

# REDWOOD COAST REGIONAL CENTER

Serving Del Norte, Humboldt,  
Lake, and Mendocino County

## Join the RCDSC Board of Directors

### CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

By Mike Sawyer

**Y**ou can join the Board of Directors!

Oversight of the Redwood Coast Regional Center is provided by an all-volunteer Board of Directors. The Board is not involved in the day-to-day operations but is responsible for Hiring and Evaluating the Executive Director, approving organizational policies and contracts over \$250,000.

The Board holds 6 meetings per year, with three additional training sessions. Most sessions are on-line, the second Wednesday of the month from 6 pm-7:30 pm (Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, Jul, Aug, Nov). Two sessions (May and Sep) are held on the 3rd Saturday from 9 am - noon and Board members are encouraged to attend in-person.

The Board structure requires

representation from all 4 Counties; at least 25% of the Board must be clients of RCRC, and 50% must be Clients/Families of Clients. The Board also needs individuals with experience in legal, financial, real estate, and other business areas.

If you are interested in joining the Board and can commit to 2-3 hours a month, we would very much like to hear from you.



*For more information you can watch this 14 minute video [YouTube - Joining the Regional Center Board of Directors](#) and email us at [board@redwoodcoastrc.org](mailto:board@redwoodcoastrc.org)*

*Mike Sawyer*

*RCDSC Board of Directors President*

## Days to Remember

**April is**

Autism Acceptance Month

**April is**

National Deaf History Month

**April 1st**

April Fools Day

**April 2nd**

World Autism Awareness Day

**April 5th**

Easter

**April 6th - 12th**

National Public Health Week

**April 22nd**

Earth Day

**April 22nd**

Administrative Professionals Day





The Redwood Coast Regional Center team at the Capitol on March 3, 2026.

## Grassroots Day

### REDWOOD COAST REGIONAL CENTER REPRESENTS IN SACRAMENTO

By Elizabeth Hassler

**W**hen we think about how to change things, it can be tricky to figure out where to start. Over time, I have learned how important it is to work as a team.

One thing RCRC does every year is join other regional centers to send a group of people to talk to our state legislators. This is called Grassroots Day. Legislators are the people who make laws in our government. It is really important to share our stories about what we need, so they know how rules affect people's lives. RCRC always shares stories of what it's like to live where we are, where it's rural

and it can be harder to get places. *What do **you** want people to know about your life?*

This year, we talked about making it easier for young people to have careers as DSPs, making it easier for people with disabilities to go to the dentist, and celebrating the first regional centers' 60th anniversary. We can't wait to see what people do in 60 more years! *What do **you** think is most important to share?*

Our team was people who

use services and family members, because those are the most important voices to listen to. A lot of us also work to support people. We bring a different perspective because we know what it's like to get support. *What do **you** know, and how do you share about it?*

April is Autism Acceptance Month, and Grassroots Day is a great example of what self-advocacy looks like in action so we get more and more acceptance. Speaking up, showing up, and sharing your story are powerful things. I feel really proud of everyone who does that every day.



*Elizabeth Hassler*

*RCRC Client Advocate*



Redwood Coast Regional Center staff and community delegates meet with State Assembly Member Chris Rogers.

## RCRC Newsletter

To include your event in our newsletter, contact [rsocial@redwoodcoastrc.org](mailto:rsocial@redwoodcoastrc.org)





## Getting to know our community

**MIGUEL SANCHEZ-MARQUEZ**

### **W**hat is your position at RCRC?

I work as a Service Coordinator with the Adult Unit in the Ukiah office.

### **W**hat inspired you to get into this field of work?

I tend to gravitate toward jobs that let me work directly with the community in some capacity. Prior to working at RCRC, I used to work as a Language Arts/English Language Development teacher. I love working in fields that allow me to help people work toward a goal, whether

that goal be educational or a life goal. I wanted to continue giving back to the community however I could, so my transition to RCRC felt second nature more than anything. Being able to work with my clients, hear their stories and help them reach their goals has been one of the most satisfying experiences in this job.

