

BOS Business & Economic Development Report – May 13, 2025

Indian Valley Innovation HUB

1. New Fictitious Business Name Certificates:

- **April 2025 was a slow month for new business openings, as well as Re-Filing.**
- **District 3 has the biggest number and the most interesting new businesses:**
 - **Lake Almanor Taxpayers Association; Glory Grace Doula**
 - **Lake Almanor Golf Carts; Fording Landscaping**
- **District 1: Portola Market & Gas Inc.**
- **District 4: Quincy Family Raceway; District 5: Graeagle Property Care**

2. Real Estate Sales were a bit slow in April 2025:

- **The number of Active Listings climbed considerably over March 2025.**
- **There were only 38 total sales in April versus 54 sold in March: 20 Residential Homes, 17 Lots, and 1 Commercial Sale.**
- **Median List Prices sold appear to be dropping in both residential and commercial sales. Again, this may reflect normal reduced winter sales.**

3. Starting this spring, the Plumas Association of Realtors will be handing out Housing Affordability Fund grants to qualifying first-time Plumas/Sierra County Homeowners to pay for half of their annual fire insurance premiums!!! The CA Association of Realtors awarded \$30,000 to match Plumas Association of Realtors \$10,000 contribution for the new program, which should help roughly 8 or more households with a maximum of \$5,000 in assistance.

The applications will be available soon, and the awards are first-come, first-served.

4. NorCal SBDCs are partnering with Pegasus Tech Ventures, a global venture capital firm in Silicon Valley, to find and fund innovators developing technologies and businesses with the potential to become industry leaders. We're hoping to connect Jeff Greef and his company Plumas Wood Fiber of Quincy, to find funding for his innovative production of wood fiber to replace the expensive Peat Moss that comes mostly from Canada. Plumas Wood Fiber will be manufactured in Spring 2025 and offered free of charge to qualified horticultural partners for summer growth trials.

5. Through AB 265, the CA State Legislature is hoping to pass a \$100,000,000 Small Business Recovery Act that will be implemented through the CA Office of Small Business Advocacy. The NorCal SBDCs will be instrumental in carrying out this grant to small businesses and nonprofit organizations to support disaster recovery

and rebuilding efforts. Grant amounts will range from \$2,500 to \$100,000 and will require a match from the grantee. Funds shall be used for the following purposes:

- Support recovery and rebuilding.
- Promote investment in more resilient infrastructure, including:
 - Infrastructure upgrades and improvements
 - Relocation of electrical or business equipment
 - Business relocations to more secure locations within the state (this is where our proposed Move In relocation program could help attract businesses!)
 - Investments in additional insurance coverage
 - Ensure that grantees can reopen and remain viable
 - VERY IMPORTANTLY: Grant funds may be used retroactively already performed in response to the proclaimed disaster, provided sufficient documentation is provided.

6. The Lake Area Chamber of Commerce is excited to announce that it has decided to take the \$45,000 award from Plumas County through the ARPA program and make grant awards to local businesses. The Chamber will be supporting businesses that need funding to purchase hardware for technology and/or equipment to help with business support. Below are the criteria the Chamber has identified. There will be technology grants and non-technology grants, with the latter requiring a member match of \$1.00 for every \$2.00 spent. Payment is made after project completion and submission of receipts/proof of payment. The awarding of funds come after September 1, 2025.

This is an excellent way to support business development by the Lake Almanor Area Chamber of Commerce. For more information, please contact Anne Kassebaum, Executive Director at the Lake Almanor Area Chamber of Commerce.

7. According to the AFWD Office in Quincy, some of the latest inquiries for jobs came from Stockton, San Bernadino, Richvale, Grass Valley, Sparks, Reno, Reno again, Winthrop, WA, Bakersfield, Los Angeles, and Fresno. A company from Sacramento called about workers, for a Mobile Home company looking to expand in Quincy. Unfortunately, the last employee of the AFWD Office in Quincy was laid off next week, and I'm not sure what the future of the office is.
8. Down Payment Assistance program. On May 5, 2025, the Dixie Fire Collaborative unanimously approved \$25,000 to structure the proposed Down Payment Assistance program for the Plumas County Community Development Commission. \$15,000 will go towards the services of Gina Chamberlain, Housing Manager of the RCAC (Rural Community Assistance Corporation), a 501 c 3 Non-profit that will set up the DPA

program. The remaining \$10,000 will go towards additional staffing required to work with the PCCDC in implementing the DPA program. Roger Diefendorf, Executive Director of the PCCDC, had personnel from the RCAC, PCCDC, and former personnel from the Town of Paradise that detailed how the program would work, especially in the burn scar areas. While the support was unanimous, there is considerable concern that the DPA monies be focused on the burn scar areas.

- 9. On January 3, 2025, the USDA implemented its Final Rule provisions for Manufactured Housing making existing manufactured homes, which meet specific criteria, eligible for more financing. In addition, the Final Rule reduces regulatory burdens related to manufactured housing requirements and provides flexibilities for energy efficient manufactured and modular homes located in land lease communities operating on a non-profit basis. This Final Rule became effective on May 5, 2025.**
- 10. The Plumas County Clerk of Courts (Election Department) is hosting meetings for Special District Education. Sites are Quincy on May 14th, Chester on May 15th, and Portola on May 21st.**

