

ANNUAL
REPORT
2024



Nevada County, California © Wasim Muklashy

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- **Karen O'Hara - Sierra College**
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- **Sandra Barrington - Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital Foundation**
- **Scott Lay - Superintendent of Schools**
- **Tim Corkins - ZAP Manufacturing, Inc.**
- **Trisha Tillotson - County of Nevada**

LETTER FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



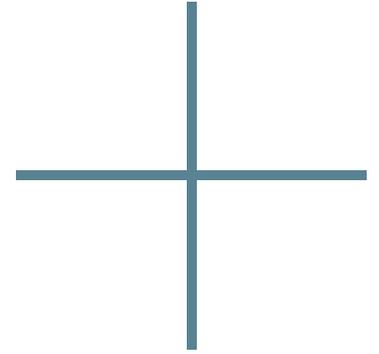
As we step into 2025, I am filled with gratitude and excitement for what lies ahead. Over the past year, we have achieved remarkable growth and celebrated key milestones that have strengthened our foundation for the future. Our success is a testament to the power of collaboration and the shared commitment of our partners, workforce, and community.

One of the highlights of 2024 is our work through the California Jobs First grant, which is already fueling new opportunities for innovation and economic development and fostering opportunity for the disinvested community to participate in the economic success of the Capital Region. This initiative embodies our mission of creating lasting impact by supporting businesses, fostering entrepreneurship, and building a thriving workforce.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to advancing these goals with integrity and purpose. Together, we prosper, and together, we create a brighter future for all.

Thank you for being an essential part of this journey. Here's to a successful and transformative year ahead!

Sincerely,
Gil Mathew



WELCOME

CONNECTING TALENT, INNOVATION, AND OPPORTUNITY

The Economic Resource Council drives Nevada County’s economic vitality by fostering job growth, nurturing local talent, and balancing progress with preserving our unique environment. We believe “local challenges require local solutions,” bringing together leaders from business, government, and non-profits to tackle issues like broadband expansion, housing and support for entrepreneurs with an eye to the disinvested community to assist in creating laddered employment opportunity.

OUR PURPOSE

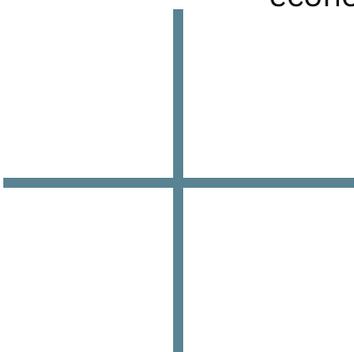
MISSION

To enhance the economic vitality of Nevada County by:

- Supporting the retention, growth, and attraction of quality jobs and talent
- Promoting innovative industries and entrepreneurial success
- Preserving the unique environmental and cultural identity of our region

WHAT WE DO

- Support Local Businesses: Offering resources, mentorship, and connections to help businesses thrive.
- Drive Workforce Development: Bridging the gap between employers and skilled talent through programs and partnerships.
- Foster Economic Innovation: Encouraging creative industries and technological advancements.
- Strengthen Community Ties: Collaborating with nonprofits, educational institutions, and local governments to build a resilient economy.



YEAR FILLED WITH ACTION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

A dynamic year packed with progress! Thank you to the ERC Board of Directors and the Executive Committee. They laid the foundation for a stronger and more robust ERC, introducing fresh leadership with Jon Blinder heading Board Development and Melissa Collins taking the reins on Membership. Excitement surged with the debut of a sleek new ERC logo, tagline, and statement, signaling a bold future. They also provided pivotal guidance for the annual Tour of Nevada County and the Economic Summit and spearheaded initiatives like impactful grant work. To top it off, a new slate of officers for 2025 promises to continue this momentum into the future!

LOCAL BUSINESS SUPPORT

2024 Business Support Highlights: A total of 71 companies received dedicated guidance, benefiting from 324 hours of one-on-one mentoring. From understanding the essentials of starting a business to strategizing for growth and long-term success, this initiative empowered entrepreneurs with the tools and knowledge to thrive in a competitive landscape.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The ERC actively connects with a vibrant network of organizations to foster collaboration and drive impact. From media partnerships with KNCO and Nevada County Media to strategic alliances with the Greater Grass Valley and Nevada City Chambers and the Comstock Editorial Board, the ERC is at the heart of community engagement. Partnerships extend to the NoRTEC Board, County departments, and leadership initiatives like the Nevada County Community Leadership Institute. Collaborating with the Sierra Economic Science Foundation, Alliance for Workforce Development Board, and many others, the ERC is weaving a powerful web of support to strengthen the region's economic and social fabric.

