



MEET
LAUREN
COOPER

CEDA OFFICE AND LOAN
SUPPORT SPECIALIST

Lauren Cooper joined CEDA in May 2026 as an Office and Loan Support Specialist. She supports CEDA's day-to-day operations, loan programs, and a variety of projects and initiatives across the organization.

Lauren earned her BS in Business Administration from LCSC in 2025, where she was the inaugural recipient of the Outstanding Leadership & Service Award. Before joining CEDA, she spent nearly four years with the North Central Idaho Small Business Development Center as a Junior Business Consultant, gaining hands-on experience supporting entrepreneurs and small businesses throughout the region.

Outside of work, Lauren enjoys tending to her plants, taking on new creative projects, and spending time with friends and family.



BECOME A PARTNER

Join us! As a CEDA partner, you join community and industry leaders in strengthening the economic conditions and quality of life in north central Idaho moving the region forward.



LEARN MORE



9,491 HOURS Invested in stewarding public lands and building leadership skills.

YOUTH MAKING A DIFFERENCE
CLEARWATER BASIN YOUTH CONSERVATION CORPS

This summer, CEDA wrapped up its 6th year managing the youth workforce development program, **Clearwater Basin Youth Conservation Corps**. Six crews were based in Grangeville, Kooskia (2), Pierce, Potlatch, and Orofino.

The program engaged six adult crew leads, and 26 high school-aged students from rural areas across the region. Participants earned wages while completing vital public lands stewardship projects, learning from natural resource professionals, and building collaboration, management, and leadership skills. They invested a total of 9,491 hours of service.

A big thank-you to our partners, **US Forest Service, US Army Corps of Engineers, National Park Service, Idaho Firewise**, and the **Nez Perce Tribe**, for making this program possible.



BE MY NEIGHBOR DAY
BUILDING A STRONG EARLY CHILDHOOD FOUNDATION

The **Clearwater Regional Early Learning Collaborative (CRELC)** joined more than 20 family-service partners at Lapwai High School on August 1, 2026 for *Be My Neighbor Day*, hosted by Idaho PBS and Prairie River Library District.

The family-friendly event promoted early childhood education, health, safety, and the values celebrated by *Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood* and *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood*. Families enjoyed games, hands-on activities and community resources. With support from the **Idaho Association for the Education of Young Children (IAEYC)**, every child visiting the CRELC table received early learning play kits.

Launched through an IAEYC grant and managed by CEDA, CRELC works to build a strong early childhood foundation by engaging families, educators, community members, and local organizations to support future learners and workers.

BUILDING the Region

BUSINESS FINANCING

Introducing RISE:
A New Loan Program

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Working to Improve and
Strengthen North Central Idaho

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

Partnering to Strengthen
Leadership in Our Region

YOUTH IN ACTION

Clearwater Basin Youth
Conservation Corps

FALL 2026

WWW.CLEARWATER-EDA.ORG



Photos (left to right): Potlatch city pool; Craigmont recreation court (top); Cottonwood well (bottom left); St. Mary's Hospital staff (bottom right).

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CEDA-ASSISTED PROJECTS

Construction wrapped up on five projects this past year, including the **Elk City** water tower, **Cottonwood** well and water tank improvements, **Potlatch** city pool renovation, **Craigmont** recreation court, and **St. Mary's Hospital** electrical improvements. Projects Underway or in Planning:

OROFINO: Downtown Revitalization *WORK HAS BEGUN*

KOOSKIA: New Restrooms in the Kooskia City Park

WEIPPE & PIERCE: Park Improvement Projects

PECK: Water System Needs

DEARY: Downtown Revitalization

TROY: New Senior Center

MOSCOW: Kenworthy Performing Arts Exterior

Renovation

NEW SENIOR CENTER

The Friendly Seniors of Troy organization acquired property on Troy's main street last year, and fundraising is progressing. The seniors received a \$100,000 anonymous donation, and Troy Recreation District is committing \$100,000. CEDA is helping them pull it all together. The seniors will select an architect and make plans to work with the City of Troy on a Community Development Block Grant. This kind of team effort is what can make big visions possible.

