

COMMUNITY COORDINATOR REPORT

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SISKIYOU COUNTY

4th Quarter Update
APR | MAY | JUN | 2026

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Growth, Change and New Beginnings

This season we reflect on a year marked by transformation, new leadership, and a renewed commitment to serving our communities.

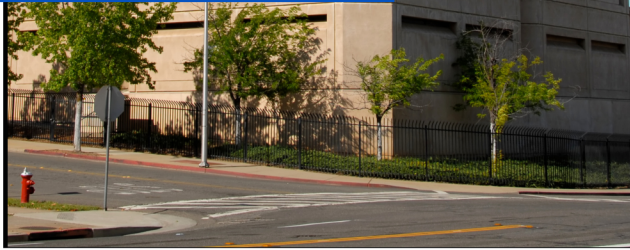
Throughout this period of growth, SMART has remained steadfast in its mission to connect individuals with meaningful employment, strengthen partnerships with local employers, and expand access to workforce development opportunities.

This quarter showcased the dedication of our staff, community partners, and stakeholders as we continued to invest in the people and businesses that make our region strong. From preparing youth for their first jobs and supporting individuals pursuing healthcare careers to helping justice-involved participants rebuild their futures and connecting employers with qualified talent, SMART remained focused on creating pathways to long-term success.

As we look ahead, we do so with a clear vision and renewed purpose. Together, we are building a stronger, more resilient workforce—one that empowers individuals, supports local businesses, and ensures workforce services remain accessible to those who need them most, both now and into the future.

Proud Partner of:  NORTEC

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: HIRE 2.0 | DOR



Earlier this year, SMART welcomed a new Career Advisor, Andrew, to the Shasta County office to support the continued success of the HIRE grant following a period of staffing shortages. Since joining the team, Andrew has made an immediate positive impact by building strong connections with participants and further strengthening SMART's partnerships with Shasta County Parole and Probation.

SMART continues to actively participate in the monthly Successful Transitions of Probation & Parole (STOPP) meetings, where staff share information about SMART services available to individuals transitioning from incarceration back into the community.

In addition, Andrew has expanded outreach efforts by joining the Shasta County Mobile

Probation Vehicle, helping bring services directly to participants in rural and outlying areas who may otherwise face barriers to accessing support.

SMART recently had the opportunity to host representatives from Shasta County Probation at the Redding office. The visit provided a valuable forum for collaboration, allowing both organizations to celebrate successes, discuss opportunities for continued improvement, and strengthen their shared commitment to serving participants effectively. These collaborative efforts have resulted in a steady flow of referrals from Shasta County Parole and Probation, helping SMART successfully achieve its HIRE grant enrollment goals.

As the grant moves into its final phase, SMART remains committed to providing participants with critical supportive services, including interview attire, work clothing, transportation assistance, and work-based learning opportunities. With strong partnerships, consistent referrals, and ongoing participant support, SMART is well-positioned to fully utilize grant funding over the coming months while continuing to help individuals achieve meaningful employment and long-term success.

Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) Grant

SMART is partnering with the Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) to provide co-enrolled participants with work-based learning opportunities, employment-focused services, and supportive assistance. SMART continues coordination efforts with DOR, including participation in collaborative training sessions such as the DOR-AJCC Capacity Building: Serving Veterans through the AJCC System training in May. Referrals are beginning to be received across the four-county region.

Client Services: Strengthening Community Partnerships Through Reentry Services

During the quarter, SMART Workforce Center staff attended the GEO Reentry Services Open House, celebrating the organization's continued commitment to serving justice-involved individuals and strengthening the community through comprehensive reentry support.

As a valued partner, GEO Reentry Services has played an important role in supporting SMART's HIRE grant initiatives. During the visit, staff toured the facility, learned more about the broad range of services available to participants, and explored opportunities to further strengthen collaboration between our organizations.

SMART is grateful for its ongoing partnership with GEO Reentry Services and the collaborative efforts that help individuals overcome barriers to employment, achieve stability, and build successful futures. Together, we continue to create pathways to meaningful careers and stronger, more resilient communities.



Partnerships that make a difference.

SMART staff, past and present, gathered with our community partners at GEO Reentry Services to celebrate a shared commitment to helping individuals overcome barriers, find meaningful employment, and build successful futures.

Client Services: HIRE Grant Success

Robert came to SMART Workforce Center seeking a fresh start and hoping to learn more about the opportunities available through the HIRE Grant Program. Motivated to return to the workforce and move forward with his life, he worked closely with SMART staff to develop a plan for achieving his employment goals.

Through personalized career guidance, job search assistance, and ongoing encouragement, Robert remained committed to his job search and continued building the skills and confidence needed to secure employment. His determination and perseverance ultimately led to a successful job placement, marking an important milestone in his journey toward self-sufficiency.

Today, Robert is employed and building a brighter future. His success reflects the impact of SMART's HIRE Grant Program and the power of individualized support in helping participants overcome barriers, reconnect with the workforce, and achieve long-term stability. Robert's story serves as a reminder that with the right support, opportunity, and determination, a new beginning is always possible.

