

# NOI Submission ▾

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Please complete all required fields.

You can save as a draft and return later to complete by clicking "Save Draft" at the bottom of the page.

When you are ready to submit this step, please click the blue "Save" button at the bottom of the page.

Record Title Format: [Jurisdiction Name] - [Program Name] - [Project Number]

Ex: Sacramento County - DR-Infrastructure - 1

\*Project Numbers are based on the number of projects you are submitting for the grants.

## **Record Title**

Mendocino County – MIT-RIP – 4

## **What Grant Program are you submitting for?**

MIT-Resilient Infrastructure Program

## **Does the jurisdiction have existing capacity to manage the solicitation, selection, monitoring, environmental review compliance, and oversight of the program?**

Yes

**If Yes, please describe the capacity and staffing in detail.**

The County of Mendocino receives millions in State and Federal grant funding annually for a variety of projects, programs, and activities and therefore has significant experience administering grant-funded projects to ensure adequate oversight, compliance, and execution. CDBG-DR MIT-RIP projects will be directed and overseen by the County Executive Office, Facilities and Fleet Division. The Assistant Facilities Manager will be responsible for managing the project, with support from Executive Office Administrative Analysts and Finance personnel. The County also maintains contracts for on-call Project Management support via third party consultants who may be called upon to support County staff depending on workload and other active projects. The County will provide documentation of the procurement process used to engage these consultants for approval from HCD prior to utilizing consultants on CDBG-DR projects.

In addition, the County of Mendocino is a non-entitlement jurisdiction for standard CDBG funding and is familiar with the record keeping and documentation requirements for that funding source. The County routinely conducts, either in-house or via consultants, environmental review of proposed projects to ensure compliance with all applicable environmental regulations, including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). For this project, the County anticipates procuring a consultant to provide CEQA and NEPA analysis and the corresponding environmental documentation. All new procurement of consultants and contractors for CDBG-DR projects will be conducted in compliance with state, federal, and local procurement regulations.

**What is the Project Type?**

Stand-alone Infrastructure

Choose the Eligible Applicant. Eligible Applicants are those cities and counties identified in Section 2.2.3 of the DR-Infrastructure Policies and Procedures.

**Eligible Applicant (City/County)**

Mendocino County

**Please Type Jurisdiction Name**

County of Mendocino

Special districts can include water districts, fire districts, school districts, etc.

**Is this a project on behalf of another government entity or special district other than the Eligible Applicant?**

No

**Project Title**

Mendocino County Emergency Communications Facility Hardening

A description or scope of work for stand-alone infrastructure projects is required. For FEMA PA and HMGP input N/A, we will look at your worksheet for the scope of work.

**Project Description and/or Scope of Work**

The County of Mendocino will improve resiliency of microwave and radio communications system equipment from wildfire and other hazard events via various on-site improvements including new equipment shelter structures, access road improvements, new fencing, aggressive fuels reduction, and the installation of new generators and transfer switches to upgrade and replace end of life generators.

The project scope of work will generally consist of procuring a design consultant and developing project plans, procuring a consultant to complete NEPA and CEQA analysis for the project, soliciting bids from vendors and contractors for equipment and installation, and project implementation.

Please provide a brief description of the location of the project.

**Project Location Description**

Various locations around Mendocino County including Willits, Fort Bragg, Mount Sanel, the Point Arena AT&T Tower site, Spanish Mountain, Laughlin Peak, and Fish Rock Mountain.

**Project City**

Willits

**Project Zip Code(s)**

95490

Format the Latitude and Longitude of the project in decimal form (e.g. 39.332962, -123.22534)

**Project Latitude and Longitude**

39.411978, -123.352683

**Does the project service area benefit an LMI population or area?**

Yes

**If yes, describe how the project service area benefits an LMI population or area**

This project will provide benefits to a large portion of Mendocino County, including LMI populations. While the overall LMI calculation for the project service area is 43.33%, the radio and microwave data communications coverage provided by these sites serves 39 block groups which are 51% LMI or greater. By ensuring these facilities remain functional during inclement weather, natural disasters, and events like public safety power shutoffs, the County will ensure that residents of these LMI block groups as well as all other block groups in the project service area receive prompt responses from emergency medical services, law enforcement, and fire fighting personnel while also allowing these personnel to better communicate in the field to keep Mendocino County residents safe. Given that the conditions which could cause a failure at these facilities (severe storms, natural disasters, and public safety power shutoffs, which are triggered by severe fire weather) are also conditions which lead to increases in 911 calls and the need for first responders, ensuring those first responders have all of the tools they need to work effectively becomes even more critical.

**Upload document that support the LMI service area (Optional)**

7746.18 Microwave Hardening Service Area Mapping 20201216.pdf 

**Does the project service area benefit the MID?**

Yes

**If yes, describe how the project service area benefits a MID area (additional material and information may be required)**

The communications facilities included in this proposal serve the majority of Mendocino County, including the MID. As such, both residents and visitors to the MID will receive benefits from this project, as it will ensure communications reliability for a variety of local, state, and federal agencies tasked with public safety, including law enforcement, emergency medical services, and firefighters.

**Upload documentation that supports how the project benefits a MID area (Optional)**

7746.18 Microwave Hardening Service Area Mapping 20201216.pdf 

Provide the Census Tract/Block Group of the project service area, for example, Block 3001, 3002, 3003, etc.

