

Del Norte Healthcare District
Board of Directors Meeting

Agendized
Board Packet

Tuesday August 25, 2026

August
7/23/2026 – 8/19/2026

4A

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>CK#</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
7/23	CCWD	6/10/26-7/8/26	11221	324.82
7/23	CCWD	510 location	11222	62.09
7/23	CCWD	Garden	11223	79.45
7/28	T-Mobile	cell phone	11224	103.17
7/28	Eureka Glass	window replacement	11225	14001.83
7/29	Peggy Thomas	D/V/RX reimbursement	11226	50.61
7/31	Doris Hendricks	July payroll	EFT	1637.17
7/31	Edward Jones	SEP IRA July contribution	11227	470.00
7/31	U.S. Treasury	payroll taxes	EFT	386.65
8/4	Katie Wheeler	August service	EFT	200.00
8/4	CalPers	August premium	EFT	3654.37
8/4	Wen-Cor	July service	11228	300.00
8/4	fence solutions	fence repair	11229	300.00
8/6	McMillan & Mayle	July service	11230	1020.00
8/10	Tri Counties Bank	Credit Card	11231	160.40
		Constant Contact	110.00	
		Microsoft monthly	50.40	
8/12	Spectrum	monthly	EFT	192.36
8/17	Blue Star Gas	Inv. 1059615	EFT	<u>1936.03</u>
<u>Total</u>				<u>24,878.95</u>

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Del Norte Healthcare District
Financial Report
July 31, 2026

ACCOUNT	July 1, 2026		July 31, 2026
	Bk./Inv. Acct. Bal.	Note Payable	45,991.00
LAIF (Investment Account)	4,285,047.01		4,325,495.07
Tri Counties- Bus. Cking. Acct.	113,119.68		119,196.49
Tri Counties - Money Mkt. (holding) Acct.	104,384.64		104,385.47
Tri Counties- W.C. USDA Auto Pay	0.00	closed acct.	0.00
TOTAL BK./INV. ACCT BALANCES	4,502,551.33	0.00	4,549,077.03

BUDGET CATEGORY INCOME	Anticipated Income	Income Received To Date	Remaining/(Surplus) Anticipated Income
Interest LAIF & bank Accts	140,000.00	40,448.06	99,551.94
Tax Receipts	765,000.00	14,488.37	750,511.63
Rent (Open Door \$ 10250.00)	123,000.00	20,500.00	102,500.00
510 DNTAL 3000.00 per month	50,000.00	3,000.00	47,000.00
Utility Reimbursement 80%	82,000.00	0.00	82,000.00
Utility Reimbursement 100% DNATL	10,000.00	1,065.27	8,934.73
Insurance Reimbursement Pers-D/V/RX	1,000.00	600.00	400.00
Miscellaneous Income	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
Sub-Total	1,172,000.00	80,101.70	1,091,898.30
TOTAL AVAILABLE RESOURCES	1,172,000.00	80,101.70	1,091,898.30

EXPENDITURES	Annual Budget	Paid to Date	Budget Amt. Available
Personnel Expenses			
Payroll	24,000.00	1,637.17	22,362.83
General Benefits/SSI/EDD/WC	14,000.00	856.65	13,143.35
Cal Pers	50,000.00	3,704.37	46,295.63
Dental, Vision, RX	30,000.00	1,262.39	28,737.61
Past Board Health Benefits	15,000.00	50.61	14,949.39
TOTAL PERSONNEL EXPENSES	133,000.00	7,511.19	125,488.81
OPERATING EXPENSES			
Pacific Power	50,000.00	3,667.90	46,332.10
Blue Star Gas	32,500.00	0.00	32,500.00
Crescent City W & S	21,000.00	466.36	20,533.64
Telephone & Internet	7,000.00	295.23	6,704.77
Office Supplies and Expenses	5,000.00	314.48	4,685.52
Training & Education	3,000.00	0.00	3,000.00
Memberships	4,500.00	0.00	4,500.00
TOTAL UTILITIES AND OFFICE EXPENSE	123,000.00	4,743.97	118,256.03
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES			
Legal	10,000.00	0.00	10,000.00
Accounting	20,000.00	200.00	19,800.00
Election Expense	10,000.00	0.00	10,000.00
Insurance	34,000.00	32,761.95	1,238.05
Other Professional	5,000.00	0.00	5,000.00
TOTAL PROFESSIONAL EXPENSE	79,000.00	32,961.95	46,038.05

DEL NORTE HEALTHCARE DISTRICT
MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT PAGE 2
31-Jul-26

Budget Category		Annual Budget	Paid to date	Budget Amt. Available
BUILDING MAINTENANCE				
Materials & Supplies		10,000.00	0.00	10,000.00
Grounds Keeping		15,000.00	1,020.00	13,980.00
Maintenance Services		25,000.00	300.00	24,700.00
TOTAL BUILDING MAINTENANCE		50,000.00	1,320.00	48,680.00
CONTRIBUTIONS				
High School Scholarship (\$500.00 x 4)		2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00
CR Nursing Scholarship		10,000.00	0.00	10,000.00
Grad Night Safety Program		500.00	0.00	500.00
Sharps Containers		500.00	75.00	425.00
Food Hub Operations		10,000.00	0.00	10,000.00
Non-Emergency Transport		15,000.00	0.00	15,000.00
Local Medical Transportation		10,000.00	0.00	10,000.00
Gateway Education		55,370.00	0.00	55,370.00
Swim Lessons		30,500.00	1,038.00	29,462.00
Senior Swim Passes		48,000.00	4,000.00	44,000.00
Public Swim Project		13,000.00	900.00	12,100.00
Recruitment & Retention		175,000.00	0.00	175,000.00
Blueberry Legacy		4,000.00	800.74	3,199.26
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS		373,870.00	6,813.74	367,056.26
BUILDING REPAIRS				
510 E. Washington		20,000.00	0.00	20,000.00
Open Door		40,000.00	14,001.83	25,998.17
TOTAL REPAIRS		60,000.00	14,001.83	45,998.17
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES		818,870.00	67,352.68	751,517.32
CAPITAL EXPENSES				
Fixed Assets		0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENSES		0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL OPERATING & CAPITAL EXPENSES		818,870.00	67,352.68	751,517.32
CONTINGENCY FUND		0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES		818,870.00	67,352.68	751,517.32
TOTAL ANTICIPATED INCOME		1,172,000.00		
MINUS OPERATING EXPENDITURES		818,870.00		
SURPLUS		353,130.00		

RESERVE FUNDS COMMITTED PROJECTS

LAIF FUNDS	4,000,000.00
Unfunded OPEB	25,800.00
CR Nursing Equipment	1,000,000.00
Food Hub Building	2,000,000.00
Kid Town resurfacing	500,000.00
REMAINING BALANCE RESERVE	474,200.00

**Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting
Del Norte Healthcare District
July 28, 2026 @ 5:30 p.m.**

Regular Board Meeting

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting called to order at 5:30 p.m.
2. **ROLL CALL :**
Present: Directors Sperling, Pearcey, Mason, Vice Chair Babich and Chair Caldwell.
3. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** Chair Caldwell: Just a reminder that if the meeting runs past 7:00 p.m. please exit through the Healthcare District office. Open Door locks the lobby doors at 7:00 p.m.
4. **CONSENT CALENDAR:**
 - a. Ratification of invoices paid from 6/25/2026 – 7/15/2026.
 - b. Approval of financial report for June 2026.