### **Tell us about an inspirational experience working with RCRC?**

I've been working with Redwood Coast Regional Center for about a year and half. During that time, I've been granted the opportunity to meet people from various walks of life, people with different struggles and ambitions. More recently, I had been supporting a family with establishing services as well as providing reassurance to the parent during a difficult time. This client was in rough shape for a while, and while the struggles continue to be present, the client has seen a major improvement. I was very surprised to receive a phone

call from that same parent a couple weeks ago, not to express concern or worry, but to express gratitude for the support her family has received. I am far from perfect and am still learning a lot on the job as I continue to work for RCRC, but it admittedly gives me a little peace of mind knowing that the work I've been doing is improving the quality of life for those who need it.

### **What do you like to do in your spare time?**

I'm a bit of a shameless gym rat. Nothing feels better than ending the day with a nice workout

session to get the blood pumping. At home, I like to play my guitar to get some practice in or catch up on my infinitely growing backlog of books that I keep telling myself I'll finish eventually. I'm a very big Sci-Fi and Horror enthusiast (nerd), so if you have any recommendations, I'd love to hear

them! A couple of my favorite authors are Stephen King and Piers Anthony. ★

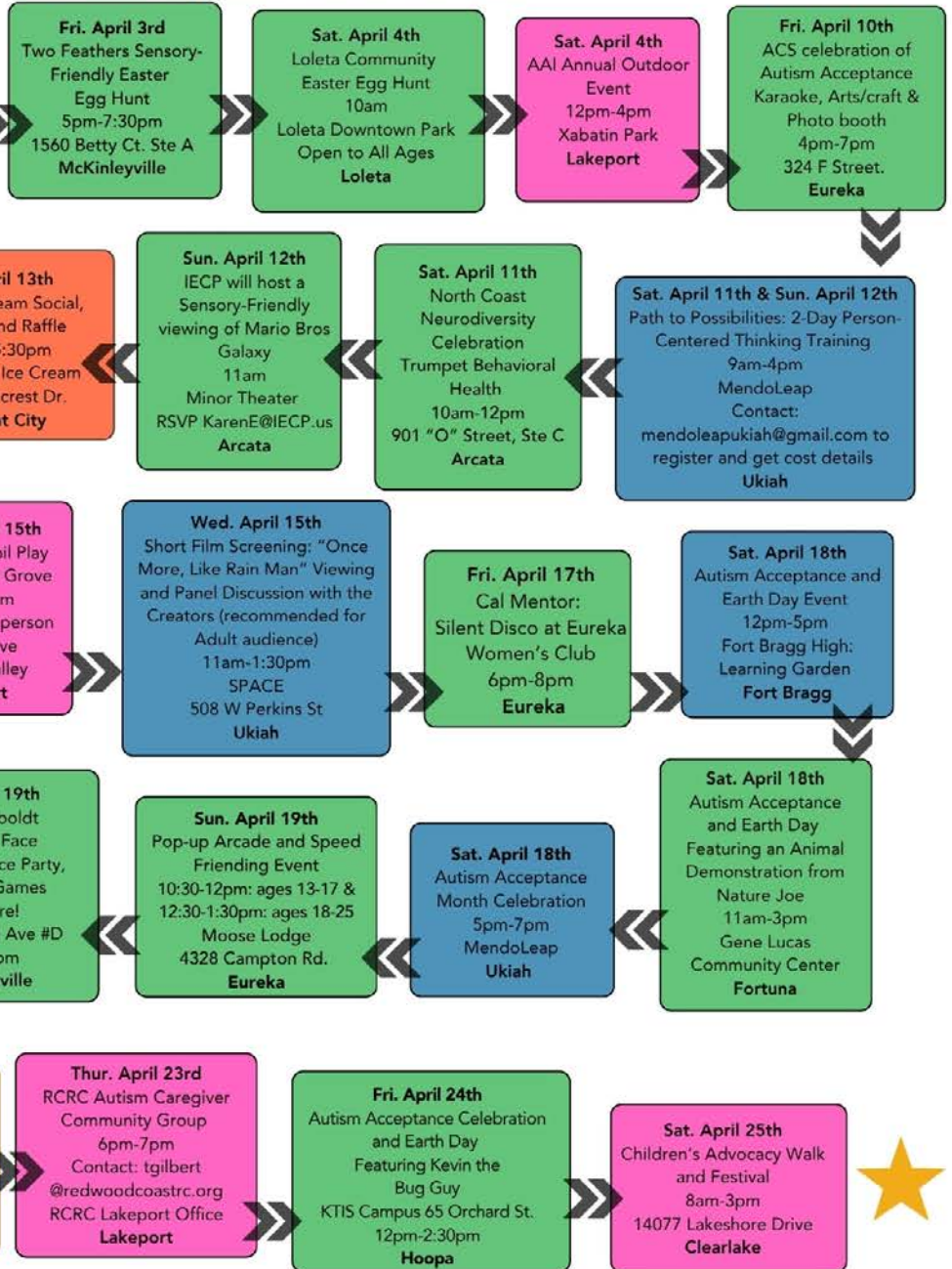
**“Being able to work with my clients, hear their stories and help them reach their goals has been one of the most satisfying experiences in this job.”**



