary

### High Schools:

- Shandon High

Shandon, California, is a small rural community with a notably youthful population. Approximately 275 residents—about 17–19% of the town's total population—are between the ages of 5 and 18, highlighting the significance of school-age youth within the local demographic makeup. This age group is fairly evenly split across early childhood, middle childhood, and adolescence, and reflects a strong presence in the local school district, with Shandon Elementary and Shandon High serving most of these students. While this population forms the backbone of future community development, it also reveals important challenges. Limited access to extracurricular opportunities, transportation barriers, and underperforming academic metrics underscore the need for targeted investments in youth support systems. In a geographically isolated town like Shandon, where resources are scarce and public services limited, these youth face heightened risks of disconnection from educational and social development pathways critical to long-term success.

## Community Strengths for Youth

- Close-knit, family based community (~40% households with kids)
- Safe environment, low crime
- Local park and pool facilities
- Reasonable cost of living and stable incomes



Student Group: K-8	Percentage
English Learners	47.1%
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged*	71.3%
Students with Disabilities	21%

Student Group: High School	Percentage
English Learners	37.6%
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged*	70.6%
Students with Disabilities	23.5%

## Community Challenges for Youth



- Limited in-town youth services and extracurricular programs
- No local health facilities (i.e., hospitals, clinics)
- High commute time; limited public transport
- Underperforming academic scores\*

Data California School Dashboard 2024 reports

\*Students who are eligible for free or reduced priced meals; or have parents/guardians who did not receive a high school diploma.

## Recurring Themes Across North San Luis Obispo County Areas

The discussions revealed consistent priorities across participants and sectors. These themes highlight where collective effort will have the greatest impact in ensuring equitable, sustainable opportunities for youth and families across the North County region.

- Transportation remains the single greatest barrier to equitable access.
- Parent and family engagement are central to improving youth outcomes.
- Equity and cultural connection must be prioritized, particularly for rural, low-income, and bilingual communities.
- Early workforce and career exposure are key to long-term economic mobility for youth.
- Collaborative ecosystems—schools, nonprofits, higher ed, and funders—are a core community strength.
- Financial sustainability is a structural challenge that requires long-term, diversified funding strategies.

### Potential & Emerging Partnerships

- Transportation Solutions: Regional collaboration among schools, nonprofits, municipalities, and funders to share or subsidize transportation costs.
- Family Support Expansion: Integrated parent resource hubs linking schools, housing providers, and social service agencies.
- Workforce Development: Partnerships with employers, trade programs, and colleges to expose youth to local career pathways.
- Collective Funding Strategies: Philanthropic and government funders pooling resources for systemic investments (transportation, workforce, equity).



# Paso Robles

## Population

~31,568 total

~6,899 Youths 5-17 yrs.

## Paso Robles Unified School District

### Pre-Schools:

- Marie Bauer

### Elementary Schools:

- Glen Speck
- Kermit King
- Pat Butler
- Virginia Peterson
- Winifred Pifer

### Middle Schools:

- George Flamson Middle
- Daniel Lewis Middle

### High Schools:

- Paso Robles High

### Alternative Studies:

- Paso Robles Independent Study Center
- Liberty High (Continuation)
- Independence High

Paso Robles is a vibrant and growing community in northern San Luis Obispo County, with a population of just over 31,000 residents and more than 11,000 households. A significant portion of the community is made up of youth, with an estimated 6,900 children and teens between the ages of 5 and 17. The Paso Robles Joint Unified School District serves more than 6,200 students across 13 schools, where over half of the student population identifies as Hispanic/Latino, and more than 60% are considered economically disadvantaged. While this community is rich in culture and potential, many of its young people face significant barriers to success, including academic achievement gaps, limited access to enrichment opportunities outside of school, and growing mental health and social-emotional needs.

**65.8%**  
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged

**20.3%**  
English Learners

**7.1%**  
Homeless



## Youth Challenges

### Academic Achievement

- Only ~29% proficient in math and ~40% in reading
- National Emphasis: disparities often linked to income and language barriers.

