THANK YOU!

Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. would like to extend a huge THANK YOU to our businesses, organizations, and community partners for the support this past year. Our programs and partnerships provide employment opportunities for residents and educational training programs towards career pathways. This supports our local economy, improves lives, and helps the business community thrive.
HEALTHCARE HEROES VIRTUAL HIRING EVENT

As hospitals and clinics fully open, the need for staffing is increasing across the county. Healthcare facilities in rural communities are having a difficult time reaching job seekers due to the restrictions brought on by Covid-19. To meet this growing need of healthcare professionals in our local rural communities, Alliance for Workforce Development (AFWD) held the Healthcare Heroes Virtual Hiring Event on April 20, 2021.

The online event encompassed Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta and Siskiyou counties with 12 healthcare facilities and over 82 job seekers signing on to participate. There were a variety of job openings from medical positions, housekeeping, administrative, and maintenance. The full range of openings allowed participants the opportunity to explore many options in the healthcare field.

Job seekers could enter a virtual booth and begin chatting with recruiters directly. Participants typically want to understand not only the type of openings, but the culture of the firm as well. By talking with hiring managers and department staff, participants have the chance to chat in a relaxed atmosphere. The Virtual Hiring event platform is easy to navigate and job seekers can go quickly from one “booth” to another. Carolina Martin, an LVN student exclaimed “This was a great experience. The format was easy and just by clicking a few buttons I was chatting with potential hiring staff.”

Gemma Prado, just arrived in Plumas County and had never attended an online hiring event. She commented “This was so easy to explore my career options in this beautiful town. The recruiters were so helpful and nice. One even set me up with an interview after the event.”

Hospital staff were on hand at their booths to answer questions about department positions and also the firm’s culture. The recruiters were grateful to have this platform to safely and easily meet qualified job seekers. Several comments made by the recruiters included that this type of job fair gave them a lot more “foot” traffic than a standard in-person job fair.

Samantha Nelson, HR Coordinator from Plumas District Hospital said, “This is a great way to let people know about our hospital. We were able to talk to several candidates and set up interviews. We hope to hire from this event.”

Recruiters and staff alike spoke very favorably about this event, giving high marks for reaching many job seekers in a challenging market. After following up a couple months after the event, AFWD Business Services Representatives spoke with those same healthcare recruiters and it was discovered that there were several positions filled as a direct result of the Healthcare Heroes Virtual Hiring Event. AFWD is once again at the forefront of meeting the challenges of this new environment.
Emily had been working two part time jobs when she came into Alliance For Workforce Development (AFWD). She was working as a Customer Service Representative at a local sporting store and as a Kennel Tech at the local Animal Shelter. A friend told her about AFWD so she came in to look for full time employment that would include benefits. Although Emily’s past employment was mainly customer service she has always been interested in seeking employment in some capacity of law enforcement. The Career Center Advisor (CCA) told her of a job opening with the Plumas County Sheriffs office as a Dispatcher and she felt that would be a great start, working in the Public Safety Sector.

Emily applied for a full time 911 Dispatcher position with the Plumas County Sheriff’s office. She had taken the required test to start the interview process and passed it. They then set up an interview with her and although they liked Emily and were interested in hiring her, they felt she needed extensive training due to her lack of hands on specific dispatching experience. The CCA asked the Business Services Representative (BSR) to reach out to the Sheriff’s Office to discuss the possibility of doing an On-The-Job Training (OJT). The Sheriff’s Office felt it would be a good idea to do an OJT, as they thought Emily would be a good fit for their office, but was concerned with her lack of experience in this field. Emily was enrolled into the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Adult program and worked with both her CCA and the Sheriff’s Office to put together an employment plan that would provide Emily with the skills and knowledge required to become a successful 911 Dispatcher in the Public Safety Sector.

