



The Economic Development Division's role is to implement the priorities of the Board of Supervisors' strategic plan for a thriving economy.

Division staff is holding a meeting series by industry sector within Mendocino County to foster collaboration and create actionable goals for industry economic sustainability and advancement. The next meeting in the series is focused on the Home Hardening and Fire-Safe Construction Industries. It will be held on Wednesday, May 21st 1:30-4pm at the County of Mendocino Administrative Building Conference Room C, 501 Low Gap Rd, Ukiah CA 95482.

Grant Applications Status

- **Awarded** - CDBG PI Microenterprise Technical Assistance - This grant has been awarded as of 4/30/2025 and will provide in-house technical support to microenterprises. The main objective of this program is to help micro-enterprises overcome the various barriers they face, especially those related to government regulations, permits, licenses, and other areas where business and government intersect. - \$407,385
- **Pending** - EPA Recreation Economy for Rural Communities (RERC) Grant Program provides Technical Assistance from the EPA for planning support to bring community members together to develop an economic growth plan through outdoor recreation opportunities in the areas of Laytonville, Covelo, and Leggett/Piercy

Regional Economic Strategic Planning Activities

Sonoma Mendocino Economic Development District (SMEDD)

- Staff is serving as Co-District Manager to the SMEDD with our counterpart in Sonoma County.
- Staff is supporting the Strategy Ad-Hoc to focus priorities for forming a Strategy Committee and planning for the 5-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy update
- Next SMEDD Board meeting is Friday, May 16th 1-3pm

Redwood Region RISE (California Jobs First)

Redwood Region RISE has awarded the California Jobs First Catalyst funding to nine projects in the region. As a voting block member, staff participated in the review of scored projects and voted on final selections. The following is from the CCRP website:

“Redwood Region RISE (Resilient Inclusive Sustainable Economy) has selected 9 transformative projects to receive \$8.1 million in funding through its Catalyst Awards program. These initiatives span Tribal Lands, Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake, and Mendocino Counties, targeting key economic sectors to create quality jobs and foster regional prosperity.

With over 70% of the Catalyst funding directed to projects led by priority and disinvested communities, the selected awardees address critical regional challenges through sustainable food systems, renewable energy projects, affordable housing solutions, workforce training, cultural preservation, and forest management practices. Many projects specifically target [priority communities](#) to overcome persistent barriers to economic advancement in rural and Tribal areas.

Preliminary Catalyst Awardees Include

- **BLBS GRID Workforce Training Tiny Home Construction** (\$331,702) - *Building Lives By Building Structure Hoopa 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization (BLBS)* - Combining affordable housing construction with renewable energy integration while training Native American youth.
- **Career Pathways: Fire, Forest, Fish & Facilities** (\$1,127,936) - *Trees Foundation* - Creating sustainable wage opportunities in natural resource jobs across three counties.
- **Del Norte Performing Arts and Civic Center** (\$268,250) - *Partnership for Performing Arts* - Cultural hub serving as performance venue, educational space, and emergency resource.
- **Fire Lines & Fiber Bioregions: A Regional Wool Industry Cluster** (\$607,856) - *Kaos Sheep Outfit* - Developing sustainable fiber production and exploring a Regional Wool Industry Cluster.
- **Lake County Healthcare Education and Simulator** (\$650,000) - *Lake County Economic Development Corporation* - Enhancing healthcare education and workforce development through simulation facilities.
- **Middletown Rancheria Community RISE Project** (\$500,000) - *Middletown Rancheria of Pomo Indians of California* - Addressing Tribal community challenges through housing, climate resilience, and cultural preservation.
- **North Coast Resilient Food Systems Initiative** (\$2,306,574) - Connecting **Del Norte Meat Processing Facility** - *Hmong Association of Crescent City* with **North Coast Food System Network** - *North Coast Growers' Association* to strengthen regional food systems.
- **Red Hills Bioenergy Facility & Central Wood Processing Plant** (\$345,316) - *Scotts Valley Energy Corporation* to advance renewable energy solutions and workforce training.
- **Timber & Workforce Development Initiative** (\$1,959,897) - Three interconnected initiatives: **Carving a Legacy: Tribal Traditions, Woodworking, and Workforce Development** - *Blue Lake Rancheria Tribe*; **Connecting Mass Timber to Regional Housing and Building Needs** - *Mad River Mass Timber*; and **Developing a Climate Forward Workforce and Innovation Pipeline** - *Forest WRX Alliance*.

Source: <https://ccrp.humboldt.edu/redwood-region-rise-news/catalyst-awards>

Economic Development by Industry Meetings

Division staff is holding a meeting series by industry sector within Mendocino County to foster collaboration and create actionable goals for industry economic sustainability and advancement. Below are the scheduled meetings for this calendar year. Two meetings have been held, and industry priorities have been identified. Staff is working with the Behavioral Health Department, and the Cannabis Department on priorities related to their respective industries.

- 3/3/2025 - Behavioral Health -Completed
- 3/27/2025 - Cannabis Cultivation Industry – Completed
- 5/21/2025 - Home Hardening and Fire Safe Construction
County of Mendocino Administrative Building Conference Room C
501 Low Gap Rd, Ukiah CA 95482
1:30-4pm
- 7/17/2025 - Forest Health and Biomass Utilization
- Date TBA - Agricultural: Farmers and Livestock
- Date TBA - Arts and Tourism

Other Projects and Meetings

Main Street America Roundtable meeting at GUTBA

Staff attended an in-person workshop facilitated by [Main Street America](#) and hosted by Katrina Kesson at Discover Ukiah. EDFC, Savings Bank of Mendocino and local business owners were also in attendance. Main Street America focuses on place based economic development, with an emphasis on supporting the entrepreneurial ecosystem. Staff will be participating in a series of virtual meetings as well as supporting the distribution of an online survey for local businesses to better understand their needs and desired support services.