

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
Between the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments and the Sierra Business
Council / Eastern Sierra Business Resource Center
Regarding Implementation of the Sierra Jobs First Business Catalyst Program

This Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") is entered into as of this ____ day of _____, 2025, by and between the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments (ESCOG), a regional joint powers authority, and the Sierra Business Council / Eastern Sierra Business Resource Center (SBC/ESBRC), a nonprofit economic development organization, hereinafter referred to collectively as "the Parties."

I. Purpose

The purpose of this MOU is to delineate the roles and responsibilities of the Parties in the implementation of the Sierra Jobs First Business Catalyst Program, a regional initiative designed to support entrepreneurship, small business development, and workforce readiness in the Eastern Sierra region.

II. Roles and Responsibilities

A. Sierra Business Council / Eastern Sierra Business Resource Center (SBC/ESBRC) shall:

1. Program Development & Delivery

- Develop the scope and curriculum for two Youth Entrepreneur Pitch Camps.
- Identify and coordinate with appropriate consultants to contract directly with the ESCOG for providing up to 60 hours of technical assistance to regional small businesses and entrepreneurs.
- Host and deliver two live business development workshops per month throughout the duration of the program.

2. Strategic Capacity Building

- Assess and identify capacity to establish a Construction Trades Mentorship Program.
- Develop internal and regional capacity to establish an Angel Investor Network to support early-stage entrepreneurs and businesses.
- Assist in the creation of a Financial Sustainability Plan for the long-term operations of the Eastern Sierra Business Resource Center.

3. Contract & Financial Administration

- Manage consultant contracts, including procurement, execution, and oversight.

Attachment A

- Prepare all invoices, financial documentation, and programmatic reporting required for reimbursement in accordance with funding agreements and timelines.

B. Eastern Sierra Council of Governments (ESCOG) shall:

1. Funding & Payment

- Provide payment for services and reimbursements to 3rd party providers pursuant to the terms of the agreement(s) between ESCOG and those providers.

2. Strategic Guidance

- Offer strategic input to inform program development and delivery, with specific focus on:
 - Forestry and Fire – restoration, mitigation, and fuels treatment;
 - Natural Resource Management – alternative energy solutions and desert ecosystem preservation;
 - Sustainable Recreation – including trail construction, outdoor tourism, and supporting infrastructure;
 - Environmental Science – planning, problem-solving, and consulting to address regional environmental challenges.

III. Term and Termination

This MOU shall become effective upon execution by both Parties and remain in effect until _____, unless amended or terminated in writing by mutual consent of both Parties. Either Party may terminate this MOU with thirty (30) days written notice to the other Party.

IV. Amendments

This MOU may be amended only by mutual written agreement of the Parties.

V. General Provisions

- Nothing in this MOU shall be construed as creating a legal partnership or joint venture between the Parties.
- The Parties agree to work collaboratively and in good faith to achieve the goals outlined in this MOU.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have executed this Memorandum of Understanding as of the date first above written.

EASTERN SIERRA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (ESCOG)

By: _____

Name:

Attachment A

Title:

Date:

**SIERRA BUSINESS COUNCIL / EASTERN SIERRA BUSINESS RESOURCE
CENTER (SBC/ESBRC)**

By: _____

Name:

Title:

Date: