



Technical Advisory Council

Item 9: Case Study – Healthy Soils Program

August 22, 2025

Introduction

In 2023, the Siskiyou Economic Development Council (SEDC) was awarded \$5 million from the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) to administer their Healthy Soils Block Grant Pilot Program.

This program gives funding directly to Siskiyou County agriculture producers to implement healthy soils practices on their operations. With emergency drought regulations still in effect in Siskiyou, this program is especially timely in mitigating effects from potential early season curtailments. Healthy, resilient, and sustainable soil practices are the foundation of successful land stewardship.

CDFA Healthy Soils Program

The CDFA Healthy Soils Program (HSP) opened in 2017 as part of an inter-Agency effort, to assist farmers and ranchers financially as they incorporated new sustainable agricultural practices into their systems. The Program has found increasing support over the years, as farmers' experiences and scientific studies have underlined the importance of soil health and its usefulness as a framework for adoption of sustainable practices.

The Healthy Soils Program Block Grant Pilot is part of HSP and is designed to facilitate financial assistance to California agricultural operations through regional block grant administrators.