



Siskiyou Community Alliance

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Arend Thomas, David Donica, Maggie Shepard, Cate Olivilo, Dan Axelrod, Pattie Crossen, Geneva Omann, Frank Toriello

Who is the Siskiyou Community Alliance (SCA)?

The SCA originated in April of this year with a small group of county residents who recognized the need for factual, non-partisan, and locally relevant information relating to the ongoing changes in federal legislative and legal landscapes. On May 19th, the SCA hosted a community forum at the Gazelle Grange where more than 70 people heard from 6 different agency administrators and a local weather expert relating to if and how legislative and funding changes were impacting their respective agencies and the services they provide. The event was so well received that a second forum is scheduled for August 28th in Fort Jones - there is more information on that event below.

The SCA recognizes the diversity of political perspectives that exist in our region. We also recognize that regardless of these perspectives, most all of us have been, or will be, impacted by some of these changes and our need to work together in order to assure the best outcomes for our county.

We believe that we must all strive to create an environment that is productive and solution-oriented. This is based on constructive dialogue rooted in courtesy and mutual respect, focusing on curiosity and a desire to learn from each other rather than winning an argument.

Second Community Forum to be held Thursday 8/28/25 in Fort Jones

The purpose of this event is to provide the opportunity to hear from the heads of local agencies regarding how recent legislative changes are anticipated to impact Siskiyou County.

Confirmed speakers include:

- » **Jonathan Andrus**, CEO Fairchild Medical Center
- » **Allan Carver**, Siskiyou County Superintendent of Schools
- » **Casey Glaubman**, Mount Shasta City Council, Executive Director at Friends of the Mount Shasta Avalanche Center
- » **Jim Morris**, Scott Valley Rancher

The event will be held at the:

**Fort Jones Community Hall
11960 East Street
Fort Jones, CA 96032
From 6:30-8:30 pm
Dessert will be served**

There will be a Q & A period following the presentations.



Updates from presenters at the May 19th Community Forum

We are grateful for the presenters at the first forum who gave their time to come out and provide current, accurate information and answer questions from the community. Due to the preponderance of information and its rapidly changing nature, the SCA hopes to provide periodic updates the first of which is found below.

Speakers at that event included:

- » **Dan Axelrod**, Physics Professor, Local Weather Expert
- » **Steve Bryan**, Exec. Director, Siskiyou Community Resource Collaborative
- » **Marie Caldwell**, Superintendent, Siskiyou Union HS District
- » **Jeremiah LaRue**, Siskiyou County Sheriff
- » **Dr. Char Perlas**, President/Superintendent, College of the Siskiyous
- » **Cathy Scott**, Local Childcare Planning Coordinator
- » **Nancy Swift**, Executive Director, Jefferson Economic Development Institute (JEDI)



Executive Director of the [Siskiyou County Community Resource Collaborative](#), **Steve Bryan** reports that federal dollars for the technology assist program were indeed cut, but the program will continue as the [CPUC \(California Public Utilities Commission\)](#) is picking up the funding, resulting in no reduction in services.



Superintendent of [Siskiyou Union High School District](#) **Marie Caldwell** reports that in June of 2025, several non profit and school leaders visited Washington

DC to encourage release of Federal funds for schools and non profit programs. We met with the Department of Education, Department of Labor, a team from the White House, and representatives from both House and Senate appropriations Committees (both Democrats and Republicans).

While we made our pleas...much work is still to be done. They did release all Federal funding for school programs (Title I, II, IV)... but Medicare is still pending a pretty drastic reduction....How can you help right now?

The reauthorization of the [Secure Rural Schools \(SRS\)](#) program is in jeopardy.

While not every district receives SRS funding, its importance to the ecosystem of rural education across California and the nation cannot be overstated. For those who do rely on it, SRS provides critical support for staffing, student transportation, and basic operations. With its recent removal from the Senate version of the reconciliation package, we need your voice now more than ever to push for its reinstatement and passage.

What We Need You To Do:

1. **Identify your U.S. House Representative.**
You can do this by visiting <https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>.
2. **Send the sample letter linked here to your Congressperson.**

The letter is designed for **superintendents in districts that do *not* directly receive SRS funding**, but still support its continuation on behalf of neighboring districts.

3. Encourage your board members, educators, and community partners to also send letters. A unified voice from our education community will show Congress that this issue transcends geography and politics.

Congressional action is expected soon, and your outreach can make a real difference. Please take a few minutes today to personalize and send your letter. [Small School Districts' Association \(SSDA\)](#) stands ready to assist with any questions or follow-up support.