### Economic Hardship

- Citywide poverty
- High number of economically disadvantaged youth (Students who are eligible for free or reduced-priced meals, or have parents/guardians who did not receive a high school diploma.)

### Language Barriers

- 60.6% of the district's students are Hispanic and likely bilingual learners.
- Cultural and language diversity demands for inclusive curriculum and ESL support.

### Mental Health & Support Services

- The district reports employing 20 guidance counselors and 8.5 school psychologists to serve the student body.
- Continued challenges in youth mental health, absenteeism, and social-emotional wellness.

### Higher Education

- Lower college readiness: district earned B+, but test scores lag.

**6,252**

Enrolled Students  
23-24 School Year

**~12.8%**

City wide  
poverty rate

Data California School Dashboard 2024 reports: <https://www.caschooldashboard.org/reports/40754570000000/2024>

United States Census Bureau: <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/elpasoderoblespasoroblescitycalifornia/PST045224#PST045224>

California Department of Education: District Profile: <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sdprofile/details.aspx?cds=40754570000000>

Education Data Partnership: <https://www.ed-data.org/district/san-luis-obispo/paso-robles-joint-unified>



## Opportunities & What's Working Well

Across multiple sectors, participants emphasized that North Santa Barbara County already benefits from strong community institutions, expanding educational initiatives, and vibrant youth engagement programs.

### Community Schools as Hubs of Support

- Santa Maria Bonita, Guadalupe Union, and Orcutt school districts are developing “community school” models that position schools as central gathering points for families, offering access to ESL classes, parenting programs, food distribution, family resource centers, and mental health supports.
- The Bright Futures Project aligns academic curricula district-wide and deepens partnerships with community organizations.

Unlike many regions experiencing declines, Santa Maria Bonita School District continues to see rising student numbers, underscoring the area's growth and family-oriented

*“... our partnership with the Boys and Girls Club that has been historical in terms of how long the relationship has been intact... we’re excited about the possibilities that lie in that partnership going forward —*

Dr. Emilio Handall, Superintendent,  
GUSD

### Growing Educational Infrastructure

- Guadalupe Union recently completed a new junior high campus and gymnasium and is opening an early learning center for TK and preschool students.
- Orcutt Academy High School and Allan Hancock College are expanding dual enrollment, career pathways, and visual/performing arts programming, providing local access to higher education and skill development.

### Youth Programming and Workforce Development

- BGCMCC offers after-school, STEM, and homework support programming in addition to extracurricular activities. Additional community partners offer workforce training programs (e.g., the McClelland Street Market), providing teens with hands-on employment experience.
- Strong participation and enthusiasm from youth, evidenced by over 130 applicants for six workforce slots, signals deep community engagement and unmet demand.

### Cultural and Recreational Enrichment

- Collaborative events such as Día de los Muertos Festival, Movies in the Park, and the Old Orcutt Chalk Festival showcase local pride, cultural celebration, and accessible family activities.
- School districts report growth in visual and performing arts, as well as music education opportunities.





# Santa Maria

## Population

~111,346 total  
**~25,795**  
 Youths 5-17 yrs.

## Gender

~ 12,915 male 5-17 y/o  
 ~ 12,880 female 5-17 y/o

\*Census Reporter ACS 2023 1-year

## Santa Maria-Bonita School District

### Elementary Schools:

- Adam Elementary
- Alvin Elementary
- Arellanes Elementary
- Battles Elementary
- Bill Libbon Elementary
- Bonita Elementary
- Bruce Elementary
- Fairlawn Elementary
- Jimenez Elementary
- Liberty Elementary
- Miller Elementary
- Oakley Elementary
- Ontiveros Elementary
- Rice Elementary
- Sanchez Elementary
- Taylor Elementary
- Tunnel Elementary

### Middle Schools:

- Arellanes J.H.
- El Camino J.H.
- Fesler J.H.
- Tommie Kunst J.H.

## Santa Maria Joint Union High School District

- Delta H.S.
- Ernest Righetti H.S.
- Pioneer Valley H.S.
- Santa Maria H.S.