**What Census Tracts/Block Groups are served by this project?**

The facilities receiving upgrades during this project serve 78 Census Block Groups in Mendocino County along with nine Block Groups in Sonoma County, five Block Groups in Lake County, two Block Groups in Trinity County, and three Block Groups in Humboldt County. The attached Service Area Map shows all Block Groups served by the project with complete descriptions provided in the Service Area Map Addendum.

**Service Map (Optional)**

7746.18 Microwave Hardening Service Area Mapping 20201216.pdf 

Provide the current Project Status of the project.

**Project Status**

Project Identified

**Round 1 MIT Infrastructure Projects should be "Shovel Ready". Are project plans complete?**

No

**If no, describe status of plan development**

Project plans have not yet been developed. However, County staff have identified the sites requiring additional hardening and developed preliminary cost estimates using documentation from previous comparable County projects. Project plans can be completed within 6-9 months from submittal of this NOI.

**Has a NEPA Environmental Review been completed?**

No

Provide the Total Project Cost amount in dollars, including hard project costs and Activity Delivery Costs (ADCs).

**Total Project Cost (\$ amount)**

\$1,350,000

Total unmet need for the project.

**Project Unmet Need**

\$971,000

The total amount that is needed from CDBG-Mitigation funding.

**Anticipated CDBG funding need (\$ amount)**

\$971,000

**Have you applied for other sources of funds for this project?**

Yes

**If yes, please explain how much have you applied for, have you been awarded funds, and what is/are the amount(s)**

In 2019, the County of Mendocino submitted a subapplication to CALOES/FEMA under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program to upgrade generators at several County locations, including some sites included in this NOI. That subapplication was not funded.

Provide a description of the basis for the cost estimate and/or unmet need of the project.

**Basis for Cost Estimate / CDBG Funding Need**

Cost estimates from previous comparable County projects.

The documentation should clearly demonstrate the reasoning of the cost estimate and support the description of the cost estimate and/or unmet need.

**Provide cost estimate documentation (from a professional engineer, etc.)  
(Optional)****Was the project denied by FEMA for PA or HMGP funds?**

Yes

Provide a description of why the project was denied by FEMA, additional documentation may be requested.

**If yes, provide a reason why the project was denied by FEMA (additional documentation may be requested)**

This was not funded as the HMGP funding opportunity for DR-4407 was given priority to the Camp Fire/Butte County.

For FEMA PA and HMGP Projects input N/A for how this is an Eligible CDBG activity.

**Explain how this is an eligible CDGB activity.**

This activity is an eligible CDBG Activity under 24 CFR 570.201(c), Public Facilities and Improvements. The project will upgrade and add new equipment to existing County communications facilities which allow for law enforcement, emergency medical services, and fire fighters to respond promptly to 911 calls and communicate effectively in the field and protect life and property in Mendocino County.

**Describe prior experience in implementing risk reduction projects of scale and scope similar to project being proposed**

The County of Mendocino maintains dozens of properties and facilities throughout the County. While a project addressing the amount of sites included in this NOI is uncommon, County facilities staff have significant experience implementing equipment shelter replacements, generator upgrades, fuels reduction, and road upgrades at a variety of facilities. County staff are familiar with the requirements of these types of projects and have undergone thorough planning to identify need and scope appropriate solutions.

**Is the proposed project identified as a priority project in your hazard mitigation plan?**

No

More than one Community Lifeline can be selected.

**What community lifeline will this project protect?**

Communication

**How will this project reduce risk to community lifeline(s)?**

This project will provide a significant increase in reliability and resiliency for County communications facilities which are used by almost every local, state, and federal agency operating within Mendocino County. The facilities proposed for improvement house vital equipment which is used when responding to disasters as well as during day-to-day County activities. Due to the critical nature of this equipment and the particularly acute need to ensure reliability during hazard events such as wildfires or anthropogenic impacts such as public safety power shutoffs, ensuring that all sites maintain functionality even if impacted during the event is of utmost importance to protecting life and property. By hardening these facilities, the County will improve the odds that they remain operational during such events and allow first responders and other local, state, and federal officials to maintain operational efficiency.

### **How will this project improve resilience for underserved communities and vulnerable populations?**

Ensuring reliability in County communications systems will yield significant benefits to underserved and vulnerable populations. As discussed previously, this project will increase the speed and bandwidth of internet services at various County-owned sites which also provide public internet access frequently used by underserved communities in the County. By ensuring internet access even during circumstances when other forms of communication, like cell towers, are unavailable, as occurred during the 2017 Redwood Complex Fire, underserved and vulnerable populations will be able to receive information from public officials, including direction regarding evacuations, shelter-in-place, or other behaviors needed to preserve life and property during disaster events.

### **Can this project be replicated in other communities?**

Yes

#### **If yes, provide a description**

While this project does not provide a novel solution to the problems facing the Mendocino County emergency communications system, the County's plan for hardening these facilities could serve as a model for other communities, especially rural communities like Mendocino County.

### **Has CAL FIRE identified this project as a priority project?**

No

### **Will you be able to quantitatively measure the impact the proposed project will have on current and future risk?**

Yes

Eligible projects must be able to show anticipated impact on current and future risks.

### **Upload quantitative data showing a project's anticipated impact on current and future risks**

7746.18 Microwave Hardening Quantitative Approach 20201218.pdf 

### **Has an operations and maintenance plan been established for the project?**

No

### **Assuming Spring 2021 start date, what is your expected period of performance? (anticipated start date and completion date)**

Assuming an April 1, 2021 start date, the County anticipates completing all project activities by October 2023.



If available, please provide a timeline of the submitted project.

**Project Timeline (Optional)**

