



*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 Lassen County

Program Year 2019 - 2020

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Employment Numbers at a Glance



July, 2020



Lassen County

8.6%



California

13.7%



United States

10.2%

Discussion:

In February of 2020, Lassen County, the State of California, and the United States were experiencing a period of record-low unemployment. As of **February 2020**, Lassen County unemployment was **5.8%**, 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 July, the Lassen County unemployment rate is **8.6%**, while the State and National rates are **13.7%** and **10.2%**, 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 the Lassen County labor market.

Our observation of the Lassen County job market shows a large number of 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.



WIOA SERVICES

Lassen County Customers Served:

15,259

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

Unique Lassen County Businesses Served:

148

Recruiting • Job Fairs • Labor Market Data • HR Consultation • Access to Untapped
Labor Pools • Rapid Response • OJT Training • 1,011 Individual Business Services

WIOA Funding Allocated to Lassen County Employers:

\$39,708

(Wage reimbursements provided directly to employers who hire OJT Participants)

From July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020, AFWD served **15,259 customers** in our One Stop Office. We supported **148 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 **\$39,708 in wages** back to employers using **WIOA On-The-Job-Training funds**. This vital funding allows Lassen County Employers to utilize the local labor pool by providing support to train and upskill local job seekers.

Conclusion & Looking Ahead

As Lassen 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, prosperous business community throughout Lassen County. We appreciate our partners in the education, public, and private sectors who help make our mission possible.

As Lassen 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 Lassen 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 enhancing the local economy with wages.

We thank the Board for providing us the opportunity to present today, and thank Lassen 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) 257-5057 or thaynes@ncen.org.

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