Director Pearcey made a motion to approve the consent calendar as submitted.
Director Sperling seconded the motion.
Motion passed 5 – 0.
5. **REVIEW/POSSIBLE REVISION AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 30, 2026, SPECIAL MEETING.**

Director Sperling made a motion to approve the minutes from the June meeting.
Director Pearcey made a comment that an item regarding the law firm she was in contact with was not noted in the minutes. Director Pearcey seconded the motion with the corrected item to be added.
Motion passed 5 – 0.
6. **COMMUNICATIONS:**
 - a. Open Door: Shauna Burdick, Shauna asked the board if she could consult with the Executive Secretary regarding refreshing the lobby and conference room. Paint touch up is needed, equipment needs to be replaced and to remove the

broken old chairs. Board approved. Executive Secretary to be contacted by Dewayne Lemos to review items. A proposal will be put in writing.

- b. Sutter Coast Hospital: Nothing at this time.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. BUDGET/FINANCE COMMITTEE: (Vice Chair/Treasurer Babich & Chair Caldwell)

- 1. Discussion/review of the finalized 2026 – 2027 budget.

Vice Chair Babich requested that we make an adjustment to the budget line item Recruitment and Retention from \$350,000 to 175,000 due to the funds being received from HAF.

B. COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE: (Director Pearcey & Vice Chair Babich). Nothing at this time.

C. HEALTHCARE EXPANSION:

- 1. Community Food Council: (Chair Caldwell & Vice Chair Babich)

There will be a presentation at next month's meeting.

- 2. Recruitment and Retention: (Director Pearcey & Chair Caldwell)

Director Pearcey informed the board the HAF has approved the \$350,000 for the Million Dollar Mission. They will be sending \$175,000.

There was some discussion regarding having a 3rd party administer the program. Director Pearcey to follow up with the cost to do this and possible administrator.

- 3. Mental/Public Health Updates: (Janel Obenchain)

Janel informed the board that she had presented the CHIP Plan at the Board of Supervisors. It consisted of a high level overview, and she would be presenting next month to the district board.

D. HEALTH PROMOTION:

- 1. Swimming Programs:

Report by Kelly Feola: The stats for the quarter of April, May and June.

April 1332, May 1308, June 1321. All senior passes are in use. I started a working family lessons program for the months of July and August that are from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. They have been very successful. The scoreboard is to start pre construction, and the board is to arrive in late August. I have hired a new supervisor for the pool. The city and the swimming club have partnered to purchase lane lines for the swim club meets.

2. Non-emergency Transport/Local Medical Transport:
Nothing to report.

8. **REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:** Approved as submitted.

9. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

10. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. Discussion/Possible action in the request of a letter of support from Detective Maia Mello of the Del Norte County Sheriff's Office with the challenges of Sutter Coast Hospital's compliance with Sexual Assault Response Team protocols.

Hi there, I'm Detective Mello. I'm from the Del Norte County Sheriff's Office. I was born at Seaside Hospital a long time ago. One of the reasons I became a law enforcement officer was to help people. I think that I share that desire with the whole Healthcare District Board and probably most people that work in healthcare. Del Norte County currently ranks #1 in the state for domestic violence incidents per capita and #2 in the state for child abuse. Of all counties ours needs an effective response protocol for these kinds of cases. I have been investigating sexual abuse, domestic violence, and child abuse for nearly 20 years. In that time, I have seen amazing community response to these survivors in crisis, and I have seen less than amazing response. I am here tonight to discuss the less than amazing response that has occurred over the past 24 months in Del Norte County and to request the support of the Healthcare District Board to encourage essential community partners to comply with established protocols. The Del Norte County sexual assault response team (SART) is a statutorily supported multidisciplinary team made up of representatives from numerous agencies' working together for the best outcome in all sexual and domestic violence cases. In Del Norte County, the most recent SART protocol was established in 2024 and agreed to by multi-disciplinary team members and Sutter Coast Hospital. Today, those protocols are not being followed, and it has directly impacted on the most vulnerable survivors of all. Recently, a 5 year old victim presented to the E.R. with suspected physical and sexual abuse indicators.

Sutter Coast E.R doctor refused to provide statutorily required testing and treatment for symptoms that collaborated with the child's disclosure in a timely manner, causing the patient to be discharged with at least one untreated condition that meets the definition under ENTALA, which is the federal law for an emergency medical condition. The doctor provided a reason to the sexual assault nurse examiner that he, quote "did not want to be subpoenaed and suggest she get an outpatient provider to conduct that follow up". The doctor also ignored recommended diagnostic protocol for her visible injuries. Another resent case was an adolescent who reported possible sexual assault with accompanying symptoms and testing was denied by the emergency department, and the sexual assault examiner reported comments by the E.R doctor quote "Well was she really raped". Another patient reported having to return to the E.R. five times because the hospital continually discharged her without providing her with the appropriately recommended diagnostic testing for her visible injuries. Additionally, staff in the E.R. berated her, making comments that she smelled. The victim had severe injuries from a domestic violence incident, and she was unhoused at the time of her assault. Every time a survivor has to come back and explain why they are there and get additional related medical procedures that could have been consolidated, revictimization and retraumatization occurs. These examples are only a small part of the issues that the SART team has documented over the last few months. Our documentation goes back years, however. All three of these cases were severe enough and had enough evidence for the perpetrator to be charged with related crimes by the district attorney's office. Recently I contacted a sexual assault nurse examiner at Sutter Lakeside Hospital. My goal in talking to her was to learn how their protocol differs from ours and how does acute patient care in the ER at Sutter Lakeside interact with the forensic examination in sexual assault and domestic violence cases. I learned that Sutter Lakeside's nurse examiner works for Sutter Lakeside and their protocol is standardized to work seamlessly with the emergency department during and intake, acute care, forensic examination and follow up and discharge the cases. The ER doctor on duty there orders the appropriate test for STIs and pregnancy and either provides follow up prescription services or appropriate referrals to follow up care. I was both heartened and dismayed to find another rural Sutter hospital with limited community resources that could have such a vastly different patient and team experience. Our team has gathered documentation of our ongoing attempts to gain Sutter Coast compliance with the protocols and after two years of trying it has become clear that the situation is unsustainable and the result is a systemic failure for those that need the system to support them the most. I am proud of our county SART team, and the hard work and passion that each of its members brings to their response to domestic and sexually violent crimes. I hope that one of our most important partners can understand how much we all rely on them to do their part for

victims of these crimes. Tonight, I am here to ask the Del Norte Healthcare District Board to provide Sutter Coast Hospital with a letter of encouragement to follow established federal and state law, locally established and agreed upon protocols and the best practices in the treatment of victims of sexual and domestic violence. Sutter Coast is the best place for our victims to receive treatment for their acute injuries and conditions. And, although the hospital model is only one model suggested by the Governor's Office of Emergency Services or SARC framework, it makes the most sense in providing the survivor with the fastest and most comprehensive response to their crisis. I brought a list of applicable laws and protocols that we rely on to continue our SHARC program and how to interact. I have copies for you, and I am available for questions.

