

The Headwaters Fund  
Grant Fund Application Coversheet

Date of application: 08/20/2021

Organization Name: COOPERATION HUMBOLDT/WUYOT TRIBE

Director/CEO: DAVID COBB / MICHELLE VASSEL

Contact Person Name and Title: TOBIN MCKEE

Contact Phone: 707 407 7300 Contact Email: TOBIN.MCKEE@COOPERATIONHUMBOLDT.COM

Contact Address: 1139 BUTTERMILK LANE, ARCATA CA 95521

Total current year organizational budget: 483,000 # of FTE employees: 4.5

Summarize the organization's mission (in the space provided):

BUILD A SOLIDARITY ECONOMY ON THE NORTH COAST OF CALIFORNIA

Project title: DISGLAMU INNOVATION CENTER COOPERATIVE BUSINESS EQUITY PROGRAM

Please provide a less than 250 word summary of your project which answers the following questions: How will your project lead to improving the local economy and increasing the quality of life for local residents? What exactly are you going to do and for whom? Why is it necessary? What will be accomplished? How will you accomplish this?

ATTACHED.

Amount requested: 64,800 Total project cost: 131,280

Grant timeline: Period covered: 10/21 to 10/21

Total match amount: \$ 64,800

Match amount as % of total project budget 50 %

(Required 50% total project match for implementation, 25% of total project for planning)

Cash match: \$ 37,000

Cash match as % of total project budget 28 %

(Required: 25% of total project for implementation, 12% of total project for planning)

In-kind match: \$ 28,680

In-kind match as % of total project budget 22 %

Number of new FTE jobs created, if funded: UP TO 25 DIRECT - UP TO 300 INDIRECT

Number of FTE jobs retained, if funded (jobs that would otherwise be eliminated):

Number of permanent, long term, private sector jobs to be created: 30-300 WITHIN 10 YEARS

Please provide a brief explanation of how job creation/retention numbers were calculated:

SEE GRANT NARRATIVE #5

Type of project:       Planning       Implementation

Geographic focus of project: **HUMBOLDT COUNTY**

**Which Industry is your project working with (check off all that apply):**

- Diversified Health Care
- Specialty Food, Flowers and Beverages
- Building and Systems Construction
- Investment Support Services
- Management and Innovation Services
- Niche Manufacturing
- Tourism
- Forest Products
- Arts and Culture
- Alternative Agriculture

**Strategy being employed to promote economic development (check off all that apply):**

- Supporting development of pre-permitted commercial space
- Reducing regulatory bottlenecks for business retention or creation
- Supporting economic development infrastructure
- Developing new strategies for economic development
- Providing access to external markets or plugs the economic leaks
- Retaining and growing existing businesses
- Providing workforce training
- Increasing the number of new businesses
- Leveraging future funding or projects
- Reducing poverty by helping people to develop business skills
- Other (describe):

Are any of the following components required, and if so are they in place already? (check off in left column if required, then check of "yes" or "no" for if they are in place already)

- |   |   |                             |
|---|---|-----------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Building permits             | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes            | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Market research              | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes            | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Legal review                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes            | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regulatory approval          | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes            | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consultants hired | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Staff hired       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |

## Cooperation Humboldt/Wiyot Tribe Headwaters Grant Summary

In collaboration with College of the Redwoods and North Coast SBDC, the Dishgamu Innovation Center will run a Cooperative Business Equity program, a Cooperative Business Incubator, and a Building Trades Apprenticeship program with a focus on construction, regenerative agriculture, tech industries, and ancillary jobs related to the aquaculture facility.

The Apprenticeship program will meet the essential need for training and accessibility in the building trades. The Equity program will provide the essential support necessary for aspiring BIPOC entrepreneurs and tradespeople to overcome the barriers to entry endemic to the current economic, social, and political environment. The program's graduating BIPOC Cooperative Business Advisors will support the building trades apprentices and other program graduates as they start worker-owned businesses. The program will build the capacity for the Dishgamu Innovation center to generate an estimated 300 permanent, long-term, private sector jobs over the next ten years.

Between 2013 and 2019 there was 35.7% net growth in verified worker cooperatives ([DAWI](#)). The worker-owned model has proven to be an effective tool for creating and maintaining sustainable, dignified jobs; generating wealth; improving the quality of life of workers; and promoting community and local economic development. BIPOC-owned cooperative businesses improve market competitiveness, and directly engage in place-based healing.

