

The CEO Report

Darcie Antle
March 24, 2026

Government

Departments

Residents

Business

March is National Nutrition Awareness Month

Public Health and Mendocino County Women, Infants, & Children (WIC) Program is raising awareness about National Nutrition Month®, an annual campaign led by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics to promote the importance of healthy eating and developing healthy lifestyles through healthy habits, making informed food choices, and developing healthy eating and physical activity habits.

Throughout the month, messaging emphasizes the connection between nutrition and overall health, including mental wellness. Education efforts focus on balanced meals, proper hydration, portion awareness, and the benefits of incorporating fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and lean proteins into daily routines.

Public Health encourages the community to take small, sustainable steps toward healthier lifestyles and to recognize nutrition as a key component of disease prevention and emotional well-being.

Learn more about National Nutrition Month® at eatright.org

Mendocino County Strategic Plan

In May 2022, the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors approved the first five-year strategic plan that will help guide the critical decisions the Board of Supervisors will face over the next five years with the ultimate goal of improving the quality of life for County residents. Departmental reporting will align with the strategic plan.

Click [HERE](#) to download the Strategic Plan.

Departments and Divisions

Agriculture

We recognize **National Weights & Measures Week**, celebrated each year from March 1 through March 7. This week commemorates the signing of the first U.S. weights and measures legislation by President John Quincy Adams on March 2, 1799—an action that laid the foundation for fair commerce in the United States.

The 2026 national theme, “**We Measure What Matters,**” highlights the essential role that weights-and-measures programs play in ensuring accuracy and equity in everyday transactions. From groceries to fuel pumps to packaged goods, accurate measurement directly influences nearly 50% of the U.S. gross domestic product. This work is supported nationally by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and locally by inspectors, regulators, and industry partners who help maintain confidence in the marketplace.

Click [HERE](#) to read more...

Animal Care Services

Meet Tex — a two year-old Belgian Malinois with a heart as big as his goofy grin. At about 65 pounds, he’s the perfect blend of athletic and cuddly, and he brings a joyful, lighthearted energy everywhere he goes.



Tex is the kind of dog who can make you smile without even trying. He’s playful, especially when toys are involved, and he’s always ready for a game or an adventure. He walks nicely on a leash, loves exploring the outdoors, and is just as happy romping around the yard as he is hiking by your side.

What Tex loves most, though, is being close to his person. He’s a loyal shadow who thrives on companionship, and we’re told he has lived with kids before, which speaks to his gentle, people-oriented nature.

Click [HERE](#) to read more...

Behavioral Health & Recovery Services

Behavioral Health & Recovery Services (BHRS) recognizes March as Self-Harm Awareness Month

Self-Harm Awareness Day: March 1

During this month, BHRS is raising awareness to help break the silence and reduce stigma surrounding self-harm. Outreach efforts have been focused on

compassion, understanding, and the importance of early support and intervention.

BHRS recognizes that many individuals struggle quietly. No one should feel alone. Seeking help is a sign of strength, and support is available.

If you or someone you know is struggling, help is available:

 Call or text 988

 Reach out to a trusted friend, family member, or provider

 Mental health support is strength

Together, we can create a community of compassion and support.

24/7 Crisis Line: [855-838-0404](tel:855-838-0404)

Warm Line for Non-Crisis Emotional Support: [\(707\) 472-2311](tel:707-472-2311) or **Toll-Free: [833-955-2510](tel:833-955-2510)**

Click [HERE](#) to read more...

Board of Supervisors

Click [HERE](#) to view the Board of Supervisors Priorities for 2026.

District Attorney

Click [HERE](#) to view the District Attorney's Office filing statistics.

Executive Office - Budget/Fiscal

To address the budget deficit as part of the FY 2025-26 Adopted Budget, County General Fund departments were required to take a reduction to their Salary and Benefits (1000 Series) based on a 6% attrition factor, which totaled \$5,246,657 across departments. This factor was calculated based on a historical average County-wide attrition rate. The 6% rate was conservatively adjusted to account for a degree of staffing variability throughout the fiscal year.

Based on year-to-date payroll actuals through March 6, 2026, pay date, plus utilizing the most recent payroll to annualize the remaining fiscal year payroll expenses, the County is anticipating realizing \$4,955,000 or a little over 94.4% of the total \$5,246,657. This has increased by 12.9% from 81.5% to 94.4% from the prior report. The increase is largely due to budget adjustments approved at Mid-Year on February 24, 2026. The total salary and benefit budget adjustments year to date equal an increase to department's budget authority by \$1,358,244. The increase is offset by the additional revenue brought forward by the Auditor/Controller at Mid-Year.

