



Siskiyou Community Alliance



Vol. 1 #2

December 2025

About Us

The Siskiyou Community Alliance (SCA) originated in April of 2025 with a small group of county residents who recognized the need for factual information relating to ongoing changes in federal legislative and policy issues and their potential impacts that are locally relevant and non-partisan. The SCA has hosted two community forums where a variety of county officials, agency representatives, and individuals spoke to these impacts. These forums were well received and proved to be a testament to our ability to come together, share information and listen respectfully, despite the wide diversity of political perspectives that exist in our region. Please find below our mission, core beliefs and values statements.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Siskiyou Community Alliance is to facilitate networks that promote the flourishing and equality of all members of our community both economically and democratically, via the dissemination of accurate information and promotion of mutual aid.

Core Beliefs

- » We have more in common than what separates us.
- » In order for individuals and communities to thrive, we must have a functioning democracy, meaning the right to govern

must lie with each of us having equal ability to participate and influence the decisions that affect us.

- » Local problems, such as poverty, unemployment, lack of housing and access to health care, are tied to larger, more systemic ones such as, concentration of wealth, legal and economic protection, and preferences given to corporations, economic health measured by stock market and GDP, and military spending.
- » Along with the awareness that overarching system change is necessary, we believe that individual actions on the personal and local level are equally crucial to effecting change. Having informed, empowered, and connected communities is foundational to achieving these ends.

Core Values

- » Peaceful and equitable governance
- » Access to affordable health care and housing are fundamental rights
- » Employment at a living wage is a fundamental right
- » Civility and respect for human dignity
- » Removal of barriers so all have the ability to achieve their full potential
- » Support and celebration of diversity
- » Pursuit of common ground through a culture of Curiosity, Compassion, Courage and Creative Innovation





Updates from presenters at May 19th & August 28th Community Forums

We are grateful for the presenters at our second forum who gave their time to come out and provide current, accurate information and answer questions from the community. One aspect of our mission is to provide factual, locally relevant information against the backdrop of a rapidly changing legal and legislative landscape. Following are updates from some of our previous forum presenters.



Allan Carver, [Siskiyou County Superintendent of Schools](#)

Here are a few bullet points from Allan.

- » Extremely pleased to see HR 1383 - Secure Rural Schools Reauthorization Act of 2025 pass the House with such significant bipartisan support.
- » The Siskiyou COE Early Head Start continues to work on attracting staff to open another classroom and meet the needs of our community.
- » We recently received a Grant Award Notification for \$1.1 million in support of literacy work with grades 6-12.
- » We received a grant from Parks California for \$49,769 to take students to local state parks as part of our science program.
- » Plenty of opportunities to work in education at [Edjoin.org](#)



Casey Glaubman, Executive Director, [Friends of the Mount Shasta Avalanche Center, Mt. Shasta Mayor](#).

UPDATE: Casey was selected as new Mayor of Mount Shasta at Dec. 15, 2025 City Council meeting.

The Mount Shasta Avalanche Center (MSAC) has grant funding through the end of this year and an agreement in place for next year. The timing of each year's grant however, is always a bit in flux, and it's uncertain whether changes within the Forest Service and the USDA will impact the timeline of availability for our future grant funding.

With regards to the City we are looking at some revenue shortfalls, although they cannot be directly attributed to changes in federal policy. It is more a slow trickle of both state and federal changes that have disadvantaged rural communities for years, and unfortunately seem to be accelerating.

On a positive note, we are about to start the next phase of the Lake Street project which will include (hopefully) bike lanes, more pedestrian infrastructure, and of course just redoing the roads themselves that are in dire need of repair.

We also have a housing development group that has submitted a proposal to purchase some of The Landing parcels in order to construct much-needed housing. A not-insignificant portion of the proposal involves building low-income and affordable housing. We are hopeful it will lead to increased housing availability in Mount Shasta.



Dr. Char Perlas, President/Superintendent, [College of the Siskiyous](#)

Currently, a major aspect impacting employees is the rise in healthcare costs. Our healthcare premiums have increased over 30% in the last 2 years. While this doesn't directly impact students, we are waiting to see if it causes a decrease in employee retention rates.

We anticipate receiving information about continued funding for our federally funded Upward Bound Program by March of next year.

