



COUNTY OF LAKE, CALIFORNIA FEDERAL POLICY PRIORITIES – 2025

Each year, the Lake County Board of Supervisors adopts a set of state and federal policy priorities. For 2025, the Board has designated the following topics as areas of paramount interest and concern to Lake County at the federal level:

- Protecting County-Administered Safety Net Programs and County Revenue
- Wildfire Resilience and Wildfire Insurance
- Public Lands and Forest Management
- Water Reliability
- Funding for Justice and Public Safety Initiatives
- Housing and Homelessness
- Investments in Water and Transportation Infrastructure
- Funding for Key Local Community Projects

To follow is information on several of Lake County's top policy priorities for the 2025 legislative session.

PROTECT THE SAFETY NET FROM DRASTIC CUTS

As lawmakers determine priorities for a potential budget reconciliation package, significant cuts to a wide range of mandatory safety net programs are on the table. As an essential intergovernmental partner, Lake County believes it is imperative Congress protect funding for critically important safety net programs that support low-income families and children.

- **Medicaid/Medi-Cal:** Lake County strongly opposes reductions to Medicaid (Medi-Cal) and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), which is a vital federal-state-local intergovernmental partnership safeguarding the health and wellbeing of millions of residents. Medi-Cal serves 35,461 residents, or 52 percent of the Lake County population. In 2022, the federal government invested more than \$270.1 million in Lake County through Medicaid and CHIP. Cuts to Medicaid – whether through structural changes to its financing, reduced federal reimbursement rates, or new eligibility restrictions – would almost certainly lead to increased costs for the county and jeopardize coverage for thousands of Lake County residents.
- **SNAP/CalFresh:** Lake County opposes changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP/CalFresh) that would reduce participation among eligible households, cut benefits, or impose costly and unnecessary administrative requirements on state and

county agencies tasked with delivering the program. SNAP is a strong and effective tool in the fight against hunger and poverty. Serving 16,785 Lake County residents, 52 percent of whom are children or older adults, SNAP provided an estimated \$36.3 million in federal nutrition benefits to county participants in 2024.

- **TANF/CalWORKs:** Lake County is responsible for administering the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF/CalWORKs), including contributing county funds to support program administration when federal and state funds are insufficient. The program currently serves 548 households, 205 of which are child-only cases, with cash assistance and supportive services to help meet their basic needs while engaging in programming that encourages movement towards self-sufficiency. With demand and costs associated with CalWORKs rising, it is critically important that the federal government continue to pay its full share of the program.

PROVIDE CRITICAL FUNDING FOR DISCRETIONARY PROGRAMS

Along with ensuring entitlement programs remain fully funded and accessible to California residents, Lake County supports critical funding increases to discretionary programs aimed at supporting vulnerable residents in any upcoming FY 2025 appropriations package.

- **Older Americans Act Funding:** The Lake County Area Agency on Aging (AAA) of Lake and Mendocino Counties is housed within the Lake County Social Services Department. The AAA serves a critical function in supporting the county's 18 percent of adults over 60 living in poverty, and, in 2024, served 221,271 meals to provided information and assistance 26,410 times to residents. Due to insufficient federal and state funding, which has not kept pace with the growing demands of our aging population, Lake and Mendocino counties face a \$889,668 shortfall to continue services through June 30, 2025.
- **Early Childhood Education Funding:** Lake County supports increased federal investments in childcare and early learning. The North Coast Opportunities Head Start preschool program currently serves 64 children and their families in Lake County. It is at full capacity with an average annual waiting list of 15 eligible children. We urge Congress to provide additional discretionary funding in FY 2025 and FY 2026 for Head Start/Early Head Start and Child Care and Development Block Grants (CCDBG) so these critical programs can serve all eligible families in the county.

FISCAL YEAR 2026 COMMUNITY PROJECT FUNDING REQUESTS

South Lakeport Regional Water Resiliency & Fire Protection Project

The South Lakeport Regional Water Resiliency & Fire Protection Project is a cooperative intergovernmental effort between the City of Lakeport and County of Lake. The Project proposes to extend City of Lakeport municipal water service to a currently unserved County of Lake

jurisdictional corridor along South Main Street to Soda Bay Road, terminating at Manning Creek, and includes a crucial loop line going west under Highway 29 to connect with an existing main on Parallel Drive. Spanning approximately 8,000 linear feet of water main, 58 two-inch services, 16 hydrants, and 4 fire services, the Project aims to significantly enhance regional water infrastructure and resiliency. The Project also presents future opportunities for cooperative efforts between the Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians Tribe and County of Lake Special Districts, setting the stage for a consolidated and robust regional water system. *(\$6,166,500 federal request)*

Reentry Housing and Workforce Development

The County's Reentry Housing and Workforce Development Project seeks funding to develop individual living space for at least 20 justice-involved individuals and engage those eligible in local workforce development initiatives, potentially including North Coast Opportunities' (NCO) BUILD and Home Hardening programs. To date, \$5,000,000 in Community Corrections Partnership funds have been dedicated to this Project; all told, the project cost is anticipated to be \$24,000,000. This Project is supported by the Lakeport Police Department, Lake Family Resource Center, and NCO. *(\$5,000,000 federal request)*

Lake County Healthcare Education Innovation and Simulation Center

Lake County's Education and Simulation Center is a planned \$8.75 million workforce development facility near Sutter Lakeside Hospital. It includes three components: SPARK, offering 4th–8th graders healthcare career exposure through simulations, tours, workshops, and mentorships; a healthcare career pathway for high school students and adults, integrating CTE (Career and Technical Education) programs, work experience, adult training, and professional development; and, community outreach, featuring CPR/parenting classes, collaboration space for partners, and health resources. Sutter Health has committed to a 10-year lease. Partners include all Lake County school districts, medical systems, adult education institutions, workforce organizations, and local government. Funding includes: \$200,000 from Redwood K16 Collaborative for CTE curriculum; \$500,000 annually (plus \$100,000 in-kind) from Konocti Unified School District for CTE programs/staffing and applications for \$964,573 (Redwood Region Rise Catalyst Fund); \$1.5 million (Sutter Health CHNA Workforce Development Grant); and, future EDA Economic Adjustment Assistance support. *(\$3,000,000 federal request)*