



Redwood Region
RISE

**NORTH
EDGE**
Business Financing &
Community Development

CCRP
California Center
for Rural Policy

Cal Poly
Humboldt.

Redwood Region RISE August 2026 Collaborative Convening Program & Resource Booklet

bit.ly/Redwood-Region-RISE

Redwood Region RISE August 2026 Collaborative Convening Program & Resource Booklet

We extend our gratitude to the Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria for graciously hosting our RRRISE Collaborative at the Tish-Non Community Center. We honor their hospitality and the significance of gathering on the ancestral homelands of the Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria, a federally recognized Tribe with deep Mattole and Wiyot cultural ties to this region. The Rohnerville Rancheria was among the California Rancherias terminated by the federal government in 1958; in 1983, the Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria along with 16 other California Tribes, regained federal recognition through the landmark Tillie Hardwick case.

In the decades since, the Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria has continued to strengthen its community, land base, and infrastructure, including Tish-Non and the Bear River Casino Resort. We are honored to gather here and recognize the Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria's sovereignty, leadership, resilience, and ongoing stewardship of its ancestral homelands.

Evolving Our Regional Collective Impact

On August 21, 2026, Redwood Region RISE partners gathered for a Collaborative Convening marking an important moment — a chance to reflect on three years of collective work and help shape what comes next. This Program & Resource Booklet documents that gathering and serves as an ongoing resource: it highlights the tools, resources, and information RRRISE has developed for the region, and provides ways to stay connected to this work moving forward.

At the Convening, we:



Heard directly from projects advancing our Regional Roadmap & key sector leaders on progress and the path forward



Strengthened relationships through networking with fellow regional leaders and partners



Gathered input to help shape what's next for RRRISE

01

Three Years of Regional Collaboration through Redwood Region RISE

Over the past three years, **Redwood Region RISE (Resilient Inclusive Sustainable Economy, RRRISE)** has brought together 175+ organizations and thousands of residents across Tribal Lands and Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake, and Mendocino Counties to plan, connect, and pursue sustainable economic development on a regional scale.

Launched in February 2023 through California Jobs First, RRRISE began as a community-informed regional planning process. Through approximately 500 listening sessions, surveys, community meetings, sector conversations, and ongoing convenings, partners identified shared challenges and opportunities and helped shape a long-term vision for the region. This work resulted in the **10-year Regional Roadmap**, later recognized by the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) as a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). The Roadmap focuses on four priority sectors — Arts, Culture, and Tourism; Health and Caregiving; Renewable and Resilient Energy; and Working Lands and Blue Economy — alongside cross-cutting strategies in broadband, entrepreneurship, food security and access, housing, infrastructure and transportation, and workforce development. Explore our Regional Roadmap here: bit.ly/RISE-Roadmap

As the work moved from planning toward implementation, RRRISE helped turn these priorities into projects, partnerships, and resources. **\$9 million in California Jobs First Catalyst funding** was deployed to seed regionally aligned projects, including \$1.8 million for Tribal-led initiatives, followed by **\$2.5 million in private philanthropic funding** supporting six additional projects focused on Just Transition and economic mobility. Get to know these projects better: bit.ly/RISE-projects

RRRISE also helped secure approximately \$4 million in additional California Jobs First funding for Working Lands and Blue Economy projects, while another \$1.5 million investment in Sector Investment Coordinators has supported implementation of sector strategies and strengthened the region's investment readiness. Alongside these investments, RRRISE developed shared resources and tools (many linked in this Booklet!), supported economic development finance capacity, and continued bringing partners together to exchange information, build relationships, and connect local efforts to regional priorities. Learn more: bit.ly/RISE-sectors



Our recent **RRRISE Organizational Sustainability Report** found that this relationship infrastructure is among the Collaborative's most valued assets. Partners pointed to new cross-county and cross-sector relationships, stronger Tribal/non-Tribal relationships, expanded networks and regional and statewide visibility, and the value of regular convenings and shared communications. At the same time, partners identified important work ahead, including addressing uneven capacity across the region, strengthening industry and local government participation, clarifying governance and execution roles, sustaining culturally grounded Tribal engagement, and documenting tangible regional outcomes.

As California Jobs First approaches the end of its original funding period, **the work does not end here.** Project implementation, regional communications and convenings, storytelling and resource preservation, and efforts to advance the Regional Roadmap will continue while partners explore what a durable approach to regional coordination could look like. The Sustainability Report found that partners want to keep working together and see value in doing so, while also recognizing that the next phase will require choices about structure, responsibilities, participation, and funding. Read the report here: bit.ly/RISE-sustainability

Our next chapter is about building on what has proven valuable, learning from what has been difficult, and determining together how regional collaboration can best serve the Redwood Region going forward.



02

Our August 2026 Convening: A Recap

On August 21, 2026, Redwood Region RISE partners gathered at the Bear River Tish-Non Community Center for a full day of connection and reflection. The day included a welcome from Collaborative leadership; a Project Showcase & Networking session where RRRISE-funded and RRRISE-aligned project leads shared their work; four sector sessions covering Arts, Culture, and Tourism; Health and Caregiving; Renewable and Resilient Energy; and Working Lands and Blue Economy; a live regional input session; and closing presentations on what's next for RRRISE, featuring RRRISE's Regional Convener, the California Center for Rural Policy (CCRP) at Cal Poly Humboldt, on regional collaboration and the assets we've built together; Fiscal Agent North Edge, on their newly launched Regional Project Finance Council; leaders from the Tribal Table, sharing their vision for Indigenous leadership in economic development; and our Workforce Development partner, Capitol Impact, sharing resources for partners across the region.

The sections in this Booklet capture what was shared and gathered that day — and the resources referenced throughout remain available for ongoing use.



03

Setting the Stage: Grounding Exercise

At the August 2026 convening, Robert R. Kinney, Yurok Tribal member, led attendees through a grounding exercise before the day began. The reflection questions below were designed to help participants stay connected to their own perspective throughout the day — and remain useful anytime you want to pause and think about the region's direction:

When you think about the Redwood Region's economic future, what gives you hope or confidence?

Where do you see the greatest opportunity for communities, sectors, and organizations across the Redwood Region to work together?

What does inclusive, sustainable economic development look like in practice in the Redwood Region?

Use this space — on your own, with your team, or at your next gathering — to capture your own perspective and revisit it over time.

04 Everything We've Built – Publicly Accessible

Over the past three years, our RRRISE Collaborative and partners have developed a collection of publicly accessible tools, plans, data, stories, and other resources to support economic and community development across the Redwood Region. **These resources are here for you to use – today and beyond this convening.**

Whether you're developing a project, pursuing funding, building a partnership, supporting workforce development, communicating about our region, or simply looking to understand how your work connects to broader regional priorities, we encourage you to explore, use, and share these resources.



Start Here: RRRISE Resource Hub

Your starting point for resources developed through Redwood Region RISE: bit.ly/RISE-Resource-Hub



Understand & Advance Our Regional Strategy

10-Year Regional Roadmap

Our U.S. Economic Development Administration-recognized Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), identifying shared economic priorities and strategies for the Redwood Region. Use it to understand regional priorities and demonstrate regional alignment in proposals, partnerships, and funding applications. Explore our Roadmap webpage: bit.ly/RISE-Roadmap

Part 1: Data-Driven Snapshot of the Redwood Region

A data-driven look at the region's economy, workforce, public health, and climate challenges across the region – useful for grant writers, policymakers, advocates, and business leaders alike. Explore Part 1: bit.ly/Roadmap-1



Part 2: Strategies to Boost Key Sectors and Enabling Sectors

Translates that data into action, with strategies across four target sectors and six enabling areas (housing, broadband, workforce, and more) to guide the region's growth over the next decade. Explore Part 2: bit.ly/Roadmap-2



Sector Activation Plans

Action-oriented plans for Arts, Culture & Tourism; Health & Caregiving; Renewable & Resilient Energy; and Working Lands & Blue Economy. Explore sector priorities, opportunities, and where your work might connect.