On a more positive note, the College was recognized as a Pathway Champion by the Campaign for College Opportunity for their efforts in advancing campuswide growth in transfer-level math success, along with an equity distinction for ensuring Latinx student success in transfer-level math backgrounds. This has been especially impactful for Latinx students who achieved an 81% success rate in transfer-level math during the 2023-24 academic year, 5 percentage points higher than peers of other racial/ethnic backgrounds.

Notably, in addition, the college has seen a 17% increase in transfer-level math completion campuswide, underscoring sustained progress in supporting all students. This award is a reflection of the work our staff has undertaken to meet every student where they are, to remove barriers and build a learning

environment where everyone can thrive...our collective effort is changing lives and building a brighter future for our region.

You can find more information about this award at: (<https://collegecampaign.org/publication/siskiyous-spotlight>).



Steve Bryan, Executive Director of the [Siskiyou County Community Resource Collaborative](#)

Across all seven centers, we're continuing to see a mix of impacts. We are seeing that foot traffic is up, especially for core services like food support, digital literacy classes, and senior programming. We're hearing from a lot of residents that the CRCs feel like stable, welcoming spaces during a pretty unsettling time, which is something we're incredibly proud of.

On the more difficult side, demand is definitely outpacing capacity. Emergency food needs have jumped significantly, and many families are reporting longer-term financial strain tied to job loss, housing instability, and SNAP delays. Staff are navigating some emotionally heavy situations as more people come in needing crisis-level intervention and connection to resources. We're managing this as a team, but these pressures are definitely being felt countywide.



Cupcakes and conversation are a part of every forum!

Other Local Impacts



In October of this year, the [Mid Klamath Watershed Council \(MKWC\)](#) announced that in September, the Dept. of the Interior informed them of the abrupt cancellation of 7 US Fish and Wildlife Service

grants for work already underway. The financial loss is estimated at 1.75 million dollars. These monies funded work vital to public safety, local economies, and ecological resilience in the Mid Klamath Basin.

The notice cited the same reason for all terminations: "This award no longer effectuates the priorities of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and is therefore terminated."

In addition to funding cuts for Chinook Salmon monitoring, Habitat Restoration Projects, and Collaborative Resource Stewardship, almost \$1 million in funding was terminated for wildfire prevention and fuels reduction, which will result in a loss of protection for residents, our property and infrastructure as well as a loss of firefighter training and workforce development. Below are statements from just three of the many MKWC community partners outlining the direct impacts these cuts will have.

Jasmine Borgatti, Chief Resilience Officer, [Happy Camp Community Action, Inc](#)

"In the Happy Camp area, these projects have been a lifeline for both our forests and our communities. The work supported by MKWC has helped reduce wildfire risks around homes, improve water quality, and create steady jobs in a region that depends

on a healthy landscape. Losing this funding not only threatens the safety of our residents but also undermines years of collaborative progress toward making our forests and watersheds more resilient."

Marie Caldwell, Superintendent, [Siskiyou Union High School District](#)

"Siskiyou Union High School District has worked in partnership with Mid Klamath Watershed Council to reduce fuels around the high school campus in Happy Camp, Ca. Without the support of MKWC, our District would be challenged to support fuels reduction (due to an already limited budget). The fuels reduction completed directly resulted in the saving of Happy Camp High School in the Slater Fire. It is short sighted of the Dept to remove funding for fire-endangered communities like Happy Camp that have little or no private investment to reduce fuel directly contributing to the wildfire dangers."

Nancy Ogren, Chair, [Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors](#)

"This decision for a funding recall damages already-struggling rural communities that depend on these projects, not just for jobs, but for the long-term health and safety of our region. These are not abstract programs - they put local people to work and make our communities stronger, safer and more resilient. When funding is pulled midstream, it undermines years of collaboration and the expertise our rural workforce has built."

For more information and to read the full Public Statement Regarding Terminations of U.S. Department of Interior Agreements from the MKWC, please visit: <https://www.mkwc.org/public-statement-doi-terminations>



What is Mutual Aid?

The practice of mutual aid is something SCA feels is integral to our mission.

Wikipedia defines Mutual Aid as “an organizational model where voluntary, collaborative exchanges of resources and services for common benefit take place amongst community members to overcome social, economic, and political barriers to meeting common needs.” It is about community members coming together to share their skills and resources to ensure everyone’s needs are met, thereby creating stronger and more resilient communities.