Client Services:

Robert's Road to a New Beginning

Robert first connected with SMART Workforce Center during one of our monthly Pop-Up Job Center events at the Scott Valley Family Resource Center. At the time, he had been out of work for an extended period, was on probation, and was seeking support in finding stable employment and creating a better future. He was enrolled in SMART Workforce Center's HIRE Program, which provides workforce services and support to justice-involved individuals.

During case management, Robert shared his interest in pursuing a career in truck driving. Together, Robert and his Career Advisor created a plan to support his goals and eliminate barriers that could interfere with his success. SMART assisted Robert with completing truck school prerequisites, while also providing stable lodging and mileage reimbursement during training, allowing him to remain focused on his education and career goals.

Through the HIRE program, Robert attended American Career Training, where he successfully completed 160 hours of CDL training and earned his Commercial Driver's License (CDL). His hard work quickly paid off, leading to stable employment with a local employer at a higher wage than he had previously earned. SMART Workforce also helped Robert transition into employment by providing work clothes for his first day on the job, ensuring he felt prepared and confident.

Robert's growth has extended beyond employment. With support from his Probation Officer, he began the process of pursuing early termination of probation, reflecting the progress he has made in bettering his life. A family member also shared how much Robert has changed in recent months, highlighting his increased confidence and more positive outlook for the future.

Robert's story demonstrates how individualized support and reducing barriers can create meaningful opportunities and lasting change. SMART Workforce Center is proud to celebrate Robert's success and continued growth.

Employer Partnerships:

SMART partnered with CalPortland to provide Rapid Response services following a layoff that affected 55 employees in May. Two Rapid Response events were held at the SMART Redding office to connect impacted workers with available services. Staff are currently assisting several individuals with job search activities and training opportunities, including Class A driver training, and will continue outreach to affected workers who have not yet enrolled in services.

Community Engagement: Yreka High School Class of 2026

This quarter, SMART Workforce Center conducted five presentations at Yreka High School, providing a total of 94 graduating seniors with information on the Young Adult Program and WIOA services available for individuals pursuing education and training opportunities through ETPL-approved programs at College of the Siskiyous. The presentations focused on increasing awareness of the free workforce services and resources available to help students successfully transition from high school into employment, training, and career pathways.

A special thank you goes to Mr. Bray at Yreka High School, whose support and coordination efforts helped gather graduating seniors and ensure students had access to this valuable information. Through this outreach effort, students were introduced to services including job search assistance, career exploration, training opportunities, and financial support resources available through SMART Workforce Center.

As a direct result of these presentations, Career Advisor Melissa Phillips connected with seven graduating seniors interested in pursuing Fire Academy training. Through SMART Workforce Center services, these students will receive support for required academy-related expenses, including gear, materials, and other training necessities, totaling approximately \$3,000 per student in assistance. By covering these costs, SMART Workforce Center is helping remove financial barriers that may have otherwise prevented students from pursuing their career goals.

This outreach effort highlights the importance of early engagement with young adults and ensuring students are aware of opportunities and resources available to support their success beyond high school. SMART Workforce Center remains committed to building partnerships with local schools and helping students transition confidently into careers, education, and training pathways.

Staff Development: Regional Collaboration

During the quarter, SMART Workforce Center staff members Emily and Bradley attended the Alliance for Workforce Development (AFWD) Job Fair at the organization's headquarters in Chico. The event provided an excellent opportunity to strengthen regional partnerships while observing how neighboring workforce agencies engage employers and job seekers.



Hosted by AFWD staff and Business Services Representatives, the visit offered valuable insight into the similarities and unique approaches used across workforce development organizations. The experience highlighted the scale and diversity of employment opportunities available in Butte County while providing ideas that can be adapted to support employers and job seekers throughout SMART's service area.

Unlike larger community job fairs, the AFWD event featured a smaller group of participating employers in a more personalized setting, allowing meaningful interactions between businesses and job seekers. Participating employers included organizations representing security services, housing and human services, workforce development, and other local industries. Several employers were already familiar with SMART Workforce Center, further reinforcing the importance of maintaining strong regional partnerships.

One notable aspect of the event was AFWD's organized approach to participant engagement. Registered job seekers checked in upon arrival, and staff had résumés prepared in advance, creating a streamlined and welcoming experience for both employers and attendees. A significant number of participants were youth enrolled in AFWD programs, demonstrating strong engagement in career exploration and workforce readiness activities.

The visit provided valuable ideas and best practices that will help inform future employer outreach efforts and the planning of SMART's upcoming job fairs. Experiences like these strengthen regional collaboration, encourage innovation, and support SMART's ongoing commitment to connecting employers with qualified talent while creating meaningful employment opportunities throughout the communities it serves.

SAVE THE DATE

Fall Shasta Job Fair
Friday, September 18, 2026
Hosted at Shasta College