Arts, Culture, and Tourism

Discover how Arts, Culture, and Tourism are helping shape a stronger, more connected Redwood Region. Woven throughout economic and community development, this sector is strengthening community identity, supporting economic resilience, and building a regenerative future. Download the plan: bit.ly/RISE-ACT-plan



Health and Caregiving

Foundational to a strong workforce and thriving communities, learn how an innovative care delivery and “grow your own” approach to workforce development can help our region build a resilient ecosystem that expands access, strengthens provider capacity, and drives policy innovation — ensuring quality care for every resident across our region. Download the plan: bit.ly/RISE-HC-plan



Renewable and Resilient Energy

With Tribal leadership and innovation at the forefront, the Redwood Region is well positioned to lead a just energy transition — advancing workforce development, strengthening community energy resilience, and ensuring that rural communities can shape and benefit from the opportunities ahead. Download the plan: bit.ly/RISE-RRE-plan



Working Lands and Blue Economy

From farms and fisheries to forests, the Redwood Region is leading a regenerative shift — advancing sustainable resource use, expanding markets, growing an inclusive and skilled workforce, and driving innovation across agriculture, forestry, and ocean industries. Download the plan: bit.ly/RISE-WLBE-plan



Connect, Coordinate & Strengthen Projects

RRRISE Partner Directory

Find organizations and partners working across the region, make new connections, and identify opportunities for cross-county and cross-sector collaboration: bit.ly/rise-partners



Regional Projects Map

Explore economic development initiatives across the Redwood Region — including active projects and projects seeking investment. Use the map to discover work happening across sectors and communities, identify potential partners and complementary efforts, and increase the visibility and investment readiness of regional projects.

Explore the Projects Map:
bit.ly/rise-projects-map



Join the Projects Map:
bit.ly/rise-map



Economic Development Finance & Capacity-Building Resources

Access trainings and resources from EDF Working Group Expert Sessions covering project finance-readiness, funding mechanisms (NMTC, Opportunity Zones, CDBG, tax increment financing), and sector-specific strategies in working lands, health, arts/tourism, and capital access: bit.ly/RISE-econ-finance



Regional Project Finance Council

Administered by North Edge: Business Financing & Community Development, the newly formed Regional Project Finance Council builds on the EDF Working Group's efforts to connect project sponsors across the Redwood Region with finance experts offering non-binding guidance on capital readiness — spanning tax credits, lending, infrastructure finance, and Tribal finance. Communities, nonprofits, businesses, Tribes, and public agencies are welcome to bring projects forward. More information: bit.ly/Project-Finance-Council



Career Pathway Maps & Industry Resources

Explore regional career pathways and industry information that can help job seekers, educators, workforce partners, and employers connect training and education to regional opportunities.

Career Pathway Maps

Free, downloadable maps covering career pathways across Arts, Culture, and Tourism; Health and Caregiving; Renewable and Resilient Energy; and Working Lands and Blue Economy — each outlining local roles, required credentials, training programs, and regional employers. Whether you're just starting out or helping someone else find their footing, browse by sector to find a clear next step close to home: bit.ly/RISE-Career-Maps



Sector 1-Pagers

These industry-specific 1-pagers give funders, policymakers, and Redwood Region ambassadors a concise snapshot of workforce trends, regional momentum, and investment opportunities within our four key sectors. Each one pairs local labor market data with active initiatives and funding priorities, equipping users to make a clear, compelling case for continued investment in the sector: bit.ly/RISE-1-Pagers



See, Share & Tell Our Regional Story

Impact Stories & Humans of the Redwoods

See Redwood Region RISE's impact by the numbers alongside the stories behind them – from workforce training to new businesses to community infrastructure taking shape across the region. Then meet the people who call the Redwood Region home through Humans of the Redwoods, a celebration of the voices, images, and moments that tell the story of our economy through the community members living it: bit.ly/RISE-Impact



Regional Image Gallery

Access a public collection of high-quality photography by Amy Kumler from across the Redwood Region for partner communications, presentations, reports, and outreach: bit.ly/rise-media



Strategy & Explainer Videos

Short, accessible videos introducing RRRISE strategies, priorities, and regional economic development work. Share them with colleagues, boards, partners, and others who want to learn more.

1-Minute Animation Videos:
bit.ly/rise-videos



Sector Strategy Videos:
bit.ly/rise-sector-videos



RRRISE Impact Report

See how \$11.5 million in combined state and philanthropic funding is translating into jobs, training, and new businesses across the Redwood Region, from Tribal clean energy projects to food systems infrastructure. Read the full Q3 & Q4 2025 Semi-Annual Report here: bit.ly/RISE-Impact-Report



These resources were built to be used. Use the links or scan the QR codes to explore what's useful to you, bookmark resources for later, and share them with colleagues and partners across the region – and beyond.

05

Sector Presentations: Regional Pulse Check

At the August 2026 convening, after hearing from four sector conversations — Arts, Culture, and Tourism; Health and Caregiving; Renewable and Resilient Energy; and Working Lands and Blue Economy — attendees were invited to reflect across these conversations in a live polling session.



Share your thoughts

Use the Mentimeter links below or scan the QR code on the right to share your responses to the three questions below: www.menti.com/aliusf3hkqjq or www.menti.com/?code=55348929



1. What gives you confidence?

Across the sector conversations, what is one strength or opportunity that gives you confidence in the Redwood Region's economic future?

2. Where could regional coordination make a difference?

Thinking across the four sectors, where could greater regional coordination or alignment make the biggest difference?

3. What would strengthen our ability to advance this work?

What would most strengthen our region's ability to turn these opportunities into lasting economic impact? *Choose up to two:*

- Stronger alignment between regional and state priorities
- More coordinated funding and investment strategies
- Deeper connections across sectors and communities
- Shared data, tools, and regional infrastructure
- Sustained regional coordination and relationship-building

As We Reflect Together...

Consider the connections across sectors: **Where should we be paying more attention? What could we accomplish together that would be difficult for one organization, community, or sector to accomplish alone? And how can each of us help strengthen regional collaboration from here?**

06

Sustainability: What We Heard and What's Next

As Redwood Region RISE approaches the end of its original California Jobs First funding period, the question is not how to sustain RRRISE as it exists today. It is **what parts of this regional work are most valuable to carry forward, what needs to evolve, and how regional coordination can complement — rather than duplicate — the important work already happening within Tribes, counties, communities, sectors, and organizations across the Redwood Region.**

Between January and July 2026, the **RRRISE Sustainability Working Group** collaborated with consultant Organizational Learning Partners to explore these questions through partner interviews, focus groups, a regional survey, and research into other regional collaboratives. The resulting Organizational Sustainability Report offers a starting point for continued conversation and decision-making about the future. Download the full report here: bit.ly/RISE-sustainability

What Partners Value

Across interviews and other engagements, several themes emerged consistently. Partners particularly value relationships and connections across counties and sectors; opportunities to convene and exchange information; greater regional visibility and shared identity; and stronger Tribal/non-Tribal relationships and Tribal participation in regional economic development. Partners also pointed to practical outcomes, including connections that supported economic exchange, regional data and tools, and new project ideas developed through sector collaboration.

The findings also reinforce an important principle for what comes next: regional work should build on and connect existing efforts, not replace them. The opportunity is to strengthen connections between work already happening locally and regionally, support efforts that want to expand their regional reach, and identify where coordination across jurisdictions or sectors can add value.

What Partners Want to Strengthen

Partners were also clear about areas where the work could improve. They called for **more visible implementation and measurable results; clearer roles and decision-making; meaningful participation from local government, industry, and other partners; attention to differences in capacity across the region; and continued investment in culturally grounded Tribal engagement.**

These findings raise important questions for the next phase: **How can regional opportunities benefit communities across the region? How can government, federally and non-federally recognized Tribes, industry, community organizations, and other partners participate meaningfully? And where can regional coordination add value without duplicating work that is already happening?**

A Direction Is Emerging — Not a Finished Model

When partners were asked what RRRISE should prioritize in the future, regional coordination and system alignment emerged as the strongest theme, with capital attraction and investment also identified as an important role. Partners emphasized the importance of clear strategy and structure, inclusive collaboration, demonstrated impact, and sufficient capacity to carry the work forward. Partners also underlined the importance of any future approach to meaningfully account for Tribal sovereignty and Tribal co-design.

The Sustainability Report explores several possible organizational approaches for supporting this work over time, including models that use an existing organization as a backbone, a more independent structure, and approaches that more formally connect regional collaboration with local government. Each carries different benefits, costs, and trade-offs, and no long-term structure has been predetermined.

In the near term, regional coordination and project implementation will continue through at least March 2027, as partners consider these questions and explore what is feasible. Longer-term sustainability will likely require a mix of partners, roles, and funding sources rather than reliance on a single grant or institution. The Sustainability Report found that this is also the norm among peer regional collaboratives: 21 of the 26 organizations studied draw from multiple revenue sources.

The Work Continues

The past three years have created relationships, strategies, projects, tools, and shared regional resources that partners can continue to build from. **What comes next is still taking shape.**

As we look ahead, we encourage everyone to think about the following questions, and how their organization/entity might add value: **What kind of regional coordination would be most useful to the Redwood Region — and what would it take for all of us to make it work?**

Stay Connected

The conversation — and the work — continues. Stay connected to regional projects, resources, opportunities, and conversations as the next chapter takes shape.

