

Newsletter | May 2016



Sonoma County Workforce Investment Board

“Never be too proud to prove yourself.”



Name: William
Occupation: Cement Truck Driver
Wage: \$22 / hour + full benefits

William is a recent completer of Jose Campos Truck Driving School. After spending multiple years incarcerated, William finally fulfilled a dream he’s had for 21 years – to become a truck driver.

William was motivated when he was released through the AB109 program, to the Sonoma County Probation Department. He was referred to George Garcia, a Job Link Coordinator working onsite at the Day Reporting Center, in Santa Rosa.

George works with recently released felons to help them get connected to workforce and training services from Job Link.

William sought out information on truck driving programs, and was looking for help to pay for training. He did informational interviews with local truck drivers, and learned about the local market before he committed to the training program at Jose Campos.

After completing the program, he was able to secure a job fairly quickly. To help prove to his new employer his commitment to the job, he spent the first month working as a laborer for \$11 / hour. William is now making twice that, and is earning full benefits.

“My boss took me aside and told me that even though he took a gamble on me, it paid off and was worth it.”

William is excited to see what the future holds for him. His next goal is to save up enough for a down-payment for a home for him and his wife.

AB 109: The Public Safety Realignment Act

The Public Safety Realignment Act (more commonly known as AB109) was signed into law October 2011. It is a dedicated and permanent revenue stream to counties for local public safety programs. AB109 allows non-violent, non-serious, and non-sex offenders to serve their sentence in county jails instead of state prisons. Upon their release, a range of services are available to the AB109 participants including substance abuse treatment, mental health evaluation and services, GED and literacy classes as well as employment testing and job search assistance. These services are available to participants as a way of reducing recidivism and preventing them from returning to jail.



“The best thing about working with Will, was his determination to change his life. He followed through on everything I asked of him. He took advantage of every opportunity.”

George Garcia, AB109 Program Coordinator

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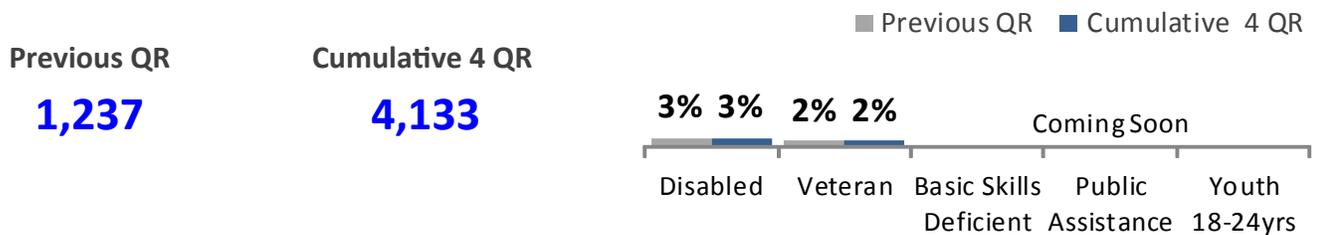
WHERE WE ARE