 **Poverty in Santa Maria (all ages): 19.8%**

 **10% of the homeless population in Santa Barbara is < 18 years of age.**

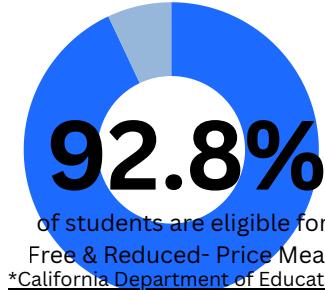
 **20% of the homeless population in Santa Barbara County is in Santa Maria**

Santa Maria is the largest city in Santa Barbara County, with a population of over 111,000 residents. The city is home to a diverse, primarily working-class community, with almost one in five residents living below the poverty line. More than 30% of residents are foreign-born, and Spanish is widely spoken in homes and schools.

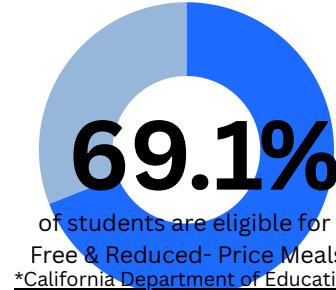
Youth represent a significant portion of the community, roughly about 25,500 children and teens between the ages of 5 and 17 live in Santa Maria, making up more than one-fifth of the city's population. Many of these young people grow up in households facing economic hardship: close to 70-90% of local students qualify for free or reduced-priced school meals, reflecting the high level of need. Schools in Santa Maria serve large populations of English Learners, foster youth, and children from low-income families.

Despite the barriers and challenges it faces, Santa Maria is a community characterized by resilience, cultural richness, and strong family networks.

Santa Maria-Bonita School District



Santa Maria Joint Union High School District



Since 2022 many schools use Community Eligibility Provision, meaning meals are provided at no charge to all students-- eligibility remains a useful need indicator.



## Key Challenges Facing Santa Maria Youth

### 1. Economic Stress & Food Insecurity

- High poverty and education levels contribute to widespread needs in food, housing, and basic support.

### 2. Educational Equity & Attainment

- Low postsecondary degree attainment and high English Learner populations necessitate stronger college/career pathways and multilingual engagement.

### 3. Housing Instability & Homelessness

- Elevated student homelessness and ongoing struggles to secure housing support youth's ability to thrive.

### 4. Limited Youth Spaces & Community Infrastructure

- Limited access to recreation; youth-centered, no-cost/low-cost after-school and weekend options remain a need, especially in high-poverty neighborhoods.
- School overcrowding is driven by consistently growing enrollment, leading to large classes, strained facilities, and issues with other campus resources.

### 5. School climate & risk behaviors (substance use, safety concerns) appear in California Healthy Kids Survey reporting for SMJUHSD.



## Gaps & Unmet Needs

Despite visible progress, significant challenges remain across systems, particularly in mental health, early childhood education, workforce development, and housing affordability.

### Mental & Behavioral Health

- Persistent shortage of qualified bilingual mental health professionals limits access for both students and families.
- Rising post-pandemic behavioral challenges in schools highlight the need for more counselors, psychologists, and trauma-informed practices.
- Educators themselves need mental health and professional resilience support, as classroom demands have intensified.

**Even with recent gains  
(1,400 new Licensed  
Child Care spaces  
created), demand far  
exceeds supply.**

### Early Childhood & Child Care Crisis

- Severe shortage of infant and toddler care spaces: only one licensed slot for every ten children ages 0–2 in Santa Barbara County.
- The issue is compounded by workforce shortages, low wages for childcare providers, and the high cost of living that deters early education professionals from remaining in the area.

### Workforce Development & Economic Mobility

- Youth seek work experience and career training, but available slots are limited.
- Broader need for paid internships and vocational pathways, particularly for teens outside traditional academic tracks.
- Mental health and education fields lack “homegrown” career pipelines, limiting local sustainability.