Explore Redwood Region RISE:
bit.ly/Redwood-Region-RISE



Receive the RRRISE Newsletter:
bit.ly/RISE-Mailer



Connect with RRRISE on
 LinkedIn: bit.ly/RRRISE-LinkedIn



Redwood Region RISE: Shaping What Comes Next

As RRRISE's original California Jobs First funding period comes to a close, we're identifying which parts of this regional work are worth carrying forward, what needs to change, and how regional coordination can best support — not duplicate — the economic development work already happening in Tribes, counties, communities, sectors, and organizations across our region.

To help answer that, we want to hear from you directly: how you'd like to stay involved, what conditions would make that engagement worthwhile, and what role you see your organization playing going forward. Please take a few minutes to answer the following three questions. You can use the Mentimeter link/scan the QR code. You can also send us a message at ccrp@humboldt.edu
www.menti.com/alhx3xc8617z



Thank you for being part of this regional effort — and for bringing your perspective, experience, and relationships to what comes next.

07

Regional Roadmap in Action: Projects Across the Redwood Region

Our Regional Roadmap comes to life through the people, organizations, and projects advancing economic and community development across the Redwood Region. The following profiles primarily highlight RRRISE-funded projects, alongside several initiatives advancing shared regional priorities.

These projects reflect work happening across Tribal Lands and the Counties of Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake, and Mendocino Counties — from cultural placemaking and workforce development to health and caregiving, sustainable forestry and working lands, renewable energy, and more. RRRISE funding has provided early-stage investment to help projects build capacity, strengthen partnerships, prepare for future investment, and move toward implementation.

As you explore these profiles and chat with project leads today, we invite you to **learn about the work, connect with project leaders, and look for opportunities to collaborate, invest, share resources, or strengthen connections across projects and sectors.**

Learn More About RRRISE-Funded Projects

Explore all of our directly funded projects and development initiatives, including active projects and projects seeking investment, and identify opportunities for connection and collaboration. Get to know projects across the region — their goals, progress, and the communities and partners leading the work. Find out more: bit.ly/RISE-projects



Explore Projects Across the Region

Visit our **Regional Projects Map** to discover a broader range of economic development initiatives, including active projects and projects seeking investment, and identify opportunities for connection and collaboration. bit.ly/rise-projects-map



Meet the Projects Featured at the August 2026 Convening

The projects featured in the following pages participated in the Convening's Project Showcase & Networking session. These profiles are designed as a resource to help you learn more about the work underway, connect with project leads, and identify ways to engage with and support projects advancing shared priorities for communities across the Redwood Region.

Project Profiles	
1.	Black Humboldt Business Cohort Exceleator
2.	Career Pathways: Fire, Forest, Fish & Facilities
3.	Carving a Legacy: Tribal Traditions, Woodworking, and Workforce Development
4.	Center for Sustainable Development
5.	Connecting Local Mass Timber to Regional Housing and Building Needs
6.	Developing a Climate-Forward Workforce and Innovation Pipeline for Forest and Community Resilience
7.	Healthcare Education and Regional Training Hub (HEART Hub)
8.	Hemp Lime Industry Advancement Initiative
9.	Hmong Meat Processing Facility
10.	Hoopa Family Gardens
11.	Lake Mendocino Destination Park
12.	Middletown Rancheria Community RISE Project
13.	North Coast Food System Network
14.	Outside Arts: Light and Dark
15.	Redwood Corridor SEEDS Network
16.	Redwood Region CalAIM Administrative Services Hub: Connecting Care, Empowering Communities
17.	Pinoleville Solar Port & Renewable Energy Workforce Development
18.	Redwood Region Made
19.	SeaForester

1. Black Humboldt Business Cohort Excelerator



Lead Organization: Black Humboldt

Key Collaborators: North Coast SBDC, North Edge Financing, Bling Brow Bar & Mo HD Creates

More Information: bit.ly/Black-Humboldt-CE

Sector: Arts, Culture, and Tourism; Workforce Development

Project Description

Black Humboldt's Business Cohort Excelerator is a culturally responsive business development program helping Black, Brown, Indigenous, and other underserved entrepreneurs in the Redwood Region move from promising ideas to sustainable, market-ready enterprises. In partnership with the North Coast SBDC, North Edge Financing, Humboldt Made, Bling Brow Bar, and Mo HD Creates, participants receive coaching, workshops, peer support, and practical tools to complete business plans, marketing strategies, pitch decks, vendor-readiness systems, and funding applications. The project strengthens local ownership, creates pathways to income and employment, and builds a connected regional ecosystem where entrepreneurs can launch, grow, collaborate, and remain rooted locally.

Intended Outcomes

- Participants complete a business plan, marketing plan, pitch deck, and vendor-readiness toolkit.
- Entrepreneurs strengthen pricing, financial management, funding readiness, and access to technical assistance.
- Businesses gain visibility and sales opportunities through markets, public pitches, and collaborative events.
- A lasting BIPOC business network supports local ownership, peer learning, and quality job creation

Progress Update: Challenges & Achievements to Date

The 2026 cohort is underway, with entrepreneurs participating in workshops, one-on-one advising, peer feedback, and applied business-planning assignments. Participants are building core deliverables and preparing for public vending and pitch opportunities, with \$1,000 micro-grant support tied to completion. Early achievements include stronger business clarity, new collaborations, and improved marketing and pricing systems. Ongoing challenges include limited start-up capital, rural transportation and market access, childcare, and the need for sustained technical assistance after the cohort ends.

Ways to Engage and Support the Project

Fund micro-grants and business tools. Offer mentorship, contracts, or vendor space. Shop, refer, and collaborate locally. Lead workshops and trainings for the group.

Reach us at BlackHumboldt@gmail.com

2. Career Pathways: Fire, Forest, Fish & Facilities



Lead Organization: Trees Foundation

Key Collaborators: Mid Klamath Watershed Council, Mattole Restoration Council, Mattole Salmon Group, Mattole Valley Community Center, Native Health in Native Hands, Northern Mendocino – Ecosystem Recovery Alliance, Southern Humboldt Fire & Rescue, Tribal EcoRestoration Alliance, Tribal governments, workforce organizations, educational institutions, and other regional partners

More Information: bit.ly/Trees-Foundation

Sector: Working Lands and Blue Economy

Project Description

The Career Pathways: Fire, Forest, Fish & Facilities initiative, led by Trees Foundation and the Rural Resilience Partnership, builds local capacity to steward the forests, watersheds, and working lands of the Redwood Region. Designed to eliminate barriers to employment like long commutes and lost wages, the project provides paid, locally accessible training for high-demand natural resource jobs. It targets underserved Tribal citizens, youth, rural residents, and low-income households in Lake, Mendocino, and Humboldt Counties. Through standardized certifications and employer pipelines, it creates thriving-wage career paths while integrating Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) to strengthen wildfire resilience and community health.

Intended Outcomes

- Train 200+ participants via regional certifications in forestry, wildfire, and watershed restoration.
- Place 35 – 50 individuals into living-wage careers using strong regional employer hiring pipelines.
- Establish training hubs across Lake, Mendocino, and Humboldt for rural populations.
- Advance climate goals and mitigate wildfire risks by expanding cultural prescribed fires.

Progress Update: Challenges & Achievements to Date

Achievements include supporting 182 RT-130 firefighter certifications and certifying 478 emergency response partners to date, hosting cultural land stewardship workshops for over 100 Native participants, and establishing a three-month Early Career Internship program. Structurally, Southern Humboldt Fire & Rescue transitioned into a permanent Joint Powers Authority, drawing \$1 million into the local economy via emergency strike teams. Working alongside the Humboldt County Resource Conservation District, the partnership also helped secure a \$9.8 million USDA Community Wildfire Defense Grant supporting fuels reduction, prescribed fire, and community safety work.

Major challenges persist around recruiting younger generations to replace retiring volunteer firefighters in deeply rural areas and managing short grant timelines for complex, field-based workforce deployments.

Ways to Engage and Support the Project

- Visit our website: bit.ly/Trees-Foundation
- Reach out to Trees Foundation at: trees@treesfoundation.org
- Follow Trees on Facebook: bit.ly/Trees-Facebook

3. Carving a Legacy: Tribal Traditions, Woodworking, and Workforce Development



Lead Organization: The Blue Lake Rancheria

Key Collaborators: WoodLab Designs

More Information: bit.ly/Blue-Lake

Sector: Working Lands and Blue Economy

Project Description

Led by the Blue Lake Rancheria in collaboration with WoodLab Designs, this initiative drives economic diversification, climate resilience, and cultural preservation across Humboldt County. Indigenous communities routinely face severe barriers to accessing traditional woods (redwood, madrone, oak, cedar, willow) while culturally significant, non-commercial timber species lack viable markets (tan oak, pepperwood). Carving a Legacy addresses these issues through Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK). Utilizing the Tribe's nearly 700 acres of sustainably managed timberland, the project establishes carbon-neutral practices, expands access to raw materials, and opens thriving-wage training pathways in forestry and manufacturing for Tribal citizens and disadvantaged residents.