Our partners in the area's Indigenous, Latinx, Hmong, and low-income communities are collaborating with us to support new culturally appropriate job training and job creation opportunities to mitigate the economic disparities caused by genocide, systemic racism, exploitation, and the health disparities gap associated with Covid-19.

## Cooperation Humboldt/Wiyot Tribe Headwaters Grant Narrative

1) Cooperation Humboldt and the Wiyot Tribe have identified the need for a culturally appropriate apprenticeship program for the construction industry, and for worker-owned business development. Nordic Aquafarms and the Trans Pacific fiber optic cable will strain the understocked housing market, and open up new building, tech, and ancillary job opportunities. This program will prepare Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) to reap some of those benefits.

The return of Tuluwat Island demonstrated the power of collaborative place-based healing. [Dishgamu Humboldt](#) is a Wiyot-led community land trust model that builds on this success to: 1) develop new low income housing 2) redevelop properties for housing cooperatives owned and run by the tenants; and 3) develop ecovillages, tiny home villages, and other communal housing options. It will also develop regenerative agricultural land uses, and act as a social and economical development engine for the region, attracting institutional impact capital investment.

The Dishgamu Innovation Center in Eureka will house Cooperation Humboldt's Worker Owned Humboldt program, which will run a cooperative incubator with a focus on construction, regenerative agriculture, tech industries, and ancillary jobs related to the aquaculture facility.

The Dishgamu/Worker Owned Humboldt collaboration will develop a worker-owned business for property management construction landscaping and handyman service providers. We will also develop services for the aquaculture facility being built on the Humboldt Bay, and integrate seaweed and shellfish production and its related industries. For the digital industries we will support small scale startups to develop sustainable and locally accountable IT services, ensuring a positive long term local impact

We seek funding for two fundamental branches of this project:

1. To plan and execute a Building Trades Apprenticeship program to fill a lack of skilled workforce to make our greater vision come to life.
2. To plan and execute the first round of the Cooperative Business Equity project, training cohorts of community based, culturally appropriate Cooperative Business Advisors.

Multiple studies have identified the lack of skilled construction workers as a major challenge in the area, and so have several companies in the construction industry, including Pacific Builders, Lizzard's Plumbing and Humboldt Hearthstone. In communication with our collaborators at Native American Pathways, Two Feathers, the Yurok Tribe, the Valley West Latinx CUNA project, and our DHSS street outreach project we have found that there is a desperate need for supportive services for training and advising in cooperative businesses development. The Wiyot Tribe/Cooperation Humboldt team have MOU's with North Coast SBDC, RRDEC, Full Spectrum Capital, Pacific Builders, College of the Redwoods, and Letters

of Support from the California Center for Rural Policy, Native American Food Sovereignty Lab, City of Eureka and AEDC.

We can implement the Cooperative Business Equity project and develop the Building Trades Apprenticeship Program immediately, and the acquisition of property for the Dishgamu Innovation Center is well under way. The Worker Owned Humboldt program is online, and College of the Redwoods has facilities that can be used for both prongs of the project. We have already identified instructors who can travel to Table Bluff Reservation, Arcata, Hoopa, and Klamath as needed.

2) The goal of the project is to train enough BIPOC construction workers and cooperative business advisors to support the growth of the worker-owned businesses. Our measurable objectives to reach these goal are:

1. 3 FTE Cooperative Business Advisors contracted by the SBDC after the completion of the project.
2. Based on previous year's performance, we estimate that 1000 people will go through Worker Owned Humboldt in the next 2 years, 30% of them being from disadvantaged communities served by the Cooperative Business Equity program.
3. The creation of 4-8 worker-owned businesses, with an average membership of 5 members each created within two years of the start of the program.
4. 15-20 people participating in the Building Trades Apprenticeship program each year.

