Arcata Economic Development Corporation (AEDC) Small Business Lending Center was created in 1978 to help grow the economy in the city of Arcata. AEDC’s mission is to provide loans and support to entrepreneurial, innovative business and community endeavors in Humboldt, Del Norte, Lake, Mendocino, Siskiyou, and Trinity Counties. Today, AEDC serves northern California by providing capital to business borrowers who lack access to traditional financing. The organization has played a significant role in the economic development of rural communities. Its work has included building a Foodworks Culinary Center for a growing specialty food industry, managing grant programs for wood products, specialty agriculture, and the tourism industry. AEDC’s products and services include SBA mini-loans, SBA 504 loans, Prosperity Scholarship Individual Development Program Account Programs, commercial loans, and providing lines of credit.

Success Story: Cypress Grove Chevre, Arcata, CA

When Mary Keehn wanted to purchase property for a new facility for her goat cheese manufacturing business, she discovered that despite continued growth, her business wasn’t eligible for a loan from a traditional bank. An SBA 504 loan from AEDC has enabled her to build a new facility—and increase her staff from 18 to 50 workers. “AEDC allowed us to grow the way we were already growing. You can’t do it without money,” said Mary Keehn.