Vice Chair Babich: What has the sheriff's office done?

Detective Mello: So, it's not the sheriff's office. We're a member of the multidisciplinary team that makes up the sexual assault response team. Our team, the sexual assault response team meets monthly. Our SART team discusses what we've done as far as cases that we've seen and do case review. We've also gotten updates from any meetings that have happened with CNE for Sutter or any other partners involved with Sutter. We have emails trying to establish a better relationship going back into last year. I don't have the dates with me, but I can certainly follow up with that information and provide emails where that have emailed me. I believe a lot of the communication has been with Carol Heiner.

Director Mason: My mother was a nurse. That was her career. She graduated from nursing school in 1947. She retired and carried a nursing license into the 2000's, so she had a long career, and she taught me some very important principles. And that is, of all the people on the planet that deserve compassionate care, it is the unhoused and the victims of crimes that deserve it the most. There was a man, along the way he followed the thieves and was beaten and stripped of his clothing. And the people that it was their duty to help him passed him by. It was a Samaritan who had no duty or obligation that picked him up, bound his wounds and took him to care for. To turn away or denigrate the lowest member of society that's in need of care is unforgiveable. To refuse care because you might be subpoenaed is insane because that is going to get you investigated the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Health and Human Services who has the authority to revoke your Medicare privileges and fine you up to \$119,000 per incident. I would like to recommend that you have a conversation with that doctor. I don't know his name, and I don't want to know his name. I have a separate incident. My mom was working at the hospital, and a homeless person came in and had been in an accident, hit by a care. As the ER

doctor was examining him, he got bit by a flea. He was very angry with the nursing staff for not providing him with sanitation and cleaning him before bringing him in to be seen. No, you have to bathe this person. First and foremost, he needs a bath and he needs clean clothes, and then we can work on his sutures because they are superficial. It doesn't matter that he stinks, he is injured, it's a hospital. We don't have to go home and take a bath before we go to the hospital when we've been in an accident. Right? That's why there's facilities in the hospital to do that. That's why their staff is trained on how to do that. Unfortunately, this board doesn't have the authority to the violations of these code sections. You should be thankful that it doesn't. It is with the board to make a referral to the jurisdictions that do. I would like to hear a follow up that Sutter has gotten together with the team and work out the problems and a plan to correct them. I recommend you do this.

Mike Lane Sutter Coast Hospital: So this kind of came to light here for us recently. I am talking with Valerie Starkey: we were getting together with a committee to work out the details to try to understand where there were some issues and where we can make corrections. I've made every effort that I can to make sure that we take care of the people in our community. We will take care of our people. I'm sorry that this would come here before an opportunity for us to have an opportunity to rectify this and I certainly want to come back to the board and let you guys know that we have rectified it. It's my commitment that I've made before. I can't tell you how upset I am at the physician that would do this, but we're going to make sure that this kind of stuff doesn't happen again. It's certainly our goal at the hospital to care for our community. A I absolutely agree with you, the most vulnerable need to be taken care of. It is my commitment to make sure that happens. I was not given an opportunity before this moment nor was I prepared for this conversation. So rest assured, we are addressing it. If you want to send me a directed letter, I totally get it. I'm happy to respond to the directed letter as well. Any other questions for me?

Director Sperling: Since you're in the room together, can you work together on this now?

Mike Lane: We have a whole team of people that are coming together with the District Attorney, Valerie Starkey and a couple of other people that are going to be there. The meeting is tomorrow at 10:00 a.m. Yes, we are going to work on this together. And again, I am committed to making sure that we get this working. You know, doc, you've seen things come and go, errors happen, and you address them the best you can, and try to put policies and procedures in place so that stuff doesn't happen, things happen. We feel really bad about it. We will be back to the board.

Detective Mello: I would just say that I don't have time for the politics to take care of this. This needs changed today. It needs to have changed when he became aware of it, clearly ahead of this meeting. There's no way that a five year old child should have been left with untreated conditions or have been declining in the treatment of other potential conditions. It just shouldn't have happened, and it should have been fixed before tonight.

Director Mason: I just have one final thought I'll share with you guys. During my time with the Sheriff's Dive and Recovery Team and specific training on collecting evidence for the Sheriff's department, almost all deaths are treated as homicide until it's ruled out. Because you only have one opportunity to gather the evidence, especially with a drowning victim. You have to assume that there were foul play and search for the evidence and rule it out before saying it was an accident. Same problem with abuse victims. Evidence degrades quickly. Time is not your friend. And so some physicians, I'm not saying any of yours, some physicians are of the opinion that unnecessary testing shouldn't be done. The problem is that a defense attorney will argue for a jury that the test wasn't done because the event didn't happen. That's the problem. So the test is to either confirm that there was an injury or not. While there's no reason to do an x-ray or not, are you sure? Are you the defense attorney? Are you the judge? Are you the jury? NO! Detectives who have carried out an investigation brought this person in. This is what we think happened. We need to either rule it out or rule it in. You only get one opportunity to do that. So, you have got to keep that in mind as you go forward with correcting the situation because all victims of crime are slightly different in aspect. Because it's not just the treatment or disease or the injury, right? So, you guys have a lot of work to do.

Vice Chair Babich: Detective Mello, I've heard really good things about you in the community, and I heard that you're going after the people that have been getting away with things for years and I appreciate you for that. Thank you for your hard work.

Chair Caldwell: I would like to put this on the agenda for the September meeting as a follow up item. Both parties agreed.

- b. Discussion/Possible action on the two quotes submitted for the cypress tree cut back. First quote is from Tree Ventures Inc. for \$3450.00 and a second quote from Mountain Power Tree Company for \$3620.00. The second quote also included some additional tree maintenance that needs done.

Director Pearcey made a motion to approve the quote by Mountain Power Tree Company to cut back the cypress tree and other tree maintenance. Director Mason seconded the motion.
Motion passed 5 – 0.