The following industries will receive long-term benefit from this project: Building & Systems Construction, Investment Support Services, Management & Innovation Services, Niche Manufacturing, Tourism, and Forest Products. Those benefits will include job creation and retention in construction and ancillary businesses. The new businesses will create natural demand for ancillary professional services as part of the new cooperative ecosystem, fostering the development of cooperative bookkeeping, payroll, and tax preparation services. More consumers are becoming socially conscious and choosing BIPOC and worker-owned businesses. BIPOC-owned cooperative businesses improve market competitiveness, and directly engage in the place-based healing and intercultural community

The Innovation Center project has a \$10M dollar budget, with impact investors, low-income housing credits and philanthropic and grant money already in the mix. This project is only one of many projects of a similar scale currently in the pre-development phase. When these developments move into the construction phase, we will need the workforce ready. In collaboration with Full Spectrum Capital, we are building the capital stack to support this work.

Worker-owned cooperatives are an emerging sector with potential for tremendous growth. Between 2013 and 2019 there was 35.7% net growth in verified worker cooperatives. The model has proven to be an effective tool for creating and maintaining sustainable, dignified jobs; generating wealth; improving the quality of life of workers; and promoting community and local economic development. At a worker cooperative, profits do not go to distant investors, but

go directly to the workers. As a result, the money stays in the local economy. Jobs at worker cooperatives tend to be longer-term, offer extensive skills training, and provide better wages than similar jobs in conventional companies. Over half of worker cooperatives in the United States today were designed to improve low-wage jobs and build wealth in communities most directly affected by inequality, helping vulnerable workers build skills and build wealth. Worker-owned cooperatives are more resilient to economic downturns, offering less layoffs and shutdowns in economic recessions. Workers in cooperatives also report a higher work satisfaction rate and higher employment duration (see [data](#)).

3) Our Cooperative Business Equity will partner with Small Business Development Centers (SBDC), Community Colleges, Workforce Development Programs, and Tribal administrations to mitigate systemic barriers to worker ownership, especially for workers who have been disproportionately impacted by systemic oppression and COVID-19. The project's unique approach will directly support underserved communities, and provide individualized and culturally appropriate supportive services. We will train cooperative business advisors from low-income and BIPOC communities and hire qualified graduates as cooperative business advisors in our existing cooperative development program. Those advisors will support new entrepreneurs in their communities.

The Building Trades Apprenticeship Program will be designed and developed with College of the Redwoods, industry partners, and State regulatory bodies.

We already track enrollment and completion rates in our training programs and measure the efficacy of supportive services for poor and BIPOC participants. This includes the number of businesses started, jobs created, jobs retained, and capital infusion. For the Apprenticeship program we will focus on the steps as outlined by the state, creating milestone assessments from the application and design process: Explore, Build, Partner, Register, and Launch.

4) The SBDC/Cooperation Humboldt program is already a success. The partnership began with succession planning workshops, partially funded by Headwaters. During its first 14 months of existence our Cooperative Development project has:

- Seen 250 people through our Worker Owned Academy, with a focus on local cooperative business ideas.
- Helped to incorporate a successful business in an astonishing 3 months, [Full Cycle Compost](#) is a pedal powered compost collection service. dvised 25 cooperative development teams, in fields as diverse as housing, regenerative ocean farming, childcare, self-publishing, bakery, community market, and edible landscaping.
- 10 active development teams in our Worker Owned Incubator, with several strong candidates for incorporation within the 6-18 months it generally takes to develop a business.
- Initiated the [Cooperative Cannabis Economy](#) project with industry stakeholders and researchers to offer business advising and support for the legal cannabis industry.

- Our advisor team has grown from one person to a vibrant team of four, and the interest in our services keeps growing, leaving us constantly working at or above capacity.

5) The first stage of this project, to be completed within the grant period, will produce:

- 3 FTE Cooperative Business Developers, funded through North Coast SBDC
  - \$60/hr as independent contractors or \$100/hr as institutional partners through Dishgamu
- 9-25 FTE Cooperative Business Owners
  - Prevailing wages and benefits for the construction trades apply

Over the next 10 years we will help form or support succession planning of:

- Up to 10 construction companies of different sizes, including but not limited to general construction, plumbing, masonry, landscaping, and property management, with a potential of 15-300 FTE
- Up to 10 regenerative farming/ocean farming businesses with the potential of 10-100 FTE
- Up to 30 Digital startups incubated, with the potential of 10-300 FTE
- Artisans and Makers: 5-10 FTE
- The development and redevelopment of hundreds of housing units in a variety of formats.
- 3 Affordable housing developers (Funded via Dishgamu Humboldt, grants and rents)

6) The baseline for all of Dishgamu's development and redevelopment projects are net-zero or negative carbon emissions and regenerative, renewable, and sustainable building materials and practices, including the use of laminated mass timber. The future business advisors will get support from senior advisors and cooperative developers Kate Lancaster, a professor of sustainable business at HSU. We will encourage and support the use of indigenous knowledge for "right relationship" with the land and each other.

