



COUNTY OF MENDOCINO

Executive Office

DARCIE ANTLE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
CLERK OF THE BOARD

501 Low Gap Rd. Room 1010
Ukiah, CA 95482

Email: ceo@mendocinocounty.gov
Website: www.mendocinocounty.gov

Office: (707) 463-4441
Fax: (707) 463-5649

Economic Development Division-Executive Office CEO Report June 2026

Introduction

Staff continued to advance economic development projects. This report presents April 2026 Employment Estimates, CDBG project highlights, CALED's accelerated permitting effort, and Restaurants Care Grants opportunity.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

Staff submitted a \$380,000 Business Loan Program application to the Department of Community and Development (HCD) for approval in early April and received conditional approval on May 29, 2026. The County will issue press releases to announce when it can start accepting business loan applications.

The County has been approved by HCD to use \$407,000 of CDBG program income to provide Microenterprise Technical Assistance. A Request for Proposal (RFP) will be issued within the next month for a vendor to provide direct technical assistance to small businesses.

Staff continued to work on the CDBG Program Income applications for \$168,000 funding for ADA improvements at Whale Gulch School and \$100,000 funding for West Business Development Center "Centro de Negocios" program.

Covelo Clean Up Project

This Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program funded project aims to cleanup illegal dump sites around the community of Covelo. The County issued two Request for Proposals for solid waste and abandoned vehicle removal. After a lengthy evaluation, staff is targeting submitting vendor contracts to the Board for approval on June 23rd.

CALED Announced Award for \$5M to Accelerate Permitting

CALED announced in May 2026 that they've received an awarded of \$5 million grant from the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) to accelerate permit streamlining efforts across California. This investment will support a comprehensive, action-oriented program designed to help jurisdictions modernize permitting—grounded in real tools, training, and implementation support.

Key initiatives include:

- Publishing statewide analysis of major permit streamlining policies and recent legislation shaping local processes
- Developing a robust training curriculum and video series covering the four stages of permitting and due diligence
- Launching hands-on cohort-based trainings and a scalable statewide learning model for local agencies

- Building a centralized resource hub with templates, best practices, and shared tools for jurisdictions
- Partnering with providers to expand access to online permitting solutions, with an emphasis on supporting rural communities.

More information can be found at <https://capermitacademy.org/>

Restaurants Care Grants for Independent Restaurants

The PG&E Corporation Foundation announced it will fund grants to support independent restaurant owners and their staff through the California Restaurant Foundation's (CRF) Restaurants Care Resilience Fund. The grants will support a record number of restaurants in Northern and Central California this year. Resilience Fund grant applications will be accepted through June 30, 2026. More information can be found at <https://restaurantscare.org/resilience/>

Mendocino County Labor Force and Industry Employment Estimates

The Employment Development Department (EDD) has released revised and preliminary civilian labor force and industry employment estimates for April 2026. Mendocino County's unemployment rate is 5.2%, compared to the state's 5%. Report is attached.

May 22, 2026

Employment Development Department
Labor Market Information Division

Contact: [LMID RESEARCHERS](#)

Mendocino County

Industry Employment & Labor Force
March 2025 Benchmark

Data Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Apr 25	Feb 26	Mar 26 Revised	Apr 26 Prelim	Percent Month	Change Year
Civilian Labor Force (1)	36,480	36,760	36,760	36,390	-1.0%	-0.2%
Civilian Employment	34,380	34,430	34,590	34,500	-0.3%	0.3%
Civilian Unemployment	2,100	2,330	2,170	1,890	-12.9%	-10.0%
Civilian Unemployment Rate	5.7%	6.3%	5.9%	5.2%		
(CA Unemployment Rate)	5.1%	5.5%	5.2%	5.0%		
(U.S. Unemployment Rate)	3.9%	4.7%	4.3%	4.0%		
Total Wage and Salary (2)	32,420	32,530	32,930	33,120	0.6%	2.2%
Total Farm	1,430	1,490	1,520	1,560	2.6%	9.1%
Total Nonfarm	30,990	31,040	31,410	31,560	0.5%	1.8%
Total Private	23,560	23,680	23,820	24,030	0.9%	2.0%
Goods Producing	3,590	3,480	3,510	3,650	4.0%	1.7%
Mining, Logging and Construction	1,690	1,640	1,660	1,790	7.8%	5.9%
Mining and Logging	210	160	150	230	53.3%	9.5%
Construction	1,480	1,480	1,510	1,560	3.3%	5.4%
Manufacturing	1,900	1,840	1,850	1,860	0.5%	-2.1%
Durable Goods	930	900	910	920	1.1%	-1.1%
Non-Durable Goods	970	940	940	940	0.0%	-3.1%
Service-Providing	27,400	27,560	27,900	27,910	0.0%	1.9%
Private Service Providing	19,970	20,200	20,310	20,380	0.3%	2.1%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	5,490	5,440	5,420	5,420	0.0%	-1.3%
Wholesale Trade	690	690	690	690	0.0%	0.0%
Retail Trade	3,990	3,900	3,880	3,890	0.3%	-2.5%
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	810	850	850	850	0.0%	4.9%
Information	150	160	160	160	0.0%	6.7%
Financial Activities	910	930	930	920	-1.1%	1.1%
Professional and Business Services	1,980	1,940	1,940	1,920	-1.0%	-3.0%
Private Education and Health Services	6,860	7,190	7,220	7,210	-0.1%	5.1%
Leisure and Hospitality	3,850	3,840	3,940	4,020	2.0%	4.4%
Other Services	730	700	710	730	2.8%	0.0%
Government	7,430	7,360	7,590	7,530	-0.8%	1.3%
Federal Government	270	260	260	260	0.0%	-3.7%
Total State and Local Government	7,160	7,100	7,330	7,270	-0.8%	1.5%
State Government	800	630	790	790	0.0%	-1.3%
Local Government	6,360	6,470	6,540	6,480	-0.9%	1.9%

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>.