

North Coast Resilient Food Systems Initiative:

1. Del Norte Meat Processing Facility
2. North Coast Food System Network

(1) Del Norte Meat Processing Facility

Project Title: Del Norte Meat Processing Facility

Lead Applicant: Hmong Association of Crescent City

Collaborator(s): N/A

Project Phase: ☐ Exploratory ☒ Last-mile

Region(s) Served: Primarily Del Norte County; secondarily, the entire Redwood Region

Location of Headquarter: Crescent City, Del Norte County

Primary Sector: Working Lands and Blue Economy

Secondary Sector: Infrastructure and Transportation

Project Summary (~250 words):

The Hmong Association of Crescent City plans to build a USDA-approved meat processing plant in Crescent City, to address the region's growing need for accessible meat processing. Following the closure of the Redwood Meat Company, farmers in the Redwood Region have faced long-distance transportation challenges, and are forced to travel over 160 miles for meat processing. The new facility will offer services for processing cattle, pigs, sheep, and poultry, supporting local farmers and strengthening regional agriculture. It will also include a retail component and grocery space to benefit the community economically.

The plant will meet culturally specific needs of the Hmong community, which currently lacks a reliable source for these products. The facility will be owned and sponsored by the Hmong Association, which represents around 500 local residents. A feasibility study confirmed the project's financial viability for the next ten years, and the business plan estimated the plant will process about 160 animals per month and create five full-time jobs. Success will be measured by

the completion of the facility, the number of local farmers utilizing the processing services, and overall economic impact.

The project will primarily benefit small to mid-sized farmers in Del Norte County, helping them reduce logistical costs and supporting regional food systems. The plant will also empower marginalized communities, with a focus on the Hmong and Latinx populations, and provide a model for rural economic development. Revenue generated will support ongoing community programming for the Hmong Association.

(2) North Coast Food System Network

Project Title:	North Coast Food System Network
Lead Applicant:	North Coast Growers' Association
Collaborator(s):	Helianth, Foggy Bottoms Boys, The Ink People, Humboldt Made, North Coast Growers Association, Del Norte and Tribal Lands Community Food Council, Humboldt County Farm Bureau, Blue Lake Rancheria, Aquilli Metzli Masa Coop, Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria
Project Phase:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Exploratory <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Last-mile
Region(s) Served:	Tribal Lands, Del Norte and Humboldt Counties
Location of Headquarter:	Humboldt County
Primary Sector:	Working Lands and Blue Economy
Secondary Sector:	Food Security and Access

Project Summary (~250 words):

The North Coast Growers' Association (NCGA) looks to work together with various food system collaborators to form the North Coast Food System Network (the Network). The Network is a strategic initiative meant to strengthen the food production, processing, distribution, and workforce development capacities across the region, by helping increase food infrastructure and capacity. It seeks to expand upon existing and developing relationships to support community-based organizations and priority communities. It will run for 17 months, and aims to connect multiple types of food systems organizations and businesses through quarterly meetings, connections and relationship building, and shared visioning and marketing outputs that create pathways for access to funding for smaller projects.

Projects that align with the goals of the Network and main sector, Working Lands and Blue Economy, include projects that are meant to build or establish places that can act as local sources of food or teaching centers for cooking. Projects like these are created for and by the communities they will serve, but often do not have the capacity to access and administer large grant opportunities. The project aims to leverage the capacity and experience of NCGA to administer funding, and

support project initiators throughout and beyond the grant term. A large majority of the funding requested from the Catalyst grant is intended to go to community-led and owned projects, and most of these projects will benefit priority communities.