# Autism Acceptance Month

Redwood Coast Regional Center and Community Partners would like to celebrate  
Autism Acceptance Month with you!

April 2026



For more info. contact:

Humboldt/Del Norte Counties: Stephanie Vanlathanith, (707) 445-0893 ext. 348 or [svanlathanith@redwoodcoastrc.org](mailto:svanlathanith@redwoodcoastrc.org)  
Mendocino/Lake Counties: Tierra Gilbert, (707) 462-3832 ext. 212 or [tgilbert@redwoodcoastrc.org](mailto:tgilbert@redwoodcoastrc.org)



Redwood Coast Regional Center  
Respecting Choice in the Redwood Community

# APRIL 2026 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Del Norte

Humboldt

Mendocino

Lake

Virtual

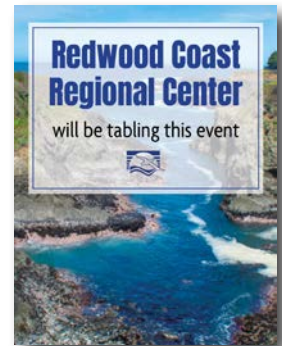
- Please enjoy the following events hosted, sponsored or tabled by Redwood Coast Regional Center. (Click on flyer to enlarge)
- Additional events hosted by community partners can be found on our [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) platforms.

## MULTIPLICITY AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH

**Caregiver Group**

**Wednesday, April 15, 5:00-6:00pm**

Family Resource Center, 494 Pacific Ave., Crescent City



## TWO FEATHERS NAFS

**5th Annual Easter Egg Hunt & Block Party**

**Friday, April 3, 5:00-7:30pm**

1560 Betty Ct., Mckinleyville



## LOLETA COMMUNITY

**Easter Egg Hunt**

**Saturday, April 4, 10:00am**

Loleta Downtown Park

Open to all ages.



## CAL POLY HUMBOLDT

**16th Annual California Indian Big Time Social Gathering**

**Saturday, April 4, 11:00am**

Cal Poly Humboldt Forbes Complex, West Gym, Arcata

For more information, contact ITEPP at 707-826-3672.



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## FIRST 5 HUMBOLDT & XAAEYC

### One Community Many Stories Play Day

Saturday, April 11th 10:00am-1:00pm

Jefferson Community Center, 1000 B St., Eureka



## AUTISM ACCEPTANCE DANCE

### Silent Disco

Friday, April 17th, 6:00-8:00pm

Eureka Woman's Club, 1531 J St., Eureka

Need a ride? Call Peggy at 707-442-4555



## NURTURE + LEAF

### Planting Seeds for the Future - A Family Earth Day Celebration & Community Seed and Plant Swap

Saturday, April 18th 11:00am-3:00pm

Gene Lucas Community Center, 3000 Newburg Rd., Fortuna



## YAI - SEEING BEYOND DISABILITY

### Speed Friending & Kudzu Ataraxia Pop-Up Arcade

Saturday, April 19th

10:30am-12:00pm: Teen Speed Friending (ages 13-17) • 12:00-1:00pm: Pizza & Drinks

12:30-1:30pm Adult Speed Friending (ages 18+) • 10:30am-2:30pm: Pop-Up Arcade

Eureka Moose Lodge, 4328 Campton Rd., Eureka

For more information, contact Wendy White at [Wendy.White@yai.org](mailto:Wendy.White@yai.org)



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## CHANGING TIDES & RCRC

### Discovery Museum

Monday, April 20th, 5:00-7:00pm

For more information, call 707-444-8293 or email [FEC@changingtidesfs.org](mailto:FEC@changingtidesfs.org).



