



Redwood Region RISE

Health and Caregiving Activation Plan



California's Redwood Region
Tribal Lands, Del Norte, Humboldt,
Lake, and Mendocino Counties

A Product of Redwood Region RISE
The California Center for Rural Policy
at Cal Poly Humboldt

Executive Summary

Health and Caregiving: A Cornerstone for Regional Well-being

The Redwood Region’s health and caregiving ecosystem forms the foundation of community resilience, economic mobility, and individual opportunity. Yet, this sector is experiencing critical strain due to persistent workforce shortages, inadequate infrastructure, unsustainable caregiving systems, and deep inequities—particularly in Tribal and remote areas. The challenges are urgent, but so is the opportunity: by activating and aligning regional efforts, we can build a future where all residents have access to quality care and health-supportive services.

This Activation Plan outlines cross-sectoral, equity-focused strategies that prioritizes both systemic change and immediate action. The following three strategic pillars guide this work:

- **Access Expansion:** Workforce pipeline investments, telehealth adoption, and coordinated community-based care delivery.
- **Capacity Building:** Development of Health Hubs, integration into large-scale economic development, and upgraded facilities for both healthcare and caregiving.
- **Policy and Systems Innovation:** Strengthening data-driven planning and rural advocacy to secure long-term funding and regulatory improvements.

Implementation is led by the North Coast Health Improvement and Information Network (NCHIIIN), in partnership with educational institutions, employers, Tribal health entities, government agencies, and community-based organizations. These collaborations are grounded in shared values of equity, innovation, and sustainability—embedding community voice and regional resilience into every tactic.

Anticipated Impact

By the fall of 2026, we aim to achieve measurable improvements in health access, economic mobility, and caregiving sustainability. Expected outcomes include:

- Expanded and diversified health and caregiving workforce pipelines—aligned with employer demand and educational opportunity.

- Greater regional capacity for training, coordination, and infrastructure development—especially in underserved communities.
- Increased availability of affordable, culturally appropriate caregiving services to support working families and aging populations.
- Strengthened policy influence and funding leverage for rural and Tribal priorities.
- Heightened resilience of healthcare and caregiving systems through data transparency, collaboration, and innovation.

These impacts will be tracked through employment metrics, enrollment and training data, partnership development, and quality-of-life indicators across the region.

Regional Partners

This Activation Plan reflects the work of a wide network of regional leaders—including Cal Poly Humboldt, College of the Redwoods, the Redwood Coast K-16 Collaborative, Open Door Community Health Centers, Southern Humboldt Community Healthcare District, Tribal health partners, and philanthropic and workforce development organizations. Together, these partners are advancing a coordinated, future-facing Health and Caregiving sector.

The Health and Caregiving Activation Plan is a living document—designed to evolve in response to community feedback, emerging needs, and new opportunities. It reflects our shared commitment to cultivating a healthier, more equitable Redwood Region for all.

As a living document, this plan will evolve as our work advances. Health and Caregiving Sector Investment Coordinators Jessica Osborne-Stafsnes, Tina Schaible, and Taffy Stockton—and their team at North Coast Health Improvement and Information Network (NCHIIN)—will collaborate with the Redwood Region RISE Collaborative, Sector Advisory Council, and community partners to conduct semi-annual comprehensive reviews, with the next revision scheduled for February 2026. These updated versions will be shared publicly to ensure transparency and community engagement.