The state-of-the-art San Mateo County Navigation Center encompasses 240 safe, temporary living units to provide intensive on-site support services to individuals and couples experiencing homelessness. Unlike a congregate shelter, the Center offers increased privacy for clients and space for couples to stay together. The Center is a key component of the County’s plan to make interim or permanent housing available to every unsheltered person who chooses assistance.

The Site
The Center site became available in September of 2021, when the County and Redwood City completed a land swap. The County acquired 2.5 acres at 275 Blomquist St., and the City became the owner of 1850 Maple St., the Maple Street Shelter site. Demolition of the Maple Street Shelter and construction of up to 110 units of permanent housing for formerly homeless residents on the Maple Street site will start soon. Funding for the new housing includes a generous donation from John Sobrato, and significant state and County contributions.

The Project
- The center includes 240 units. 168 units are 200sf and include an in-unit bathroom. 72 units are 100 sf and the residents of these units will have access to community bathrooms. Total capacity is 260 residents
- Common spaces and services at the Center
  - All-electric commercial kitchen, used for gathering, job training and communal dining
  - Space for on-site services including case management and benefits assistance
  - Fully staffed medical and dental clinics which will also provide mental health and substance abuse services
  - Laundry and storage facilities
  - BBQ area
  - Dog run
  - Basketball court
- Environmentally Advanced Construction
  - LEED Silver certification
  - Solar array on all structures to generate 60% of estimated energy requirements
  - Landscaping to be irrigated by recycled water
Construction Cost and Funding

- $57 million total cost.
- $46.1 million California state Homekey grant for construction.
- $5 million donation by philanthropist John Sobrato.
- $500,000 federal Community Project Funding grant secured by Congresswoman Jackie Speier.
- Multiple labor trades donations.
- Balance covered by San Mateo County American Rescue Plan Act funding and County General funds.

Annual Operating Costs

- Five-year contract with LifeMoves to operate the Navigation Center.
- Contracts with multiple service providers for physical and mental health, dental, social services, employment, and other services.
- $9.2 million in Homekey grant for operations.
- County funding $5 million for LifeMoves contract, and funding other service provider contracts. Fundraising is ongoing.