Nearly 200 veterans and family members made their way to the 4th annual Plumas County Veterans Stand Down held in Quincy, Ca. on November 19th and 20th, 2021. Stand Downs can be one to three-day events that provide supplies and services to veterans. Alliance For Workforce Development (AFWD) attended this gathering along with approximately 20 other vendors. Our goal was to present to these veterans the services we can assist them with in our community. The Stand Down was an effort to have the different organizations all in one place this day. At AFWD, part of our mission is to partner with as many local agencies to provide better services to individuals like veterans. AFWD was complimented many times on the services we offer the community as well as the effort that is put forth to collaborate with other agencies in our area.

They offered non-perishable food items that were donated by local grocery stores as well as jackets and boots and other gear that was donated by an organization that provides these items to veterans. The American Legion provided propane, sleeping bags, gift cards and other items of clothing. They had a local optometrist available for eye exams and free glasses, as well as a local dentist that provided exams. There was also a vendor there providing haircuts. All of this was offered at no cost to veterans and their families. The organizers of the event provided hot barbeque lunches, all you can eat.

The 4th annual Plumas County Veterans Stand Down was a great success and we look forward to next years Stand Down (which plans are already in the works). Hopefully we can reach out to all the Veterans who graciously served our country and are so deserving of all the things that the Stand Down offered!
Family Member Opportunities

With the growing need to fill healthcare positions in the Northstate, in collaboration with SMART Workforce Center, Alliance for Workforce Development (AFWD) launched a new job seeker resource. Healthcare has been a priority sector in Northern California for a long time due to the challenge of recruiting and retaining qualified healthcare providers ranging from entry-level to highly skilled. This challenge is even more difficult within the rural areas of our beautiful locale. While we have had an ongoing recruitment strategy in our area, a collateral challenge has been identified.

When recruiting medical providers into the counties we serve, the family members of these relocated individuals needed streamlined job-seeking assistance. Through a partnership between AFWD and SMART, in association with Partnership Health Plan and the many healthcare providers in the counties we serve, we are proud to present the Family Member Opportunities tool found on northstatejobs.com. This tool makes it much easier for the new members of our communities to lay down roots and grow with us.

The Family Member Opportunities tool will make it easy for future residents to connect to the America’s Job Center of California (AJCC) in the county where they will be moving. From the Family Member Opportunities webpage, the user can click on the county that they intend to relocate to and will then be directed to the website of the corresponding AJCC in that area. Once on the proper AJCC website, the candidate can call or fill out a “Contact Us” form. From there, the talented staff at the AJCC will follow up and identify how best to assist the job seeker.

This new tool is a big win for Northern California and will make it easier to retain medical providers and help with the growing workforce need in our area by connecting those who need a job to the employers who are hiring. AFWD and SMART are proud to join forces to assist the healthcare sector and make a positive impact on our community as a whole.

You can check out the website here: https://northstatejobs.com/medical-provider-family-member-opportunities/
Jennifer had come into the Plumas Office of Alliance For Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) looking for assistance in obtaining a full-time job. Jennifer had recently moved her family to Plumas County from the Eastern United States, as she had family in the Quincy area. Jennifer was working remotely for a Genomics Company in Philadelphia as a Collections Manager, when she was recently laid off. She was interested in receiving individualized services assistance from a Career Center Advisor (CCA) at the Plumas Business and Career Network. In search of full-time, year around employment, Jennifer had applied for several jobs, but even though she had interviewed for a few of them, she felt they were not the right fit for her. Jennifer received assistance with targeting her job search to fit her interest and skills. She then found a job opening at ReThink Industries as an Accounting Associate and she submitted her application.

ReThink Industries interviewed Jennifer. They were very interested in hiring her and thought she would be a great fit for their company, however, they were concerned with her lack of hands on experience as an Accounting Associate in the Medical Sector and felt she would need training. The CCA spoke with the Business Services Representative (BSR) who reached out to ReThink Industries to discuss the possibility of participating in an On-The Job Training (OJT). ReThink Ind. agreed to participate in an OJT with Jennifer, as it would benefit their business, as well as the new employee. Jennifer was thrilled with this opportunity. Jennifer was enrolled into the WIOA Dislocated Worker program and worked with both her CCA and ReThink Industries to put together an employment plan that would provide her with the skills and knowledge required to become a successful Accounting Associate.

The OJT has recently successfully completed, and her trainer was very pleased with the work that Jennifer has done. They are very happy with her great attitude. She is organized and learns quickly and effectively. ReThink says she pays excellent attention to detail and is a great team player. Jennifer knew the right job would come along and feels extremely happy to be working in this position. ReThink Industries and Jennifer are very happy and grateful for the opportunity that the OJT through AFWD has given them. It is a win-win situation!!
AFWD Assist’s Businesses in Challenging Summer Season

Businesses across the country are having difficulties filling vacant positions.

This is especially true in rural communities, like Plumas County. One of our newer employers, Gott Powersports, opened its doors in Quincy, not realizing how sparse the job seeker availability is in our rural town. When Jason Martinez applied for an entry-level position at Gott, he was selected because of his personal interest in ATVs.