7) The business advisors will be recruited from and primarily serve the underserved communities of the local Tribes (Hoopa, Yurak, Wiyat), the Latinx community (through our collaboration with CUNA), the Hmong community (through our collaboration with the New Hmong Rising Association), and through our ongoing DHSS Street Outreach project to under housed individuals. Our methodology is anchored in culturally appropriate Human-Centered Design, done by advisors who come from the communities they support. The training of culturally based cooperative advisors will increase the capacity for civic engagement and leadership.. Cooperative leadership and decision making will disperse within these communities and prepare them to understand and partake in civic society

The purchase and renovation of dilapidated housing stock to be developed into cooperative housing will take this housing stock off the speculative market. The Innovation Center will also develop an Artisans' market, creating the opportunities for hobbyists and part time creators to increase sales and earn a living. The Victorian housing cooperative redevelopment will

simultaneously improve the existing infrastructure and retain the cultural heritage of Eureka, Fortuna, Ferndale and Arcata.

8) Cooperation Humboldt has a strong infrastructure and team of advisors already working with cooperative development, all of them with past teaching experience. We have developed demonstrably effective procedures and methods. The project team includes:

- Tobin McKee - Program/Project management, instructor. Tobin is a Program Administrator at Cooperation Humboldt, Co-director of the Community Health Worker Collaborative.
- Morgan March - Lead instructor. Morgan has worked with cooperatives for 25 years, and as a project manager in nonprofit, for profit, and local government.
- Kate Lancaster - Instructor. Kate is a HSU business professor, licensed CPA, and a business advisor in our Worker Owned Humboldt project.
- Cara Cordoni - Instructor. Cara owns Cordoni Coaching and runs the Cooperative Cannabis Economy project at Cooperation Humboldt.
- Prudence Ratliff, Director Adult and Community Education at College of the Redwoods, Develops courses in a collaborative manner with instructors, workforce partners as well as business and industry leaders.
- Michelle Vassell, Tribal Administrator for the Wiyot Tribe and Board Member at Cooperation Humboldt.

The North Coast Small Business Development Center has decades of experience in supporting businesses in all aspects and phases of their lifecycle, from initiation through to dissolution. Their staff and business advisors are available to support the project, the newly trained cooperative advisors, and the business clients. The Wiyot tribe has had experience with state, federal and philanthropic grants and is perfectly situated as the key partner in the Dishgamu project, with connections to multiple streams of social impact investors and philanthropic networks. College of the Redwoods will be the principal institution hosting the Cooperative Business Advisor training, and serve as the anchoring institution for the development of the Building Trades Apprenticeship program. They have all the institutional infrastructure and personnel to support the creation of both these programs.

9) Lindsay McCovey from Native American Pathways, and a member of the Wiyot Tribe (TBD) will work on this project advisors for program development, community outreach, and mentorship. College of the Redwoods will provide program development support and classrooms. Comunidad Unida del Norte de Arcata (CUNA), will provide Latinx program development, translation, mentorship, and community outreach.

10) We will display the Headwaters Funds logo on our homepage and on all pertinent marketing materials, including our extensive social media email distribution. We will include Headwaters Fund's branding in the teaching materials, and will launch the project with a large media campaign where the Headwaters Fund will be prominently featured.