### Language & Cultural Barriers

- Growing Indigenous Oaxacan and Mixteco-speaking populations are underserved by existing systems due to linguistic isolation and lack of culturally specific outreach.

### Youth Health & Safety

- Challenges around teen pregnancy prevention, reproductive health education, and inclusive programs persist as federal funding shifts or declines.
- Concern for equitable access to care and safety nets for undocumented or mixed-status families.
- Concerns around youth violence and behavioral problems across Districts.

“Our response must start by listening to the voices of our community—especially our youth. We are actively pursuing significant investments in youth employment, youth development, and civic engagement as a direct response to the changing demographics of our region, with programs designed to be culturally and linguistically responsive in both English and Spanish.”

—Steven DeLira, Community

**Parents need more flexible, culturally relevant, and linguistically accessible childcare options.**



# Guadalupe

## Population

~ 8,422 residents  
**~2,174**  
Youths 5-17 yrs.

## Youth (5-17 y/o)

### Population by Gender

- ~ 822 male
- ~ 1,352 female

[\\*Census Reporter](#)

Guadalupe, a small agricultural city of about 8,400 residents, has a young population with roughly 2,100 youth ages 5–17, representing more than one-fourth of the community. Many families face economic challenges—about 28% of residents live in poverty and nearly 90% of students qualify for free or reduced-price meals—while language barriers and limited adult educational attainment add to the obstacles youth encounter. With no high school in town and few recreational or support services, young people often face transportation barriers to accessing services in neighboring cities. Even so, Guadalupe's strong cultural identity, family networks, and community spirit provide a foundation of resilience and pride that supports its youth.

## Guadalupe Union School District

Mary Buren Elementary School

Kermit McKenzie Intermediate School

Guadalupe Jr. High School

[\\*California School Dashboard](#)

[\\*California Department of Education](#)

District Enrollment:  
Approximately 1,323 students  
for 2024-2025 school year.

Grades served: K-8

**90%**  
of students are  
eligible for  
FRPM

**54%**  
of students are  
English Learners

**No local high school- the majority of students commute to Santa Maria or other districts starting from 9th grade onward.**



## Population Demographics

**Poverty in Guadalupe (all ages): 28.3%**

**37.9% of the youth under 18 live below the poverty line.**

**78% of commuters travel via private vehicle.**

**~2,138 households in Guadalupe with an average of 3.9 persons per household.**

**~66% of households report Spanish being their dominant language.**

## Challenges for Youth in Guadalupe

### 01 Daily Commuting

- With average commute times ~24 minutes and a reliance on private vehicles, mobility constraints may limit access to educational, enrichment, or health services outside the city.

### 02 High Economic Vulnerability

- Nearly one-third of residents live in poverty, with over 90% of students eligible for FRPM—indicating widespread household financial strain.

### 03 Rural Isolation

- Geographic spread and limited transit contribute to fewer peer interaction opportunities creating isolation which can factor into mental health.

### 04 Language Related Barriers

- A third of residents are foreign-born, and two-thirds primarily speak Spanish at home, intensifying the need for robust bilingual education and family supports.

[\\*Census Reporter](#)



## Partnerships: Existing & Potential

A defining characteristic of North Santa Barbara County is its culture of collaboration. Schools, nonprofits, city departments, and higher education institutions repeatedly emphasized the power of partnership.

### Existing Collaborations

#### Education + Nonprofit Alignment

- Boys & Girls Clubs, Family Service Agency (FSA), CALM, Community, and Children's Resource & Referral are embedded within school systems and co-locate services.
- Allan Hancock College's dual enrollment and CCAP partnerships connect K-12 students to college courses and future employment opportunities.
- City of Santa Maria Recreation & Parks and Boys & Girls Clubs partner on career camps, youth events, and seasonal programs.

**The most effective programs connect mental health, academic enrichment, and family supports rather than operating in isolation.**

#### Cross-Sector Coordination

- First 5 Santa Barbara County and Children's Resource & Referral have formed a regional child care coalition linking six counties (Santa Cruz–Ventura), aligning child care as an economic mobility strategy.
- Coordination among FSA, Fighting Back, and Dignity Health pursuing joint grants To Support violence prevention and behavioral health initiatives.

