



*Alliance For
Workforce Development, Inc.
Providing pathways to success*

Serving Butte, Lassen, Modoc, Nevada, Plumas and Sierra Counties

**Alliance for Workforce
Development, Inc.**
Operations & Program Highlights
in Nevada County

Program Year 2019—2020

Presented by:
Amy Velazquez
Director of Business Services
avelazquez@ncen.org
(530) 961-5131



Purpose:

We are pleased to update the Board on the Program Year 2019-2020 activities at the Alliance for Workforce Development Nevada County One-Stops in Truckee and Grass Valley. Alliance for Workforce Development is Nevada County's America's Job Center of California (AJCC) provider.

Our mission is to provide businesses and workers a common point of access for employment, recruiting, training, consultation, and other workforce services. AFWD provides federal and state Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) programs to Adults, Youth, Dislocated Workers, and Veterans. Our WIOA services also provide crucial recruiting, upskilling and workforce investment resources to Nevada County businesses.



Overview:

AFWD is one of four service providers for the Northern Rural Training & Employment Consortium (NoRTEC). We provide workforce development programs and services in six of NoRTEC's 11 counties: Butte, Lassen, Modoc, Nevada, Plumas and Sierra.

As an America's Job Center of California (AJCC) One-Stop, we maintain a "business first" philosophy, as embraced by NoRTEC and WIOA legislation. This means we emphasize business outreach and employers are at the forefront of our service delivery model.

The One-Stop model provides businesses and job seekers a single access point; ensuring that employers find the most qualified candidates, and workers obtain sustainable, long term employment. All of our efforts are tied to enhancing workforce development, promoting economic vitality, and fostering a stable and prosperous business community in Nevada County.

We would like to thank Supervisor Scofield, who continues to represent Nevada County on the NoRTEC Governing Board.

Employment Numbers at a Glance



June, 2020



Nevada County

13%



California

15.1%



United States

11.1%

Discussion:

In February of 2020 Nevada County, the State of California, and the United States were experiencing a period of record-low unemployment. As of **February 2020**, Nevada County unemployment was **3.6%**, California unemployment was **4.3%**, and the National rate was **3.5%**

Not surprisingly, the COVID-19 pandemic has upset the labor market in ways both predictable and surprising. As of June, the Nevada County unemployment rate is **13%**, while the State and National rates are **15.1%** and **11.1%** respectively. However, these rates are calculated using Unemployment Benefit claims, which are currently augmented by the **Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program (PUA)**. They likely do not provide a true “snapshot” of Nevada County labor market.

Our observation of the Nevada County job market shows a large number of job openings. However many employers report difficulty in filling these positions, despite high unemployment rates. Our analysis finds that many unemployed individuals are choosing to remain on unemployment in light of health concerns, and the relatively large weekly PUA benefit amounts. However we predict many will return to the job market, once the PUA program becomes non-existent.

Program Highlights: AFDW provides three branches of services in Nevada County: **Adult & Dislocated Workers, Youth Programs** and **Business Services**. Our broad range of employment services are tailored to individuals from all skill levels and back grounds, from entry-level to skilled technical and management. This diversity provides Nevada County employers in all sectors with a labor pool for all hiring needs.

Adult & Dislocated Worker Programs: AFDW Career Center Advisors support individuals through client assessments and career exploration. We assist Adults in need of classroom retraining to obtain sustainable employment by supporting them in vocational programs that will lead to local, upwardly mobile jobs. **In Program Year 2019-2020 we provided 49 Nevada County Residents with \$5,400 in funding** for training, which included course fees & tuition, and assistance with supplies and materials for classes.

Youth Programs: Youth Career Center Advisors serve individuals ages 17 - 24 years who have barriers to employment. Youth clients are provided with individualized training and employment plans, and receive assistance with a variety of pre-employment and workplace readiness factors. The AFDW Youth Program helps clients obtain high school diplomas and GED's, navigate exit from foster care and youth detention, and obtain real-world skills such as household budgeting and job market exploration. **In Program Year 2019-2020, AFDW assisted two Youth Clients** in career readiness and supportive services programs.