- 11. **INDIVIDUAL DIRECTORS REPORT OF ACTIVITIES:** Nothing at this time.
- 12. **PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ANY CLOSED SESSION ITEMS:** Nothing at this time.
- 13. **ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION:** No closed session.
- 14. **RETURN TO OPEN SESSION AND REPORT OF ANY ACTION:** No action was taken.
- 15. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Minutes prepared and submitted by:

Minutes approved by:

Doris Hendricks, Executive Secretary

Dave Mason, Board Secretary

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Nichols Melburg & Rossetto, Inc.
 300 Knollcrest Drive
 Redding, CA 96002
 (530) 222-3300

Del Norte & Tribal Lands Community Food Council
 Andrea Lanctot
 295 Highway 101
 Crescent City, CA 95531

Invoice number 24-5941-06
 Date 06/30/2026
 Project 24-5941 Del Norte Co Food Hub

For Professional Services through June 30, 2026

Fixed Fee: \$458,000

e: andrea@dnatlfoodcouncil.org

Description	Contract Amount	Percent Complete	Total Billed	Prior Billed	Current Billed
Schematic Design	45,000.00	60.00	27,000.00	0.00	27,000.00
Design Development	118,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Construction Documents	165,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Agency	20,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bidding	20,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Construction Observation	90,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	458,000.00	5.70	27,000.00	0.00	27,000.00

Invoice total **27,000.00**

Billed to Date Summary

Description	Contract Amount	Percent Complete	Total Billed	Prior Billed	Current Billed
Schematic Design	45,000.00	60.00	27,000.00	0.00	27,000.00
Design Development	118,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Construction Documents	165,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Agency	20,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bidding	20,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Construction Observation	90,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	458,000.00	5.70	27,000.00	0.00	27,000.00

Aging Summary

Invoice Number	Invoice Date	Outstanding	Current	Over 30	Over 60	Over 90	Over 120
24-5941-06	06/30/2026	27,000.00	27,000.00				

Del Norte & Tribal Lands Community Food Council
Project 24-5941 Del Norte Co Food Hub

Invoice number 24-5941-06
Date 06/30/2026

Total	27,000.00	27,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
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We appreciate the opportunity to serve you. Kindly make all checks payable to Nichols, Melburg & Rossetto & Associates, Inc.

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DEL NORTE HEALTHCARE DISTRICT
BUDGET TRANSFER FORM

Name of Budget Item	Increase By	Decrease By
Contingency Fund	\$27,000.00	
Surplus		\$27,000.00

TOTAL AMOUNT OF TRANSFER: \$27,000.00

Reason for Transfer: Increase to pay an invoice for schematic design expenses for the food hub building. This is a commitment of \$2 million dollars but not yet a budgeted item.

Adjustments made to the 2026-2027 budget.

Passed and Adopted by the Board of Directors of the Del Norte Healthcare District at August 25, 2026, meeting by the following polled vote.

Ayes:

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

Date: August 25, 2026

Kevin Caldwell, Chair



DEL NORTE & TRIBAL LANDS COMMUNITY FOOD COUNCIL

August 17, 2026

Gather & Grow Food Hub

Connecting communities, nourishing traditions,
growing a resilient food future.



Presented by:

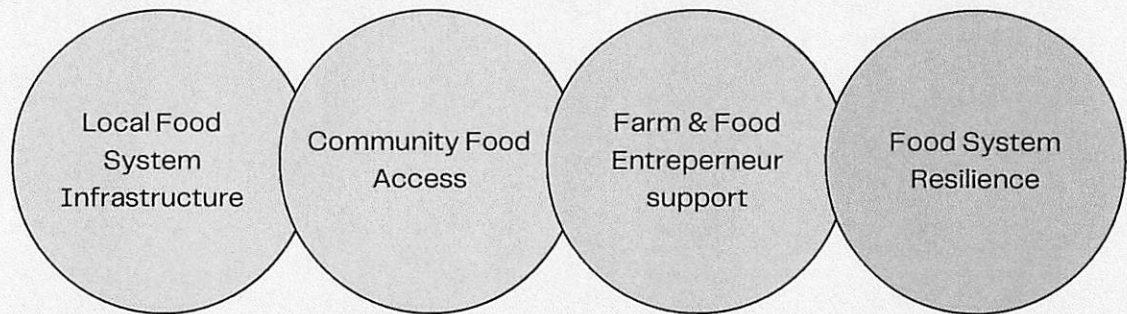
Drea Lanctot, Exec Director

andrea@dntlfoodcouncil.org • www.dntlfoodcouncil.org

7012

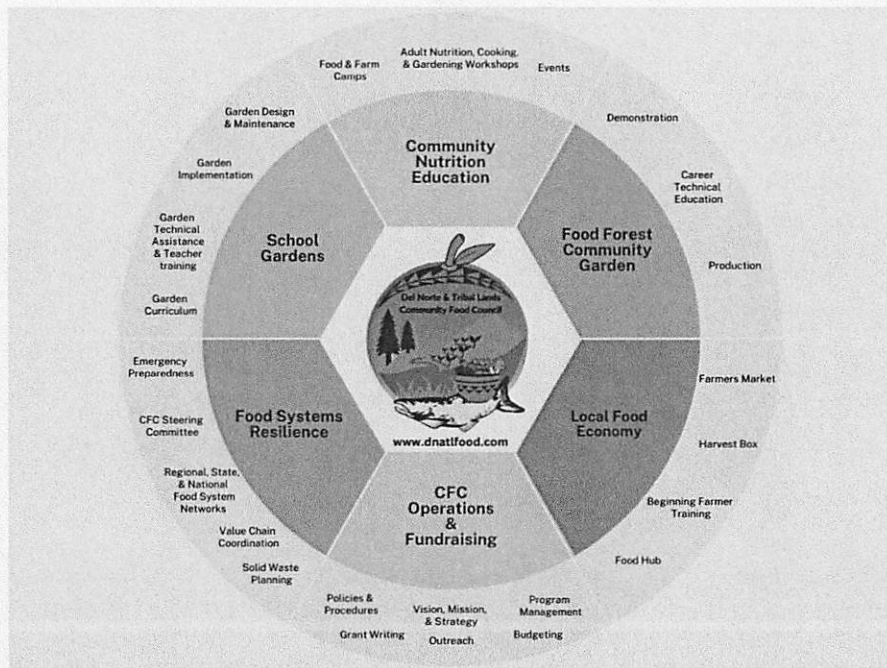
Bioregional Food Systems

Del Norte County produces incredible food—from ocean to forest to farms—yet many families struggle to access fresh, local food. A bioregional food economy keeps food & money circulating locally while supporting farmers and food entrepreneurs. It reduces dependency on long, fragile supply chains. Investing in infrastructure like food hubs and shared processing facilities builds economic resilience from the ground up, rooted in the assets of the community and the land itself.



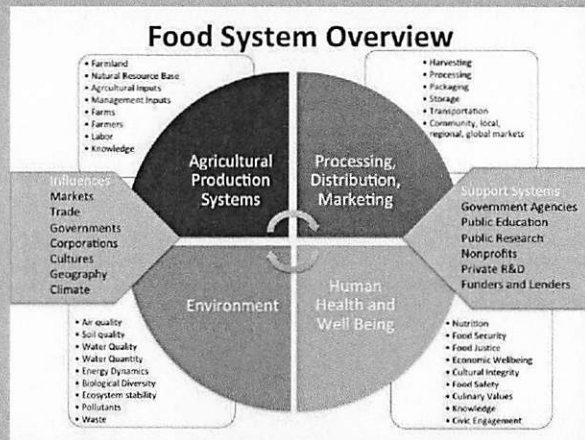
Del Norte and Tribal Lands Community Food Council

Strengthening our local food system to support
a healthy and resilient North Coast Community



- **Food system coordination:** Convening a county-wide food council, Emergency Feeding Task Force, North Coast Food System Network, State/National Networks, Mapping & supporting infrastructure needs
- **Producer support:** Beginning farmer training, Land access, Farmers Market, Harvest Box,
- **Education programs:** School gardens, camps, workshops, events, food forest
- **Workforce development/CTE:** Creating pathways into food and agriculture careers, working with CTE, highschoools, CR

Del Norte Food System Assessments: Economic /Infrastructure/Health



The Redwood Region Rise Economic Report (2024) designates Del Norte as both a “high poverty area” and “high unemployment area” and calls out local food hubs, farm-to-table infrastructure, and sustainable agriculture as critical strategies for revitalizing rural economies.

