



America's **JobCenter**
of CaliforniaSM

COMMUNITY COORDINATOR REPORT

July -September 2025

DEL NORTE COUNTY EDITION

MEETING OF THE MINDS Workforce Conference Focuses on Turning Uncertainty into Opportunity

SMART staff from all four service counties participated in this year's California Workforce Association Meeting of the Minds conference, themed "*Fearless Forward: Turning Uncertainty into Opportunity*." The event brought together workforce leaders from across the state to explore strategies in business-led innovation, trauma-informed programming, data-driven decision making, and emerging technologies like AI and VR in training. By engaging in these conversations, SMART staff strengthened connections and brought back fresh ideas to enhance services and outcomes in the communities we serve.



In addition to innovation and technology, this year's conference emphasized collaboration and adaptability as key drivers of workforce success. Sessions highlighted the importance of cross-sector partnerships, aligning education and industry needs, and creating inclusive pathways for populations often left behind in economic transitions. SMART staff had the opportunity to hear directly from state and national leaders on policy trends shaping the future of work, from climate-resilient job sectors to equitable access to digital skills. The conference reinforced the value of continuous learning and proactive leadership, inspiring participants to translate statewide insights into locally responsive strategies that strengthen the regional workforce system.

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Disaster Response Grants Make BIG Impact in Del Norte County



Through the National Dislocated Worker Grant (NDWG), SMART launched cleanup and repair projects in Del Norte County in May 2023 and in Trinity County in October 2023, offering temporary employment to individuals impacted by the severe winter storms.

Originally designed to employ 44 people, the program far exceeded expectations, ultimately placing 68 individuals into jobs focused on repairing storm-damaged public lands, public structures and recreation and trail systems—52 in Del Norte County and 16 in Trinity County.

The grant officially ended on June 30, 2025, closing out a two-year initiative that helped transform storm damage into an opportunity for growth and community renewal.

Through these NDWG grants, SMART has strengthened partnerships with community partners such as the U.S. Forest Service, the County of Del Norte, and the Watershed Research and Training Center to continue providing training and employment opportunities for individuals enrolled in other SMART grant-funded programs—ultimately improving the local labor market and the communities we serve.



Total Del Norte Participant Costs: \$511,024

Total Trinity Participant Costs: \$188,798

Supportive Services Total: \$41,750

TOTAL SPENT DIRECTLY ON PARTICIPANTS: \$699,821

Connecting Cultures, Creating Opportunities: SMART Engages at Native Workforce Summit

SMART was honored to take part in the 2nd Annual Native American Workforce Development Summit hosted by Northern California Indian Development Council (NCIDC). The gathering brought together a wide range of voices—from Tribal leaders and agency staff to businesses, job seekers, and youth—to exchange ideas and explore solutions that strengthen career pathways in Native communities. Beyond the sessions, the summit fostered meaningful dialogue and connections, with a shared lunch offering a chance to continue conversations in a more personal setting. SMART Business Services Representative Chelsea poses with collaborative partner Joe Davis, who shared his recent reelection as the chairman of the Hoopa Valley Tribe.



SMART Professional Development

- The AI Evolution in Phishing Attacks
- Fighting Fatigue in the Workplace
- Social Media and Email Safety
- SMART Accessibility Services
- 2025 Changes to Employee Payroll Taxes Best Practices - LMI & Occupational Data with EDD
- CalWorks Employment Services
- Shasta County Veterans Services
- Cal-AIM- Shasta Community Health Center
- Regional Data Report from EDD Data Analyst

And more!

Kyle's Journey Towards Stability and a Fresh Start

When Kyle first came to the SMART Workforce Center, he was facing multiple challenges. Recently released from incarceration, he was referred by Probation and in need of job search assistance and stability. Homeless but determined to change his circumstances, Kyle brought with him a strong work history and he was open to any opportunity that could help him get back on his feet.

With guidance from SMART staff, Kyle worked on building a new résumé and preparing for interviews. His dedication paid off when he was selected by the Del Norte County Parks & Maintenance Department for a temporary position as a Facilities Maintenance Worker Assistant through SMART's Transitional Jobs program.

SMART provided supportive services throughout Kyle's employment journey — including assistance with work attire, rental support, and ongoing coaching. His supervisor consistently noted that Kyle arrived on time, worked hard, and contributed positively to the team.

After completing his transitional job, Kyle shifted his focus back to job searching. With SMART's continued support, he updated his résumé, developed a job search action plan, and applied for a Cook position at the new homeless shelter — a role that connects directly with his prior experience and desire to give back. Recognizing his need for transportation and weather protection, SMART also helped Kyle purchase a bike and rain gear to ensure he could commute safely and attend interviews, regardless of the weather.

Today, Kyle continues to build momentum toward stable employment and housing. His story reflects perseverance, accountability, and the powerful impact of a supportive community network. Through partnership and persistence, Kyle is turning his second chance into a solid foundation for success.

On-The-Job Training and Work Experience Partners:

- City of Crescent City
- County of Del Norte
- County of Trinity
- County of Trinity Solid Waste
- Del Norte Mission Possible
- Del Norte Senior Center
- Emerald Ridge Construction
- Giles Insurance Services
- Kindred Hearts
- Pennie's Pet Parlour
- Redding Fashion Alliance
- Royal Plumbing
- Siskiyou Domestic Violence & Crisis Center
- Southern Oregon Goodwill Industries
- Steve's Custom Upholstery
- Sweetspot
- The Fly Shop
- US Offsite
- And More!

William's Perseverance Pays Off

William came into SMART Workforce Center wanting to explore workforce programs that could help him re-enter employment. Living with his girlfriend and their three children — with another child on the way — William had been unemployed for more than a year and was eager to rebuild his career. Although he had some experience in construction and general handyman work, he was motivated to strengthen his skills and gain formal experience in a structured work environment.



SMART partnered with Emerald Ridge Construction to set up a Work Experience (WEX) placement, providing William the opportunity to learn new trade skills while earning income to support his family. William quickly proved himself reliable and ready to learn. Through the Young Adult program, he's gaining valuable on-the-job training, building new skills, and laying the foundation for long-term employment in the construction field. His commitment to growth and his drive to provide for his family make William an inspiring example of how SMART's programs can open doors to opportunity and lasting self-sufficiency.



SMART Workforce Center is a
Proud Partner of:



Proudly serving our community since 1979, SMART Workforce Center is a 501c3 non-profit committed to helping job seekers find jobs, increase training and skills, and increase earnings. We also invest in our local economy by helping businesses grow. To learn more, visit our website: www.thesmartcenter.biz

SMART Workforce Center is an equal opportunity employer.

Auxiliary aids and services are available to individuals with disabilities. CA Relay TTY 7-1-1

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Redding, CA

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800 College Ave
Weed, CA

Siskiyou County
530.657.0139
1810 Fort Jones Rd, Ste B
Yreka, CA

Trinity County
530.623.5538
30 Arbuckle Ct
Weaverville, CA