Jason was hired to assist in helping customers at the parts and accessories counter. After several months of learning the kinds of products sold and serviced at Gott Powersports, Jason was eager to expand his knowledge and his role with the company.

Rob Gott took notice of this staff member wanting to learn more about the chain saws, blowers, small power tools, and generators, all of which are the common items that Gott Powersports sell and service. As the business expanded, Mr. Gott realized he would need more highly trained and skilled staff. The office manager at Gott, having experience with Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD), reached out to the Business Services Representative (BSR) at the Quincy office to discuss possible program availability to help advance existing employees. The position in question was completely different from what Jason performed at counter sales. Learning the equipment from unpacking to repair requires highly trained sales and service personnel. After significant discussion and determining the eligibility for a special program, it was agreed to offer Gott Powersports an incumbent worker training program.

This meant the existing counter sales and service person would be moving to a career-making specialized training program. Jason would be taking courses offered by the manufacturers as well as hands-on training by highly skilled service technicians. In times of significant employee shortages, "growing-your-own" workforce is a win/win for everyone.

Jason received his first certification by taking a Stihl Manufacturers training course in Redding, CA. Mr. Gott remarked, “Jason is a valued employee, and we are willing to put time and money in his advancing within our firm because he shows initiative in everything he does. We believe taking this chance on him will benefit our company, and, more importantly, this is a career move for Jason. We are grateful to partner with AFWD in this program.”

With AFWD offering programs to help the development of existing employees, this supports the business and employees. Ultimately, AFWD's local partnerships benefit the community overall.
Collaboration to Recovery

With over a million acres of forest burned, the destruction of the Dixie Fire covered multiple counties. Communities throughout Plumas County were affected none more than the burned town of Greenville, CA. Recovery efforts are being conducted with many agencies collaborating to assist those most in need. Alliance for Workforce Development (AFWD) is once again helping the business community by offering special programs to help the community recover.

The AFWD Business Services Representative (BSR) contacted public and non-profit agencies to assess the needs of local businesses specific to the damage resulting from the fire. Caltrans in Plumas county was eager to participate in this new work experience program. Mr. Duncan, the Caltrans supervisor for Quincy, thought he could use help with flaggers for traffic and laborers to help repair the downed snow poles and mile marker signs. Mr. Duncan said, “This program would allow people the chance to explore positions within Caltrans.” Plumas Rural Services opened up administrative positions to assist in helping those affected by the fire. AFWD provided candidates to fill the Disaster Resource Specialist and Disaster Resource Coordinator positions, these roles are vital to the recovery efforts in the county.

AFWD identified several possible worksites seeking assistance in their clean-up and remediation efforts. Working together with local agencies and businesses, AFWD is helping the recovery efforts of the county. As people slowly return to the workforce, AFWD helps job seekers explore career options. For those unemployed due to this disaster, options for both temporary and permanent positions exist throughout the county.
Welcome Cindy Leland

Hi All! My name is Cindy Leland. I was born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area and moved to Greenville in 2010 and then to Quincy in 2019. I started my career in Human Resources in 2011 when I began working at Plumas District Hospital. I got my Bachelor's degree in Business – Human Resource Management in 2018. Over the last 10 years, I have been fortunate enough to learn a lot about the businesses in Plumas County. I have been wanting to help the businesses in Plumas county for many years as I see that they are struggling to retain employees and grow their business. As the new Business Services Representative at AFWD, I plan to use my HR knowledge to work hard for the businesses that we already work with and to grow that list exponentially so that we can better assist the people of Plumas county.

Fire Recovery Office Open in Chester

CHESTER, CA – Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) is proud to announce the opening of our newest fire recovery office in Chester located at 328 Main Street, Suite 3 to better serve our area. This new office will primarily focus on the recovery initiatives for the Dixie & Sugar (Beckwourth Complex) Fires and assist with navigating the impacts these wildﬁres have had on our communities.

This new office will serve both Lassen and Plumas County residents impacted by those fires. We encourage clients to visit us as we provide no-cost resume development, unemployment application assistance, community referrals, training and job placement support. Businesses can also utilize our resources to support their workforce needs; recruitment assistance, training support and On-The-Job Training funding to alleviate strain while recovering.

Four experienced AFWD Team Members make up our new office and are eager to assist our community– Jerri Nielsen, Business Services Representative; Josh Bradley, Career Center Advisor; Pamela Sylvia, Career Center Advisor; and Valerie Bourque, Resource and Referral Coordinator.

Visit the office today if you have any questions or need assistance. If you cannot make it into our office you can also chat directly with our AFWD Staff on our website or find us on Facebook.

Chester Recovery Office
Address: 328 Main Street, Suite 3, Chester, CA 96020
Phone: 530-258-3866
Website: www.afwd.org
AFWD-America’s Job Center of California

Statistics

Unemployment Information
July 2021 - November 2021

Unemployment Rates
(As of: Nov 2021)
California 5.4%
Plumas County 7%

Plumas County - 2nd Quarter
One-Stop Visitors: 509
Businesses Served: 33
Business Services: 287
AFWD
Clients Enrolled: 725

Alliance for Workforce Development
7 Quincy Junction Rd Quincy, CA
(530) 283-1606

Dixie Fire Recovery Office
328 Main St. Suite 3 Chester, CA
(530) 258-3866