Previous QR = Jan '16- Mar '16

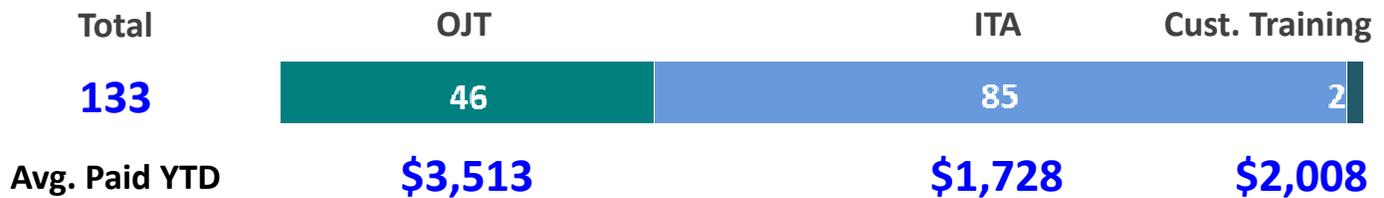
JOB LINK CUSTOMERS

Total Number of Registered Individuals

Target Population



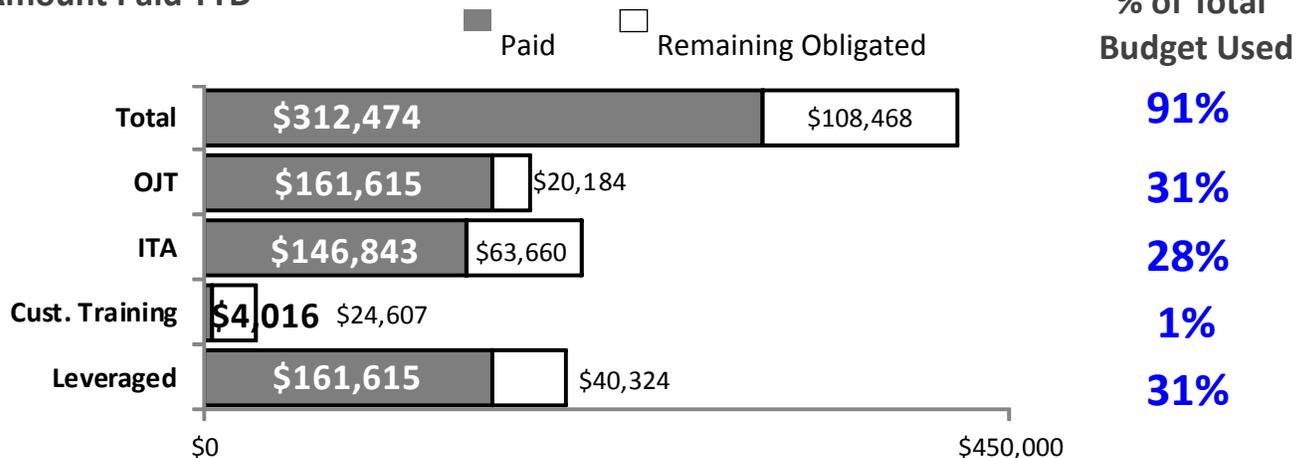
TRAINING PARTICIPANTS



TRAINING BUDGET

1516 WIOA Training Budget **\$519,847**

Amount Paid YTD



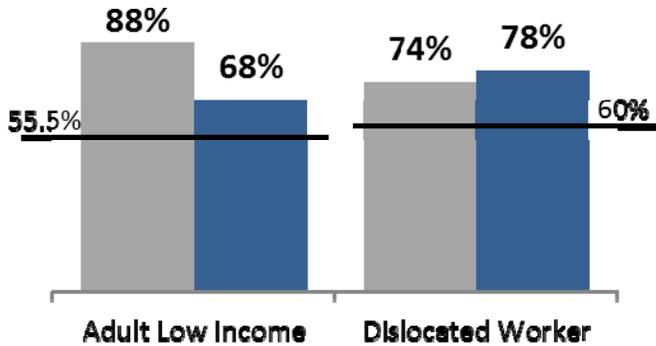
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ADULT PERFORMANCE GOALS

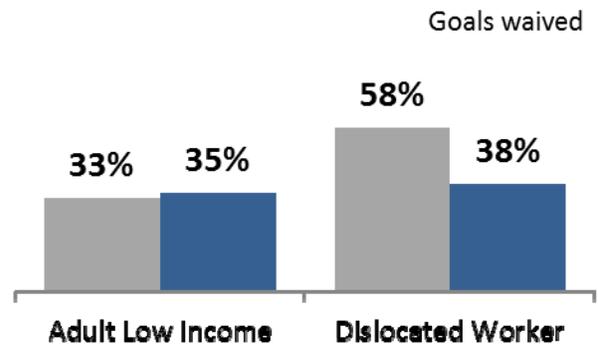
■ Previous QR ■ Cumulative 4 QR — Goal

Entered Employment



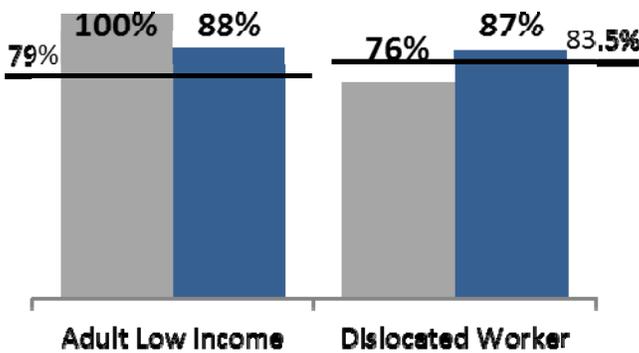
Participants who exit the program with a job.

Credential Rates



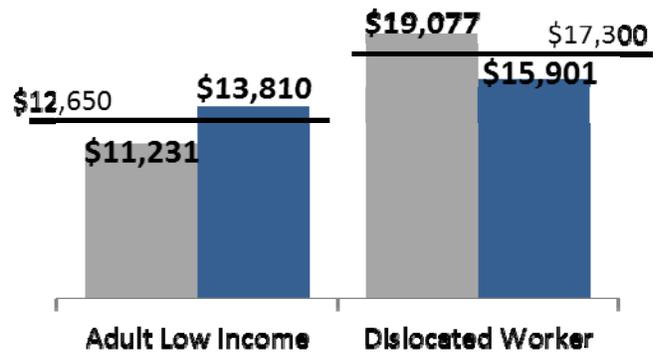
Participants who successfully complete a training program, and receive a certificate.