The Del Norte Community Economic Development Strategy (2019–2024) recommends investing in food distribution hubs and highlights food access, Tribal collaboration, emergency food storage, and value-added processing as key components of long-term regional resilience.



2024 Del Norte Health Assessment

Ranked most unhealthy rural county in CA despite being 12th most rural. Leading causes of death linked to diet related causes. High food insecurity

2019 Del Norte Food Assessment

Inadequate infrastructure for food access
Difficulty accessing healthy food in remote areas
Lack of local food processing and distribution

2023 -present USDA Regional Food System Partnership

identifying the need for shared infrastructure—specifically cold storage, dry storage, and commercial kitchen space—as among the greatest gaps in our regional food system

Del Norte Food System Needs



- Limited food production (approx 20 producers) Dairy, Beef, 3 produce, 3 fruit
- Limited access to local food (farmers market, farm stands, harvest box, food bank, DNUSD)
- Limited cold/dry storage for food
- Lack of processing or packaging facilities available to producer or food entrepreneurs
- Limited commercial kitchen space for value added, cottage food, or food entrepreneurs
- No aggregation space for institutional local food sales
- No shared distribution for local food



DEL NORTE & TRIBAL LANDS COMMUNITY FOOD COUNCIL



The Gather & Grow food hub is a 15,000 sq ft centralized facility that aggregates, stores, processes, and distributes locally produced food, serving as critical infrastructure for food security, economic development, and public health in Del Norte and Tribal Lands.



The public building will serve all of Del Norte and Tribal Lands increasing access and markets to local food to help build our local food economy.

Key benefits include:



Local Food Procurement & Marketing

- Increased local access for purchasing from local & regional small farms
- Aggregation, storage, & distribution to institutions and local markets
- Marketing for Del Norte made products and producers



Increase Community Food Access

- Farm to School & Early Care Education
- Food Banks & Pantries
- Emergency Storage and Distribution
- CSA/Harvest Box
- Onsite Market & Small Rural Grocers
- Food as Medicine (Prescription food dollars, meals, boxes)



Infrastructure Support for Rural Businesses

- Cold/dry storage
- Wash & pack facilities
- Processing/packaging
- Retail food market (accepting SNAP/WIC/Rx food)
- Shared Delivery
- Market development and access
- Food Safety



Technical & Career Education

- Culinary Skills
- Farming/Ranching training
- Business support
- Preservation skills
- Food product development
- Food Safety
- Tool lending library

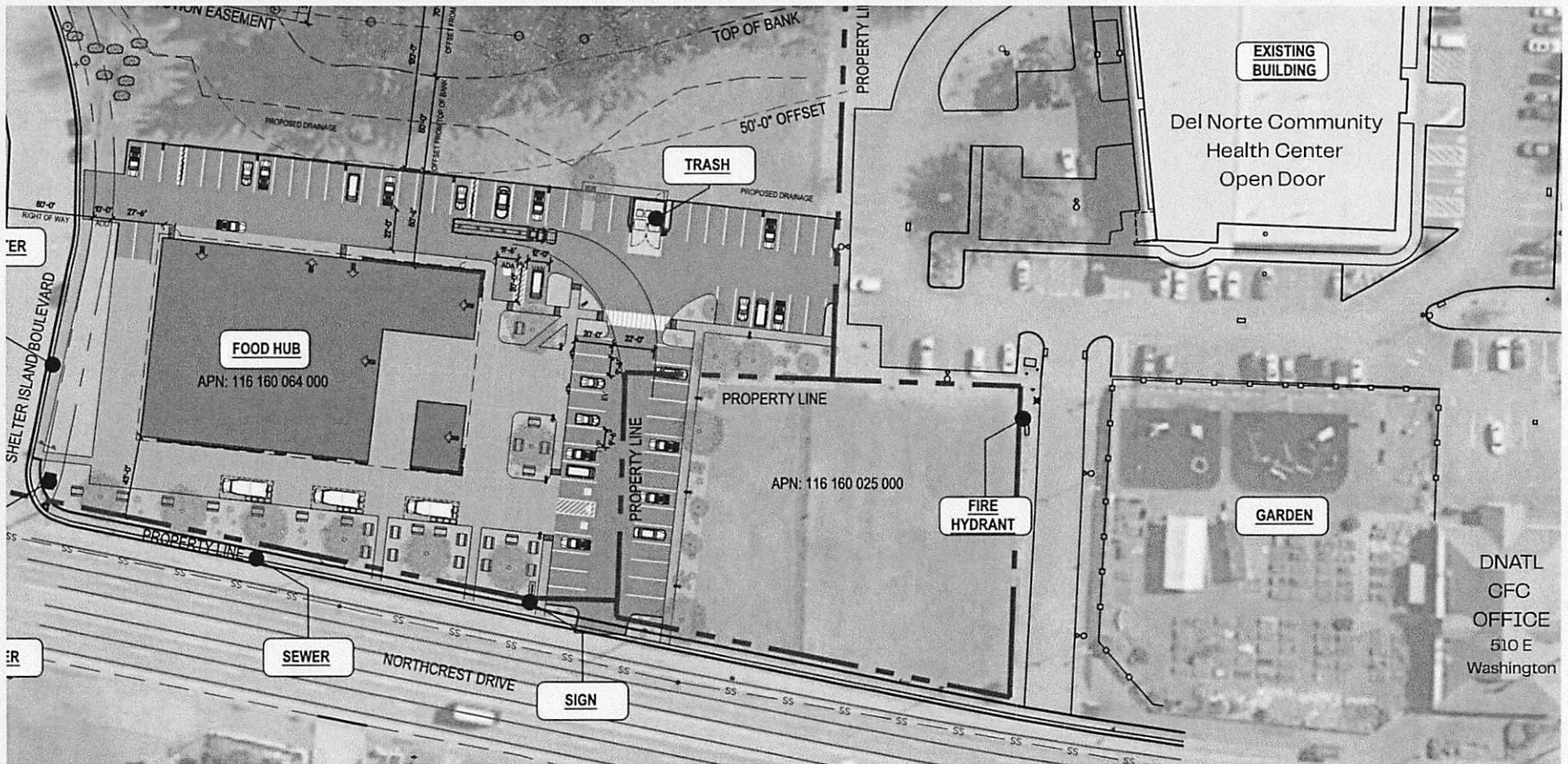


Onsite Markets & Events

- Indoor/Outdoor farmers market
- Corner Market store
- Food Trucks
- Kitchen and event space

Emergency Resilience

- Food Storage
- Food distribution



Food Hub Design

Warehouse

- Dry Storage
- Lockers
- Equipment storage
- Cold Storage
- 1.-refrigeration
- 2.-freezer
- 3.-root room/humidity
- Processing Kitchen
 - Flash freeze, ferment, dehydrate, chop, bottle, package

