



COUNTY OF MENDOCINO

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Introduction

In October and November, the Grants Unit addressed considerable demands related to grant management and administration. The unit completed five monthly progress reports for active projects under the CDBG MIT-PPS program and eleven quarterly reports for the CDBG, CDBG MIT-RIP, and HMGP programs. Furthermore, the unit finalized the comprehensive annual risk assessment related to ongoing CDBG MIT-PPS and CDBG MIT-RIP grant projects. In addition, the unit concluded the grant closeout process for Mendocino County's CDBG COVID-19 Business Assistance and Recovery Business Loan Fund Program (20-CDBG-PI-12010). They also focused on grant amendments and modification requests, including those necessary for the Hazard Abatement project. The unit is currently progressing several grant applications, requests for proposals (RFPs), and ongoing grant projects.

I. Effective County Government Organization

- a. **Project Prioritization Matrix.** The Grants Unit is actively engaged in the development of a project prioritization matrix and strategy to effectively guide its grant-related initiatives. This matrix is designed to facilitate the systematic evaluation of projects and opportunities, thereby enabling the optimal allocation of resources and the focus of efforts on the most impactful funding prospects. By implementing this approach, the Grants Unit seeks to make informed, data-driven decisions by assessing potential grants against established critical criteria. Through the process of prioritization, the Grants Unit aims to maximize the investment of time and resources, ensure alignment with strategic objectives, avoid the pursuit of low-impact or low-likelihood funding opportunities, and establish a sustainable and proactive strategy for grant acquisition.

II. A Safe and Healthy County

- a. **\$50,000 - USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Direct Grant.** The Grants Unit is working with the Sheriff's Office on a grant application to the USDA for assistance purchasing and equipping two new Sheriff vehicles. The application is anticipated to come before the board in a public hearing on December 17, 2024. The two new law enforcement vehicles will significantly benefit the rural residents of Mendocino County by providing the Sheriff's Office with reliable, fully equipped options for rapid response. The improved fleet will decrease maintenance downtime, improve officer safety, and increase the department's capacity to respond promptly to emergencies.

III. A Thriving Economy

- a. **Recreation Economy for Rural Communities (RERC).** The Grants and Economic Development Unit prepared and submitted an application for the EPA's Recreation Economy for Rural Communities planning assistance

program which helps communities identify strategies to grow their outdoor recreation economy and revitalize their main streets. The RERC program will foster community-specific planning for Covelo, Leggett and Laytonville to develop strategies to leverage outdoor recreation assets, market the community's assets, and support the growth of businesses and services in the region.

- b. Direct Homeownership Assistance Loans.** The Community Development Commission (CDC), which has been providing administrative services to the County to manage the existing Direct Homeownership Assistance loan portfolio, has informed the County that it does not intend to renew its contract. The Grants Unit is working with the CDC to transition the management of 34 active HOME loans, 9 STBG loans, and 1 CDBG loan to the County.

IV. A Prepared and Resilient County

- a. Grant Project RFPs.** The Grants Unit is currently overseeing the Request for Proposals (RFP) process for two grant-funded initiatives: the Orr Springs Road Fuels Reduction Project Management Phase I and the Local Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJHMP) Update Consultant. The proposals for the Orr Springs Road Fuels Reduction Project Management Phase I have been thoroughly reviewed and scored, and interviews have been conducted with the leading candidates. The Orr Springs Road Fuels Reduction project was awarded in November, with the contract expected to be presented to the Board in December. The MJHMP is scheduled for review during the months of November and December, with the objective of delivering the contract to the Board in January.

V. Other/Additional Information