Business Services: AFDW Business Service Representatives maintain constant contact with the Nevada County business community to keep abreast of hiring needs, employment trends, and economic conditions. BSR's also work closely with our partners in the government, nonprofit, and advocacy sectors (local Chambers and Professional Groups) in order to develop contacts and find ways to align services. In Program Year 2019-2020, Nevada County Business Service Staff engaged **216 individual businesses**, and attended **35 sector engagement, hiring, or economic development events**. Business Service Representatives provided **19 On the Job Training placements** to Nevada County employers, reflecting over **\$55,000 in reimbursed wages**.

Other One Stop Services: AFDW provides a holistic set of services in Grass Valley and Truckee for employers and job seekers. In Program Year 2019-2020 we hosted **12 client workshops** on topics such as **"Interviews", "Job Search Skills", "Computer Literacy",** and **"Resume Writing"**. These workshops were attended by **60 Nevada County residents**. In the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak, AFDW has developed and implemented a **Virtual Workshop** model beginning **July 2020**. These live, interactive workshops will be hosted on Zoom twice each month. In addition to providing a safe way for job seekers to gain valuable information, this online model provides a platform for hundreds of individuals to attend our workshops at once. The AFDW AJCC One-Stops also provide a convenient location for employers to recruit talent. In Program Year 2019-2020 AFDW hosted **28 hiring events** for local employer in our Grass Valley and Truckee offices, where employers interviewed nearly **200 candidates**.





WIOA

SERVICES



Nevada County Customers Served:

6,676

Job Search • Resume Assistance • Skills Testing • Classroom Training •
Career Exploration • On-the-Job Training (OJT) •

Unique Nevada County Businesses Served:

216

Recruiting • Job Fairs • Labor Market Data • HR Consultation • Access to Untapped
Labor Pools • Rapid Response • OJT Training • 1,317 Individual Business Services

WIOA Funding Allocated to Nevada County Employers:

\$51,370

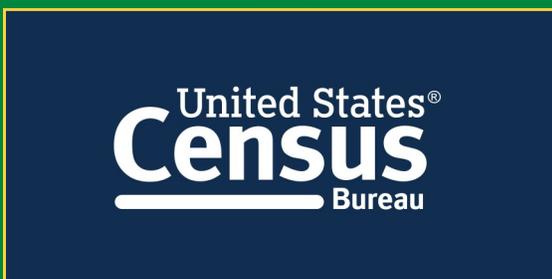
Wage reimbursements provided directly to employers who hire OJT Participants

From July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020, AFWD served **6,676 customers** in our One Stop Offices in Truckee and Grass Valley. We supported **216 unique businesses** with recruiting, retention, training, and HR support; labor market data and analysis; strategic planning for sector growth; and a variety of other services. We reimbursed **\$51,370 in wages** back to employers using **WIOA On-The-Job-Training funds**. This vital funding allows Nevada County Employers to utilize the local labor pool by providing support to train and upskill local job seekers.

The Power of Partnerships



AFWD relies on strong partnerships in the Government, Nonprofit and Private sectors to carry out our mission of enhancing workforce conditions in Nevada County. In Program Year 2019-2020 We facilitated and participated in numerous hiring events, job fairs, and sector engagement activities to promote healthy recruitment, retention and business growth in Nevada County. Business Services Staff attended the **Truckee Jobs Collective** to promote AFWD services to East County employers and workers. In early March, AFWD cohosted the **Meet Your Match Job Fair** with our partners at **Nevada County, The Union, Nevada County Chamber of Commerce and the Association of Realtors**. In February, AFWD Staff attended the **Chico State Engineering Job Fair** in September with **Nevada County Tech Connection** to recruit tech and engineering graduates to Nevada County. AFWD has hosted numerous employer recruiting events in our Grass Valley and Truckee One Stops for businesses like **Speedway LLC, the U.S Census Bureau, MasterCorp West, Air International, A&A Concrete, Comfort Keepers, and Partners in Care**.