Offices

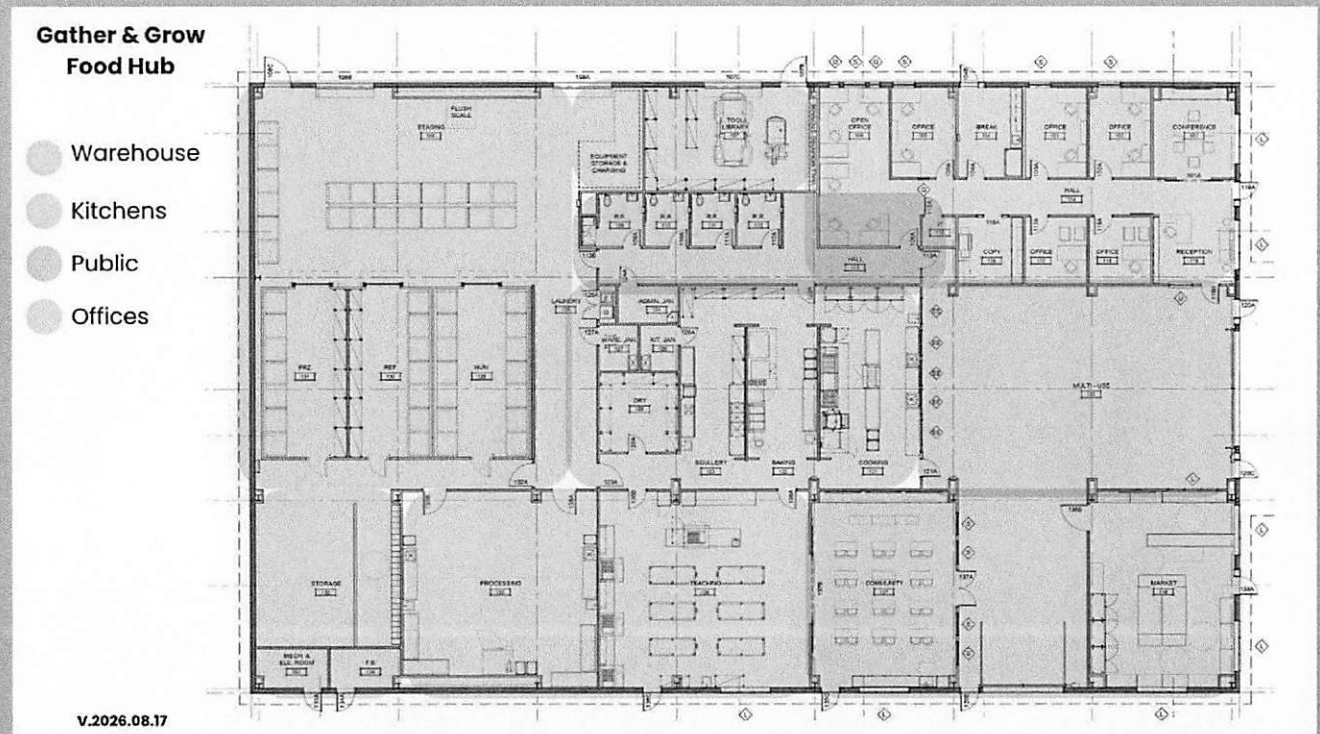
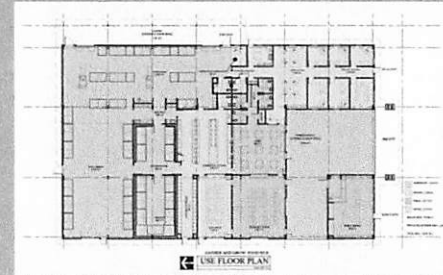
Public Market

Kitchens

- Processing
- Commercial
- Training

Education/Meeting Space

Lobby/Event/FM Space



Community & Producer Input

- 3 Producer Advisory Meetings
 - 1 Cottage Food/Food Truck Input Meeting
 - 2 CFC Steering Committee Design Reviews
- 1 Del Norte Economic Summit Presentation
- 1 Stakeholder Survey
- 3 Food Hub/Shared Kitchen Facility Review



Adaptable cold storage. Space to build into to. Make sure to include electrical and plumbing for future expansion. Map out flow of product.



Identify equipment you want and design space for it. Make sure you have room to store equipment not in use.



Shared storage, distribution, freight, bulk discounts, loading and unloading supplies.



Equipment for dehydrating, flash freezing, freeze drying, canning, shredding, fermenting. Root/apple washers, juicing, milling, and smoking.



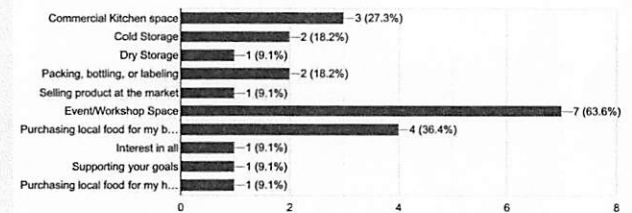
Bakers, coffee roasters, cottage food producers interested in being able to bottle, pack, and label product. Possible store supplies or product.



Food business kitchens, biggest income stream. Example: Foodwise in Arcata. Food Hub in Ohio. Businesses long term lease the kitchen space for their product

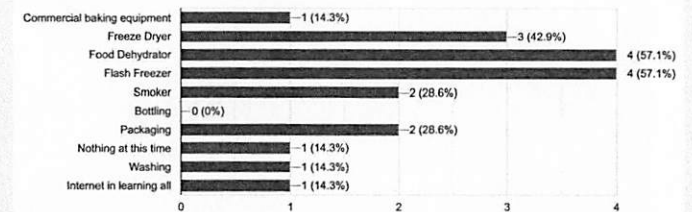
My business could be interested in the future food hub and kitchen facilities for the following: (please check all that apply)

11 responses



I'd be interested in access to equipment:

7 responses



Business Model- nonprofit

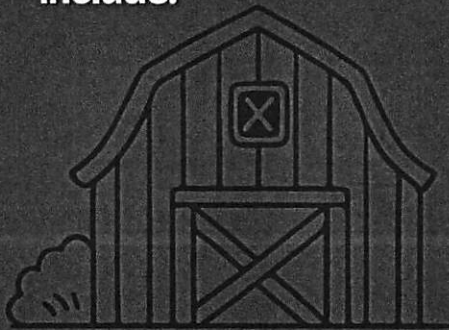
Rental/Storage Income:

Commercial kitchen rentals
Cold and Dry storage rentals
Education/Event Rentals
Vendor Fees for farmers market/food trucks
Office Rentals

Local Food Sales/Fees:

Institution local food sales
Harvest Box grocery subscription sales
Retail local foods market
Shared Distribution
Shared equipment & supplies

**Our primary
revenue streams
include:**



Market Opportunity

Job creation

New businesses/incubation

Regional product development

Product bundles

Food Pop ups

Promoting Seasonal availability

Standing orders for institutions/restaurants/food service

Food is medicine prescriptions/EBT

Regional collaboration with other food hubs



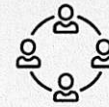
2024 Local food purchased
from local institutions