The County must remain diligent and continue to follow the Strategic Hiring processes to realize the full attrition savings for FY25/26.

Additionally, the County must ensure one-time funds are utilized for one-time expenses.

Click [HERE](#) to view the Year-To-Date Budget Report.

Executive Office - Contract Unit

The Contract Unit works directly with departments Countywide to execute contracts and amendments to ensure alignment with County Policy. Since January of 2025, the Contract Unit has administered review processes for over 1,200 contract items, including over 575 items with effective dates on or after July 1, 2025. Additionally, the Contract Unit has continued to work with departments to train staff and answer questions related to the County's newly revised Leasing and Contracting Policy (Policy No. 1) approved by the Board of Supervisors in December 2025.

Contract Review Times

For items routed since July 1, 2025, the average review time as processed through Cobblestone was approximately eleven (11) working days (not counting weekends or holidays). This timeframe is from the day the Department Head electronically approves execution of a contract to the day it's released from Cobblestone with County Counsel, Risk, and Executive Office signatures. It does not include any additional time required for departmental processes either before or after routing through Cobblestone (e.g., RFP administration, contract negotiation, vendor pre-approval).

Public Resources

Mendocino County maintains a publicly accessible portal where fully executed contracts can be viewed. The initial search screen of the portal allows users to search all County contracts by Department, Contract Number, Approving Authority, Contractor, and/or Keyword. The list generated by the initial search request can be further refined if needed.

<https://contracts.mendocinocounty.org>

Executive Office - Employee Benefits

Click [HERE](#) to review recent updates to GLP-1 coverage eligibility, including information regarding the March 31, 2026, conclusion of the grandfathered coverage period, as well as upcoming training opportunities in April and September.

Executive Office - Office of Emergency Services

The Mendocino County Office of Emergency Services (OES) continues to strengthen emergency preparedness, coordination, and community resilience across the Mendocino County Operational Area. During March 2026, OES focused on regional collaboration, community outreach, evacuation planning,

and disaster preparedness initiatives to ensure the county and its partners remain ready to respond to a wide range of emergencies and hazards.

Click [HERE](#) to read more...

Executive Office - Prevention, Recovery, Resiliency, and Mitigation

Year to date in 2026, the Prevention, Recovery, Resiliency, and Mitigation (PRRM) Division continued advancing wildfire mitigation, evacuation planning, and disaster preparedness initiatives across Mendocino County. Current efforts focus on moving major grant-funded projects into implementation phases, completing environmental and engineering work, and coordinating with state and federal partners to ensure continued funding for resilience projects.

Click [HERE](#) to read more...

Facilities and Fleet

Facilities and Fleet Mission: To provide an accessible, efficient, safe, clean, and comfortable working environment for all employees and the general public who use our buildings and properties.

Facilities and Fleet maintain vital infrastructure and related services that enable County employees to serve the citizens of Mendocino County.

Facilities activated 24 new public EV chargers and continued key facility upgrades, including building modifications and emergency generator procurement. Major capital projects such as the SB844 Jail and Psychiatric Health Facility are moving toward completion, while park improvements and other facility upgrades continue across the County.

Click [HERE](#) to read more...

Human Resources

The Human Resources Department is dedicated to supporting the County's workforce through recruitment, development, and employee well-being, while ensuring compliance with all laws and policies. This report highlights key initiatives from March 2026, including a redesigned new hire orientation, updated training, and enhanced performance support.

Click [HERE](#) to read more...

Human Resources - Leadership

EMPLOYEE GRATITUDE MONTH COMING IN APRIL

Beginning April 6, the Employee Engagement Team will launch a County-wide Gratitude Month campaign in response to themes identified in the 2025 Employee Engagement Survey, including the importance of recognition, communication, and connection across departments. Each department will receive a Gratitude Packet with tools to encourage peer-to-peer appreciation and cross-team acknowledgment. By intentionally creating space for recognition, the County promotes strengthening a culture where employees feel valued, supported, and engaged in their work.

Human Resources - Wellness

In support of its mission to foster a culture of wellbeing, Mendocino County Working on Wellness (MCWOW) is partnering with the Health Benefits and Retirement Teams to offer a comprehensive **Benefits Training** on **April 22, 2026**, helping employees better understand and confidently navigate their County benefits.