GRANT WORK

Collaborating with Valley Vision on the We Prosper Together projects, the ERC is helping connect regions to foster collective decision-making, design a shared economic roadmap, attract investment, and create accessible, living-wage jobs tailored to the unique needs of the disinvested community. In a testament to its leadership, the ERC was named Community Ambassador for the Nevada County sub-region in September—an exciting role focused on amplifying local voices and driving meaningful change. Learn more about these impactful efforts at ncercerf.org.

TALENT DEVELOPMENT

“Supporting the economic development of Nevada County by building a competitive, expanding, and sustainable skilled workforce”

This ERC committee brings together leaders in business, education, workforce development, and economic development to explore innovative strategies to enhance and grow Nevada County's workforce.

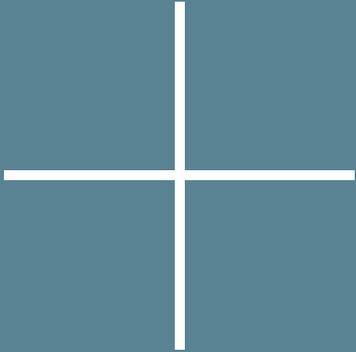


71

Businesses Received Assistance

324

Hours of One-On-One Business Coaching



5

NEW MEMBERS

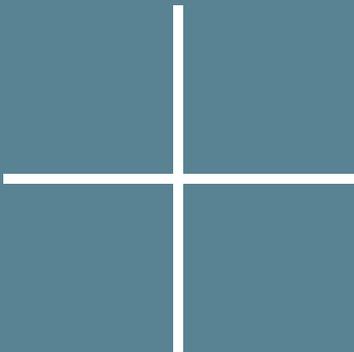
GRASS VALLEY PROVISIONS
LADRIS TECHNOLOGIES, INC.
MEC BUILDS, INC.
ED SCOFIELD
VISTAGE/PROBRILLIANCE