\$580 thousand



Room and storage rental
income- 3 years

\$236 thousand



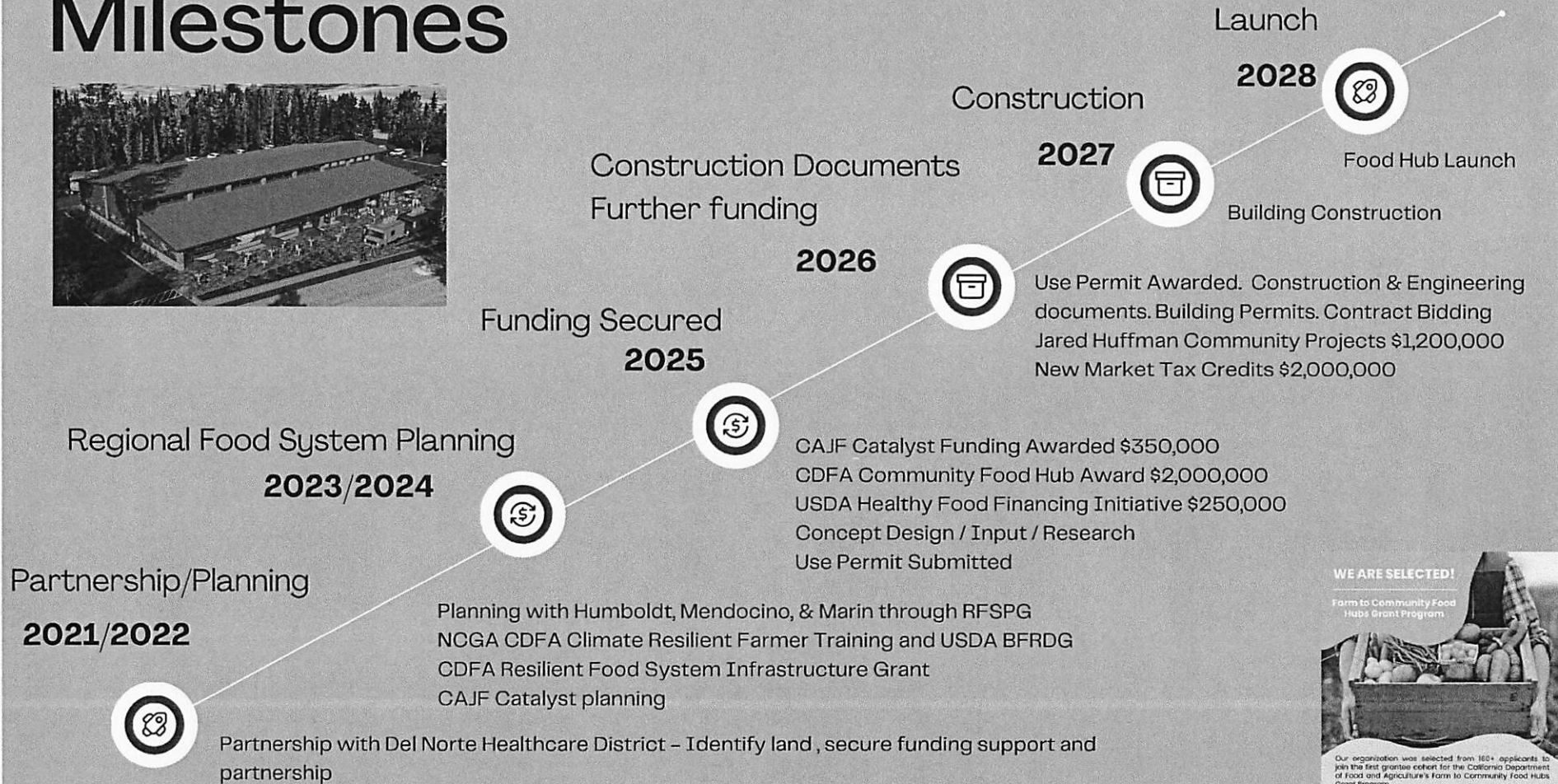
2024 Registered food facility,
food truck, and cottage food w/
Del Norte Environmental Health

69 food
entrepreneurs

10-30 jobs

warehouse, kitchen management, drivers, light processing,
marketing, education/training, program support

Milestones



CAJF Catalyst DNATL CFC Gather & Grow Food Hub



Funding

CAJF Catalyst Funding Awarded \$350,000; CDFA Community Food Hub Award \$2,000,000
USDA Healthy Food Financing Initiative \$250,000; Jared Huffman Community Projects \$1,200,000;
Transformative Climate Communities \$5,000,000 ; Community Food Projects \$400,000; New Market
Tax Credits, Loan/Investment potential



Design & Permitting

County Use Permit Awarded. RFQ and Selection of A&E Firm. Construction & Engineering
documents under development. Building Permits & bidding 2026/2027



Equipment Piloting

Cold Storage- Barn Box, Reefer Van, Transport- Electric Van/Gas Van
Processing- Dehydrator/Freeze Drying, Aggregation- Del Norte Harvest Box



Partnership/Stakeholder

Producer Advisory Meetings, Steering Committee Meetings, Tolowa Planning meetings, Elk Valley
Rancheria Meetings, Hmong Landmatch meetings, Community Input meetings and surveys, North
Coast Food System Network, Rogue Valley Food System Network, Josephine Farm Collective, Del Norte
Resource Conservation District, North Coast Emergency Food System Network, Salmon Returns



Program Development

Nutrition Incentives, Prescription Food Dollars, Lilly Bulb Farm Transition, Del Norte Regenerative
Agriculture Initiative, Insitutional Sales, Southern Oregon/Del Norte Partnership

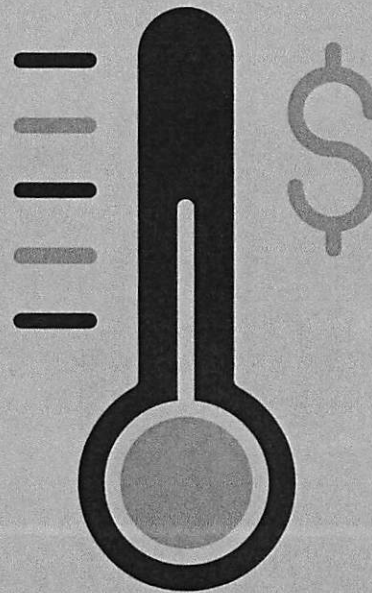


Infrastructure

2027/2028 Construction

Funding

Source	Amount	Purpose
CDFA Resilient Infrastructure Grant (CDFA RFSI)	\$158,566	Predevelopment - Food Hub pilot & equipment. Secured.
California Jobs First (CAJF)	\$350,000	Food Hub Predevelopment-concept design and use permit. Secured.
CDFA Farm to Community Food Hub Grant	\$2,000,000	Food Hub Construction & Operations. Secured.
Healthy Food Financing Initiative (HFFI)	\$250,000	Retail market buildout. Secured.
Del Norte Healthcare District	\$2,000,000	Core capital support.
Sub total Secured	\$4,758,566	Secured Funding
CA CDS Funds/Community Project Funding	\$1,200,000	Chosen as one of Huffman's 20 projects
Transformative Climate Communities	\$5,000,000	Co-applicant with Tolowa Dee-ni Nation
Total Pending	\$6,200,000	Pending Funding
Total	\$10,958,566	



