

our mission

New Economy, Working Solutions (NEWS) was established in 2002 to raise the living standards of low and moderate-income families in the North Bay* and to promote greater equity and fairness in the regional economy through policy research, public education, leadership training, and community organizing.

NEWS is committed to building a regional economy that ensures economic opportunity for all and provides access to good jobs, public transit, a healthy environment, affordable housing and comprehensive, affordable, health care.

* The North Bay of the Greater San Francisco Bay Area includes Marin, Sonoma, Mendocino, and Napa counties.



(707) 545-7349 x221
FAX (707) 578-7930
P. O. Box 6298
Santa Rosa, CA 95406

www.neweconomynorthbay.org

our board

Michael Allen, President, North Bay Labor Council, Board member, North Bay Consensus Council, and former General Manager SEIU Local 707

Steven Benjamin, Field Representative and Labor liaison for Noreen Evans, California State Legislature, 7th Assembly District, IBEW Local 551, and Sonoma County Workforce Investment Board

Martin Bennett, Instructor of History, SRJC and Board Chair, NEWS; Executive Board, North Bay Labor Council, and Board member, Sonoma County Conservation Action

Susan Gorin, League of Women Voters, Santa Rosa Planning Commission, and Concerned Citizens for Santa Rosa

John Hadzess, Manager, Valley Oak Park Low Income Housing in Santa Rosa, Civil Service Commissioner, County of Sonoma and retired Director of Organizing, Northern California Carpenters Regional Council.

Rick Theis, Board Chair and Founder, Leadership Institute for Ecology and Economy and past Chair, Sonoma County Land Use and Transportation Coalition

Dr. Francisco Vazquez, Professor, Hutchins School of Liberal Studies, Sonoma State University, Director of the Hutchins Institute for Public Policy Studies and Community Action, and Director, College Assistance for Migrant Programs and Education



(707) 545-7349 x221
FAX (707) 578-7930
P. O. Box 6298
Santa Rosa, CA 95406

www.neweconomynorthbay.org



living wage

affordable housing

accountable development

worker organizing

popular education

**economic
opportunity
for all**



what we do

NEWS develops new public policy initiatives that promote economic opportunity and shared prosperity.

NEWS creates partnerships between government, business, labor, education, environmental and community organizations to develop new strategy and policy initiatives.

NEWS conducts policy research to support legislation, organizing, and disseminate the results to elected officials, the media, and the public at large.

NEWS promotes regional, Smart Growth planning which addresses the economic equity concerns of low-income, new immigrant, and communities of color.

NEWS builds community-labor alliances to support worker organizing and economic equity policy.

our publications

Affordable Housing for All: Solutions to Sonoma County's Affordable Housing Crisis, Nari Rhee, Ph.D. Candidate, U.C. Berkeley, March 2003

Mendocino County At the Crossroads: The Crisis of Affordable Housing, Marci Harris, M.P.P., U.C. Berkeley, September 2003

The Limits of Prosperity: Growth, Inequality, and Poverty in the North Bay, Nari Rhee, Ph.D. Candidate, U.C. Berkeley, Dan Acland, M.P.P., U.C. Berkeley, March 2005

All reports can be downloaded at: www.neweconomynorthbay.org, or are available for purchase in published form from NEWS. Contact 707-545-7349 x221 for more information.

our programs & successes

Living Wage:

The Living Wage Coalition of Sonoma County (LWC) is a project of NEWS organized to introduce ordinances to most cities and counties in the region and to build community-labor alliances. The City of Sebastopol (2003) and the City of Sonoma (2004) have subsequently passed living wage ordinances. The ordinances and other information about the LWC is available at www.livingwagesonoma.org.

Affordable Housing:

Collaborating with environmentalists and housing advocates, NEWS has and continues to lobby for new affordable housing policy such as "jobs-housing linkage fees," inclusionary zoning, and a housing trust with a dedicated source of public financing. As a result, the City of Petaluma (2003), Sebastopol (2004), and the County of Sonoma (2005) have implemented jobs-housing linkage fees.

Published *Affordable Housing for All: Solutions to Sonoma County's Affordable Housing Crisis* which analyzes the housing crisis in Sonoma County and provides new policy to address the crisis (March 2003).

Published *Mendocino County At the Crossroads: The Crisis of Affordable Housing*, which analyzes the housing crisis in Mendocino County and provides new policy to address the crisis (September 2003).

Accountable Development:

Organized the Sonoma County Accountable Development Coalition to educate the public and lobby elected officials to support the responsible use of public subsidies to create good jobs with benefits, as well as smart growth and green building principles. The living wage and 'card-check/neutrality' provisions negotiated for the hotel workers at the Petaluma Sheraton by the LWC and North Bay Labor Council in 2000 are an example of public subsidy accountability.

Published *The Limits of Prosperity: Growth, Inequality, and Poverty in the North Bay*, which examines income-inequality and working poverty in the North Bay and outlines a comprehensive policy agenda including living wage and accountable development (March 2005). All reports can be downloaded at: www.neweconomynorthbay.org.

Support for Worker Organizing:

Documenting and supporting union organizing campaigns by low-wage and immigrant workers in nursing homes, health care, construction, municipal services, waste disposal, and other industries. Sonoma nursing-home workers at the Sonoma Valley Health Care Center and Santa Rosa Rosa parking-lot attendants successfully unionized with our support.

Organized the Sonoma Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice to educate and mobilize the faith community on economic justice issues.

Popular Education:

Organizing and co-sponsoring the annual North Bay Labor and Social Action School at Sonoma State University in collaboration with the North Bay Labor Council and other labor, environmental, religious, Latino, and community organizations.

Developing a workers education and leadership development program (WELD) for workers and residents impacted by living wage ordinances or involved with union organizing.



(707) 545-7349 x221

FAX (707) 578-7930

P. O. Box 6298

Santa Rosa, CA 95406

www.neweconomynorthbay.org