## REDWOOD COAST REGIONAL CENTER

### Autism Acceptance & Earth Day Celebration

Friday, April 24th, 12:00-2:30pm

KTIS campus, 65 Orchard St., Hoopa



## ROUND VALLEY TRIBAL TANF

### Autism Awareness & Child Abuse Prevention Walk

Thursday, April 2nd, 4pm

TANF, 24065 Riffle Rd., Covelo to Round Valley Elementary School, Airport Rd., Covelo



## SPACE

### Short Film Screening, "Once More, Like Rain Man"

Wednesday, April 15th, 11:00am-1:30pm

508 Perkins St., Ukiah

Viewing and Panel Discussion with the Creators. Recommended for Adult audience.



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## NOYO FOOD FOREST'S 17TH ANNUAL

### Earth Day Festival

Saturday, April 18th, 12:00-5:00pm

The Learning Garden, Fort Bragg High School



## MENDO LEAP

### Autism Acceptance Month Celebration

Saturday, April 18th, 5:00-7:00pm

2146 S. State St., Ukiah

For more information call 707-671-4536.



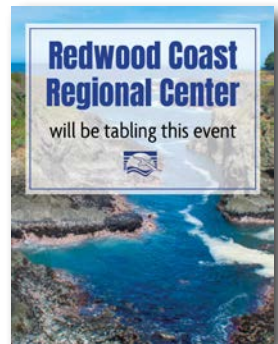
## ABC

### Speed Friending Event

Monday, April 20, 5:00-7:00pm

New Life Community Church, 750 Yosemite Drive, Ukiah

For more information call 707-462-3283.



## MENDO LEAP

### Neurodiversity Night!

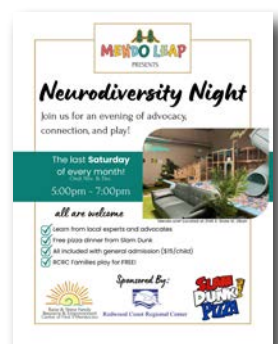
Last Saturday of each month, 5:00-7:00pm

April 25th

2146 S. State St., Ukiah

RCRC families play for FREE!

For more information call 707-671-4536.



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## LAKE COUNTY

### Children's Advocacy Walk and Festival Saturday, April 11th, 10:00am-3:00pm

Library Park, Lakeport

&

### Saturday, April 25th, 10:00am-3:00pm

Austin Park, Clearlake

For more information, visit [lakecoe.org/childabuseprevention](http://lakecoe.org/childabuseprevention)  
RCRC will be tabling this event



## RCRC SPANISH PARENT GROUP

### Attend, Learn, Share!

### 3rd Tuesday of each month, 10:00am

April 21st

RCRC office, 180 3rd St., Lakeport

For more information, contact 707-234-5415.

*This event is in Spanish.*



## REDWOOD COAST REGIONAL CENTER

### Autism Caregiver Community Group

### April 22nd, 1:00pm-2:00pm (Zoom only)

Zoom - Meeting ID: 226 576 792 493 83, Passcode: wi228LH9

&

### April 22nd, 6:00-7:00pm

RCRC, 180 3rd St., Lakeport

For more information, call Tierra at 707-445-0893



## RCRC CLIENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

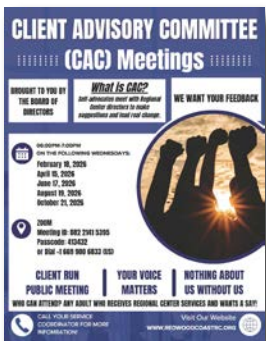
### Client run public meeting

### April 15th, 6:00-7:00pm

Zoom - Meeting ID: 882 2141 5395

Passcode: 413432 or Dial: 1 669 900 6833 (US)

Call your Service Coordinator for more information.





## DISABILITY RIGHTS CALIFORNIA

### Voting Rights Presentation for People with Disabilities

**April 6th, 1:00-3:00pm**

Nice Event Center, 2817 E. Highway 20, Nice

**April 7th, 12:30-2:30pm**

SPACE Performing Arts Center Auditorium, 508 W. Perkins St., Ukiah

**April 8th, 12:30-2:30pm**

Jefferson Community Center, 1000 B St., Eureka

ASL & Spanish Interpretation provided at all presentations.