Three key principals of Mutual Aid:

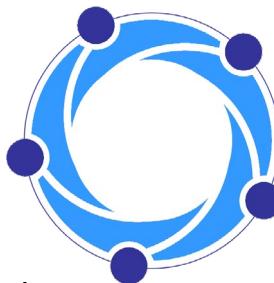
The practice of mutual aid is based on three main principals: solidarity, reciprocity, and collective care. Solidarity means we are all interconnected and that the well-being of each depends on the well-being of the community. Reciprocity is the response to a gift. We give and receive in the spirit of sharing for mutual benefit. Collective care is the concept that we have a responsibility to take care of each other.

History:

The concept of mutual aid was developed by the philosopher Peter Kropotkin in a 1902 book, “Mutual Aid: A Factor of Evolution,” in which he reasoned that in the biological world cooperation was the main driving mechanism behind evolution, not competition, and that such cooperation or mutual aid was promoted by natural selection. Kropotkin argued that the concept also applied to human social interactions and his arguments were a counter to the theories circulating at the time (and continuing to dominate in the social and economic spheres today) of social Darwinism that emphasized individual competition and the social survival of the fittest.

Why do we need Mutual Aid?

Governments rightfully provide programs to help those who are not adequately supported



by the dominant economic system. For example, in the US programs like Social Security and Medicare provide mechanisms by which workers throughout their work lives set money aside to cover income and medical expenses once they retire. These programs also cover persons with physical and mental disabilities who are deemed inadequate (by the dominant economic system) to participate in the labor work force. Programs like food stamps, housing vouchers, energy assistance help individuals and families who may be trapped in low-paying jobs: in essence, these programs are subsidies to employers who do not pay a living wage.

Whereas these programs recognize the failures of the dominant economic system, they often do not adequately support reasonable living standards for the beneficiaries. In addition, the politics involved with federal governance is capricious and the programs can be altered or cut completely on the whims of politicians, as we have seen happen in the past year.

Thus an ongoing system of support, based at the community level and working for the common good, is required. The goal is to build a community that fills in the gaps where the government’s social safety net is inadequate and to ensure everyone thrives even when that governance fails.

“Mutual aid projects let us practice meeting our own and each other’s needs, based in shared commitments to dignity, care, and justice. They let us practice coordinating our actions together with the belief that all of us matter and that we should all get to participate in the solutions to our problems. They let us realize that we know best how to address the crises we face.” ~ Dean Spade



President Dwight D. Eisenhower (R)

34th President of the United States: 1953 - 1961

[Address "The Chance for Peace" Delivered Before the American Society of Newspaper Editors. April 16, 1953](#)

Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed. This world in arms is not spending money alone.

It is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children.

The cost of one modern heavy bomber is this: a modern brick school in more than 30 cities.

It is two electric power plants, each serving a town of 60,000 population.

It is two fine, fully equipped hospitals. It is some 50 miles of concrete highway.

We pay for a single fighter plane with a half million bushels of wheat.

We pay for a single destroyer with new homes that could have housed more than 8,000 people.

This, I repeat, is the best way of life to be found on the road the world has been taking.

This is not a way of life at all, in any true sense. Under the cloud of threatening war, it is humanity hanging from a cross of iron.

"A sustainable world means working together to create prosperity for all"
~ Jacqueline Novogratz

The Bigger Picture



In recognition of the fact that larger, more systemic factors can and do have major local impacts that are not immediately apparent, **Dr. Dan Axelrod**

has submitted the following article for consideration.

To Where is the Money Being Redirected?

A long list of cutbacks to government programs will directly and negatively affect the people of Siskiyou County. That list includes slashes to Medicaid, National Weather Service/NOAA, Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA), Dept. of Education, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Endangered Species Act, Affordable Care Act payments to doctors and hospitals, and support for education programs that address the nursing shortage. Cutbacks are touted to clean up "waste, fraud, and abuse", but regardless of the truth or falsity of that, the question remains: where does the saved money go? One well-known place is toward tax cuts largely benefiting the rich and super-rich. But much of those "savings" are also being applied to promote military action, including in places that pose no military threat to the US, like Venezuela. The US has already begun the attacks with a series of illegal extrajudicial killings of people (now more than 80) on fishing boats, claiming without any public evidence that they are drug-carriers.