“...As a city council member, I am passionate about seeing growth, to be able to collaborate with all [organizations] here... because when it comes to our children, they are our future, and we want to be part of it.”

- Gloria Flores, Council Member District 2, City of Santa Maria

#### Public Sector Engagement

- City council members expressed commitment to co-laboring with nonprofits to ensure youth safety, belonging, and opportunity.
- Local districts have open channels of communication and collaborate. E.G. sharing facilities and programs that open opportunities for their students and families, illustrating cooperative spirit.





# Orcutt

## Population

~31,284 total  
~5,491  
Youths 5-17 yrs.

## Youth Population by Gender (5-17 y/o)

~ 2,878 Male  
~ 2,613 Female

## Orcutt Union School District

### Elementary Schools:

- Alice Shaw
- Patterson Road
- Joe Nightingale
- Pine Grove
- Olga Reed (K-8)
- Ralph Dunlap

### Junior High Schools:

- Lakeview
- Orcutt J.H.
- Orcutt Academy

### High Schools

- Orcutt Academy H.S.

**Total Enrollment (2024-2025)**

**4,106**

Socioeconomically Disadvantaged

51%

English Learners

12.5%

\*California School Dashboard

## Community Demographics

**11,145** Number of households

Mean commute time (to work) **21.8** minutes

**6.64%** Poverty Rate

Unemployment Rate **4.5%**

Orcutt, a suburban community in northern Santa Barbara County, has roughly 31,000 residents, with about 5,500 youth ages 5–17, representing nearly 20% of the population. The community is relatively affluent, with a 6.6% poverty rate. However, economic disparities exist among youth, as roughly half of students in the Orcutt Union School District qualify for free or reduced-price meals, highlighting pockets of economic need.

The district has seen growth in socioeconomically disadvantaged youth and English Learners over the past decade.

Despite its resources, Orcutt youth face challenges requiring commutes to neighboring areas, safety and behavioral concerns in schools, and rising mental health needs. The community demonstrates resilience, with programs such as the district CARES Team providing interventions for at-risk students and the Provision 2 meal program ensuring access to breakfast and lunch for all children. Orcutt's strong community engagement and targeted supports create a foundation for youth to thrive, even amidst these challenges.

## Community Strengths for Youth

- Strong School System – Orcutt Union School District has a reputation for quality education, with dedicated teachers, small-town schools, and strong family engagement.
- High Graduation and Academic Achievement Rates – Students in Orcutt generally perform above county and state averages in academics.
- Community Safety – Compared to nearby cities, Orcutt has lower crime rates, offering a relatively safe environment for families and youth.
- Family-Oriented Community – Many families are long-term residents, fostering stability, strong parent involvement, and community pride.



## Community Challenges for Youth



- Behavioral and Safety Concerns: Recent reports have highlighted incidents of violent behavior and safety concerns within schools, leading to heightened anxiety among students and parents.
- Mental Health Needs: There is an increasing demand for mental health services to address issues such as anxiety, depression, and behavioral problems among students.



## Recurring Themes Across North Santa Barbara County Areas

### Integrated Approach to Youth Wellbeing

- The most effective programs connect mental health, academic enrichment, and family supports rather than operating in isolation.

### Investment in Early Childhood = Long-Term Payoff

- Child care access and quality are foundational not just for families but for workforce participation and regional economic health.

### Homegrown Workforce Development

- Local talent pipelines for teachers, counselors, and mental health providers are essential for long-term capacity building.

### Equity and Cultural Responsiveness

- Growth of Indigenous and immigrant populations requires bilingual staff, culturally attuned programming, and trust-based outreach.

### Partnership as the Operating Model

- No single entity can meet community needs alone. Collective impact — through shared vision, data, and resources — is the region's best path forward.
- Collaboration as a Solution -recurring emphasis on partnerships between schools, nonprofits, city government/leadership, and community agencies to fill gaps.