Voting Rights Presentation  
for People with Disabilities

**VOTE**

Save the date:  
**April 6, 2026 1:00pm – 3:00pm**  
Nice Event Center, 2817 E. Highway 20, Nice, CA 95464

ASL and Spanish Interpretation will be provided.

A voting rights attorney from Disability Rights California will provide a presentation on accessible voting options for people with disabilities. The presentation will include information on conservatorships and voting rights.

**Sponsored by:**

Presented by Paul R. Spencer an attorney from DRC's Voting Rights Practice Group




Voting Rights Presentation  
for People with Disabilities

Save the date:  
**April 7, 2026 12:30 - 2:30 pm**  
SPACE Performing Arts Center Auditorium, 508 W. Perkins St., Ukiah, CA 95482

ASL and Spanish Interpretation will be provided.

A voting rights attorney from Disability Rights California will provide a presentation on accessible voting options for people with disabilities. The presentation will include information on conservatorships and voting rights.

**Sponsored by:**

Presented by Paul R. Spencer an attorney from DRC's Voting Rights Practice Group




Voting Rights Presentation  
for People with Disabilities

Save the date:  
**April 8, 2026 12:30pm – 2:30pm**  
Jefferson Community Center, 1000 B Street, Eureka, CA 95501

ASL and Spanish Interpretation will be provided.

A voting rights attorney from Disability Rights California will provide a presentation on accessible voting options for people with disabilities. The presentation will include information on conservatorships and voting rights.

**Sponsored by:**

Presented by Paul R. Spencer an attorney from DRC's Voting Rights Practice Group



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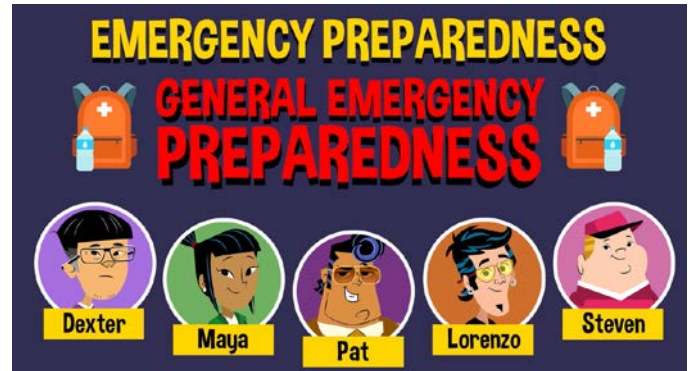
## ARCA'S VOTER VOICE CAMPAIGN

ARCA has launched a new system designed to make it easier for our community to engage and take action on state and federal issues that affect the developmental disabilities system. Personal stories significantly influence the shaping and impact policy. We recognize the power our community holds when we unite for a common cause. ARCA's positions are representative of the needs identified by the regional centers and the communities they serve.

ARCA has introduced Voter Voice, a platform that will allow our community to engage in various campaigns benefiting California's developmental services system. This includes activities such as phone banking, writing letters, connecting with representatives, attending rallies, or simply remaining informed about legislative and budgetary issues.

To get involved, sign up for ARCA's Voter Voice System.

Sign up here: <https://votervoicenet/ARCA/Register>



## LANTERMAN & FRIENDS

### Emergency Preparedness Animations

Launching in March 2026, in honor of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, the latest Lanterman and Friends series brings Mark Hamill (Luke Skywalker, The Joker) into the cast.

The award-winning Lanterman and Friends (L&F) video shorts provide essential information and resources to the more than 525,000 people with I/DD served by California's Regional Centers, and to the million-plus family members and direct service professionals who support them.

The newest L&F 10-episode series focuses on emergency preparation and public safety.

To view the new Lanterman and Friends Animation visit: [Emergency Preparedness](#)

To view all the Lanterman and Friends animated videos visit: [Video Portal](#)

To view the entire Press Release, visit: [Press Release](#)





## REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR THE DISCO AT THE CAPITOL!

Registration is now open for the 19th annual DisCo at the Capitol, California's premier gathering for the disability rights movement. In 2026, as critical policy decisions shape the future of services and supports for more than 500,000 Californians with developmental disabilities, our community is coming together with renewed energy, unity, and purpose.

DisCo at the Capitol is scheduled for May 18 and May 19 in Sacramento, CA and brought to you by The Arc of California, Association of Regional Center Agencies, Easterseals, and United Cerebral Palsy. It promises to be nothing short of extraordinary!