Retention Rates



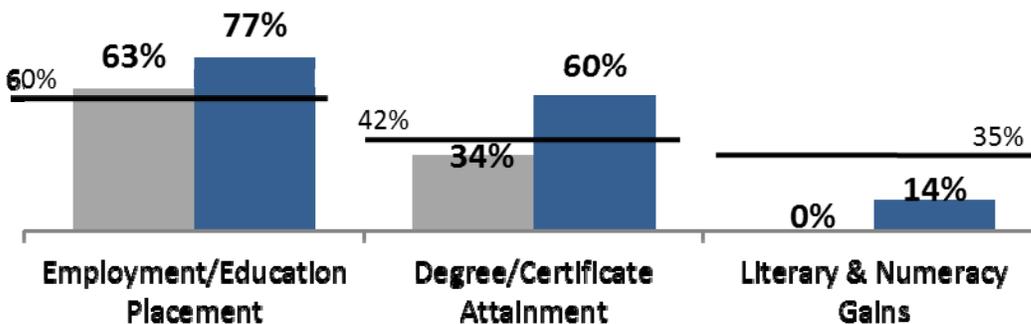
Participants who retain their job for at least 90 days after exit.

Average Earnings



The average earnings of all participants during this time period.

YOUTH PERFORMANCE GOALS



Participants who are employed or in a training program at exit.

Participants who successfully complete a training program.

Participants with basic skill deficiencies at entry who have increased their skills.

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Youth Update for WIB

The Youth Education and Employment Services (YEES) Program has been busy connecting youth with opportunities. Through the implementation of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), there is a focus on serving disconnected youth who are typically older, out-of-school and unemployed. Placements in paid and unpaid Work Experience are being created by our partnering non-profit agencies so that clients can access valuable opportunities year round. That being said, we are pleased to announce that preparations are underway for the

summer portion of the Sonoma County Youth Ecology Corps (SCYEC). The program will begin on June 18th and end on August 4th. The 2015 evaluation report has been published and is on our website (www.SCYEC.org).

We invite you to take advantage of the four opportunities below to meet this summer's young people. Their energy, enthusiasm and appreciation are a reminder of the incredible value of this program to Sonoma County's youth, the community and the environment. The SCYEC team looks forward to seeing you this summer.

Calistoga Job Fair

The city of Calistoga is having challenges recruiting a qualified workforce and has asked Sonoma County Job Link to help out. Currently the estimated unemployment rate in Calistoga is 1.6%, substantially lower than the state of California's 6.3%. Over half of their employees commute in from outside Calistoga's city limits and 20% from Santa Rosa alone. With the building of two new resorts it is estimated that there will be an increase of over 500 new jobs within the next three years. Like its surrounding areas, escalating wage rates are outpacing inflation and not adding new employees to the workforce pool.

Calistoga's Chamber of Commerce and several partners have come up with an innovative idea for alleviating the challenges of commuting with an employee shuttle program. A joint project paid for by the participating employers and employees, Beau Wine Tour's would provide round trip transportation for employees of participating employers three times a day, from Santa Rosa to Calistoga and back. Each coach includes reclining seats, electrical outlets w/USB charges, free WIFI,

all this aboard a fuel efficient low emission bus. By offering this service, the Calistoga Chamber of Commerce and its participating employers hope to increase employee retention, attract new employees and have access to a larger employee pool.

Why is Santa Rosa interested in helping another city with its workforce issues when Santa Rosa is experiencing their own? 1) No matter where they work, Santa Rosa residents will spend a majority of their earnings locally and that is good for business 2) On average, Calistoga pays higher wages than do employers in Santa Rosa and with a lower unemployment rate, there is more job availability making the commute look more attractive.

This is where Sonoma County Job Link comes in. The Santa Rosa Chamber of Commerce connected Calistoga's Chamber of Commerce with Job Link to see what we could do to help with recruiting Santa Rosa job seekers. To that end, we will be hosting a hospitality focused job fair at Job Link on behalf of Calistoga employers on May 25th from 10:00am – 1:00 pm.

Upcoming Events

SCYEC Kick-Off Work Day and Picnic

Wednesday, June 15
Work day: 9 m. – 11:30 am
Lunch & Program: 12 – 1:30 pm
Location: Oak Knolls Picnic area at Spring Lake
Note: Please let us know if you would like to sit with a crew from a particular region in the county!
RSVP to Ann DuBay
ann.dubay@scwa.ca.gov
524-8378

Redwood Credit Union "Bite of Reality" Financial Workshop

TENTATIVE
Thursday, July 14, 9 -Noon
Location: TBD
Note: Volunteers needed to assist young people during the workshop!
RSVP to Mai Garrett
mgarrett@schsd.org
565-8508

Visit a Crew Day: Spend time in the field with SCYEC crews

Thursday, July 21, Time TBA

- Sonoma Valley
- Santa Rosa
- Petaluma
- Windsor
- West County
- Cotati/Rohnert Park

Take advantage of the opportunity to observe a crew and speak directly with crew members, SCYEC Partners and Youth Agency staff.
RSVP: Steve Trippe
sgtrippe@newwaystowork.org
824-4000

Opportunity Fair: Providing SCYEC participants options for the future

Tuesday, July 26, 8:30 to 11:45 am
Location: Finley Center
Note: Volunteers needed to conduct mock interviews!
RSVP to Michelle Revecho
mrevecho@schsd.org
565-5557