

2023 Economic Development Division Annual Update A THRIVING ECONOMY

MICRO-ENTERPRISE BUSINESS ASSISTANCE:

Since October of 2023, we managed CDBG grant contract with West Business Center for Micro-Enterprise Business Technical assistance. Through this grant, they have provided the following to our local business community in 2023:

- 250 Hours of 1:1 business consulting, serving 89 unique clients
- 57 Hours of first-time (ascertain readiness meetings), serving 45 unique clients
- Created 45 service plans for 43 unique clients

SMEDD (Sonoma Mendocino Economic Development District):

Part of the role of Administrative Analyst for Economic Development is to provide administrative support to SMEDD, our regional JPA with Sonoma County. Our current task for SMEDD is to conduct the CEDS Annual Project updates for projects within Mendocino County. We have met with, and will meet with several more, project stakeholders to note updates on and become aware of needs for their projects. The final product will be a comprehensive update of all Mendocino CEDS projects delivered to the EDA by May 2024.

CA JOBS FIRST (formerly CERF) & BROADBAND UPDATES:

Mendocino County is part of Redwood Region RISE, comprised of Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake, Mendocino Counties, and Tribal Lands, as designated by CA Jobs First. The Economic Development Division participates in the monthly meetings for their Collaborative which includes the planning tables, equity council, and voting members. We are part of the voting member block, which will participate in the selection of projects for investment in our region. Also, we are a part of the Finance Working Group, whose goal is to bring awareness of other funding opportunities to project stakeholders. CA Jobs First has begun collecting project proposals for funding consideration. In collaboration with Tony Rakes, we have submitted a portion of the county's broadband project (Broadband Planning – Low-Level Design) in consideration for funding.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT – INTERNSHIP PROGRAM CREATION:

We are creating an internship in the County government offices in collaboration with the Mendocino Community College and WorkForce Alliance of the North Bay. Interns can receive class credit for their internship, and certain students are eligible for paid compensation for their positions through the WorkForce Alliance. This allows the County or any other business to host interns, free of cost. Once we have established and formalized the processes of this program, we will promote the program to other local government agencies and businesses in the community.

UPDATED WEB PRESENCE:

We have redesigned, expanded, and updated the Economic Development Division web presence. Before the redesign, we had a single-page web presence with limited information. Now several pages have specific information, such as starting your business, finding financing, and resources for disaster preparedness and recovery. We aim to create this as an active online hub for information, resources, and events relating to economic development in Mendocino County. This is our first step toward that goal. Included below is an image of the Economic Development Division homepage. The other pages can be viewed on the website. That concludes our updates and here's to a successful 2024!

Economic Development Division

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN MENDOCINO COUNTY

The County of Mendocino Economic Development Division is dedicated to the growth of a healthy, resilient, sustainable, and inclusive economy.

How can we help you with your business? Connect with us!

econdev@mendocinocounty.gov or (707)463-4441



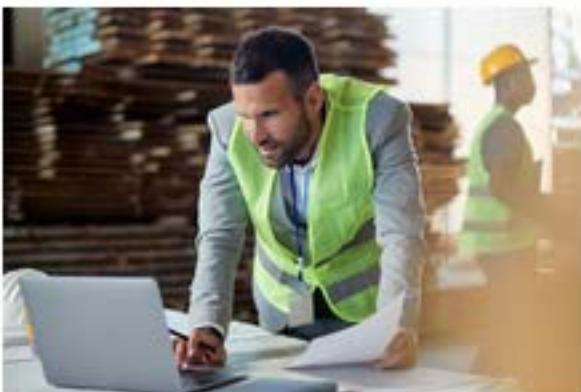
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