

I am a board member of EDFC, an alternate member of the Redwood Valley Municipal Advisory Council and the co-owner of several small businesses. Before I moved to Mendocino County in 2014, I founded a sustainable business alliance that did economic development work.

I am concerned that the Board of Supervisors is apparently questioning the value it gets for the relatively small amount of money it gives EDFC each year, as if EDFC were a contractor providing a specific service to the county. The reality is EDFC brings a lot of money into the county from federal sources, money that helps to grow the local economy and increase the tax base in order to fund other county services. It seems to me analogous to a husband conducting a cost/benefit analysis on his wife without considering that she is raising their children who will one day support them.

The "children" that EDFC is raising are the small businesses which struggle to get the financing they need to grow. Those businesses in turn provide jobs, helping to pull Mendocino County families out of poverty so that they have more money to spend at local businesses. To try to put a cost/benefit value on this process of growing the economic pie shows a cynicism out of character with our county. To spend more than \$20,000 to attempt to prove or disprove the value of giving EDFC around \$33,000 per year is very disturbing, in my opinion, and a waste of taxpayer money.

I know there are other EDFC board members submitting comments detailing the value of EDFC's work in the community, so I will leave it with this: Mendocino County must commit to fully fund EDFC without reservation if it is to build its reputation as a good place to start and grow a business and raise a family. We have to put our money where our values are.

Thank you for your time and attention to this urgent matter.