Intended Outcomes

- Scale kiln, sawmill, and 4-sided planer molder operations to produce value-added lumber, flooring, and firewood.
- Train and employ Tribal members in specialized forestry, tree felling, skid steer operation, and timber manufacturing techniques.
- Finalize native timber product designs and supply contracts for the Great Redwood Trail.
- Advance carbon neutrality by repurposing wood waste for local community garden projects.

Progress Update: Challenges & Achievements to Date

The Blue Lake Rancheria launched its wood products program, employs three core staff, trained 6 individuals across specialized machinery operations (sawmill/kiln, skid steer/hauling, and large tree felling), and initiated forest thinning. Teams are actively processing fir, tanoak, madrone, and redwood into value-added products. While securing long-term high-volume markets remains an ongoing challenge, exploratory contract discussions with the Great Redwood Trail mark a major structural milestone.

Ways to Engage and Support the Project

- Visit the Blue Lake Rancheria Website: bit.ly/Blue-Lake
- Purchase local firewood, bulk logs, and native wood products generated by the Tribe by emailing TEPA@bluelakerancheria-nsn.gov.
- Schedule a site visit with the project team to view the sawmill operations, kiln testing, or community timber stewardship in action by emailing TEPA@bluelakerancheria-nsn.gov

4. Center for Sustainable Development



Lead Organization: Humboldt Homes

Key Collaborators: Playhouse Arts

More Information: bit.ly/CenterHumboldt

Sector: Working Lands and Blue Economy; Arts, Culture, and Tourism

Project Description

Housing costs, construction workforce gaps, and the underuse of locally sourced natural materials are interconnected challenges across the Redwood Region. The Center for Sustainable Development addresses all three from a 7,000-square-foot warehouse in Arcata that has been converted into a trades education hub where prefabricated, low-carbon housing is designed, prototyped, and produced using local lumber and materials like hempcrete, with a specific focus on reaching Tribal, rural, and BIPOC communities in their trainings. The Center seeks to teach skills that can benefit entire communities and strengthen relationships that help create local resilience, and they want to start by providing workshops to community members to teach them skills that will help them in their everyday lives. The Center will also host community events, which will connect the project to local artists, farmers, and other community members it aims to serve.

Intended Outcomes

- Provide 9 workshops and classes that teach sustainability-focused life skills, such as recycling.
- Create 4 jobs by hiring contractors, and later full-time and part-time employees, to develop programs.
- Create a local workforce training program that provides skills in woodworking and housing construction.
- Develop the warehouse to accommodate more classes and workshops.

Progress Update: Challenges & Achievements to Date

The Center for Sustainable Development has hosted eight workshops for the local community focused on learning new skills while building planter beds and herb boxes. Most workshops have served the local

Indigenous community, with one focused on the local African American community and another offered as a women-only herb box workshop. The Center has also hosted permaculture, recycling, and Building Basics workshops. Together, these workshops have engaged more than 130 community members and resulted in approximately 90 planter boxes, while teaching basic skills in tool safety and woodworking principles.

The project has strengthened existing partnerships with organizations such as the Northern California Indian Development Council (NCIDC) and Potawat Garden, while building new relationships with the Jefferson Community Center, Blue Lake Rancheria, Cal Poly Humboldt's Food Sovereignty Lab, United Indian Health Services, and the Warrior Institute in Hoopa.

The Center has found practical ways to teach basic carpentry skills while helping community members build greater food security. Planter boxes serve as an accessible entry-level project for learning carpentry, with the longer-term goal of building skills that can support pathways into the trades or help people build their own homes. The Center has also integrated arts, culture, and sustainability into its workshops. While the planter bed workshops have reached more than 100 people, some workshops have had lower attendance, and the Center continues to work through challenges related to marketing its offerings and gathering community input.

Ways to Engage and Support the Project

- Follow our Instagram at bit.ly/CenterInsta
- Reach out via email at humbulldthomes@gmail.com
- Find a workshop to join at bit.ly/CenterWorkshop

5. Connecting Local Mass Timber to Regional Housing and Building Needs



Lead Organization: Mad River Mass Timber (MRMT)

Key Collaborators: Forest WRX, atelierjones, TEAM Projects, WRNS Studio, and Forell Elsesser

More Information: bit.ly/ConnectingMRMT

Sector: Working Lands and Blue Economy

Project Description

The Redwood Region produces some of the world's finest timber — yet it faces acute housing shortages, high construction costs, and limited markets for small or fire-damaged wood. As a subcontractor of Forest WRX, Mad River Mass Timber (MRMT) bridges this gap, positioning itself to become California's first mass timber manufacturer by turning locally sourced, sustainably managed forest materials into low-carbon building materials for affordable, workforce, and rural housing. They are focusing on working with TEAM Projects to develop a timber structural system for multifamily housing and developing the design of a dowel-laminated timber (DLT) playbook project.

controlled, and fully entitled by the team. They are working with TEAM Projects, in partnership with WRNS Studio and Forell Elsesser, to advance engineering and detailing of the structure. Additionally, content and diagrams have been started for the DLT playbook and sales deck, which is being developed to narrate the benefits of mass timber for usage in common housing types.

Ways to Engage and Support the Project

- Visit MRMT's website: bit.ly/ConnectingMRMT
- Reach out at info@madriverrmt.com
- Follow our LinkedIn: bit.ly/MRMTlinkedin

Intended Outcomes

- Design and build an affordable, multi-family housing structure.
- Create a DLT playbook for housing in California.
- Create high-value markets for small-diameter and fire-damaged wood to support forest health and wildfire risk reduction.
- Lower construction costs and time-to-permit for Tribal and priority communities through pre-approved master permitting strategies.

Progress Update: Challenges & Achievements to Date

MRMT kicked off a new phase of the project, focused on a pilot project and a DLT playbook for housing in California. The pilot project is designing, engineering, and building an 84-unit affordable housing project in Oakland, CA. The site is owned,



6. Developing a Climate-Forward Workforce and Innovation Pipeline for Forest and Community Resilience



Lead Organization: Forest WRX Alliance

Key Collaborators: Blue Lake Rancheria, Cal Poly Humboldt, Mad River Mass Timber, Gelinas & James Inc., Lake County Resource Conservation District, Humboldt Redwood Company / Mendocino Redwood Company, Humboldt Bay Harbor District, and Anew Climate.

More Information: Forest WRX Website: bit.ly/forest-wrx

Sector: Working Lands and Blue Economy

Project Description

The Forest WRX Alliance's Climate Forward Workforce and Innovation Pipeline integrates four interconnected components: Workforce Training Assessment and Dashboard Development, a Climate Tech, Natural Resource Management, and Traditional Ecological Knowledge Degree Granting Program, Mass Timber Manufacturing for Rural Multi-family Housing, and Carbon Market Development, all with the goal of growing a robust forest bioeconomy that improves forest and community resilience through targeted investments in our regional workforce, critical infrastructure, and market innovation. The project integrates Traditional Ecological Knowledge as we catalyze the development of a circular forest bioeconomy that benefits Redwood Region communities and landscapes, and beyond, by activating pathways that unlock revenue to support thriving-wage careers in forest stewardship, applied research, and manufacturing that benefit underserved communities, while sequestering carbon, reducing wildfire risk, and reimagining what fire-resilient communities can look like through biomaterial innovation.

Intended Outcomes

- Develop a regional workforce development resource directory and report for beneficial fire and forestry professionals in the region.
- Develop new degree program proposals at Cal Poly Humboldt in biomass utilization & bioproduct innovation, conservation finance and natural

resource decision support tools.

- Select permit a 500-acre pilot project area of land for wildfire risk reduction.
- Architectural designs for multi-family housing utilizing innovative wood products, specifically Dowel-Laminated Timber.