On this topic, we quote here from an excellent interview (edited here for brevity) by [Amy Goodman on DemocracyNow.org on November 14, 2025 with long-time journalist Juan González](#), an expert on U.S./Latin American politics, professor at Rutgers University, and Senior Fellow at the University of Illinois Chicago

Amy Goodman: Juan, you were in Panama for the U.S. invasion. This was during

President George H.W. Bush. You certainly know and have studied and have been there throughout Latin America when it comes to U.S. foreign policy. Can you talk about your observations of what's happening here with these extrajudicial killings of scores of people?

Juan González: ...*The largest aircraft carrier in the world, the USS Gerald Ford, has just arrived in the Caribbean with another 5,000 troops and several other battleships accompanying it.*

We now have 15,000 U.S. troops in the region, thousands of them based in Puerto Rico. The government has reopened Roosevelt Roads Naval Base, which they had closed, and [installed] U.S. planes at the old Ramey Air Force Base in Aguadilla. All of these soldiers are not there to hang out. They're there to take military action. We have to be clear. Even though the government hasn't announced it, it's clear that this is what's coming.

Our government is embarking on a totally unprovoked military assault and regime change operations in Latin America. The Trump administration has openly accused not one, but two Latin American presidents of drug dealing without any proof — Nicolás Maduro of Venezuela and Gustavo Petro of Colombia — and threatened to kill Maduro. This is a bizarre return to the gunboat diplomacy of the early 20th century, and the big prize being not democracy or not stopping drug trafficking, but grabbing the Venezuelan oil fields, the largest oil reserves in the world.

The problem is, this is not the old Latin America that the U.S. could bully at will. The countries of the region are today independent sovereign states. For most of South America, the U.S. is no longer even the main trading partner. China is. Next door to Venezuela is Colombia, the country that for more than 50 years was involved in the longest-running civil war in the region's history and has

perhaps the largest number of veteran left-wing guerrillas in Latin America's history. The governments of Brazil, Mexico, Colombia, Honduras, Cuba and Nicaragua will not just quietly accept U.S. aggression on Venezuela.

President Maduro has appealed for international volunteers to come to Venezuela to oppose any U.S. invasion. And you can bet that perhaps thousands of young Cubans, Nicaraguans, Colombians and other Latin Americans will do just that.

Amy Goodman: *Juan, you mentioned that you have Venezuela, the largest oil producer in Latin America, that the U.S. is targeting. Then, to everyone's shock, including many in his own administration, Trump announced he's going to attack Nigeria, which is Africa's most populous country and the largest oil producer in Africa. He said that the attack would be vicious and sweet. And then [as another example of a war fought for oil], you go back to Iraq, one of the largest oil producers in the Middle East, before the U.S. invaded Iraq in 2003 after 9/11, which Iraq had nothing to do with.*

Juan González: *Yes, it's a clear continued policy of the United States to control, control oil production as much as it can, as it continues - as the Trump administration continues on this crazy, bizarre attempt to corner as much oil supply as they can, as it continues to deny the existence of the climate change or the climate catastrophe we face.*

Here are some additional historical observations we might add to Juan Gonzalez's remarks quoted above, especially in view of the recent illegal seizure by the US Coast Guard of foreign oil tankers near the coast of Venezuela. US "control" of oil does not mean the people of the US need or even want more oil. The goal is quite different: the US government wants to control other nations' access to oil. The ability to figuratively turn the oil spigots on and off - to supply or starve other nations of energy - is a means of geopolitical clout that extends

far beyond oil, into the spheres of trade, finance, markets, military presence, economic strangulation, and regime change.

Venezuela has been on the US target list for an invasion ever since socialist Hugo Chavez was democratically elected as President in Venezuela in 1998. But apart from a US sponsored coup attempt in 2002, Washington has not threatened a full scale military attack on Venezuela until the current U.S. aircraft carrier-based buildup in the Caribbean. Why now? The decades-long delay is likely because of the US military had been occupied with attacking Iraq and Afghanistan for most of the intervening years.

The US military, in its typical attacks on poor but resource-rich countries since WWII (almost always with a spurious excuse like stopping “weapons of mass destruction” or fighting drug carriers), is not set up for more than two “hot” wars at a time. Ironically, Venezuela was essentially saved by the ongoing (and ultimately losing) US wars against the Middle East; that period is now over.

The drive by the US government to dominate internationally, in service of private extractive industries to secure natural resources like oil and minerals, continues, but just with a shift of location. Unfortunately, government domestic services have been pushed back farther in the line, at the expense of the American people - unless we can successfully demand and achieve a fundamental change in policy.



Third Community Forum to be held March 2026 in Yreka! ~ Stay Tuned!!

