



California State University **Chico**
North State Planning and
Development Collective



Sierra Institute
for Community and Environment

Catalyst Projects

Natural Resources

Modoc-Siskiyou Community Wood Utilization Infrastructure Planning.

Catalyst Award: \$652,410

This project will help to grow a place-based stewardship economy and regional wood utilization infrastructure planning that will improve forest health and reduce wildfire risk with a long-term objective to create an integrated locally owned network of wood utilization facilities. Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition will lead the project by providing technical assistance and learning exchange opportunities, business planning and advanced technical support including siting analysis, community assessment, mill facility catalog development, and operational modeling and planning.

Underutilized Species Utilization Regional Partnership

Catalyst Award: \$648,990

The goal of this project is to build a regional partnership which identifies, develops, and demonstrates solutions to sustain existing sawmill operations in the North State region. USURP will support existing sawmills by performing market feasibility, permitting, and preliminary engineering design work for a secondary manufacturing facility for underutilized species including pine, cedar and juniper wood. The project is led by the Watershed Research and Training Center in coordination with several existing and proposed sawmills.

Fabric Automated Mass Timber Factory Design and Engineering

Catalyst Award: \$694,008

Fabric Workshop, Inc., is a California-based manufacturer with the goal to move from conceptual designs to a finalized site plan for a 250K square foot factory on a 30-acre industrial site in Redding, CA. The factory will produce cross-laminated and glue-laminated timber products and create jobs and high value wood products sourced from North State forests. Project goals include full schematic drawings, full industrial engineering of fabrication stations, exterior and interior factory renderings, due diligence and legal review of the business park site and updated hard cost quotes from general contract and material vendors.

Prescribed Fire Center**Catalyst Award:** \$364,920

This project will build capacity in the 10-County North State region to lead the Prescribed Fire Training Center – CA team to coordinate activities with diverse partners. Rather than a brick-and-mortar operation, it will function as a network to conduct trainings, complete partnership agreements, and fund prescribed fire training officers and regional prescribed fire coordinators to increase prescribed fire activities across the region. The project will be led by the Big Chico Ecological Reserve at Chico State.

Youth Apprenticeship Pilot**Catalyst Award:** \$774,662

This workforce development project, led by the Tehama Career Technical Education Coalition, will address the critical skills shortage in regional businesses by piloting a Youth Registered Apprenticeship in Agriculture and a Youth Pre-Apprenticeship in Manufacturing, Agriculture, and Natural Resources. This earn-and-learn opportunity will provide high school seniors with part-time paid positions at a local company while taking rigorous high school classes that align with what they're learning on the job. Following the grant period, graduates from high school will remain in the paid position working full-time until they complete their registered apprenticeship and receive their nationally accredited industry credit.

CRAFT Apprenticeship**Catalyst Award:** \$300,000

This catalyst project, led by Shasta College, seeks to expand the nation's first and only logging apprenticeship program, CRAFT (California Registered Apprenticeship of Forest Training). To address immediate workforce shortages, the project will permanently establish the training services of CRAFT, develop a Spanish training program to employ Spanish speakers, add Forest and Conservation Technician 19-4071.00 training to CRAFT Standards, increase apprentice participation through marketing, and increase program trainings and staffing.

Regional Revolving Loan Fund**Catalyst Award:** \$1,000,000

This project will provide "jump start" loans to Catalyst Fund awardees in the North State Region ensuring timely execution and completion of projects. When repaid, these funds will enable further lending opportunities that will enhance economic resilience and job creation in the ten-county service region. Priority projects include those that integrate climate adaptation and resilience strategies. The project will be co-led by Superior California Economic Development, Inc., in Redding, CA and 3CORE in Chico, CA.

Agriculture

Good Jobs Pit River Tribe Greenhouse Complex

Catalyst Award: \$296,000

Led by the Pit River Tribe, this project will bring to life a greenhouse project to process residual juniper biomass from forest health activities. Using a managed microbial composting process, the project will create Humisoil from invasive juniper trees on tribal lands. The project will restore topsoil and degraded rangelands, increase grazing capacity for the tribal bison herd, improve water retention and native plant health, and create workforce development opportunities for tribal members in regenerative agriculture, composting and land stewardship.

Modoc County Meat Processing Facility – Marketing the Project

Catalyst Award: \$150,000

Superior California Economic Development, Inc., will use Catalyst funds to market a meat processing facility to potential developers and investors based on a completed feasibility analysis. The aim of the project is to attract a developer and secure financial backing for implementation. If constructed, the Alturas facility would support economic development, provide a USDA-inspected facility for ranchers, lower transportation costs and enhance market access for local ranchers, and bring processing jobs back to the community.

Epic Harvest: Building a Resilient Regional Food System in Remote NE CA

Catalyst Award: \$75,000

The Lost Sierra Food Project will lead the coordination of the Eastside Producers Informational Collaborative (EPIC) to strengthen the rural regional food system across Plumas, Sierra, Lassen, and Modoc counties. The project will bolster local food markets for regional producers and increase disaster preparedness by cultivating resilient regional food economies and collaborations. Critical milestones include forming a steering committee, crafting four community-driven business plans for each county with interlinkages, and formulating an emergency food access strategy aligned with the network.

LARP Urban Agriculture and Composting Project

Catalyst Award: \$300,000

The Local Area Revitalization Project (LARP) Cooperative will lead the planning phase for a small farm incubator and composting facility in Susanville, CA. The catalyst funds will support staff capacity to solicit community buy-in, develop and maintain partnerships, and seek funding opportunities in support of site acquisition and development. The long-term goal of the project is to grow jobs, healthy food, economic security and community resiliency.