Progress Update: Challenges & Achievements to Date

Forest WRX Alliance is planning an in-person Forest Bioeconomy Symposium on September 29th and 30th in Loleta, convening representatives from across the full value chain to cement a shared vision and connect the people and organizations needed to shift California's forest restoration challenge into an opportunity for a circular bioeconomy. The event is also intended to seed partnership opportunities around newly proposed degree-granting programs designed to benefit businesses, the University, our community, students, and ultimately a climate-forward future. Partners in this work hosted an in-person Advisory Panel Summit on May 8th at Start-Up Humboldt in Arcata, where advisors from diverse industry sectors came together to review and provide feedback on draft program proposals. Lake County Resource Conservation District (LCRCD) is currently in the information gathering period of building a regional workforce development directory/asset map that aims to improve workforce development coordination within the forestry and beneficial fire fields in the Redwood Region. Open until September, the survey assesses available

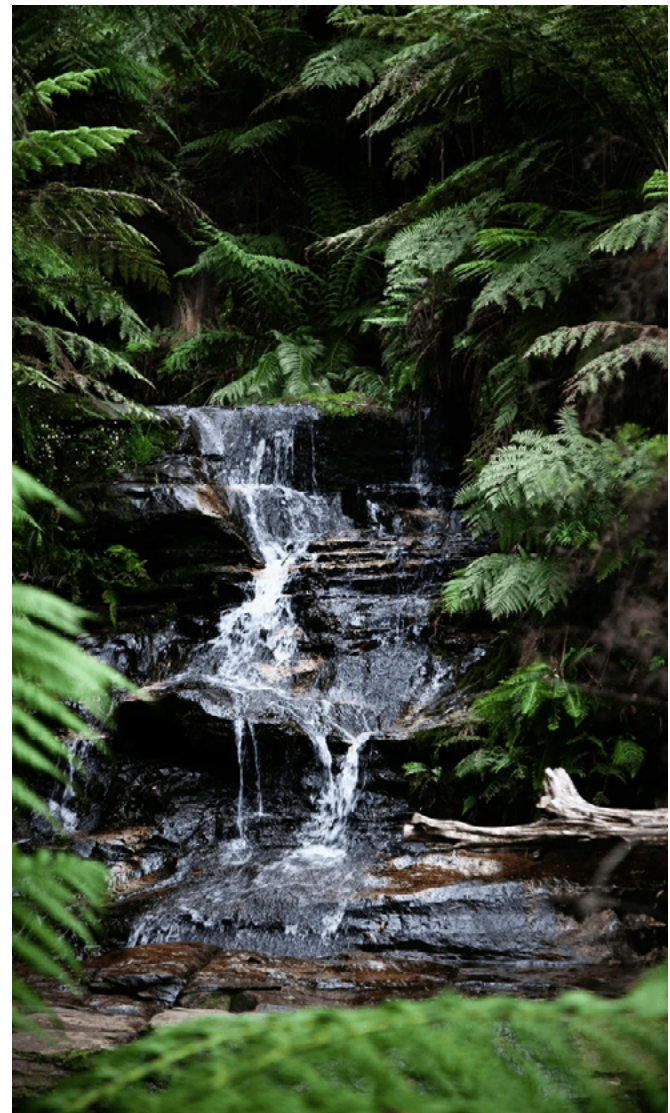
workforce development capacities (e.g., curricula, workshops, expertise) and organizations' abilities to share their resources. The directory will be complemented with a written report synthesizing available resources, identified regional workforce development needs, and other insights gleaned from follow-up interviews with survey respondents.

Three recently approved project areas (forest fire prevention exemptions), two on Humboldt Redwood Company land in Humboldt County and one on Mendocino Redwood Company land in Mendocino County, have been proposed in place of the project area initially identified, bringing total acreage to 500+. Project foresters at HRC and MRC are working on input values for project intake forms provided to the Spatial Informatics Group

for feasibility modeling. A key challenge involves developing predictive fire risk reduction results when underlying models discount fire risk severity and probability baseline conditions. This diminishes the predicted risk reduction and associated forecasted mitigation units generated, which represent the revenue needed to help fund treatments.

Ways to Engage and Support the Project

- Attend the Forest Bioeconomy September symposium: bit.ly/WRXsymposium
- Contact Forest WRX or join our newsletter: bit.ly/WRXcontact
- Follow Forest WRX on LinkedIn: bit.ly/WRXLinkedIn



7. Healthcare Education and Regional Training Hub (HEART Hub)

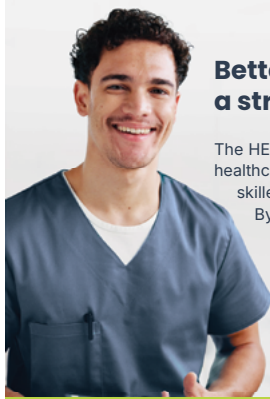


Lead Organization: Lake County Economic Development Corporation

Key Collaborators: Adventist Health, Sutter Health, Lake County Government, Lake County Office of Education, Lake County Tribal Health Consortium, Mendocino-Lake Community College District, Sonoma State University, Redwood Coast K-16 Educational Collaborative, Partnership HealthPlan of California, Workforce Alliance of the North Bay, and others

More Information: bit.ly/HEART-hub

Sector: Health and Caregiving



Better health, better jobs, and a stronger community.

The HEART Hub is a regional center created to expand healthcare training and address the growing need for skilled professionals in Lake and Mendocino Counties.

By equipping students and adult learners with the skills, certifications, and continuing education needed for in-demand careers, the Hub will build a pipeline of trained professionals, strengthen the local healthcare system, support economic growth, and improve health outcomes across the region.



Advanced Simulation Labs



Collaboration Rooms



Learning Spaces



Technology Support



Transportation Support



Facilities & Location

The HEART Hub will operate from a 6,600-square-foot facility on the Sutter Lakeside Campus. The central location in Lakeport ensures accessibility for students and healthcare professionals throughout Lake and Mendocino Counties.

Why is this project important?

The HEART Hub is a transformative initiative designed to:

- Expand healthcare training opportunities to meet workforce shortages in rural communities
- Strengthen community resilience by providing health education and training in life-saving skills
- Improve healthcare access and outcomes by increasing the number of qualified healthcare professionals
- Foster long-term economic growth through job creation and workforce development

Key Initiatives

Spark

Students Promoting Awareness of Real-World Knowledge

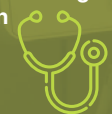
A hands-on experience for grades 5-8 that introduces students to healthcare careers through interactive simulations, tours, and mentorship.



Learn

Healthcare Work-Based Learning & Career Development Pathway

A state-of-the-art simulation center providing immersive Career Technical Education and continuing education to keep learners and professionals at the forefront of healthcare.



Connect

Community Outreach & Health Literacy Program

A space that builds community health literacy through trainings, classes, workshops, and shared health resources.



www.hearthub.careers

Funding Goals



1.3M Planning & Development

7M Renovation & Equipment

Additional funding requests are being pursued through federal, state, and local sources, including EDA, USDA Rural Development, and local resources.

Redwood K16 Collaborative:
\$200,000 (CTE Curriculum Development)

Sutter Lakeside Hospital:
\$1 million (10-Year Lease of the Facility)

Redwood Rise Catalyst Funding:
\$650,000

Sutter Health CHNA Grants:
\$700,000

CMS Plan grants:
\$150,000

Heart Hub Seeks to Annually Serve:



50+

Healthcare Professionals
& Educators

- Professional development to keep skills current
- Healthcare pathways for high school and adult students



75

Adult Learners &
Career Changers

- Certified training programs
- Continuing education and healthcare career upskilling



500

Under-served & Rural
Community Members

- Improve access to trained healthcare professionals
- Community health literacy programs

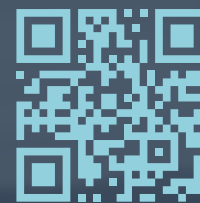


2500

Elementary, Middle &
High Schoolers

- Early exposure to healthcare careers
- Career & Technical Edu. (CTE) programs with certifications
- Hands-on training and mentorship

Community Partners



Learn more about the HEART Hub online and join us as a partner, funder, or supporter in building a healthier, stronger community.

This project aligns with state and federal priorities for rural healthcare workforce expansion and represents a critical investment in the health and economic future of Lake and Mendocino Counties.



www.hearthub.careers

8. Hemp Lime Industry Advancement Initiative



Lead Organization: Indigenous Habitat Institute (IHI)

Key Collaborators: House of Hemp, Saint Astier, Home Innovation Research Laboratory, Qualtim, Backman Building, Chanvre Materials, Talisman Earth, Atelier Baduwa't, Humboldt County Office of Education, Almquist Lumber, ISO Hemp

More Information: bit.ly/IHI-Hemp

Sector: Working Lands and Blue Economy, Green Building & Infrastructure, Workforce Development

Project Description

Under the RRISE Working Lands and Blue Economy focus on bio-based development, the Hempcrete Industry Advancement Initiative is establishing a fully certified, code-compliant training and prefabricated building facility model. Uniting six core helixes—educational institutions, private industry, municipalities, Tribal Nations, community impact, and nature impact—IHI addresses severe housing deficits and wildfire risks. Integrating recent two-hour loaded fire panel testing from an accredited standards laboratory, France-to-Humboldt knowledge sharing, and educational marketing collateral, our center trains local youth and builders—lowering fire insurance costs and delivering a replicable, 100-year, fire-proof housing model.