Emily completed her OJT and was able to work in the Dispatch office completely on her own. She was a very quick and eager learner. Emily loves her job and fits in well with her co-workers. She is so thankful for the opportunity that the OJT through AFWD and WIOA, has afforded her. Emily feels that she has been given an excellent chance to work in a position she loves, while helping to keep the public safe. Emily’s supervisor says that “Emily is a real pleasure and they are lucky to have her”! Thanks for your hard work and dedication to becoming a 911 Dispatcher, Emily!
Plumas County Receives Additional PPE Distribution

As Plumas County businesses return to full operating schedules, many local businesses find they are needing additional Personal Protection Equipment (PPE). Plumas County once again supplied masks and sanitizers to local businesses. On May 12, distribution sites were set up in Quincy at Plumas County Fairgrounds and at the Park in Portola while businesses in the Lake Almanor area arranged for supplies to be delivered. This distribution included N-95 masks, disposable surgical masks, hand sanitizers and face shields. Alliance for Workforce Development (AFWD) staff in conjunction with local Chamber of Commerce members assisted in the distribution of these supplies.

The N-95 masks were distributed to medical practitioners, Eastern Plumas Healthcare in Portola, Plumas County Hospital in Quincy and Seneca Healthcare District in Chester. The Behavioral Health department of Plumas County also received N-95 masks as regulated requirements are in place for staff when providing services to the Plumas County Correctional Facility. All recipients were appreciative at receiving this timely distribution.

Portola City Manager, Lauren Knox said, “The business owners were so grateful for the PPE distribution. As businesses begin opening up more the need for hand sanitizers increased. It’s nice to see this community come together for this”.

Scott McCullum, Director of Plumas Crisis Intervention Center commented, “This is valuable to the community and we are grateful AFWD helped in this program”.

While businesses are anxious to get back to business, several owners commented they see the use of masks and sanitizers continuing. AFWD was happy to assist in this community event.
Good Guy Gets a Chance at Employment During a Difficult Time

Jason had come into Alliance For Workforce Development (AFWD) looking to obtain employment. He had been utilizing the Career Services at the Business and Career Network (BCN) in the computer lab checking job listings and working on his Resume. He was laid off from his previous employment and was having difficulty finding work due to the Covid 19 Pandemic with the Shelter in Place Guidelines. Jason was collecting unemployment and met the eligibility guidelines for the National Dislocated Worker Grant (NDWG) Covid-19 Temporary Job Placement (TJC) as a dislocated worker.

Jason was selected to participate in a NDWG/TJC with Plumas Crisis Intervention (PCIRC). PCIRC is a non-profit organization that provides a multitude of help for people in crisis within Plumas County. The employer needed additional assistance for Covid-19 related recovery efforts. Jason was chosen for a Sanitation Maintenance Worker position where he sanitizes and cleans facilities that are accessible to the public, both inside and outside buildings, restrooms and other enclosed public spaces due to the Covid-19 disaster. AFWD has also helped Jason with Supportive Services for required work clothes that the employer requested for Jason.

While working for PCIRC, with the assistance of Jason’s Career Center Advisor (CCA), they are working on helping him to gain full time employment when this temporary job ends. This temporary work will enable Jason to earn an income while adding to his skill set and closing the gap in his work history. He will be job searching and updating his resume. Jason is grateful for the opportunity he was given for the Covid 19 NDWG Temporary Job Placement Grant.
Hard Work Pays Off

Trinity came into the Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) Americas Job Center of California (AJCC) for assistance in finding fulltime, self-sufficient employment. He had recently relocated back to Plumas County after working out of state as a Foreman for a Utility Company. Trinity was looking for a job that would be self-sufficient for his family that would include benefits as well. After meeting with his Career Center Advisor (CCA) at AFWD he was determined eligible for the Adult Worker Grant as a job seeker under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)

With help from his CCA, Trinity had worked on his resume and did some extensive job searching. He applied for various jobs in the Quincy area for different employers, but was not called in for an interview until he applied for a job with Sierra Pacific Industries as a General Laborer. CCA went over the interview techniques with him and he went to the interview feeling prepared. Trinity was hoping to get his foot in the door as a General Laborer, but they instead hired him as a Forklift Driver on the spot. From there he moved up to a position known as a Bander. It is a full time, year around position with full benefits, which is what Trinity needed to be able to support his family with a self-sufficient income.

Trinity has been very grateful for the help that AFWD was able to give him. Things are going very well for Trinity, and he is grateful for the opportunity and assistance AFWD and the WIOA program were able to provide him.
Unemployment Information
June 2020 - May 2021

AFWD Region County UI Claims

Top 3 Affected Industry Sectors Plumas County

- Food and Accommodation service
- Construction
- Healthcare and social Assistance

Weekly Initial Claims by Industry Sector

Unemployment Rate
(As of: May 2021)
7.5%

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