

Community Coordinator Report

Sierra County

OCTOBER – DECEMBER
2015

Sierra County Temporary Job Creation (TJC) Workers Benefit from Extension

In July Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) received National Emergency Grant (NEG) funds to recruit temporary workers to assist public and non-profit entities with drought related projects. These positions were open to individuals who had been laid off or had hours reduced due to drought conditions or having been unemployed 15 out of the last 26 weeks and living in a drought affected area. Several Sierra County job seekers were placed with the City of Portola for this project.

TJC workers have been working hard in creating drought efficient landscaping around County and Public facilities. They are removing unwanted scrubs, noxious weeds, and dead vegetation for the fire prevention plan. The crew has been assisting in preparing parks and county facilities for winter conditions.



Good Job Sierra Crew!!

November 2015 Employment Snapshot

Sierra County
Unemployment Rates
(Unadjusted)

Sierra
6.6%

Labor Force
1,490

People Employed
1,390

People Unemployed
100

**Source California Employment
Development Department*

Labor Market Information Division

When you want a job, you can find a job That's Our Rachel

Rachel Lapp was utilizing the computer lab and the employment board at the Sierra County Business & Career Network (BCN). In discussions with her Career Center Adviser (CCA), Rachel stated that it had been over seven years since her last pay check. She had been volunteering at some local places in need of help, such as the Senior Thrift Store and the Food Bank. Due to the economic situation in her area, she has not been able to find self-sufficient employment. Rachel was referred to the National Emergency Grant – Temporary Job Creation (NEG-TJC) Drought program to see if she might be suitable. Due to her long term unemployment and other eligibility factors, she was found to be eligible for the NEG-TJC program. Rachel stated that this job came through at just the right time, as she was not sure what was going to happen if she did not find employment soon. She knew that this job opportunity would be temporary, but she now is more hopeful that she will find full time employment.

Rachel is very grateful to the City of Portola for providing this temporary job and the NEG-TJC grant that was available to fund it. Rachel had applied for a position with Sierra County and as luck would have it, in the middle of September she was granted an interview with the county. Rachel gave notice to the City of Portola on Sept 30th and October 5th she started her new position as a Gate Attendant/Laborer with the Sierra County Refuse. Her new job is near her home and she can ride her bike or even walk. She stated, "It's great, no gasoline bill!"



AFWD America's Job Center of California Statistics

Sierra County Visitors
181

AFWD Business Services

Business Served	731
Service Provided	3,383
Positions Filled	797
Training Assistance	88

Program Services **Total enrollments**

Adult	127
Dislocated Worker	100
Youth	40
Employed	136

Unemployment Rate

Butte	6.7%	Nevada	5.2%
Lassen	6.9%	Plumas	9.9%
Modoc	8.1%	Sierra	6.6%

Send It By United States Postal Service

Kate Graves



Kathryn Graves (Kate) came in to the Sierra Business and Career Network (BCN) in August 2014 to utilize the computer lab for job search and at that time discussed her current situation. She explained that she had been laid off from her recent job for economic reasons. Through conversation with a Career Center Advisor (CCA), Kate stated that she was a trained Veterinarian Technician and was thinking of expanding that career but was open to other options. Kate was keen to find fulltime employment before she exhausted her unemployment benefits.

At that time, the CCA provided Kate with an orientation of services available for Adults and Dislocated Workers at the Sierra County Business & Career Network (BCN) through Alliance for Workforce Development (AFWD). Soon after, Kate was assessed and enrolled as a Dislocated Worker and started services. As a client, Kate received skill assessments and participated in job readiness workshops.

Although she turned in many applications and had several interviews, Kate was unable to find any Veterinarian Technician positions. It was determined that she should look into other types of employment opportunities to broaden her chances of finding employment. At the beginning of 2015 she enrolled in a few free online courses to improve her Microsoft Office Suite knowledge and updated her typing skills. She had a history of some office experience, but Kate thought it would improve her chances in obtaining a job.

With guidance and support from her CCA Kate diligently continued to apply for many office positions including one at the Local Post Office. After a lot of hard work and effort, she came in and announced that she had been hired by the United States Postal Service and was starting in the fall of 2015. Kate is now working at two post offices. One located in Loyalton and the other located in Chilcoot with a sustainable wage and health benefits. She could not be more ecstatic! Her patience and perseverance really paid off. Great things come to those who work hard for it.

Good job Kate.....Congratulations!

This Quarter's Success Story

Youth on the Rise! Amanda Gibson

Amanda is an individual who had never held a "genuine" job. When she came into the Sierra Business and Career Network (BCN) office in July it was learned that she had been making money by babysitting family and friends' children and how much she enjoyed that field. Amanda stated she liked working with children and she also liked to help people. She had applied at the local child day care facilities, but did not receive any response. After discussing with her the youth program and the tools it could provide to her, Amanda was very interested in participating and was assessed and enrolled.



Pam Filippini, Director of Toddler Towers, a local child day care facility, had contacted the Sierra office looking for an individual who might be interested in child care work. This was a opportunity for an On-the-Job (OJT) for Amanda.



In August Sierra County BCN staff were able to get everyone together to meet and discuss the details of the OJT program. Pam and Amanda were interested and on board to start the On the Job Training program. A start date of late August was determined and Amanda was eager to start her this new career path. It has been over three months and Amanda has had three evaluations with constantly improving in her training. When discussing her development with Amanda's mentors and Pam they all agreed that she is doing very well and was an excellent match for Toddler Towers.

Amanda has decided on a career in Child Counseling and Social Work, preferably in foster care or adoption. After applying for the (FAFSA), Amanda registered at Feather River College to start her education in Early Childhood Development. She has done such an amazing job and really put a lot of effort into educating herself on what she wants to do for the rest of her life. Amanda's OJT will be finished at the end of the year and she will continue working 20 hours a week at Toddler Towers while she attends her classes. Congratulations Amanda! Job well done!