Intended Outcomes

- **Educational Institutions Helix:** Partner with public school districts and accredited training centers to educate youth, credentialing 150+ regional tradespeople and students in code-compliant bio-based construction.
- **Private Industry Helix:** Collaborate with architects, engineers, and sustainable builders to deploy ASTM-compliant panel fire-testing data and establish standardized local bio-based supply chains.
- **Municipalities & Tribal Helix:** Empower local governments and sovereign Tribal Nations with a certified, turnkey deployment template from Humboldt, CA to rapidly integrate bio-based housing into regional working lands suites.
- **Community Impact Helix:** Protect vulnerable rural populations, create high-wage green jobs, lower property insurance premiums, and build resilient, non-toxic, wildfire-safe homes.
- **Nature Impact Helix:** Advance carbon-negative, regenerative agriculture and bio-based manufacturing that restores soil health, reduces energy demands, and replaces carbon-intensive building materials.

- **Market & Insurance Transformation:** Utilize educational marketing collateral to activate value-aligned consumers and institutional partners committed to scaling bio-based infrastructure.

Progress Update: Challenges & Achievements to Date

IHI completed a historic two-hour loaded fire test on a prefabricated hemp lime (aka hempcrete) panel at an accredited laboratory, unlocking multi-story structural approvals. We executed a France-to-Humboldt international knowledge exchange, securing European cooperative partnerships spanning certified seeds, binders, processing technology, and replicable housing templates across all six helixes. Our primary challenge is securing matching capital to scale our certified building and training facility model to meet community demand.

Ways to Engage and Support the Project

- **Philanthropic & Capital Investment:** Provide matching capital or equipment funding to scale our certified training and building facility model, mobile hardware, and marketing collateral.
- **Educational, Municipal, Tribal & Community Partnerships:** Connect school districts, local governments, Tribal leaders, and community groups in wildfire zones to adopt our replicable housing template and expand youth enrollment.
- **Industry & Ecological Collaboration:** Engage architects, engineers, sustainable builders, bio-based material suppliers, and environmental organizations to align with industry standards and enroll in upcoming certification courses.
- Follow IHI's progress at bit.ly/IHI-Hemp and on Facebook at bit.ly/IHI-FB and Instagram at bit.ly/IHI-Insta

9. Hmong Meat Processing Facility



Lead Organization: True North Organizing Network

Key Collaborators: Hmong Association of Crescent City, Plan F Solutions, NMR Designs, NP Mid Pacific Engineering Inc., Dave Finnegan

More Information: bit.ly/HmongMPF

Sector: Working Lands and Blue Economy

Project Description

Regional livestock producers continue to struggle with a lack of local processing options. The Hmong Association of Crescent City is responding by seeking to develop a USDA-approved meat processing plant in Del Norte County to process cattle, pigs, sheep, and poultry. Designed to handle roughly 160 animals per month, the community-owned facility would feature retail and grocery components, create five full-time jobs, and meet the culturally specific food needs of the region's 500-member Hmong community. The facility would lower logistical costs for small and mid-sized farmers, strengthen regional food security, and generate revenue for ongoing community programming.

Intended Outcomes

- Construct a USDA-approved multi-species processing facility handling approximately 160 animals monthly for regional livestock producers.
- Eliminate 160+ mile transportation burdens for small and mid-sized Del Norte County farmers to improve agricultural economic viability.
- Create five direct full-time jobs alongside integrated retail and grocery space to support marginalized local communities.
- Reinvest facility revenues into long-term community development, cultural programming, and regional food security initiatives.

Progress Update: Challenges & Achievements to Date

The project has completed a 10-year financial feasibility study confirming long-term commercial viability and advanced early business planning in coordination with local ranchers, Tribal partners, and county agencies. Over 10 potential build sites were evaluated, and initial engineering assessments were finished. Remaining pre-development funds are allocated toward finalizing site control and completing land-use permitting. A primary ongoing focus is securing formal site control and navigating complex USDA and municipal permitting requirements to move the facility toward construction.

Ways to Engage and Support the Project

- Follow the Hmong Association of Crescent City on Facebook: bit.ly/MPFfacebook
- Join True North's newsletter: bit.ly/TN-newsletter
- Follow True North on Instagram (bit.ly/TN-insta) or Facebook (bit.ly/TNON-Facebook)

10. Hoopa Family Gardens



Lead Organization: Valerie Richards-Leiner

More Information: bit.ly/Hoopa-Gardens

Sector: Working Lands and Blue Economy

Project Description

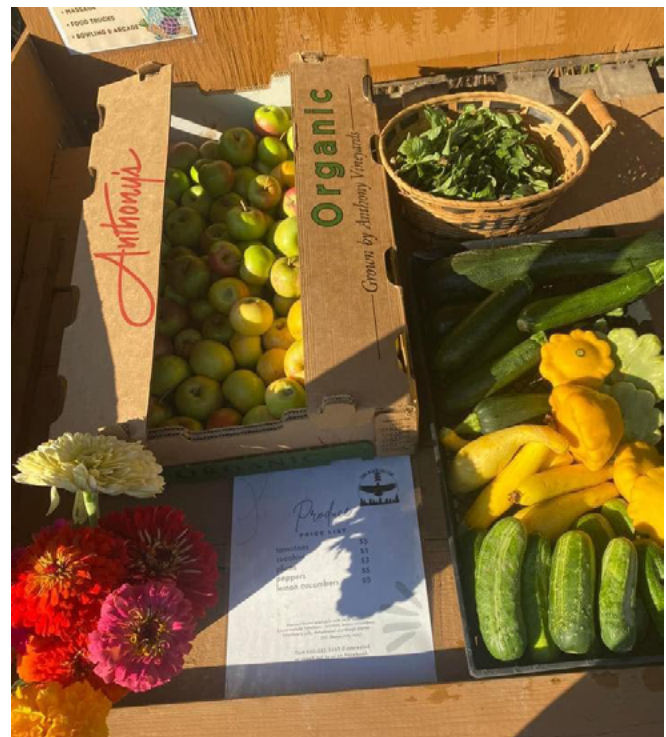
This local agricultural initiative provides fresh, nutritious produce directly to Hoopa Valley and regional community members, farmers markets, local stores, and Tribal nutrition initiatives. The garden directly serves vulnerable community populations by delivering healthy vegetables to the Senior Nutrition Program, Diabetes Program, and Hoopa Food Distribution network. With RRRISE's micro-investment, the operation will expand its production capacity through essential supply procurement, pursue formal organic garden certification, and launch an interactive youth mentorship program. This youth initiative will teach local youth how to build and maintain their own raised gardens, cultivating food sovereignty, agricultural skills, and long-term community wellness across generations.

Intended Outcomes

- Become officially recognized as an organic garden.
- Create a program to teach youth how to build their own raised gardens.
- Continue selling fresh vegetables to the senior nutrition program, diabetes program, and Hoopa Food Distribution.
- Continue selling vegetables to local stores and Tribal departments.

Ways to Engage and Support the Project

- Reach out to Valerie Richards-Leiner at vrichards@hoopa-nsn.gov



11. Lake Mendocino Destination Park

Lead Organization: Greater Ukiah Business and Tourism Alliance (GUBTA)

Key Collaborators: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Ren/Alexander, Lake Mendo Advisory Committee

More Information: katrina@discoverukiah.com

Sector: Arts, Culture, and Tourism

Project Description

The Lake Mendocino Destination Park will transform an underused nine-acre U.S. Army Corps of Engineers property into a destination that brings people together while supporting tourism, outdoor recreation, and economic opportunity. Designed for both residents and visitors, the park will create new spaces for gathering, learning, recreation, and small business activity while showcasing the natural beauty and character of the Redwood Region. Led by the Greater Ukiah Business and Tourism Alliance in partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and regional partners, this project will strengthen the local economy, support entrepreneurs, and create a community asset that will benefit the region for generations.

Intended Outcomes

- **Grow the Local Economy** – Increase visitation and visitor spending while creating more opportunities for local businesses, food vendors, artisans, and event operators. Success will be measured through visitor data, business surveys, and increased economic activity.
- **Expand Jobs and Business Opportunities** – Support local jobs during the design, construction, and operation of the park while helping entrepreneurs and young people gain experience through vendor programs, internships, and hands-on training.
- **Create a Place for People** – Develop a park that brings residents and visitors together for recreation, community events, education, arts, and cultural activities. Regular programming and volunteer involvement will make the park an active gathering place throughout the year.

- **Leave a Lasting Community Asset** – Complete the park with accessible trails, natural play areas, gathering spaces, and landscaping that reflects the character of Lake Mendocino. The project will encourage outdoor recreation, environmental education, and long-term care of one of the region's most valuable public spaces.

Progress Update: Challenges & Achievements to Date

Phase One is complete and includes a perimeter trail, scenic vista point with seating and public art, natural playscape, meditation area, food truck and event space, lavender field, storytelling monument stones, stone seating for stargazing, handcrafted picnic tables, and site preparation for a walkable spiral.