**Headwaters Grant 2021  
Cooperation Humboldt/Wiyot Tribe Budget**

	Project Expense Item	Total Cost	Program Costs Headwaters Grant	Matching Funds*	Source of Matching Funds	Type of Matching Fund
	<b>Direct Salaries and Wages</b>					
	Staff 1 - Program Developer/Instructor		\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00		
	Staff 2 - Program Developer/Instructor		\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00		
	Subtotal: Direct Salaries and Wages	\$48,000.00	\$24,000.00	\$24,000.00	Cooperation Humboldt	Cash
	Benefits and Payroll Taxes	\$9,600.00	\$4,800.00	\$4,800.00	Cooperation Humboldt	Cash
	<b>Consultants &amp; Professional Fees</b>					
	North Coast SBDC	\$16,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00	North Coast SBDC	In-kind
	Native American Pathways	\$3,000.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	NAP	In-kind
	Wiyot Tribe	\$3,000.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	Wiyot Tribe	In-kind
	CUNA	\$3,000.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	CUNA	In-kind
	Staff Travel	\$1,680.00	\$0.00	\$1,680.00	Cooperation Humboldt	In-kind
	Training Tuition Payments/Vouchers	\$9,000.00	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00	College of the Redwoods	In-kind
	Participant Support Services	\$20,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	Cooperation Humboldt	in-kind
	Overhead (non staff related)	\$18,000.00	\$9,000.00	\$9,000.00	Cooperation Humboldt	Cash
	<b>Overhead (staff related)</b>					
	Staff 1 - Payroll & Workers Comp.	\$2,400.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	Cooperation Humboldt	Cash
	Staff 2 - Payroll & Workers Comp.	\$2,400.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	Cooperation Humboldt	Cash
	Staff 1 - Fringe Benefits	\$2,400.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	Cooperation Humboldt	Cash
	Staff 2 - Fringe Benefits	\$2,400.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	Cooperation Humboldt	Cash
	All Overhead as % of Total Project Costs	11.51%				
	<b>Total Project Costs</b>	<b>\$131,280.00</b>	<b>\$64,800.00</b>	<b>\$66,480.00</b>		

**\*Description of Matching Funds**

- Cooperation Humboldt will pay 0.25 FTE for two Cooperative Business Developers/Trainers (secured)
- North Coast SBDC will provide \$8000 in business advising services (secured)
- College of the Redwoods will provide in-kind work for the Cooperative Business Developer training program (offered)
- Subcontractors from Wiyot Tribe, Native American Pathways, and CUNA will provide matching in-kind work for their advisory roles (offered)

## Cooperation Humboldt/Wiyot Tribe Headwaters Grant 2021

### [Cooperation Humboldt Board of Directors](#)

David Cobb, Executive Director

Tamara McFarland, Treasurer

Ron White

Marina Lopez

Michelle Vassel

Argie Munoz

July 29, 2021

To Whom it May Concern:

The purpose of this letter is to express the City of Eureka's enthusiastic support for the Wiyot Tribe's 2021 USDA RISE Grant Application, and for the Dishgamu Innovation Center.

Eureka is the principal city and county seat of Humboldt County in Northern California. With a population of about 27,000, Eureka is the largest coastal city between San Francisco and Portland, Oregon.

Before the arrival of Euro-American settlers, the Wiyot people lived in the region now known as Eureka for thousands of years. In 1860 a horrific massacre took place on Tuluwat Island (which is located in Humboldt Bay within Eureka city limits). The male Wiyot tribal members had left the Island during their annual World Renewal Ceremony for provisions, and vigilantes killed approximately 250 children, women, and elderly tribal members. Major Gabriel J. Rains, Commanding Officer of Fort Humboldt, reported that a local group of vigilantes had resolved to "kill every peaceable Indian – man, woman, and child."

Present-day leadership at the City of Eureka has strived to reconcile this difficult history and establish a strong partnership with the Wiyot people. At the heart of this work was our historic return of Tuluwat Island to the Wiyot Tribe.

Since 1992, Wiyot people and supporters have come to the island on the last Saturday in February to hold a vigil. Participation has increased every year. In June 2004, 67 acre was repatriated back to the Wiyot. And in 2018, the Eureka City Council voted unanimously to return the rest of the land to the Wiyot people. According To the Smithsonian Institution magazine, this is the first time a city government returned land to an Indigenous community without strings.

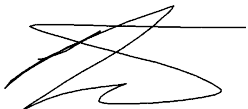
<https://www.americanindianmagazine.org/story/wiyot>

The Wiyot Tribe has engaged in ecological restoration ever since. They removed over 60 tons of metal, wood debris, and hazardous materials created by a ship repair facility that operated from 1870 to 1990. They also began restoring the salt marsh by removing invasive plant species, allowing for the return of highly productive eelgrass beds and other native plants. These efforts earned the Tribe the first US EPA Region 9 "Excellence in Site Reuse" Award and the American Council of Engineering Companies "Engineering Excellence" Award.