Dr. Char Perlas, President/ Superintendent, [College of the Siskiyous](#) reports that COS did indeed receive official notification that funding for the TRIO

program was cut. This program has been serving students for over 3 decades and provided support for student success, targeting underrepresented populations and students who are the first in their family to go to college.

In addition, the college has received notification that their Perkins allocations have been delayed, resulting in them having to seek other funding. Perkins monies assist career technical educational programs by providing needed equipment, data analysis relating to student success as well as outreach for recruitment in the area of career technical education.



Dr. Dan Axelrod, Physics Professor, Local Weather Expert, reports that since the time of our last forum when it was reported that 550 - more than 10% - of

the National Weather Service (NWS) staff nationally were being fired or encouraged to retire early, [the news media are now reporting a reversal](#). The NWS has received approval to hire 450. Of course, some of the more experienced people who are being re-offered positions may choose to not return. "Locally" in the [Medford NWS](#) office (which covers all of Siskiyou County), the two positions [of (a) Meteorologist-in-Charge / Hydrologist-in-Charge and (b) Science and Operations Officer/Hydrologist: Development and Operations] [both remain vacant as of July 20](#), although it has not been announced whether these vacancies are related to the past winter's DOGE assault.

The federal government-authorized partial rehiring may be related to public pressure after a major weather-induced sudden flooding event in Texas in early July, in which 135 people were killed, including more than 35 children, most of them washed away from an all-girls summer camp. Finger-pointing is still continuing. But it appears that some County officials years earlier had rejected installation of a rapid warning system in this flood-prone region in order to save money. [There were also 6 vacancies at the local NWS office in Austin/San Antonio \(out of 27 positions\) including a key manager responsible for and coordinating with local emergency management officials to](#)



[issue warnings. The former manager in that position had retired the previous April, shortly after DOGE sent mass emails to NWS employees urging them to retire early or face potential layoffs.](#) But a person present in that position, although critical, would have been more involved with long-range coordination rather than any particular flooding event.

What is the goal of all these cutbacks, and where is the money going? The answer shows that local issues do not remain local. One purpose of the NWS is to provide warnings of upcoming weather disasters in time for citizens and local governments to try to protect everyone. Related to this but distinct is protection of the public after a disaster. That is the responsibility of the [Federal Emergency Management Agency. FEMA](#), however, has been severely cut back by the federal government, allegedly to eliminate “waste, fraud, and abuse”. The result is that recovery from the recent flooding disasters in Texas, North Carolina, and elsewhere have been delayed and short-changed. In addition, the Dept. of Homeland Security, one of the two federal agencies actually seeing a funding increase, has been transferring FEMA workers to [Immigration and Customs Enforcement \(ICE\)](#) duty, allegedly to protect US citizens from the “threat” of immigrants working in agricultural fields and home construction. The other agency seeing an increase is the [Department of Defense](#), which has been spending large amounts on US proxies in military actions in Eastern Europe and the Middle East, and upon nuclear weapons “modernization”. Some of the money spent there could be recovered by allowing the prior temporary tax cuts (enacted during Trump I) for the corporate and upper brackets to expire, but those tax cuts were never reversed and in fact are being extended. It is difficult to understand, much less support or oppose local cutbacks to useful agencies, without putting the cutbacks in the context of a larger picture.

Finally, since the last SCA forum, there is another weather-forecasting cutback that has been proposed by the administration and

submitted to Congress, that concerning very long-range climate prediction. [Quoting from the journal of the American Geophysical Union:](#)

“In the latest move in a months-long attack on climate science funding, the Trump administration released a [budget document](#) on 30 June that calls for zero funding for climate research and the elimination of a slew of [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration \(NOAA\)](#) services, including the agency’s climate laboratories, regional climate data efforts, tornado and severe storm research, and partnerships with other institutions.

The budget, proposed for fiscal year 2026, also calls for a reduction in NOAA’s full-time staff by more than 2,000 people.

The [Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research \(OAR\)](#) would be eliminated under the proposed budget. OAR coordinates and performs NOAA’s climate and weather research.

‘With this termination, NOAA will no longer support climate research grants,’ the proposal states.”

The “local” impact of this major cutback will be a reduced understanding and predictability of future precipitation, temperature, and wind patterns, and thereby more vulnerability to wildfires.



Executive Director of [Jefferson Economic Development Institute](#), **Nancy Swift** is providing the information on the following page in response to the request made at the forum for agencies to share anything community members can do to assist.