Phase Two, beginning in August 2026, will include public art, signage, and site preparation for an outdoor classroom, and a BMX bike area, continuing to expand recreation and educational opportunities for the community. As the park grows, long-term success will depend on maintaining the site, building quality programming, and keeping the community involved.

Ways to Engage and Support the Project

- **Partner with us** – Collaborate on projects, events, and programming.
- **Be part of the vision** – Volunteer, sponsor, and support the next phases.
- **Share your talents** – Help bring the park to life with your skills and creativity.
- Reach us at katrina@discoverukiah.com

12. Middletown Rancheria Community RISE Project



Lead Organization: Middletown Rancheria of Pomo Indians of California

More Information: bit.ly/MiddletownRISE

Sector: Working Lands and Blue Economy

Project Description

The goal of this project is strengthening Tribal self-determination through housing, energy, culture, and land stewardship. The project strengthens Tribal self-determination through a comprehensive Master Plan for long-term, Tribal-led development—integrating housing, energy, climate justice, cultural resiliency, youth programs, entrepreneurship, and land stewardship. Key priorities include the Barnes Street Housing Project to address post-fire housing needs; hydropower, geothermal, and renewable energy development; water system evaluation; a Tribal museum and a linguistic preservation program supported by Tribal Elder and Youth Culture Keepers; and a Youth Tribal Council guiding apprenticeships and mentoring programs.

Intended Outcomes

- Provide training and work experience to youth and adults.
- Train Tribal members in fuel reduction to help prevent wildfires.
- Host an EcoCultural Fuels Management training for non-Tribal agencies who engage in forestry and fuel reduction work.
- Provide drone training for Tribal members for land mapping.

Progress Update: Challenges & Achievements to Date

In June, 16 interns began our 8-week paid Youth Environmental Internship, gaining hands-on stewardship experience in activities ranging from maintaining the Tribal Community Garden and removing invasive scotch broom to seasonal creek and pond maintenance, CPR training, and an introduction to the Tribal Historic Preservation Department. Middletown also hosted a Cultural Resources Identification Training for Tribal members and staff, led by two archaeologists. The training aimed to deepen participants' understanding of different types of cultural resources, associated timelines, and how to identify them in the field.

Ways to Engage and Support the Project

- Go to our website: bit.ly/Middletown-RISE
- Email: info@middletownrancheria-nsn.gov
- Phone number: 707.987.367



13. North Coast Food System Network



Lead Organization: North Coast Growers' Association

Key Collaborators: Aquilli Metzli Masa Cooperative, Del Norte and Tribal Lands Community Food Council, Bear River Rancheria, Blue Lake Rancheria, Karuk Tribe, Klamath/Trinity Resource Conservation District/Hoopa Tribe, Tolowa dee-ni' Nation, Yurok Tribe, Humboldt Farm Bureau, Scheer Associates, Ruf Collective, uxo architecture, Ironside Metal Works, Noyo Harbor, Crescent City Harbor

More Information: bit.ly/North-Coast-Food

Sector: Working Lands and Blue Economy

Project Description

The North Coast Food System Network is an initiative led by the North Coast Growers' Association to increase connectivity and collaboration across the North Coast region through investments into infrastructure and capacity building.

The Network is designed to fill gaps in critical food infrastructure, workforce development, and connection to resources of the North Coast region's agriculture and fishing industries. The focus of this investment is on community and Tribally-owned and operated food system projects. Project partners met quarterly throughout the grant term to share information and resources.

Intended Outcomes

- Create and retain agricultural and food systems jobs
- Support producers with expanded market access
- Increase regional cold storage and processing capacity
- Strengthen food sovereignty initiatives

Progress Update: Challenges & Achievements to Date

Aquilli Metzli Masa Cooperative: Established a Cooperative ownership structure, piloted the cultivation of various heirloom maize varieties in microclimates around Humboldt, and purchased a nixtamal grinder to offer locally grown and made masa.

Commercial Kitchen: The architectural plans and permitting are near completion for this future infrastructure expansion that will allow Humboldt farmers and the Harvest Hub to expand the seasonal availability and types of locally grown foods that are offered.

DNATL Gather and Grow Resilience Hub: Engaging in pre-permitting and architectural designs for a new facility that will house DNATL offices, learning kitchen space, and aggregation/storage space for a food and emergency response hub.

Humboldt County Ag Day: A K-4th grade hands-on experiential learning day that brings together Working Lands and Blue Economy businesses and organizations to teach students about our sector economy and job opportunities.

Humboldt Dockside Market and Blue Economy

Support: Launched a new, seasonal fish market that currently supports 8 fishing vessels, their families, and crew. The Humboldt Dockside Market runs every Saturday through the summer on Madaket Plaza. Additionally, this project allowed NCGA to partner with CA Sea Grant to support a regional Seafood Extension Fellow, who will further Blue Economy Sector goals like supportive infrastructure and marketing/traceability initiatives across the RISE Region.

Microgrants for Farmers: Provided funding for on-farm equipment and infrastructure to help farm businesses grow. Projects include shared use chicken processing equipment, dairy chiller for goat milk, harvest and transplant equipment.

North Coast Meat Collaborative: Studying the gaps and assets within the regional meat economy to determine opportunities for investment into infrastructure and resources to support meat production and processing.

Resilience Nodes: Piloting solar-powered cooler nodes located in remote communities to increase cold storage and distribution infrastructure for daily use, while including plans for emergency feeding and storage transition during disaster events.

Tribal Food Sovereignty: Provides connections to resources and direct investment into food sovereignty programs to address service and infrastructure gaps. Projects include infrastructure investment and capacity building for gardens and farms.

Storytelling: Contracted with a videographer to produce 5 short films documenting the work of NCGA and its many partners in building our local food system. The culmination of this project is an NCGA Film Premier highlighting the North Coast Food System Network projects on September 24th at The Eagle House in Eureka.

Ways to Engage and Support the Project

- **Join us for Rooted in Place:** Stories from the North Coast Food System, our film premiere and fundraising event on September 24 at the Eagle House in Eureka. bit.ly/45ulknh
- **Invest in a stronger local food system** by becoming a supporter, sponsoring a farmers' market, or exploring philanthropic partnership opportunities with NCGA. bit.ly/45vbSBe
- **Bring the conversation to your community.** Invite our team to present on the North Coast Food System Network, Harvest Hub, local food access, or other NCGA initiatives at your next meeting or event. megan@northcoastgrowers.org
- **Volunteer** at an NCGA event, farmers' market or community initiative. bit.ly/3RycKln
- **Partner with us.** We're always looking to collaborate with organizations, businesses, schools, Tribes, and agencies that share our vision for a thriving regional food system.
- **Stay connected.** Sign up for our newsletter and follow along to see how these projects grow and the impact they have across the North Coast. bit.ly/4bgiGGo



14. Outside Arts: Light and Dark



Lead Organization: Playhouse Arts

Key Collaborators: City of Arcata, local artists, culture bearers and community partners, California State Parks, California Arts in Parks, Center for Sustainable Development

More Information: bit.ly/Playhouse-Outside

Sector: Arts, Culture, and Tourism

Project Description

Outside Arts: Light and Dark is a celebration of art, nature, and community in Arcata's public parks, supported through Arts in California Parks. From November 2025 through August 2026, Playhouse Arts is bringing artists and culture bearers into public parks to create site-specific performances, installations, workshops, and community events. The project highlights parks as places for creativity, connections, and discovery.

The project features 11 events in 8 Arcata parks, and includes storytelling, dancing, weaving, shadow plays, seed planting, book making, film screening, and more. Hear Here, a series of outdoor soundscape listening posts, extends the projects across five additional park locations.

Outside Arts also supports cultural tourism by creating experiences that encourage visitors to explore Arcata's parks, arts, and natural environment. These free and accessible programs offer another reason to spend time in the community while showcasing the region's creative talent and unique sense of place.

Intended Outcomes

- Expand access to arts and culture in public spaces
- Support local artists and culture bearers

- Connect with Arcata's parks and natural environment
- Encourage residents and visitors to explore local parks
- Strengthen the connection between arts, community, and place

Progress Update: Challenges & Achievements to Date

To date, Outside Arts has brought 11 programs to eight parks across Arcata. The project has also launched Hear Here listening posts and provided summer programming through a circus tent at Ennes Park, Arcata. The project concludes with IllumiNature, a full-moon celebration at Carlson Park on August 28, bringing together art, nature, and performance. Additional projects include an art installation at the Community Center walkway and a public sound archive for the Hear Here uploaded recordings.