### Emerging Partnership Opportunities

- Expansion of Family Resource Centers through shared facilities or co-location with community partners.
- Development of career pipelines for mental health and education professions, beginning in high school.
- Joint workforce and youth internship initiatives, leveraging municipal, business, and nonprofit sectors.
- Greater inclusion of Indigenous and multilingual community leaders in outreach and program design.
- Continued alignment of after-school enrichment, arts, and wellness programming across agencies to maximize impact and minimize duplication.





## Community Listening Tour: From Insight to Action

On October 3, 2025, insights gathered through the Community Listening Tour in North San Luis Obispo County and North Santa Barbara County helped shape a focused growth planning conversation with the leadership of Boys & Girls Clubs of Mid Central Coast. This session marked an important step from listening to action—using community input to inform how we grow, where we invest, and how we best support young people and families across the Central Coast.

Rooted in the voices of community members, families, educators, and partners, this work reflects our shared commitment to creating opportunity for every child and teen we serve. Guided by our vision to provide high-quality, life-changing youth development programs and our mission to help all young people—especially those who need us most—reach their full potential, our leadership team identified priorities that are both responsive to today's needs and focused on long-term impact.

These priorities align with four core focus areas that guide our work:

- Invest in Youth by delivering engaging programs with meaningful outcomes
- Build Leaders From Within by supporting and strengthening our staff
- Grow Through Giving by expanding philanthropy and deepening community relationships
- Strengthen Operational Systems by improving facilities, technology, and internal processes

As a result of this planning, Boys & Girls Clubs of Mid Central Coast committed to several key initiatives over the next three to five years:

- Reimagining and renovating the Railroad Clubhouse into a modern youth innovation hub
- Advancing the Orcutt property to serve youth, families, and the broader community
- Diversifying revenue to strengthen long-term sustainability
- Expanding life and workforce readiness programs for teens
- Strengthening our presence across both counties so communities clearly see and value our impact

These next steps reflect our values of integrity, collaboration, accountability, respect, and excellence, and our belief that lasting impact is achieved through partnership and community voice. As we move forward, we remain committed to listening, learning, and growing—ensuring every young person across the Mid Central Coast has access to safe spaces, caring mentors, and meaningful opportunities to learn, grow, and thrive.