There is a [video recording of the first forum](#) available on SCA’s YouTube Channel.

A summary of the presentations is also available on the [SCA Website](#).

Act Now to Save Women's Business Centers in Siskiyou County (and Across the Country)



Right now, we need your voice. The future of Women's Business Centers (WBCs) depends on showing Congress just how vital these programs are. Whether you're a small business owner, partner, or community supporter, your voice helps ensure WBCs continue as a vital resource in our local economic development efforts. **It takes less than 30 seconds and will make a real difference.** JEDI hosts this SBA-designated program and marshals many resources to support women, men, and all entrepreneurs throughout our county. Our mission is your business, if you will. The WBC funding equals \$150,000 per year and that is roughly 2 employees who would not be available to assist small business owners start, grow, and fund their businesses. We know that these businesses are part of the fabric of our lively communities. They return \$79 in economic activity to the community. And the business you frequent that is small and locally owned supports a family to live and thrive here. It may also create a job for someone in the community. We will continue our services even if this piece of funding goes away, but it will affect the capacity of our efforts which translates to fewer people served.

It is still relevant to have your voice heard on this matter. The debate for our funding is in the Congressional Appropriations process now.

Send a letter to your Members of Congress

If you would like to get business development support from us or if you would like to get on our mailing list, please visit www.wbcjedi.org and get started! Or, feel free to call me and I will help you get started, Nancy T. Swift, JEDI executive director, 530-926-6670, x102.

WEEKLY NEWS



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It takes less than 30 seconds and will make a real difference.

Send a letter to your Members of Congress

Women's Business Center at JEDI
1670 Market Street, Suite #112 Redding, CA 96001

OPEN Monday-Friday 8:30 am -5:00 pm

205 Chestnut Street Mt Shasta, CA 96067
OPEN Monday 9:00 am 4:00 pm, Tuesday-Friday 9:00 am -5:00 pm JEDI (888) 926-6670 | info@e-jedi.org
www.jedieconomy.org & www.wbcjedi.org



The Women's Business Center is a project of JEDI, a 501c3 non-profit organization.



JEDI and the WBC Program is nondiscriminatory and available to individuals with disabilities. Reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities will be made if requested at least two weeks in advance.

Serving Siskiyou, Shasta, Humboldt & Trinity Counties

SiskiyouCommunityAlliance.org



Wanting to Get More Involved?

We want to thank those who responded to our questionnaire and expressed interest in volunteering. We want to hear from you! Sometimes it's hard to know what to do or how to get involved. Please share your ideas, interests and skills by completing and submitting the survey at this link: <https://scalliance.us/volunteer>

Leadership team member **Maggie Shepard** says, "the best advice I've gotten about what to do is to simply: Do Something. Although these times require us to step outside of our comfort zones, it's important to find something we are particularly passionate about (i.e., voting rights, immigration or environmental issues, the arts, maintaining services to the county, public education, etc.) and put our focus there".

- » **Build a small team of people who share your views**
- » **Form networks, meet, and work together**
- » **Focus on your talents**
- » **Know you are not alone**
- » **Know that together we can accomplish great things**

Siskiyou County Information

Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors:

- » **District 1 - Jess Harris - (530) 643-9084**
- » **District 2 - Ed Valenzuela - (530) 926-1733**
- » **District 3 - Michael Kobseff - (530) 918-9128**
- » **District 4 - Nancy Ogren - (530) 643-3503**
- » **District 5 - Ray Haupt - (530) 925-0444**

Siskiyou County Sheriff-Coroner:

- » **Jeremiah LaRue - (530) 842-8300**

Siskiyou County District Attorney:

- » **J. Kirk Andrus - (530) 842-8125**

State of California Information

California State Assembly:

- » **Heather Hadwick - (916) 319-2001**

California Senate - District 01:

- » **Megan Dahle - (916) 651-4001**

U.S. Congress - District 01 U.S. Representative:

- » **Doug LaMalfa - (202) 225-3076**

U.S. Congress - U.S. Senators:

- » **Alex Padilla - (202) 224-3553**
- » **Adam Schiff - (202) 224-3841**

In July, we honored the 5 yr anniversary of the passing of Representative **John Lewis**. We'd like to end with a quote of his:

"A democracy cannot thrive where power remains unchecked and justice is reserved for a select few. Ignoring these cries and failing to respond to this movement is simply not an option — for peace cannot exist where justice is not served."

