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Riverside County: Cool Centers close after summer-long service

The 50-plus cool centers that operated throughout Riverside County, providing residents and others with a respite from high temperatures, are closing after serving more than 16,000 visitors.

The 57 centers, coordinated by the Community Action Partnership of Riverside County (CAP), had been operating since June at community centers, public buildings and other facilities to give residents a break from temperatures that often reached triple digits. Community Action Partnership is part of Riverside University Health System—Public Health.

“This has been a very successful summer in large part because of the work of our community partners and volunteers,” said Brenda Freeman, executive director for CAP. “The collaborative efforts have allowed us to serve thousands of visitors.”

CAP officials estimate that 16,766 visitors showed up at the cool centers, which operated for more than 5,600 hours. Last summer, there were 14,694 cool center visitors during the summer.

Funding sources Regional Access Project (RAP) Foundation, Southern California Edison, and California Department of Community Services and Development. There was also water donations from Stater Bros. and Walgreens.

To learn more, visit www.capriverside.org.

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