

**Susan Seaman  
Program Director  
Arcata Economic Development Corporation**

Susan Seaman is the program director for Arcata Economic Development Corporation, an organization whose mission is to provide loans and support to entrepreneurial, innovative business and community endeavors in Humboldt, Del Norte, Mendocino, Lake, Siskiyou and Trinity Counties in Northern California. AEDC currently administers direct loans from the AEDC Revolving Loan Fund, USDA Revolving Loan Fund, Headwaters Fund, Rabobank EQ2 and SBA Microloans. AEDC also provides underwriting and servicing for loans, including CDBG business loans and the SBA 504 Program. Recently, AEDC has become a leader in pulling together local funders to invest in large community development projects.

Seaman has been with AEDC for nine years, working in community outreach and managing programs like the youth entrepreneurship program Lemonade Day, and the Prosperity Individual Development Account (IDA) Scholarship, an education and savings-match program for low to moderate income business owners. She has been active in creating the county's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy and in a regional group of collaborative economic development professionals called the Prosperity Network. Currently, she sits on the City of Eureka's Economic Development Commission. She is passionate about youth entrepreneurship, planning and development that makes sense for the next generation, and finding ways to allow for more local investment.

Seaman has lived and worked in Humboldt County for 25 years with her husband, Richard. She has two children, ages 19 and 21. She became interested in small business when she and her husband owned a general store in a rural community, which drove home the important role business plays in the fabric of a community.

"After nearly 20 years of working with non-profits, for important and valuable causes, I never felt as relevant to the lives of people as when we served them through our business. It was as fulfilling as any charity work I've ever done," she said.

Seaman was a graduate from Humboldt State University majoring in journalism with an emphasis in public relations. Prior to working in economic development, she worked for a library foundation and a local public television affiliate. One of her favorite accomplishments was winning a Trolley Award from Fred Rogers for her outreach work around his program, Mister Rogers' Neighborhood.