Ways to Engage and Support the Project

- Take a look at our website: bit.ly/Playhouse-Outside
- Reach us at info@playhousearts.org

15. Redwood Corridor SEEDS Network



Lead Organization: North Coast Opportunities

Key Collaborators: Women With Bows, School of Adaptive Agriculture, UC Agriculture and Natural Resources (UCANR)

More Information: bit.ly/RCSEEDS

Sector: Working Lands and Blue Economy

Project Description

Food deserts, limited land access for small-scale and Indigenous farmers, and eroded traditional stewardship practices are persistent challenges along the Highway 101 corridor in Mendocino County. This project addresses these inequities by establishing community-tailored food hubs that integrate Tribal food sovereignty with practical infrastructure development, in partnership with Women With Bows—which leads community engagement, equipment planning, and recipe development—and the School of Adaptive Agriculture, which hosts events like the Farmers Convergence and coordinates the Mendocino County Food Policy Council.

Intended Outcomes

- Grow the Just Soup project to promote a de-colonized diet.
- Develop freeze-dried products that are shelf-stable and salable..
- Establish a kitchen location.
- Evaluate possible market channels, such as schools and stores.

Progress Update: Challenges & Achievements to Date

Through Women With Bows' Just Soup initiative, the project is engaging 175+ community members, strengthening Tribal and inter-Tribal partnerships, and advancing harvest mapping and land access strategies. They are also working on their supply-demand match assessment for their goulash recipes, communicating with farmers about product availability and volume projections, and matching products with scaled quantities so that they can rely on locally-grown produce as much as possible.

Ways to Engage and Support the Project

- Connect with the Just Soup project: bit.ly/Just-Soup
- Follow Women with Bows: bit.ly/WWB-info
- Follow the School of Adaptive Agriculture: bit.ly/SAA-about



16. Redwood Region CalAIM Administrative Services Hub: Connecting Care, Empowering Communities



Lead Organization: North Coast Health Improvement and Information Network (NCHIN)

Key Collaborators: Humboldt Independent Partners Association

More Information: bit.ly/NCHIN

Sector: Health and Caregiving

Project Description

Rural communities face significant healthcare challenges, including fragmented systems and workforce shortages that limit access to quality care. This project develops a centralized administrative services hub model to strengthen administrative infrastructure across the Redwood Region—enhancing organizational sustainability by reducing redundancy and optimizing resource allocation, which leads to better care coordination and improved patient outcomes. NCHIN has launched pilot projects which provide technical assistance, training, and comprehensive billing support for CalAIM contracted providers.

Initial Outcomes

- Secured commitment from regional project partners, resulting in service contracts for NCHIN's administrative support.
- New CalAIM providers are better equipped to complete the program's onboarding process in a systematic and efficient manner.

- Partner organizations have resources to bill accurately, thus supporting financial viability of CalAIM services.

Progress Update: Challenges & Achievements to Date

NCHIN's current administrative services are available for existing North Coast Care Connect (NC3) clients in the Redwood Region who are planning to or are already contracted with Partnership HealthPlan of CA for CalAIM Enhanced Care Management and Community Supports services. NCHIN aspires to expand affordable administrative support and services in the future.

Ways to Engage and Support the Project

- Contact NCHIN at bit.ly/NCHIN-contact
- Go to our website: bit.ly/NCHIN-website



17. Pinoleville Solar Port & Renewable Energy Workforce Development



Lead Organization: Pinoleville Pomo Nation

Key Collaborators: GRID Alternatives Bay Area North Coast

More Information: bit.ly/Pinoleville

Sector: Renewable and Resilient Energy; Tribal Energy Sovereignty

Project Description

For the Pinoleville Pomo Nation — a community of 350 citizens — high utility costs and limited economic opportunity have long been persistent challenges. This project addresses both at once through an innovative dual-purpose initiative: installing a 42KW solar carport system with EV charging stations at the Tribal government complex, reducing utility costs by an estimated 25%, while delivering paid internships and workforce training for Tribal youth and adults. The workforce development component creates paid internships in 2025 and 2026.

2025 Cohort — four in renewable energy and six in traditional Tribal skills, agriculture, and social services — grounded in culturally sensitive decision-making that ensures equitable distribution of benefits throughout the community.

2026 Cohort — four in renewable energy and four in construction, two in health care, one in plumbing, one in office administration, and one tech support in performing arts.

Intended Outcomes

- Complete construction of a solar carport on Pinoleville Tribal government complex.
- Provide workforce development training to ten pain interns.
- Provide four solar interns/trainees with industry-recognized certification.
- Train two interns in traditional Tribal skills, agriculture, and social services.

Ways to Engage & Support the Project

Go to Pinoleville's webpage: bit.ly/Pinoleville

Follow Pinoleville: bit.ly/PPN-Facebook and

bit.ly/PPN-Insta

Progress Update: Challenges & Achievements to Date

1. Solar carport construction has been delayed by coordination with the new Tribal Administration building and partner restructuring. Surveys and preliminary design are complete, with final design expected by month-end. Construction is anticipated 4–6 weeks after final design and engineering approval. Solar batteries have been purchased, and GRID Alternatives is working with Pinoleville Pomo Nation on carport redesigns.
2. Workforce development training was completed for 10 interns in 2025 and nine in 2026. The 2026 interns received workplace readiness, financial literacy, communication, and leadership training and completed approximately 100 hours of employer-mentored, on-the-job training based on their career interests. Three were hired full-time by their host employers.
3. Four 2025 interns completed Solar Installation Basic Training and earned IBT 100 certification, with three more expected to complete training by the end of September. One 2026 solar intern completed Solar Installation Basic Training 200 and earned IBT 200 certification.
4. Workforce development was completed for six 2025 interns: two in traditional Tribal skills, two in agriculture, and two in social services/care. One cultural intern attended the two-day California Basketweaving Association Gathering, and another is building a traditional baby basket for community use. Additionally, 10 workforce development interns began training, with eight placed at local business job sites.

18. Redwood Region Made



Lead Organization: Humboldt Made

Key Collaborators: Northcoast SBDC, North Coast Growers' Association, Del Norte and Humboldt County Chambers of Commerce

More Information: bit.ly/HumMade

Sector: Arts, Culture, and Tourism

Project Description

Redwood Region Made is a project designed to advance economic mobility by equipping local food producers, craft makers, and small-scale manufacturers with the tools, funding, and connections needed to expand into larger markets. Through a combination of micro-grants, training, and market access support, the program will help entrepreneurs transition from survival-level operations to sustainable, income-generating businesses — creating jobs and retaining wealth in the region.

The Redwood Region Made project is committed to its goals of promoting inclusive and equitable rural growth, strengthening local supply chains, and fostering community-based prosperity built on stewardship of natural and cultural resources.

Intended Outcomes

- Foster economic mobility for local makers
- Strengthen regional economic collaboration
- Expand market access & trade show presence
- Deliver business education & mentorship

Progress Update: Challenges & Achievements to Date

Since its initial conception, the Redwood Region Made project has confirmed partnerships with Northcoast SBDC and chambers of commerce, expanded its

focus on the Working Lands & Blue Economy with a collaboration with the North Coast Grower's Alliance, and initiated outreach to Tribal enterprises and cultural producers to ensure equity and representation in all program activities. Project design has been refined, with the micro-grant fund element increased to \$90,000 in order to directly support 30–35 small producers and craft-makers.

Now, Humboldt Made and its partners are in the process of raising approximately \$400,000 in funding for the program's Phase 1, 10-month roll-out, including the micro-grant fund, virtual and in-person workshops, and the design and development of a trade-show cooperative to expand equitable access to trade-show participation.

Ways to Engage and Support the Project

- Become a project partner
- Join the project Fundraising Committee
- Join the Humboldt Made mailing list
- Contact us at info@humboldtmade.com

19. SeaForester



Lead Organization: SeaForester

Key Collaborators: Earth Equity

More Information: bit.ly/SeaForester

Sector: Working Lands and Blue Economy

Project Description

SeaForester is an emerging worker-owned Seaweed farm by and for formerly incarcerated people. At SeaForester, system-impacted Indigenous communities and Seaweed work together for ecological, economic, and cultural healing. We help people and ecosystems thrive through food sovereignty, coastal protection, and reentry support.

Intended Outcomes

- Contribute to food sovereignty for system-impacted Indigenous communities through Seaweed and Urchin aquaculture, traditional gathering workshops for system-impacted Tribal members, and opportunities for public aquaculture on our farm.
- Resist prison food systems by providing healing coastal foods for free to incarcerated people.
- Create well paid, supportive, humanizing jobs and paths to business ownership for formerly incarcerated people.

- Be a hub for community-led kelp reforestation and ecosystem protection.

Progress Update: Challenges & Achievements to Date

SeaForester is 75% of the way to our fundraising goal to build our farm in Klamath. We have recently completed our Business Plan and begun partnerships with key organizations in aquaculture to provide on the job training to our staff.

Ways to Engage and Support the Project

- Visit SeaForester's website bit.ly/SeaForester
- Reach out to volunteer or donate at earthequity@gmail.com
- Follow Earth Equity on Instagram bit.ly/EarthEquity-Insta

