



## MENDOCINO-LAKE COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

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January 14, 2025

California Center for Rural Policy (CCRP)  
1 Harpst Street  
Arcata, CA 95521

Subject: Letter of Commitment for the County of Mendocino Funding Application  
Redwood Region Resilient Inclusive Sustainable Economy (RRRISE):  
Catalyst Pre-development Funds

To Whom it May Concern:

Mendocino College strongly supports Mendocino County's proposed "Home Hardening Market & Workforce Analysis" for the Redwood Region Redwood Region Resilient Inclusive Sustainable Economy (RRRISE): Catalyst Pre-development Funds. As Mendocino College provides career education in a range of fields from fire science to agriculture, we recognize the critical importance of developing a skilled workforce capable of meeting our region's growing fire resilience needs, and **we commit to participating in the development of the analysis throughout the project performance period.**

The devastating wildfires that have impacted our region in recent years have highlighted the urgent need for qualified professionals who can implement home hardening techniques and fire-safe building practices. Mendocino County's proposed comprehensive analysis will fill a crucial knowledge gap by providing detailed insights into both market demands and workforce development opportunities in this emerging sector.

We are particularly encouraged by the project's holistic approach, which includes:

- A thorough market analysis that considers the unique challenges faced by our rural communities
- Detailed labor market projections to ensure we can meet future workforce demands
- A careful feasibility study for developing local training programs that will create sustainable career pathways

As an organization deeply invested in our community's resilience and economic development, we see tremendous value in this initiative. The findings from this analysis will be instrumental in shaping effective workforce training programs and ensuring our region is better prepared to meet the growing demand for fire-resistant construction and retrofitting.

We believe this project aligns perfectly with the Redwood Region RISE Program's goals of fostering economic resilience and creating sustainable employment opportunities. The proposed analysis will



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provide the foundation needed to develop targeted training programs that can help build a skilled local workforce while addressing critical safety needs in our community.

Mendocino College, a Hispanic Serving Institution, is the only public institution of higher education Mendocino County and northern Lake County. We are a community college offering associates degrees, workforce education, and transfer pathways to 4 year institutions. We maintain three locations in Mendocino County (Ukiah, Willits, and Fort Bragg) and one location in Lake County (Lakeport). Mendocino College has a longstanding and impactful presence in the north coast region.

Mendocino College embraces its role as an intellectual, economic, and cultural anchor for the region. Our organization brings to the table working with K-12 districts, 4 year institutions, County Offices of Education, and business/industry to offer courses and degree programs to meet the needs of our community. Career Education and Workforce pathways are one of the missions of our institution. Attaining higher education and enhancing workforce skills increases opportunities to work in living-wage fields, increases household stability, and enhances the economic vitality of the region.

Mendocino College is committed to participating in this important initiative and stands ready to Participate in outreach sessions, share data and information available to us, contribute information regarding our capacity and resources, explore and pursue partnerships with other stakeholders and collaborators, etc. We strongly encourage you to support Mendocino County's grant application and look forward to our role in the project.

Sincerely,

Dr. Timothy Karas  
Superintendent/President