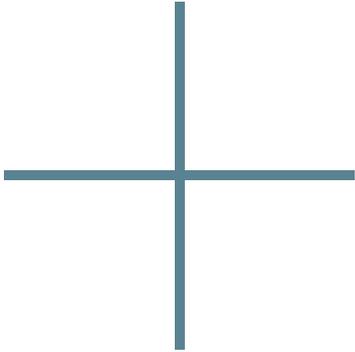


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SPECIAL EVENTS

THE TOUR OF NEVADA COUNTY
THE NEVADA COUNTY ECONOMIC
SUMMIT



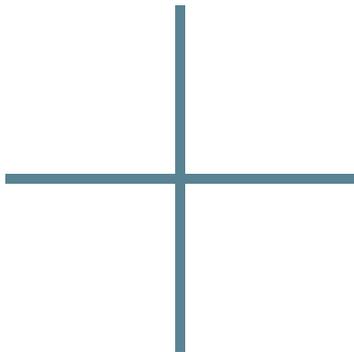
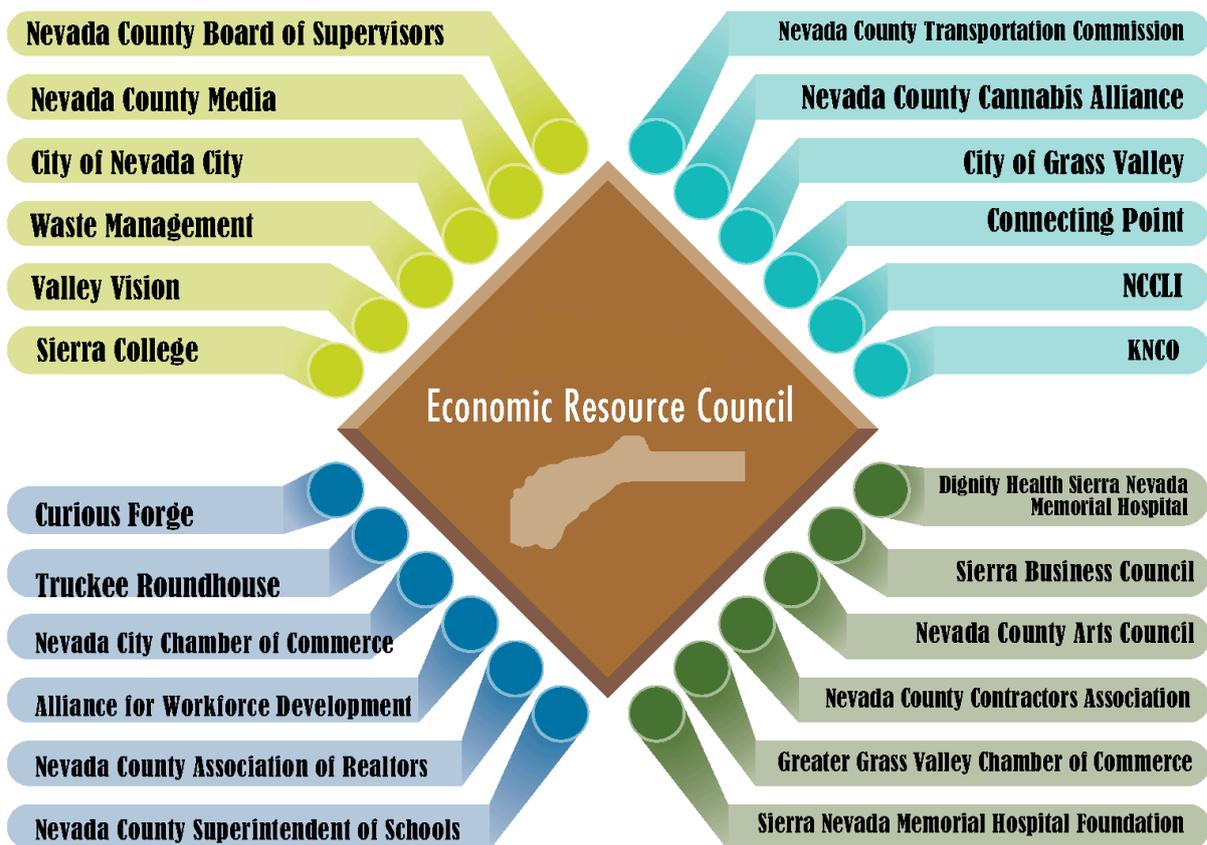


OUR PARTNERS

We want to take a moment to express our heartfelt gratitude to our incredible partners.

Your collaboration and unwavering support have been instrumental in fostering a vibrant community, empowering our workforce, and welcoming new businesses and entrepreneurs. Together, we're building a stronger foundation for innovation, growth, and shared success.

"Thank you for being an essential part of this journey!"



LOOKING FORWARD

As we embark on 2025, the Economic Resource Council (ERC) remains steadfast in its mission to elevate the economic vitality of our region. Building upon the solid foundation laid in previous years, we are excited to continue fostering the retention, growth, and attraction of quality jobs and exceptional talent, all while preserving Nevada County's unique character and natural environment.

Key Initiatives for 2025:

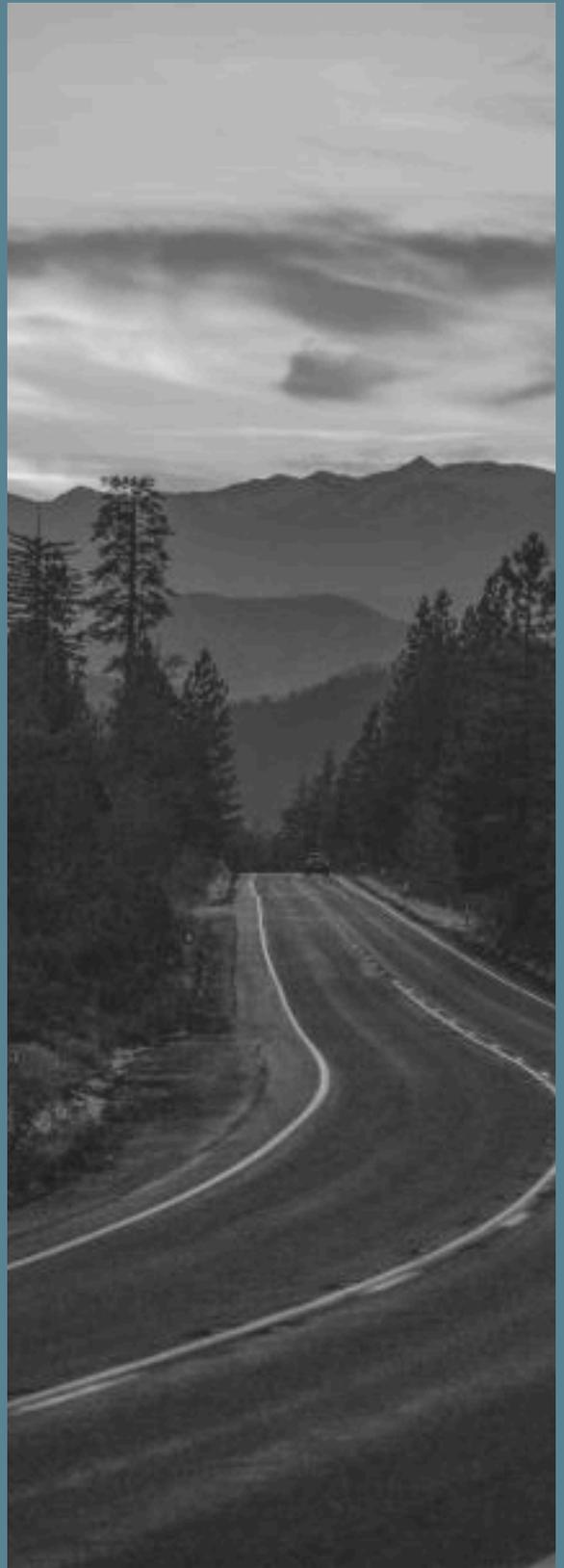
- **Entrepreneurial Education:** In collaboration with the Sierra Business Council/Sierra Small Business Development Center, Nevada County, and community members, we actively engage in supporting new and existing entrepreneurs and small startups by offering one-on-one services and workshops on the many facets of owning and growing a successful business.
- **We Prosper Together Catalyst Grant:** ERC received a \$100,00 two year grant as the Ambassador to the Nevada County sub-region. This initiative “We Prosper Together” is driving a community-led approach to building a stronger regional economy. We Prosper Together is working to elevate diverse voices, encourage investments, amplify local solutions, and create living-wage jobs for families in Colusa, El Dorado, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, Sutter, Yolo, and Yuba counties.
- **Nevada County Economic Summit:** Following the success of previous events, we look forward to hosting the 2025 Economic Summit, Thursday, September 25. This gathering will bring together business leaders, policymakers, and community stakeholders to discuss strategies for sustainable economic growth in Nevada County.
- **Tour of Nevada County:** We are excited to announce the 2025 Tour of Nevada County, Thursday, April 24th, an event designed to showcase the region's vibrant business community. This event subtitled “the economic engine behind the manzanita curtain” allows the community an opportunity to see interworking’s of tradable businesses.

We invite all community members, business owners, and stakeholders to join us in these endeavors. Together, we can build a prosperous and sustainable future for Nevada County. For more information and updates on our initiatives, please visit our website at ncerc.org.

Let's make 2025 a year of growth, innovation, and community collaboration!

THANK YOU TO OUR MEMBERS

- Alliance for Workforce Development
- Autometrix, Inc.
- B&C Ace Home and Garden
- City of Grass Valley
- City of Nevada City
- Cranmer Engineering, Inc.
- County of Nevada
- Dignity Health Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital
- Ed Scofield
- English Mountain Ranch/Charles Litton
- Grass Valley Provisions
- Greater Grass Valley Chamber of Commerce
- InConcert Sierra
- InterWest Insurance Services
- Ladris Technologies, Inc.
- Mark and Patricia Hughes
- MEC Builds, Inc.
- Nevada City Engineering
- Nevada County Arts Council
- Nevada County Association of Realtors
- Nevada County Contractors' Association
- Nevada County Properties
- Nevada County Superintendent of Schools
- Nevada County Transportation Commission
- North State Grocery, Inc.
- Owens Estate and Wealth Strategies Group
- River Valley Community Bank
- Robertson, Woodford & Summers LLC
- Rod Fivelstad
- SCO Planning, Engineering and Surveying, Inc.
- Scofield and Associates
- Sierra College
- Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital Foundation
- Stephanie and Larry Ortiz
- State Farm – Mike Bratton
- VISTAGE/ProBrilliance
- WM
- Weiss Landscaping



Economic Resource Council

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