

Economic Development Division

CEO Report

October 9th, 2024

The Economic Development Division is working on several projects across economic priorities:

- CA Jobs First Funding RFP Release
- Redwood Coast Region Economic Summit in Eureka
- EPA Recreation Economy for Rural Communities Application
- Sonoma Mendocino Economic Development District (SMEDD) - CEDS updates
- Business Recruitment and Retention Efforts – Collaborative events w/other organizations

CA Jobs First – Catalyst Funding Released

The RFP for the Redwood Region RISE Catalyst Fund will open October 21st, 2024, applications will be due December 5th, 2024 at 12pm.

A link to the application will be available on the County of Mendocino Economic Development Division webpage.

The Redwood Region RISE Catalyst Fund is \$9 million which will be awarded to local pre-development projects and activities. The criteria for these “pre-development” projects mirror the State’s Implementation Fund priorities: projects that create high-quality jobs, meet community support criteria, adhere to labor standards, and align with climate goals.

County of Mendocino Economic Development Division is part of the voting block our regional cohort, Redwood Region RISE. The economic development division is participating in the ad hoc to develop a scoring rubric for grading projects and awarding funds.

Redwood Coast Region Economic Summit: Together Towards Tomorrow

October 10th and 11th in Eureka

Organized by North Edge (formerly Arcata Economic Development Corporation)

Staff attended the regional economic summit in Eureka with presentations from Robert Eyler, Anthony Pipa and Senate President Pro Tempore Mike McGuire.

Sonoma Mendocino Economic Development District (SMEDD)

The division staff is working on strategy for next round of the EDA planning grant. SMEDD will be working on a small operating budget in next grant cycle. Previously, SMEDD received both the EDA Planning Grant and the Cares Act funding. In the next cycle, only the Planning Grant is open.

Staff is beginning the annual CEDS (Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy) updates. Staff will be meeting with project stakeholders and collaborators receive updates on progress with CEDS aligned projects.

EPA RERC (Recreation Economy for Rural Communities)

Division staff are working closely with local communities to apply for the EPA Recreation Economy Rural Communities. The program provides planning support for the northern region of District 3 - Covelo, Laytonville, Leggett and Piercy to create strategies and an action plan to grow local outdoor recreation economy, stewardship and local place making.

Business Recruitment and Retention Efforts

The Economic Development Division is working to create easily accessible resources to share with businesses interested in moving to the County. Staff will be attending the local realtors meeting on Wednesdays in Ukiah Chambers to request up to date information on commercial and industrial property. Staff is also working on creating a business survey to understand local businesses unmet needs, challenges and strengths of region.

CDBG Micro-Enterprise TA Grant- Economic Development Division continues to manage the Micro-enterprise grant contracted with West Business Development Center.

From January to September 30th 2024, West provided the following services under the Micro-Enterprise TA Grant:

- 1:1 Business Consulting 167 hours to 75 unique clients
- Ascertain Readiness 59.5 hours to 45 unique clients
- Service Plan 45 Service Plans created for 45 unique clients