- » [Video recording of the 1st Forum](#) available on SCA's YouTube Channel.
- » [Speakers Summary of 1st Forum](#)
- » [Video recording of the 2nd Forum](#) available on SCA's YouTube Channel.
- » [Speakers Summary of 2nd Forum](#)

Resource Links

- » [FindHelp.org](#) - Search and connect to support. Financial assistance, food pantries, medical care, and other free or reduced-cost help. Search by your zip code.
- » [The Builders Movement](#) - Builders is a cross-partisan movement to overcome “us vs. them” thinking and solve problems. We equip people to uncover hidden common ground and build on it – with lasting solutions that reflect the will of the people.
- » [Siskiyou News](#) - Independent media delivering accurate, on-ground news from Siskiyou County and beyond

Local Links in this Newsletter

- » [Siskiyou County Office of Education](#)
- » [Friends of the Mount Shasta Avalanche Center](#)
- » [Mt. Shasta City Council](#)
- » [College of the Siskiyous](#)
- » [Siskiyou County Community Resource Collaborative](#)
- » [Mid Klamath Watershed Council \(MKWC\)](#)
- » [Happy Camp Community Action, Inc](#)
- » [Siskiyou Union High School District](#)
- » [Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors](#)

Every Action Counts

The Siskiyou Community Alliance is happy to introduce what will hopefully be a regular feature in our newsletter: **Every Action Counts**. This column will highlight local residents who are engaged in activities that support the democratic thriving of all members of our community, both locally and globally.

Most readers are familiar with the postcard writing campaigns to encourage voter registration and voting.

Several local artists have taken this idea to another level in acknowledging those on the national stage who literally put their lives on the line every day. They are creating artwork for postcards that are being used in what is being called Gratitude, or Courage Campaigns. Cards are mailed to judges, politicians, journalists, attorneys and organizations thanking them for their courage in defending the constitution and the rule of law. Besides the beautiful artwork, cards include postage, names, addresses, sample messages and details of each recipient's actions. Packets of 4 cards are available for \$5 per packet with all proceeds going to the SCA to help fund the next community forum. We are grateful to **Nadine Aiello, Pat Satariano, Megan Hawk, Chris Messer and David Joaquin** for their generous donation of artwork, printing and postage to support us. If you would like to purchase cards, or help coordinate this project, please contact us at info@scalliance.us.



If you would like to receive the names, addresses, and background info for recipients, and supply your own cards and postage, email us and we'll send that to you free of charge.

Are you involved in or know of a group that deserves recognition for their efforts in this regard? Please email us at info@scalliance.us and let us know.



Practicing the 4Cs Daily

The Builders mindset is rooted in the 4Cs: curiosity, compassion, courage, and creativity. By adopting these values as daily habits, we promote flexible thinking, constructive problem solving, and respecting the dignity of all people.

Curiosity - We have intellectual humility, actively seeking out new and different perspectives, continually questioning our own assumptions, and thinking critically about even our most strongly held positions.

Compassion - We strive to understand and empathize with other people's core needs, values, and concerns — especially across lines of difference.

Courage - We dare to be vulnerable, to criticize our own side, to engage with "the other side" in good faith, and to speak up and stand up for ourselves, even when it may not be popular.

Creativity - Our "secret weapon" – we harness the power of art, humor, and imagination to spark fresh ideas, forge unexpected connections, and inspire action toward a more united and hopeful future.



VOLUNTEERING

Letters to the Community

The SCA welcomes newsletter contributions from writers, photographers and artists. We hope to provide a space for people to share information, their views, network, put forward potential resources, and creatively come to solutions for identified needs.

It will be assumed that submitted work is offered gratis. The SCA will not sell any writer's work or take any other action which directly results in any private entity or person profiting from the contributing writers' work.

We prefer articles to be 500-1000 words in length with a maximum of 3000, with 1-3 optional photos.

- » Information presented must be factual and substantiated.
- » Submissions will be moderated for veracity.
- » Submissions must be respectful and free of personal attacks.
- » Anonymous submissions will not be accepted.

Submissions can be sent via email to
info@scalliance.us.

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

"One of the marvelous things about community is that it enables us to welcome and help people in a way we couldn't as individuals. When we pool our strength and share the work and responsibility, we can welcome many people, even those in deep distress, and perhaps help them find self-confidence and inner healing." ~ Jean Vanier