Siskiyou Farm Co. Business Incubator**Catalyst Award:** \$150,000

The Siskiyou Farm Co. Business Incubator will transform a formerly shuttered building on Yreka's historic Miner Street into a dynamic business incubator for entrepreneurs in the agriculture sector. The project, led by Siskiyou Economic Development Council, will provide a retail store outlet and business training hub for small farmers, ranchers, and value-added food entrepreneurs to access workshops, training sessions and one-on-one business consultations. Enhanced food security, rural economic development, and preserving the historic charm of Yreka's West Miner Historic District are the goals of this project.

Scott Valley Composting and Green Waste Facility**Catalyst Award:** \$250,000

This project, led by Scott Valley Disposal, will develop and provide equipment for a green and food waste composting facility in Fort Jones, CA. The facility will meet key green waste compliance objectives of SB 1383, providing a needed composting resource for regional cities, businesses and individuals in the North State. The by-product will offer a commercially available compost soil amendment. The project solves immediate regulatory challenges, creates jobs, and addresses the impacts of climate change.

Tourism**Tulelake Cultural Visitor Center****Catalyst Award:** \$400,000

This economic revitalization project, led by the City of Tulelake, will transform a vacant city-owned lot owned into a Cultural Visitor Center featuring exhibitions and information about regional, cultural, and natural attractions. The 2-story building will provide a destination for visitors, a hub for marketing, and office space for city employees all located in Tulelake's Main Street Downtown Square. The catalyst funds will be used for Phase 2 Design Completion and will support engineering and architecture "soft costs", taking the project to a shovel-ready status.

Outdoor Recreation Industry Sector Partnership**Catalyst Award:** \$250,000

The Outdoor Recreation Industry Sector Partnership, led by the Siskiyou Economic Development Council, aims to unlock economic potential in Modoc, Shasta, Siskiyou, and Trinity Counties by leveraging the region's abundant natural resources. The project will support small businesses in the outdoor recreation

sector, providing targeted financial assistance, training programs, and collaborative industry partnerships to strengthen economic resilience in Northern California.

Mt. Shasta Nordic Center Facilities Upgrade Project – Year-Round Operations Planning

Catalyst Award: \$293,150

The goal of this project, led by the Siskiyou Outdoor Recreation Alliance, is to transform the Mt. Shasta Nordic Center (the only Nordic ski area between Lake Tahoe and Bend, Oregon) from a four-month operational model into a year-round recreation hub and employer. The planning process will result in a year-round operations Business Plan Draft, a plan for a 2026 soft launch of summer and fall events, staff capacity building, and more sustainable operations through the purchase of a new snowplow. The aim of the project is to increase tourism, boost the local economy and create employment opportunities.

Shasta-Cascade Outdoor Recreation Accelerator

Catalyst Award: \$120,000

The Siskiyou County Economic Development Council will leverage decades of experience to increase collaboration and visibility of the North State’s outdoor recreation businesses - including outdoor guides, outfitters, and lodging properties within Siskiyou, Shasta, Trinity, and Modoc counties. A network of economic leaders across the 4 counties will work with business cohorts to accelerate industry connection, improve booking rates and help business cohorts develop notoriety for the North State’s abundant outdoor opportunities and businesses.

Health / Workforce / Digital Literacy

Modoc College Center Co-op

Catalyst Award: \$465,000

Modoc County is an education desert, more than 90 miles from the closest California College. The goal of this project, led by Advancing Modoc, is to open two Modoc College Co-op branches that will offer post-secondary education and broadband computer access in Surprise Valley and Newell/Tulelake. With pathways in Education, Human Services, and Healthcare as the primary focus, these branches will offer career pathways to high demand and living wage work in Modoc County.

North State Together – Educating Future Environmental Stewards in the North State

Catalyst Award: \$1,000,000

Under the leadership of North State Together (NST), a 10-county regional collaborative in far Northern California, the Educating Future Environmental Stewards in the North State project will develop and strengthen environmentally focused educational pathways in K-12 schools, the region's five community colleges, and in partnership with California State University, Chico, and the University of California, Davis. Each county within NST's 10-county service will be eligible to apply for a subgrant of up to \$100,000. The project will expand student access to local Environmental Science and Natural Resources pathways, offering quality training, apprenticeships, and direct routes to well-paying jobs, promoting environmental stewardship and economic mobility regionally.

Butte College State Approved Electrician Trainee Program

Catalyst Award: \$248,867

This project will enable Butte College to complete the process to become a State Approved Electrician Trainee (ET) Program. Project funds will support hiring a subject matter expert to write the curriculum and meet rigorous state requirements for establishing a state approved Electrician Trainee Program. With a projected increase in demand for certified electricians in the North State, the long-term goal of the project is to produce Electrician Trainee's qualified to pass the State Electrical Examination and Certification process and respond to significant regional industry needs. The project is led by Butte College.

Catalyst for Workforce and Community Solutions

Catalyst Award: \$300,000

This project, led by California Heritage YouthBuild Academy (CHYBA), will develop a workforce and high school Career Training Resource Center in Shasta County to offer hands-on career training, job placement assistance, and referrals to local resources, ensuring pathways to sustainable, living-wage careers. Catalyst funds will support the preconstruction phase of this initiative, including environmental reviews, site assessments, design fees, permitting, and site remediation, positioning CHYBA for future funding opportunities and ensuring the project is "shovel-ready."

Devices for Digital Literacy

Catalyst Award: \$242,000

In coordination with partners throughout the 10-county service area (Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Lake, Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, Siskiyou, and Tehama Counties), this project will distribute devices, free of charge, to those who complete 8 hours of training. The project, led by the Northern Rural Training and Employment Consortium (NoRTEC), will remove a significant barrier – access to technology and connectivity - for unemployed or underemployed residents in the North State.