

Community Coordinator

Report

Plumas County
OCTOBER – DECEMBER
2014

Business Assistance for Plumas County Small Businesses & Entrepreneurs

September 2014, Alliance for Workforce Development Inc. received a Technical Assistance Grant through the Plumas County Community Development Commission.

The Alliance for Workforce Development is pleased to offer qualifying Plumas County small businesses and Entrepreneurs the opportunity to prosper from customized business assistance services, specialized assistance specific to starting, maintaining and expanding their business.

Business Service Representative (BSR), Joelle Breazier, has been hitting the ground running offering services to Plumas County Business and Entrepreneurs. Information will be provided through service groups, Entrepreneurial classes and one-on-one contact with Plumas County businesses. Non-qualifying Plumas County businesses will also have the opportunity to participate in group trainings for a small fee.

AFWD, Inc. has a variety of Technical Assistance services to offer, including but not limited to:

- Financial and Legal Counseling,
- Business Plan Development
- Management & Marketing Assistance
- Loan Preparation and Packaging

Program made possible by Plumas County Microenterprise Assistance Program

UPCOMING EVENT

2015 Labor Law Update Workshop

Plumas County Fairgrounds
Mineral Building
10am – 12pm
January 15, 2015

“Learn about the 2015 California Labor Law changes that affect California businesses.”

Items being discussed are:

- What new laws apply to your business?
- Employee Leave and Benefits
- Workplace Safety
- Discrimination and Retaliation Protections
- Wage and Hour
- Background Checks
- And Much More!*

<http://www.afwd.org/index.php/40-news-and-events/68-2015-labor-law-update-workshops>

New Business Opens!



Latoya Coleman and her husband Miko moved to the Quincy area from Nashville, Tennessee, where Latoya made hair extensions and wigs. She first came into the Business and Career Network seeking employment, where she received universal services, but was unable to find a job that suited her needs. She decided to open her own business called "Rekindle", which specializes in ethnic hair styling, hair extensions, hair accessories, art, clothing and gifts.



Rekindle officially opened in November 2014. You can find a mixture of new and used clothing for adults and toddlers and portrait restoration. The store is located at 2288 East Main Street, Quincy, CA. Latoya has reached out to the Business Services Representative (BSR) at the Business and Career Network for assistance on marketing for visibility and growth of her new business venture.



AFWD America's Job Center of California Statistics

Plumas County Visitors
1,818

AFWD Business Services

Business Served	1,092
Service Provided	4,599
Positions Filled	126
Training Assistance	392

Program Services

Total enrollments this quarter

Adult	205
Dislocated Worker	168
Youth	63
Employed	320

Unemployment Rate

Butte 7.7%	Plumas 9.1%
Lassen 8.7%	Sierra 8.6%
Modoc 9.2%	

Partnership with Plumas County Community Corrections

The Alliance for Workforce Development (AFWD) has begun collaborative efforts under the Plumas County Community Corrections Partnership (PCCCP) to assist the Day Reporting Center (DRC) program participants with employment preparation. AFWD's comprehensive services have included workshops in job readiness, job search strategies, and interviewing. The materials presented are designed to educate and prepare participants for employment and cover topics that include goal setting, skills assessment, career exploration, resume, application, cover letter writing, job search methods and follow-up, interview preparation, and job retention. The employment preparation workshops are conducted in a series of phases during monthly meetings at the DRC, and arranged in coordination with the DRC Case Manager. All workshop phases are required to be completed by the participants. Participant-signed attendance rosters are submitted by AFWD to the DRC Case Manager at the conclusion of each workshop.

Since the beginning of the program through November 30, 2014, two workshop series have been presented at the DRC. AFWD has assisted eight participants with employment skills training and job readiness preparation. Of the eight participants completing these workshops to date, four have found local Plumas County employment and are earning a wage ranging from \$9.00 to \$14.00 per hour.

Through the guidance of AFWD staff, DRC participants have increased their knowledge and ability to:

- Assess and identify their skills
- Develop their resume and cover letters
- Complete a standard application
- Job search and follow-up
- Interview effectively

Further program services are being developed and planned for implementation with the next DRC workshop series to facilitate participants in individualized employment preparation and referral to appropriate program partners. These services are to include:

- Scheduled one-on-one appointments to provide individualized resume, application, and interview assistance
- Sign-up sheet at DRC for AFWD appointment requests
- Implementation of literacy and numeracy assessment testing
- Outreach and coordination to Feather River College for special needs populations and adult education programs
- Outreach and coordination with Plumas County Literacy for remedial studies and literacy programs
- Outreach and coordination with Plumas County Department of Social Services for available treatment, rehabilitation, and counseling services

AFWD has been providing workforce development and human resource services in our local community with a focus on shared values of high quality service, professional integrity, and community collaboration. We will continue to strive to excel in our capacity to provide employment training as part of the PCCCP Program. Our objective with the DRC continues to be that of implementing and expanding vocational training practices to improve employment outcomes, reduce offender risk and recidivism, and make a positive contribution to public safety.



This Quarter's Success Stories



Job Seeker Success

Jeff LaMattina came to AFWD for assistance with job search, resume writing, and mock interviewing skills. Jeff was served in Universal Services and referred to a Career Center Advisor (CCA). Jeff mentioned that he would love to work at Feather River College (FRC) doing maintenance or janitorial services. At the time of his visit, there was an opening for a janitor with FRC.

Eligibility was determined and Jeff was enrolled into AFWD, Inc. services. His CCA worked with him to update his resume and create a standard application to submit to FRC. AFWD received a call from the hiring manager at FRC requesting AFWD to send a client to fill a temporary night janitorial position at Feather River. If the person referred does an outstanding job, the client can then apply for a full-time permanent position when it opens up. AFWD's relationship with FRC paid off. Jeff was the first person to come to mind. The CCA networked with Feather River College and Jeff LaMattina was called for an interview and ultimately received an offer of full-time employment.

CONGRATULATIONS JEFF!

PROBATION COLLABORATION

On November 7, 2014, Career Center Advisors Angela Earle, Kim Keith, and Youth Program Manager Heather Alexander, met with Keevin Allread from the Plumas County Office of Probation.

The meeting was held in order to move forward with building a strong relationship with the Probation Department to receive referrals for youth in need of assistance in career exploration, job search, or basic life skills mentorship.

AFWD's Youth Program is geared towards helping youth reach their goals. An assessment is completed with a youth client to discuss goals and create a plan. Heather discussed the Youth Program in great detail emphasizing that AFWD, Inc. can help youth gain a GED, career research, and job search.

After the meeting with probation, a partnership was developed. Keevin was very impressed with AFWD's Youth Program and stated, "He would keep AFWD in mind for future clients that may be a good fit for AFWD's Youth Program."

