



*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 2020—2021

Presented by:

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Purpose:

We are pleased to update the Board on the Program Year 2020-2021 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 2021



Nevada County

6%



California

7.7%



United States

5.9%

Discussion:

The COVID-19 pandemic upset the labor market in both predictable and surprising ways. In June 2020, Nevada County unemployment rate was 13%. The State unemployment rates were higher than Nevada County at 15.1% at that time.

The Nevada County job market showed a large number of openings in the 2020-21 program year. Many employers echoed the same dilemmas throughout the state; a difficulty in filling positions, from entry level to advanced career despite these high unemployment rates. Our analysis found that many unemployed individuals chose to remain on unemployment in light of health concerns, school and childcare restrictions and the relatively large weekly PUA benefit amounts. As anticipated, there has however been a slow uptick in job seekers returning to the job market as the PUA program has ended.

As a result of restrictions loosening and businesses reopening, the unemployment rate in Nevada County has been on a steady decline, settling at 6% in June 2021, down from 13% just one year prior. Although not quite back to the pre-COVID unemployment rate in February 2020 of 3.7%, August 2021 reported 5.5% which is promising.

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 2020-2021 we provided 8 Nevada County Residents with \$16,868 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 2020-2021, AFDW assisted 4 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 2020-2021, Nevada County Business Service Staff engaged **191 individual businesses**, and attended **over 20 sector engagement, hiring, or economic development events**. Business Service Representatives provided **13 On the Job Training placements** to Nevada County employers, reflecting over **\$62,000 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 2020-2021 we hosted **virtual workshops** on topics such as **"Interviews", "Job Search Skills", "Computer Literacy", and "Resume Writing"**. These workshops were attended by **32 Nevada County residents**. These live, interactive workshops are hosted on Zoom each month with in person assistance available by appointment. 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 via Virtual Job Fairs, customized recruitments and highlighting on our popular "Hot Jobs".





WIOA

SERVICES

Nevada County Customers Served:

2,801

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

Services Provided to Nevada County Businesses:

1,851

Recruiting • Job Fairs • Labor Market Data • HR Consultation • Access to Untapped
Labor Pools • Rapid Response • OJT Training • 191 Unique Businesses Serviced

WIOA Funding Allocated to Nevada County Employers:

\$62,287

Wage reimbursements provided directly to employers who hire OJT Participants

From July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021, AFWD served **2,801 customers** in our One Stop Offices in Truckee and Grass Valley. We supported **191 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 **\$62,287 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.

Responding to Community Needs



COVID-19 NDWG

National Dislocated Worker Grant

The COVID-19 Pandemic continued to stretch the workforce while increasing demand for worksites to provide safe, sanitary and timely response to the public. AFWD has been partnering with county agencies to assist local businesses and workers as they mitigate the increased precautionary measures through a National Dislocated Worker Grant.

During 2020-2021, the COVID-19 Disaster Grant funded **5** temporary workers throughout Nevada County departments such as **Public Works, Public Health, and Facilities Management**. In addition, **2** temporary workers completed placements at the **Hospitality House** in Grass Valley. Allocation of this grant provided **\$113,939 in wages** injected to the local economy, filled gaps in employment for dislocated workers and assisted Nevada County in it's efforts to mitigate the effects of COVID-19.

AFWD Work Experience participants performed vital services throughout **Nevada County** assisting departments such as **Public Health, Public Works, and Facilities Management** in response to **COVID-19**. 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 access points with tools like:

- ♦ **Virtual Workshops and Webinars**
- ♦ **Effective online recruitment through CalJOB's and www.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**
- ♦ **Partnerships and referrals with area organizations to collaborate and coordinate service delivery**

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, while encouraging and supporting livable wages on behalf of business and job seekers alike.

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 'News'. Here you will find highlights of our work in the communities throughout our service area. If you have any questions, please contact me at **(530) 961-5131** or avelazquez@ncen.org.

Amy Velazquez

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