We view Dishgamu Humboldt as a groundbreaking path to continuing the work of healing historical trauma by working together to heal the land. This project will allow us to scale this work, and we are proud to support their work and partner with them going forward.

The project will support many priorities the City has established through this year's Strategic Visioning process by helping to maximize all levels of housing stock within City limits and engaging and supporting sustainable local businesses through promotion and recruitment of diverse business ownership in an effort to build business resilience and community equity.

Sincerely,



Miles Slattery  
City Manager





Redwood Region Economic Development Commission  
Prosperity Center 520 E Street, Eureka, California 95501  
Phone 707.445.9651 Fax 707.445.9652 www.rredc.com

July 30, 2021

Theodore Hernandez, Chair  
Wiyot Tribe  
1000 Wiyot Drive  
Loleta, CA 95551

Dear Chair Hernandez,

It's a pleasure to write this letter of support for your application to the USDA Rural Innovation Stronger Economy (RISE) Grant program. This grant assistance will support the creation and augment high-wage jobs, accelerate the formation of new businesses, support industry clusters and maximize the collaborative use of local assets for the betterment of our economy and community-at-large.

The Redwood Region Economic Development Commission (RREDC) is a collaboration of Humboldt County communities dedicated to expanding economic opportunity in Humboldt County. RREDC has nineteen members and is governed by a Board of Directors of elected officials from throughout the County. We create and nurture economic opportunities and support the growth of local businesses. We lead projects of regional significance, make loans, and offer business consulting through our partner, the North Coast Small Business Development Center.

RREDC will work collaboratively with the Wiyot Tribe, and all the other governmental agencies, community partners, and private interests to help identify emerging industry clusters that can be most effectively nurtured. We will help identify technical assistance that can be used to support these projects and help secure access to capital with local investors in projects that emerge from this program.

I wish you the best of luck with your application and look forward to working with you and your partners to make this project a successful one.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gregg Foster', is written over a circular stamp or seal that is partially obscured by the signature.

Gregg Foster  
Executive Director



*Cities* Arcata · Blue Lake · Eureka · Ferndale · Fortuna · Rio Dell · Trinidad  
*Community Services Districts* Humboldt · Manila · McKinleyville · Orick · Orleans · Redway · Willow Creek  
Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District · Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District  
County of Humboldt · Hoopa Valley Tribe · Redwoods Community College District



July 30, 2021

To: USDA RISE Grant Program  
c/o Wiyot Tribe

RE: Wiyot Tribe application for RISE funding to implement Dishgamu Humboldt project

To whom it may concern,

The Westside Community Improvement Association is a Eureka, CA based public charity with a goal of uplifting our historically marginalized community and community members, as we organize residents around projects and initiatives to collectively determine and improve our standards of living in pursuit of safety, belonging, healing and prosperity for ourselves and our neighbors. We are known locally for our work in reclaiming the abandoned Jefferson Elementary School to revive it as a thriving public park and community center through the collective will of literally thousands of volunteers, numerous workforce training programs, and determined grandmothers who set their foot down to end a cycle of poverty and trauma and create a cycle of restoration and love.

Our neighborhood in Westside Eureka is densely populated by Indigenous families, both those actively connected with our local tribes and many others whose roots and linkages have been lost or diminished over generations of discontinuity. Over 20 % of our participants in our last series of reentry workforce training programs identify as Native American, most of whom lived within 4 blocks of our community center. The impacts of family separation, incarceration, addiction and trauma are profound on our local community at large and amplified within our local Native American families. We are one effort out there to support changing the tides on this history as we wade into the future; much more is needed.

WCIA emphatically supports the Wiyot Tribe, on whose unceded ancestral land we live, in the Tribe's pursuits to establish the Dishgamu Humboldt project in the spirit of economic development, workforce opportunity, and restorative linkages among our local Indigenous community to build a future synergistic to their needs, goals and values. We ask that the USDA RISE Grant team appreciate the tremendous need to fund this project paired with the alignment and capacity for this to be led by the Wiyot Tribe. This project stands so much on its own merit that it does not need our support, yet has it wholeheartedly.

