



Summary:

The Economic Development Division's role and responsibility is to implement the priorities of the Board of Supervisors' strategic plan for a thriving economy. We are dedicated to growing a healthy, resilient, sustainable, and inclusive economy, creating equitable wealth within our communities. The primary methods through which we do this are long-term strategic planning, connecting people to resources and removing barriers. The Economic Development Division is staffed by one full-time employee.

The Economic Development Division is working on several projects addressing economic priorities in the County:

- Held first Economic Development by Sector meeting with Behavioral Health sector stakeholders
- Held Strategic Workshop for SMEDD Board to align goals for 2025-2028 Planning Grant

3 Grant Applications Submitted (descriptions provided in previous reports):

Pending - EPA RERC (Recreation Economy for Rural Communities) – TA Only (No Cash Award)

Pending - CDBG PI Microenterprise Technical Assistance - \$255,728.49

Denied - Redwood Region Rise (CA Jobs First) Catalyst Funding - \$204,362.24

Regional Economic Strategic Planning

Sonoma Mendocino Economic Development District (SMEDD):

Held Strategic Workshop for SMEDD Board Members in Cloverdale, CA to focus priorities for the 2025-2028 EDA Planning Grant cycle

Supporting Strategy Ad-Hoc to focus priorities for forming a Strategy Committee and planning for the 5-year CEDS update

Next SMEDD Board meeting: Friday, March 21st 1-3pm at the County of Mendocino Administrative Building, Conference Room A, 501 Low Gap Rd, Ukiah CA 95482

Redwood Region RISE (California Jobs First):

Voting Block is meeting to review, deliberate and vote to award \$9 million in Catalyst Funding to proposed projects. Projects have been scored based on a rubric create by the Equity Council. The Equity Council task was to create a rubric that serves the needed and priorities of the Redwood Region.

Initiatives and Projects in Business Support and Retention Efforts and Technical Assistance

Economic Development by Industry – Division staff is to holding a series of meetings for several industry sectors within Mendocino County to foster collaboration and create actionable goals for industry advancement in:

3/3/2025 - Behavioral Health

3/27/2025 - Cannabis Cultivation and processing

5/21/2025 - Home Hardening and Fire Safe Construction and Landscaping

7/17/2025 - Forest Health and Biomass Utilization

Date TBA - Agricultural – Farmers and Livestock

Date TBA - Arts and Tourism

Behavioral Health Sector Meeting

The first sector table meeting was held on March 3rd, 2025 at the Behavioral Health Regional Training Center in Redwood Valley.

Stakeholders from County of Mendocino Behavioral Health, Mendocino College, Mendocino Community Health Clinic, Consolidated Tribal Health Project met to discuss needs, priorities and opportunities in the Behavioral Health Sector.



CDBG Micro Enterprise Technical Assistance – The division staff manages the Micro Enterprise TA grant contracted to West Business Development Center. Staff recently met with West's new CEO Sarah Bodnar. West will be providing a report out on impact of the grant in the next division report.