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS  
OF MID CENTRAL COAST**

# Community Listening Tour Participation

## Community Members

Melissa Bailey, Paso Robles City Librarian  
Tina Baugh, North County Regional Librarian, SLO County Libraries  
Kris Beal, Paso Robles City Council, District 1  
Pat Bland, Board Secretary, REC Foundation  
Leo Castillo, Commander, Veterans of Foreign Wars  
Alexandra Chamberlain, Executive Director, Tolosa Children's Dental Center  
Christine Dawson, CEO, The Community Foundation San Luis Obispo County  
Lisa Fraser, Executive Director, Center for Family Strengthening  
Kim Gaspar, Director of Expanded Learning, PRJUSD  
Randy Gray, Director of Community Investments, Must! Charities  
Angela Hollander, Volunteer, Paso Robles High School Career Center  
Officer Joseph Leonard, Paso Robles Police Department, School Resource Officers  
Officer Joe Stanley, Paso Robles Police Department, School Resource Officers  
Jennifer Loftus, Superintendent, PRJUSD  
Raylene Lopez, Regional Coordinator, People's Self-Help Housing  
Kris Reid, Department Director, People's Self-Help Housing  
Itzelt Santos, Senior Manager, People's Self-Help Housing  
Mia Ruiz, Dean, Student Success & Support Programs, Cuesta College  
Barby Wunsch, Executive Director, Paso Robles Youth Arts Center  
Tristan Shorba, Principal, Fine Arts Academy (on campus)  
Heather Moreno, 5th District Supervisor, San Luis Obispo County (on FAA campus)  
Troylyn Lindsay, Educational Services Coordinator, Atascadero Unified School District (on FAA campus)  
Dr. Deborah Pirman, Dean, Academic Affairs, Allan Hancock College  
Patricia Rios, Outreach Coordinator, Allan Hancock College  
Christina Hernandez, Field Representative, Assembly Member Hart's Office  
Betina Monterrosa, Assistant Manager of Family Services, CRRSBC  
Michelle Graham, CEO, Children's Resource & Referral of Santa Barbara County  
Jacqui Banta, COO, Children's Resource & Referral of Santa Barbara County  
Christine Fleenor, Deputy Director, CRRSBC  
Rosa Padilla, Deputy Director, CRRSBC  
Ilse Baez, Family Services Coordinator, CRRSBC  
Araceli Sanchez, Family Services Coordinator, CRRSBC  
Jesus Ruiz, Manager of Programs, CRRSBC  
Senior Manager of Programs, CRRSBC  
Gloria Flores, Council Member District 2, City of Santa Maria  
Gloria Soto, Council Member District 3, City of Santa Maria  
Jeannette Blanco, Youth & Teen Programs, Rec Supervisor, City of SM Rec & Parks  
Steven DeLira, Family & Youth Services Director, Community  
Vanessa Murillo, Community Engagement Manager, Driscoll's  
Arcelia Sencion, Chief Strategy & North County Programs Officer, Family Service Agency  
Maggie Payne, Special Projects Coordinator, First 5 San Luis Obispo County  
Dr. Emilio Handall, Superintendent, Guadalupe Union School District  
Amber Tetz, District Representative, Office of Congressman Carbajal CA-24  
Joe Dana, Assistant Superintendent, Orcutt Union School District  
Maria Perez, Family Support Specialist, Transitions-Mental Health Association  
Shelby McLean, Development Manager, Calm  
Linda Cordero, Board President, Santa Maria-Bonita School District  
Jose Segura, Coordinator of Community Schools, Santa Maria-Bonita School District  
Jose Pereyra, Director of Wellness Services, Santa Maria Joint Union High School District  
Michael Boyer, Chief Executive Officer, Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce



## Community Listening Tour Participation

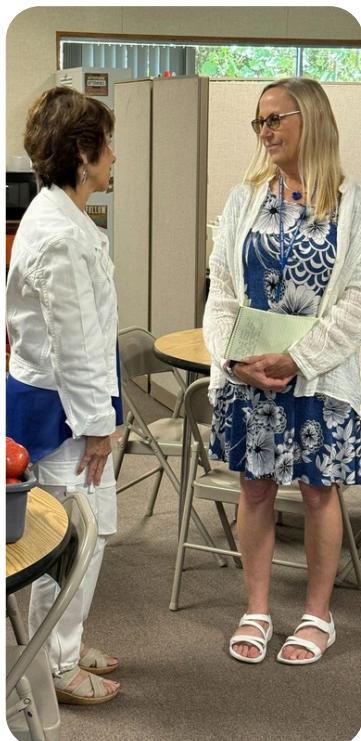


### Boys & Girls Club of Mid Central Coast Board Members

Debbie Perrault, Board Chair  
Gene Runkle, Board Treasurer  
Eric Hallin, Board Vice-Chair  
Conrad Stephens, Board Member  
Dennis Curran, Board Member  
Meredith Rodriguez, Board Member  
Janet Rhoades, Board Member  
Dan Lillard, Board Member  
Tim Murphy, Board Member  
Brooks Wise, Board Member  
Nadine Sullivan, Board Member  
Carla Brown, Board Member  
Daniel Rios, Board Member

### Boys & Girls Club of Mid Central Coast Staff Members

Maria Fabula, Chief Executive Officer  
Deb Jeffers, Chief Advancement Officer  
Roberto Rodriguez, Chief Impact Officer  
Anna Libbon, Chief Programs Officer  
Meghan Harris, Chief Operations Officer  
Maria Avelar, NSLO Regional Club Director  
Alora McNulty, Tom Maas Club Director  
Guadalupe Anguiano, Fine Arts Academy Club Director  
Veronica Ayon, Creston Elementary Club Director  
Angela Ramirez, Shandon Elementary Club Assistant Director  
Daisy Perez, NSB Regional Club Director  
Miguel Torres-Frausto, Railroad Clubhouse Director  
Annalise Leon, Evans Park Club Director  
Josue Rojo, Ron Estabillo Clubhouse Director  
Rubi Garcia, McKenzie School Club Director  
Miriam Torres, Mary Buren School Club Director  
Kelly Brickey, Events Manager  
Kelly White O'Neill, Director of Marketing and Donor Communications  
Christian Briano, Administrative Coordinator