Category	Cost
Construction	\$4.6-6.7M
Equipment	\$150-760K
Soft Costs	\$650K
Contingency	\$450K
Operations	\$1M -2M
Total Project Cost	\$6.8-10.56M

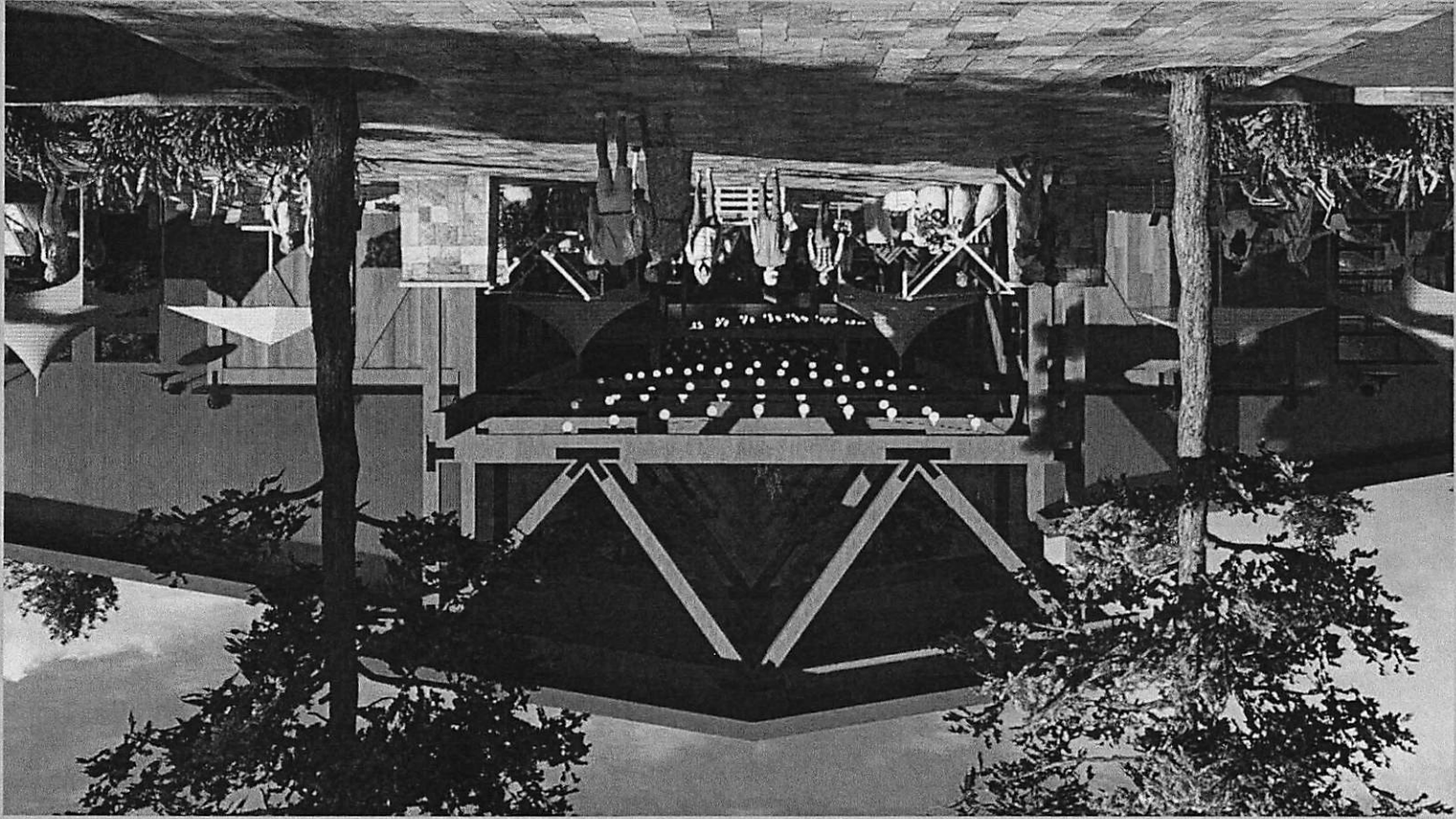
\$1.2 million in federal Community Project Funding has been included in the FY2027 House Agriculture/Rural Development appropriations bill and is pending final congressional approval and enactment.

Stage	Likelihood of award
Huffman submits \$1.2M request	Possible / speculative
Appropriations Committee selects	Promising
Included at \$1.2M in House appropriations	High likelihood, but not secured
Included in House/Senate final	Very high likelihood
Appropriations bill signed into law	Federally appropriated
USDA completes award requirements	Awarded / available subject to grant

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENICES—Continued
(Community Project Funding)

Agency	Account	Location	Recipient	Project	House Amount	House Requestor(s)
Rural Housing Service	Rural Community Facilities Program	Philomath, OR	Philomath Rural Fire Protection District #4	Public Safety Training Facility Improvements	1,000,000	Hoyle (OR)
Rural Housing Service	Rural Community Facilities Program	Dorena, OR	Row River Fire Response	Fire Station Improvements	803,000	Hoyle (OR)
Rural Housing Service	Rural Community Facilities Program	Albion, CA	Albion Little River Fire Protection District	Fire Station Improvements	803,000	Huffman
Rural Housing Service	Rural Community Facilities Program	Crescent City, CA	Del Norte Healthcare District	Facility Improvements	1,200,000	Huffman
Rural Housing Service	Rural Community Facilities Program	Ukiah, CA	Mendocino County Library	Mobile Library Acquisition	291,000	Huffman
Rural Housing Service	Rural Community Facilities Program	Orleans, CA	Orleans Volunteer Fire Department	Wildland Fire Engine Acquisition	375,000	Huffman
Rural Housing Service	Rural Community Facilities Program	Stinson Beach, CA	Stinson Beach Fire Protection District	Wildland Urban Interface Fire Engine Acquisition	803,000	Huffman
Rural Housing Service	Rural Community Facilities Program	Weaverville, CA	Trinity Public Utilities District	Wildfire Prevention Equipment Acquisition	938,000	Huffman
Rural Housing Service	Rural Community Facilities Program	Canyon, TX	City of Canyon	City of Canyon Emergency Power Resiliency Project	500,000	Jackson (TX)
Rural Housing Service	Rural Community Facilities Program	Amarillo, TX	Randall County	Randall County Fire Station Project	1,000,000	Jackson (TX)
Rural Housing Service	Rural Community Facilities Program	Eastlake, OH	The City of Eastlake	Eastlake Police and Fire Facility Rebuild	4,000,000	Joyce (OH)

Take a look inside





The Gather & Grow Food Hub is an opportunity to build the food system our region deserves—one that works for our producers, our communities, and future generations.



Want to get involved?
We need your help.
Provide input,
feedback, or support
for the project.
Scan the QR code to
fill out a short input
survey.



Please reach out at

707-460-1606 • andrea@dnatlfoodcouncil.org

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