In Service,

**Heidi Benzonelli**

President

707-498-5764

[lets.buy.jefferson@gmail.com](mailto:lets.buy.jefferson@gmail.com)

**Mark Weller**

Director

707-497-6280

[markweller@hnfrc.org](mailto:markweller@hnfrc.org)







woodworks.org

WoodWorks – Wood Products Council  
1101 K Street Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20005

July 27, 2021

Review Committee  
Rural Innovation Stronger Economy (RISE) Grants

WoodWorks – Wood Products Council supports the Wiyot tribe in their application for a RISE Grant. We support continuing to expand the use of mass timber in all types of buildings and are aligned on the need to ramp-up rural education around emerging building technologies.

WoodWorks is in place nationally conducting AEC education and providing project assistance to help increase the use of wood in non-residential and multi-family buildings. Chelsea Drenick is the WoodWorks Regional Director for Northern California. Continue to involve Chelsea in any building projects needing technical assistance as well as asking for engagement when design professional education is requested.

Additionally, WoodWorks can assist with sharing project case studies with the design community via our hosted events and social media channels. WoodWorks views this proposal is important as it aligns with and supports the WoodWorks goal of expanding markets for wood products through education and outreach.

Sincerely,

Bill Parsons, Vice President of Operations  
WoodWorks – Wood Products Council



**Letter of Support - Wiyot Tribe  
July 29, 2021**

To: The Review Committee of the USDA Rural Innovation Stronger Economy (RISE) Grant,

The Forest Business Network (FBN) is one of the nation's premiere sources of forest products industry information and resources. We have several decades of demonstrable success in helping forest product businesses grow and prosper. We produce [Forest Industry News](#), [International Mass Timber Conference](#), and the [International Mass Timber State of the Industry Report](#)

FBN is writing this letter in support of the Wiyot Tribe's Rural Innovation Stronger Economy (RISE) grant application. We stand ready to work directly with the Tribe and their stellar team of government agencies, investors, builders and community partners to make this application a success. It is impressive that the Tribe already has the support of the City of Eureka, The Redwood Region Economic Development Commission, the regional Small Business Development Center, Pacific Builders, Arcata Economic Development Corporation, Full Spectrum Capital Partners, and Cooperation Humboldt committed to their rural jobs creation and accelerator project. Based on our experience, these are the correct players to be able to successfully incubate and grow a mass timber construction industry in their community.

If the Tribe's 2021 USDA RISE Grant Application is approved, we stand ready to provide consultation services, professional education, and technical assistance on their projects. We can also provide introductions to industry leaders in mass timber construction.

I am including a short CV for myself and FBN + Chief Operating Officer, Arnie Didier, directly below my signature.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Craig Rawlings". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

C. Craig Rawlings - President & CEO  
Forest Business Network

**Craig Rawlings**, President & CEO, has more than 30 years experience in the forest products industry. As a “serial entrepreneur,” Craig has started and ran several successful construction and forest product-related businesses, culminating with Forest Business Network. Craig’s highlights include:

- \* Recognized as a national expert and leader in under-utilized timber and woody biomass.
- \* Technical consultation of more than a hundred local and regional businesses from his home base of Missoula, Montana. Craig was recently the lead forest business consultant for the BitterRoot Economic Development District and the Forest Business Technical Assistance Project, which served regional forest product companies in Western Montana.
- \* Helped numerous companies acquire a total of over \$10 million in forest and biomass-related grants to grow their businesses.
- \* Direct experience with bank and private equity financing for entrepreneurial businesses.
- \* A decade of experience maintaining communication between power purchasers, manufacturers, and consultants.
- \* Regularly works with the country’s top energy consulting companies.
- \* Extensive experience creating industry whitepapers and other custom reports, including the milestone 82-page study entitled Developing a Business Case for Sustainable Biomass Generation: A Regional Model for Western Montana.
- \* Received numerous industry awards, including the 2010 Montana Wood Products Association Communicator of the Year Award, the 2010 Society of American Foresters (Missoula Chapter) Citizen of the Year Award.

**Arnie Didier**, Chief Operating Officer, has extensive experience in finance, management and marketing for some of the largest forest products companies in the United States. Arnie leads the sales efforts for the [International Mass Timber Conference](#). Arnie also has considerable experience in supply chain management for the forest industry and holds a BS degree in Forest Products Management from Southern Illinois University.