# Why partner with Boys & Girls Clubs of Mid Central Coast?

Since the doors first opened in 1966, Boys & Girls Clubs of Mid Central Coast have provided safe, educational and fun programs for local youth between the ages of TK-18.

This year marks our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary on the Central Coast—from the flagship Railroad Clubhouse in Santa Maria—to now serving 10 Clubs in the communities of Santa Maria, Guadalupe, Atascadero, Paso Robles, Creston and Shandon thanks to support from sponsors like you!

**SERVING MORE  
THAN 4,300  
YOUNG PEOPLE  
IN 2024**



**93,232 KIDS  
HAVE WALKED  
THROUGH OUR  
DOORS SINCE  
1966**

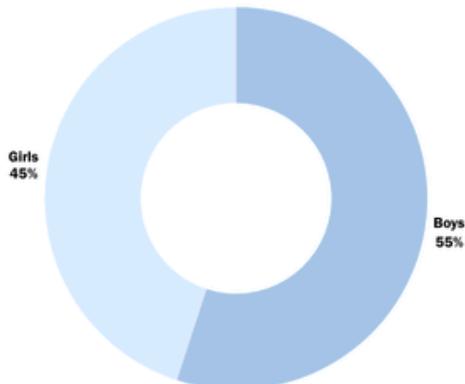
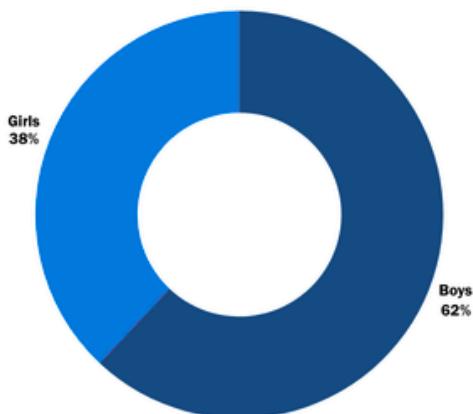


**60 YEARS OF ENABLING ALL  
YOUNG PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY  
THOSE WHO NEED US MOST,  
TO REALIZE THEIR FULL  
POTENTIAL AS PRODUCTIVE,  
CARING AND RESPONSIBLE  
CITIZENS.**



**Santa Barbara County**

**San Luis Obispo County**



**\*Age range 4-18\***



# 2026 Events Schedule

## **Tuesday, January 13**

60th Birthday Party - Railroad Clubhouse - Santa Maria

## **Tuesday, January 27**

Standing With Youth - Railroad Clubhouse - Santa Maria

## **March**

North SLO Board Member Reunion - Tom Maas Clubhouse - Paso Robles

## **Thursday, April 16**

Back a Youth Night - Tom Maas Clubhouse - Paso Robles

## **Saturday, May 9**

2026 Annual Spring Auction & Gala - Santa Maria Veterans' Center

## **Thursday, May 28**

Back a Youth Night - Ron Estabillo Clubhouse - Guadalupe

## **Friday, July 31**

27<sup>th</sup> Annual Ag For Youth Golf Tournament - Santa Maria Country Club

## **Wednesday, September 9**

Day of Giving - Various Locations

## **September**

Paso Robles Salon - Libretto

## **Thursday, September 24**

Back a Youth Night - Railroad Clubhouse - Santa Maria

## **Friday, October 2**

7<sup>th</sup> Annual Crush It Golf Tournament - Hunter Ranch Golf Course - Paso Robles

## **November**

Santa Maria Salon



**DONATE ONLINE**

[www.centralcoastkids.org](http://www.centralcoastkids.org)