In addition to expanding employee education and awareness, MCWOW continues to strengthen programs that support long-term wellbeing. In 2026, the Wellness Incentive Program places greater emphasis on heart health and preventive care. Consistent with these priorities, MCWOW is recognizing **World Sleep Day** and promoting the role of sleep in overall health and workplace performance. Through the **Personify Health** platform, employees can access a personalized **Sleep Guide** with education, goal setting, and progress tracking tools. The Wellness Program remains available to ALL County employees, regardless of health plan enrollment.

Click [HERE](#) to read more...

Library

It feels like Spring has sprung with all of the events happening this March. Each branch's Seed Library participated in Anderson Valley's 40th Seed & Scion Exchange in Philo on March 14. The Ukiah Branch offered SAT prep help for high school students on March 7 and 14. Fort Bragg Library is celebrating spring on March 28 with gardening expert, Sakina Bush, who will teach the basic principles of bed preparation and soil and fertility.

Click [HERE](#) to read more...

Planning and Building

The Department of Planning and Building Services ("Department" or "PBS") continues to advance its mission of delivering effective, transparent, and responsive service to the Mendocino County community. Over the past month, the Department has made significant progress on several core initiatives that

strengthen organizational effectiveness and support long-term countywide goals. This includes continued publication of monthly performance metrics, advancement of the Accela permitting system implementation (RFP #045-25), and submission of the FY 2026-27 preliminary budget. PBS will be engaging in a training collaboration with Mendocino Community College to enhance Code Enforcement Officers' report writing and search warrant preparation. Additionally, the Cannabis Division is responding to the recently completed Department of Cannabis Control audit, which requires the remittance of identified funds by March 21, 2026.

PBS is actively supporting a safe and healthy community through its Code Enforcement Collections Services RFP (#005-26), with selection anticipated on March 20, as well as preparing an RFP for Resource Management of the General Plan to comply with new state mandates. In support of a thriving local economy, the Department has selected PlaceWorks to lead the Housing Element and Environmental Justice Element updates and continues work on the Short-Term Rental Ordinance, having presented recommendations to the Board on February 3. The Local Coastal Program update remains a major focus, with recent coordination meetings, a survey launched for Visitor-Serving Facility operators, and an upcoming listening session aimed at gathering stakeholder input for coastal land-use planning.

To support county preparedness and resilience, PBS continues to invest in professional development for Code Enforcement personnel, including upcoming participation in CACEO trainings and leadership summits. The Department also encourages public engagement through its live Online Customer Survey, enabling ongoing feedback to further improve the quality and responsiveness of services. Together, these efforts demonstrate PBS's continued commitment to operational excellence, regulatory compliance, and transparent service delivery across Mendocino County.

Click [HERE](#) to read more...

Public Health

Mendocino County Public Health continues to support a safe and healthy community through education, prevention efforts, and collaboration with local partners. The following highlights showcase recent program activities, community outreach, and initiatives that promote health, safety, and well-being for residents throughout the county during March 2026.

Click [HERE](#) to read more...

Social Services

The Department of Social Services is proud to celebrate **Social Worker Appreciation Month**, recognizing the dedication and impact of Social Workers serving communities across the county through Family & Children's Services and Adult & Aging Services.

The department is also monitoring upcoming changes to **CalFresh work and community engagement requirements**, which are anticipated to affect

beneficiaries throughout the county.

This month's report also highlights the work of our **Adult & Aging Services** team, including an impressive **96.43% response rate to mandated response timeframes**.

Click [HERE](#) to read more...

Transportation

The Mendocino County Department of Transportation strives to enhance the quality of life in Mendocino County in partnership with other county agencies, by meeting the commercial, public, and personal mobility needs of county transportation system users in an efficient, safe, and environmentally sound manner. The Road Maintenance, Engineering, Land Improvement & Airports Divisions endeavor to support a prepared and resilient County by improving and maintaining transportation and road systems; Land Improvement Division also provides drainage and water quality protection; Solid Waste & Landfill Closure Division provides administration of the County's solid waste system and maintenance and regulatory compliance of three "closed" landfill sites; and the Water Agency supports the regional water interests of Mendocino County citizens through regulatory compliance, advocacy, and collaboration. Staff strive to support a safe and healthy County by implementing practices that support a sustainable environment and responsible stewardship of natural resources.

Click [HERE](#) to read more...



COME & VISIT

Main Ukiah Campus:
501 Low Gap Road
Ukiah, CA 95482

GET IN TOUCH

County Directory
Contact By Email

STAY INFORMED

Get News, Views,
Insights, and Events



ENOTIFICATIO
N SIGN UP



County of Mendocino | 501 Low Gap Rd Rm 1010 | Ukiah, CA 95482 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!