Responding to Community Needs



COUNTY OF NEVADA

Emergency Economic Response

Updates, Information, & Resources from County of Nevada to help your business survive during coronavirus and beyond.

On May 20th AFWD Business Service staff gave a presentation on hiring assistance, OJT funding and other services to the Nevada County COVID-19 Business Task Force. AFWD Business Service Representatives remain active in the Nevada County Collaborative Resource Group.

The COVID-19 Pandemic has fundamentally changed the workforce needs of the Nation, the State, and Nevada County. AFWD has responded by partnering with county agencies to assist local businesses and workers. We have participated in weekly meetings of the **Nevada County COVID-19 Business Task Force**, and partnered with the **Nevada County Social Services** to provide relief information to workers with our **Rapid Response Webinars**. Our **COVID-19 Disaster Grant** has provided four temporary workers for Nevada County **Public Works, Public Health, and Facilities Management**, and two workers for the **Hospitality House** in Grass Valley. Allocation of this grant represents **\$29,000 in wages** injected to the local economy, and **1600 hours of labor** dedicated to helping Nevada County mitigate the effects of COVID-19.

Rapid Response

LAYOFF ASSISTANCE—INFO SESSION

ALLIANCE FOR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT WITH OTHER LOCAL PARTNERS PROVIDES INFORMATION ON RESOURCES AND ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE IN YOUR LOCAL COUNTY.

Nevada County
Virtual Layoff Assistance #2

You are invited to a Zoom webinar!
When: May 13, 2020 11:00 AM

Register in advance to gain useful information about Unemployment Insurance, Community Resources and Employment Opportunities

[Click Here to Register!](#)

Rapid Response is a layoff mitigation service offered by AFWD to businesses and workers facing layoff or worksite closure. Due to the unprecedented scale of layoffs and social isolation guidelines imposed by COVID-19, AFWD developed a **Virtual Rapid Response** webinar to educated businesses and workers on **EDD, Nevada County, and AFWD** services available. On May 6th and 13th, AFWD broadcast live webinars to Nevada County residents, and recordings of the webinar remain available at www.afwd.org

AFWD Work Experience participants perform vital services for **Nevada County Public Health, Public Works, and Facilities Management** through our **COVID-19 Disaster Assistance Grant**. Workers assisted at the **COVID-19 Testing Site** in Grass Valley, **cleaned and sanitized** county facilities, and **provided essential support labor** across the county to ensure there was no lapse in essential county services.



Conclusion & Looking Ahead

As Nevada County's America's Job Center of California, Alliance for Workforce Development's mission is to enhance economic vitality by creating a skilled, job-ready workforce, and a stable and prosperous business community throughout Nevada County. We appreciate our partners in the education, public, and private sectors who help make our mission possible.

As Nevada County residents and businesses navigate the COVID-19 pandemic, we will continue to develop dynamic solutions to workforce and employment issues. We continue to expand and refine our online capabilities with tools like:

- ◆ **Virtual Workshops and Webinars**
- ◆ **Effective online recruitment through CalJOBS and NorthstateJobs.com/afwd**
- ◆ **Social Media engagement with the community on Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, and Instagram**
- ◆ **Live assistance for job seekers and businesses on our website chat feature at www.afwd.org**

We continue to advocate on behalf of Nevada County, in order to provide ongoing OJT training assistance for employers, vocational and classroom upskilling for workers, and Temporary Job Creation programs designed to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 while charging the local economy with wages.

We thank the Board for providing us the opportunity to present today, and thank Nevada County for partnering with us in creating *pathways to success*.

For more information on AFWD activities please visit www.afwd.org and click "CC Reports". Here you will find highlights of our work in the community. If you have any questions, please contact me at **(530) 961-5131** or **avelazquez@ncen.org**.

Amy Velazquez

Director of Business Services