WATER IMPROVEMENTS

CEDA has been involved with Peck from the start, planning for badly needed improvements to its water system. CEDA advised the city on steps needed to secure DEQ planning funds and procure an engineering firm. The city is moving forward with a water master plan and a process to secure funding.

BUILDING RENOVATION

Partnering with the Kenworthy Performing Arts Center in Moscow, CEDA sponsored and received a \$25,000 USDA Rural Business Development Grant. Kenworthy Performing Arts Center will use the funds to complete an exterior renovation design plan. Kenworthy Performing Arts Center is also raising funds to complete the construction using the completed plan. The Kenworthy Performing Arts Center has been a downtown anchor for decades, contributing to the cultural and economic vitality of Moscow.

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP & RECREATION INITIATIVES

PARTNERSHIPS THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE

CEDA partnered with **Clearwater County Economic Development** (CCED) and Susan Jacobson on initiatives that strengthen community leadership, partnerships, and opportunities throughout Clearwater County.

Orofino Community Leadership Program, led by **Rural Development Initiatives** in partnership with CCED, helps residents build leadership skills, identify community assets, develop partnerships, and turn ideas into action. Participants also receive seed funding and ongoing support for community projects.

In 2025, CCED was selected from approximately 200 applicants nationwide for **Recreation Economy for Rural Communities** planning assistance, which helps rural communities strengthen outdoor recreation economies and Main Street communities. The process engaged more than 30 local residents and stakeholders and resulted in a community action plan identifying opportunities to strengthen Clearwater County's recreation economy.

These efforts support several goals in CEDA's recently adopted 2025–30 **Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy** (CEDS) for north central Idaho. CEDA is proud to support our partner CCED and local leadership, showcase community assets, and create opportunities for Clearwater County's future.



CEDA BUSINESS FINANCING

SUPPORTING RURAL ENTREPRENEURS

CEDA offers alternative financing to small businesses and startups in north central Idaho that do not qualify for conventional financing. We partner with local banks and credit unions, relying on referrals and supporting borrowers as they work toward traditional financing.

RISE
LOAN FUND
REVITALIZATION INVESTMENT FOR
SMALL ENTERPRISES



LEARN MORE
ABOUT RISE

CEDA is introducing **Revitalization Investment for Small Enterprises (RISE)**, a new microloan program designed to support storefront improvements and community revitalization. Improvements may include windows and doors, paint and siding, masonry, lighting, landscaping, interior storefront improvements, security upgrades, and design services. The program features a straightforward application process, below-market interest rates, and an owner match requirement. RISE is intended to help small businesses and nonprofits improve the appearance, functionality, and safety of their properties while contributing to commercial district enhancement.

Through lending, partnerships, technical assistance, and flexible financing solutions, CEDA works to support the growth and long-term success of rural businesses and communities throughout north central Idaho. For more information, contact Randy Lybyer at rlbyyer@clearwater-eda.org or visit www.clearwater-eda.org.



OUR MISSION

CEDA helps north central Idaho business and communities by acting as a conduit to needed resources.

OUR VISION

As the collective voice for north central Idaho, CEDA provides leadership and guidance in developing communities, diversifying the economy and creating prosperity.

BOARD MEMBERS

Mike Tornatore, Chair, Lewis County
Victoria Scalise, Vice Chair, YWCA
Mitch Reggear, Clearwater County
Ted Lindsley, Idaho County
Tony Johnson, Latah County
Joe Gish, Nez Perce County
Mark Losh, Lewis-Clark Valley Chamber
Jenny Ford, Idaho Central Credit Union
Steve Greenfield, US Bank
Joe Coghill, Zions Bank
Ryan Smathers, City of Orofino
David Brown, City of Potlatch
Keith Holcomb, City of Cottonwood
Bryan Moree, City of Lewiston
Bruce Larson, Northwest Intermountain Manufacturing Association
Nikoli Greene, Nez Perce Tribe
Elizabeth Bullers, University of Idaho
Doug Cruthirds, Lewis-Clark State College

CEDA TEAM

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