OGDEN UT 84201-0029

In reply refer to: 4077391934  
Dec. 13, 2018 LTR 4168C 0  
95-4126989 000000 00  
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BODC: TE

COOPERATION HUMBOLDT  
% BARBARA PECK  
1402 M ST  
EUREKA CA 95501-2448

Employer ID number: 95-4126989  
Form 990 required: YES

Dear Taxpayer:

We're responding to your request dated Oct. 23, 2018, about your tax-exempt status.

We issued you a determination letter in AUGUST 1992, recognizing you as tax-exempt under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 501(c) (3).

We also show you're not a private foundation as defined under IRC Section 509(a) because you're described in IRC Section 509(a)(2).

Donors can deduct contributions they make to you as provided in IRC Section 170. You're also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, legacies, devises, transfers, or gifts under IRC Sections 2055, 2106, and 2522.

In the heading of this letter, we indicated whether you must file an annual information return. If you're required to file a return, you must file one of the following by the 15th day of the 5th month after the end of your annual accounting period:

- Form 990, Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax
- Form 990EZ, Short Form Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax
- Form 990-N, Electronic Notice (e-Postcard) for Tax-Exempt Organizations Not Required to File Form 990 or Form 990-EZ
- Form 990-PF, Return of Private Foundation or Section 4947(a)(1) Trust Treated as Private Foundation

According to IRC Section 6033(j), if you don't file a required annual information return or notice for 3 consecutive years, we'll revoke your tax-exempt status on the due date of the 3rd required return or notice.

You can get IRS forms or publications you need from our website at [www.irs.gov/forms-pubs](http://www.irs.gov/forms-pubs) or by calling 800-TAX-FORM (800-829-3676).

If you have questions, call 877-829-5500 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., local time, Monday through Friday (Alaska and Hawaii follow Pacific

# Cooperation Humboldt 2021 Proposed Budget

(Updated 1/21/2021)

<b>INCOME</b>	
<b>Direct Public Support</b>	
Donations-Large Donors (>\$500)	62,500.00
Donations-Small Donors (<\$500)	26,400.00
Event Admission Donations	-
Grant Income	150,000.00
<b>Total Direct Public Support</b>	<b>238,900.00</b>
<b>Investments</b>	
Interest-Savings, Short-term CD	48.00
<b>Total Investments</b>	<b>48.00</b>
<b>Program Income</b>	<b>244,157.45</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b><u>483,105.45</u></b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>	
<b>Advertising and Promotion</b>	1,800.00
<b>Automotive Expenses</b>	2,193.00
<b>Bank Service Charge</b>	720.00
<b>Contract Services</b>	5,400.00
<b>Facilities and Equipment</b>	7,272.00
<b>Operations</b>	8,880.00
<b>Insurance - Liability, D and O</b>	1,381.00
<b>Payroll Expenses</b>	
Wages	259,444.03
Workers Comp	3,000.00
Taxes	16,240.80
<b>Total Payroll Expenses</b>	<b>278,684.83</b>
Re-classify portion of wages to direct program expenses	(199,444.00)
Non-program wages	60,000.03
<b>Printing and Copying</b>	480.00
<b>Direct Program Expenses</b>	
Arts & Culture	16,400.00
Care & Wellness	200,312.61
Disaster & Resilience	39,360.00
Economic Democracy	40,400.00
Education	34,231.05
Food Sovereignty	62,500.00
<b>Total Direct Program Expenses</b>	<b>393,203.66</b>
<b>Public Educational Events</b>	600.00
<b>Travel and Meetings</b>	1,500.00
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b><u>502,670.49</u></b>
<b>Net Income/(Loss)</b>	<b><u>(19,565.04)</u></b>

**Cooperation Humboldt/Wiyot Tribe Headwaters Grant 2021****Project Timeline**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Milestone</b>
10/01/21	When award is announced, program development and outreach begins for building apprentices and students to enroll in the Cooperative Business Equity Program.
01/01/22	Cooperative Development and Apprenticeship programs begin.
02/01/22	Cooperative Development mid-program review.
03/01/22	First Cooperative Development program complete. Begin replication and scalability assessment.
04/01/22	New Cooperative Development advisors contract with SBDC. Supportive Services for their clients begin.
09/01/22	New worker-owned cooperatives from the client group begin to incorporate. Cooperative advisors will continue working beyond the grant period. Subsequent funding will enable a second run of the training program.
10/1/22	Building apprenticeship program continues beyond the grant period.