This powerhouse two-day event brings together self-advocates, families, service providers, and policymakers from across the state to connect, learn, and raise our voices for inclusion and opportunity. Whether you're a longtime advocate or new to the movement, DisCo is where relationships are built, stories are shared, and meaningful change begins.

Register: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/cf9wsmm>



## SCDD NATIONAL CORE INDICATORS

### Family Surveys

To participate in the survey, email [QAProject@SCDD.ca.gov](mailto:QAProject@SCDD.ca.gov)

Families will have until the end of June 2026 to complete the surveys and send them back to SCDD.

For more information, email [NCIHelp@dds.ca.gov](mailto:NCIHelp@dds.ca.gov)

## RCRC Newsletter

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## STATEWIDE SELF-DETERMINATION ORIENTATION



Join Us to Learn...

- What is SDP\*
  - How SDP Works
  - The Principles of SDP
  - Steps to Enroll in SDP
  - Key Roles in SDP
  - Your Next Steps
- \* Self-Determination Program

For more Information and Registration

Click the link below:

<https://scdd.ca.gov/sdp-orientation>



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...Are Self-Determined!

Learn if the Self-Determination Program is Right for You!

A CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION WILL BE PROVIDED.  
AN SDP ORIENTATION IS REQUIRED TO ENROLL IN SDP.

## SCDD AND DDS STATEWIDE SELF-DETERMINATION ORIENTATION

Want to learn more?

Contact your Service Coordinator at RCRC or a Participant Choice Manager.

### Participant Choice Managers

Humboldt & Del Norte Counties:

Alex Ostell

(707) 445-0893, ext. 317 or [aostell@redwoodcoastrc.org](mailto:aostell@redwoodcoastrc.org)

Mendocino & Lake Counties:

Sheila Keys

(707) 462-3832, ext. 254 or [SKeys@redwoodcoastrc.org](mailto:SKeys@redwoodcoastrc.org)

## RCRC Newsletter

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### LOCAL & REGIONAL RESOURCES

Find these and many more on our website at:  
<https://redwoodcoastrc.org/resources-hub/local-resources/>



First 5 HUMBOLDT



Redwood Coast Regional Center believes that access to information, supports, and learning is necessary for all people to achieve their life goals.



## Contact Us

Learn more about our services and programs.

## Redwood Coast Regional Center Offices

CONTACT YOUR NEAREST OFFICE FOR ASSISTANCE

### Ukiah Office | Corporate Office

1116 Airport Park Blvd.  
Ukiah, CA 95482  
Phone: (707) 462-3832  
Fax: (707) 462-3314  
*Mendocino County*

### Lakeport Office

180 3rd Street  
Lakeport, CA 95453  
Phone: (707) 262-0470  
Fax: (707) 264-6537  
*Lake County*

### Eureka Office

525 2nd Street, Suite 300  
Eureka, CA 95501  
Phone: (707) 445-0893  
Fax: (707) 444-3409  
*Humboldt County*

**(New office coming soon!)**

### Fort Bragg Office

270 Chestnut Street, Suite A  
Fort Bragg, CA 95437  
Phone: (707) 964-6387  
Fax: (707) 964-0226  
*Mendocino County*

### Clearlake Office

14888 Olympic Dr.  
Clearlake, CA 95422  
Phone: (707) 621-6169  
Fax: (707) 264-6537  
*Lake County*

### Crescent City Office

1301-A Northcrest Drive  
Crescent City, CA 95531  
Phone: (707) 464-7488  
Fax: (707) 465-4230  
*Del Norte County*

## Visit us online

[WWW.REDWOODCOASTRC.ORG](http://WWW.REDWOODCOASTRC.ORG)

 [@REDWOODCOASTREGIONALCENTER](https://www.instagram.com/REDWOODCOASTREGIONALCENTER)

 [@REDWOODCOASTREGIONALCENTER](https://www.facebook.com/REDWOODCOASTREGIONALCENTER)

 [@REDWOODCOASTRC](https://twitter.com/REDWOODCOASTRC)

 [@REDWOODCOASTRC.BSKY.SOCIAL](https://www.bsky.social/REDWOODCOASTRC.BSKY.SOCIAL)



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Respecting Choice in the Redwood Community

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