

Craig Schlatter, AICP



Craig Schlatter, AICP, is the Director of Community Development at the City of Ukiah, overseeing a multi-faceted department and team of professionals in planning, building, housing, grants management, fire prevention, code enforcement, and business licensing services, as well as co-leading the City's economic development efforts. Since starting with the City seven years ago, notable projects for Craig have included completion of the Ukiah 2040 General Plan, development and implementation of the City's Housing Strategy and Housing Element, and facilitation of multiple zoning code text amendments and department operational changes to streamline permitting processes and incentivize new development. Partly due to these efforts, in 2023 the City of Ukiah received HCD's ProHousing Designation.

In the 10 years prior to Craig's work at the City, he worked for the Mendocino County Community Development Commission, specializing in affordable housing, sustainability, and community and economic development planning and programming. While in this role, Craig facilitated the Revitalizing Business Investment and Lending Development ("ReBILD") program, a business lending program designed and launched in 2010 to increase the flow of private investment to small businesses in Ukiah following the housing market lending crisis. The program has remained in existence for the last 13 years.

Craig grew up on a corn and soybean farm in Central Illinois, and after serving a four-year tour of duty in the U.S. Marine Corps, completed a Bachelor's Degree in Economics at Illinois State University and started a nonprofit music school for low-income youth. Craig then returned to Illinois State University, completing a Master's Degree in Economics/Community and Economic Development Sequence and serving as a Fellow with the Stevenson Center for Community and Economic Development, focusing in housing and community and economic development policy development and research.

Craig has long been a champion of rural communities, especially related to furthering the equitable access of resources to these communities, and currently serves as the Chair of CALED's Rural Exchange. Given the multitude of challenges facing the world today, Craig believes that rural communities may be uniquely positioned to develop innovative and practical solutions to these challenges.