



Introduction

Staff continued to advance economic development projects. This report presents Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) project highlights, Business Disaster Response to the July 2024 Earthquake and Mendocino County Labor Force and Industry Employment Estimates.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

Business Loan Program

In early April, County staff submitted a \$380,000 Business Loan Program application to the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD). HCD provided approval to the County on July 7, 2026.

The County received the Standard Agreement from HCD for the Business Loan Program on August 31, 2026. Once the Standard Agreement is in place, the County will issue a press release notifying the public when it can begin accepting loan applications.

Small Business Technical Assistance

The County has been approved by HCD to use \$407,000 of CDBG program income to provide Microenterprise Technical Assistance for small businesses.

The County issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) on July 2, 2026. Proposals were due August 3, 2026, and are now under evaluation. The County will select a vendor to provide direct technical assistance to small businesses.

Centro de Negocios West

HCD also approved the use of \$100,000 of CDBG program income for West Business Development Center “Centro de Negocios” program to provide Spanish-language technical assistance and business training in Mendocino County.

Whale Gulch School Accessibility Improvements

Staff continued to work with Mendocino County Office of Education on the CDBG Program Income application for \$168,000 to fund Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) improvements at Whale Gulch School.

Covelo Clean Up Project: Illegal Dump Site Clean-up and Community Clean Up Days

Illegal Dump Site Clean Up

The CDBG-funded Covelo Clean Up Project addresses illegal dumping through site clean-up, removal of abandoned vehicles, community clean up days and education about the environmental impacts of improper waste disposal.

The County engaged in a competitive bidding process to select a vendor for cleanup activities for two illegal dumpsites in Covelo. Work began in July 2026.

- Cleanup activities on the first site were completed in August 2026.
- Cleanup activities for the second site began in late August 2026 and are expected to be completed before the scheduled October 31, 2026, completion date.

Community Clean Up Days

The County of Mendocino engaged Mendocino County Resource Conservation District (MCRCD) and Round Valley Indian Tribe (RVIT) to coordinate Community Clean-up days in Covelo.

- October 2, 2026, is designated for Seniors and
- October 3, 2026, is designated for all Covelo residents.

Informational fliers and vouchers have been drafted and are in the approval process.

In addition to Community Clean Up Days, MCRCD and RVIT are partnering with a local artist to paint murals around town. The murals will promote responsible land stewardship and help raise awareness about keeping local waterways free of trash.

Business Disaster Response - Pine Mountain Earthquake

On June 24, 2026, a magnitude 5.6 earthquake occurred in the Pine Mountain area, approximately 11 kilometers north of Redwood Valley and east of Willits. The earthquake was widely felt throughout Mendocino County and surrounding areas and resulted in power outages, reported injuries, and damage to homes and businesses. No major damage to public infrastructure or fatalities were reported.

Following the earthquake, the Economic Development team worked closely with Prevention Recovery, Resiliency and Mitigation (PRRM) to document business impacts and identify damage with the goal of determining available resources for affected businesses.

The Economic Development team will continue to work with PRRM to identify any available resources to businesses affected by the earthquake.

Mendocino County Labor Force and Industry Employment Estimates

The Employment Development Department (EDD) has released preliminary civilian labor force and industry employment estimates for July 2026.

- Mendocino County's unemployment rate is 5.5%
- California's unemployment rate is 5.3%

The July 2026 Industry Employment & Labor Force Report is attached.

August 21, 2026
Employment Development Department
Labor Market Information Division
Contact: [LMID RESEARCHERS](#)

Mendocino County

Industry Employment & Labor Force
March 2025 Benchmark

Data Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Jul 25	May 26	Jun 26 Revised	Jul 26 Prelim	Percent Change Month Year	
Civilian Labor Force (1)	36,490	36,560	36,700	36,330	-1.0%	-0.4%
Civilian Employment	34,300	34,860	34,770	34,340	-1.2%	0.1%
Civilian Unemployment	2,190	1,710	1,930	1,990	3.1%	-9.1%
Civilian Unemployment Rate	6.0%	4.7%	5.3%	5.5%		
(CA Unemployment Rate)	5.9%	4.7%	5.2%	5.3%		
(U.S. Unemployment Rate)	4.6%	4.1%	4.4%	4.4%		
Total Wage and Salary (2)	32,340	33,700	34,040	33,310	-2.1%	3.0%
Total Farm	1,540	1,810	1,900	1,740	-8.4%	13.0%
Total Nonfarm	30,800	31,890	32,140	31,570	-1.8%	2.5%
Total Private	24,320	24,340	24,500	24,750	1.0%	1.8%
Goods Producing	3,900	3,790	3,860	3,930	1.8%	0.8%
Mining, Logging and Construction	2,000	1,920	2,010	2,090	4.0%	4.5%
Mining and Logging	340	310	350	370	5.7%	8.8%
Construction	1,660	1,610	1,660	1,720	3.6%	3.6%
Manufacturing	1,900	1,860	1,860	1,850	-0.5%	-2.6%
Durable Goods	940	930	930	930	0.0%	-1.1%
Non-Durable Goods	960	930	930	920	-1.1%	-4.2%
Service-Providing	26,900	28,110	28,290	27,630	-2.3%	2.7%
Private Service Providing	20,420	20,560	20,650	20,810	0.8%	1.9%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	5,610	5,440	5,450	5,460	0.2%	-2.7%
Wholesale Trade	720	680	690	690	0.0%	-4.2%
Retail Trade	4,020	3,900	3,900	3,900	0.0%	-3.0%
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	860	860	870	870	0.0%	1.2%
Information	160	160	160	170	6.3%	6.3%
Financial Activities	940	910	920	940	2.2%	0.0%
Professional and Business Services	1,890	1,930	1,900	1,900	0.0%	0.5%
Private Education and Health Services	6,920	7,210	7,180	7,170	-0.1%	3.6%
Leisure and Hospitality	4,100	4,170	4,260	4,390	3.1%	7.1%
Other Services	810	750	770	790	2.6%	-2.5%
Government	6,480	7,550	7,640	6,820	-10.7%	5.2%
Federal Government	270	260	270	270	0.0%	0.0%
Total State and Local Government	6,210	7,280	7,370	6,550	-11.1%	5.5%
State Government	830	790	830	840	1.2%	1.2%
Local Government	5,380	6,490	6,540	5,710	-12.7%	6.1%

Notes:

(1) Civilian labor force data are by place of residence; include self-employed individuals, unpaid family workers, household domestic workers, & workers on strike. Data may not add due to rounding. The unemployment rate is calculated using unrounded data.

(2) Industry employment is by place of work; excludes self-employed individuals, unpaid family workers, household domestic workers, & workers on strike. Data may not add due to rounding.

These data are produced by the Labor Market Information Division of the California Employment Development Department (EDD). Questions should be directed to:
Contact: [LMID RESEARCHERS](#)

These data, as well as other labor market data, are available via the Internet at <http://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov>.

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