

**QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER
COMMUNITY COORDINATOR REPORT – Q3 (2025-2026)
JANUARY – MARCH 2026**



Check out our
latest video!



GARY'S SUCCESS STORY: FROM JOB LOSS TO NEW OPPORTUNITY

Gary shares his story of resilience after experiencing job loss and how the Job Training Center helped him find a new path forward. Through the Dislocated Worker and NDWG programs, Gary received guidance, training, and support that helped him rebuild his confidence and move toward new employment opportunities. His journey highlights how the right support and determination can open the door to new beginnings.

YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP PILOT CREATES NEW PATHWAY TO JOBS IN TEHAMA COUNTY

Tehama County is taking a major step toward strengthening its local workforce through a new Youth Apprenticeship pilot designed to connect high school students directly to careers in high-demand skilled trades.

Led by the Job Training Center (JTC) in partnership with the Tehama County Career Technical Education (CTE) Coalition, the pilot brings together the county's three high school districts, the Tehama County Department of Education, Expect More Tehama, and more than 20 local businesses that employ Industrial Maintenance Technicians—an occupation widely recognized across the manufacturing and agricultural processing sectors as high-demand and difficult to fill.

The initiative is funded through the California Jobs First Initiative, an innovative economic development program focused on building regional talent pipelines and strengthening local economies.

YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP PILOT CREATES NEW PATHWAY TO JOBS IN TEHAMA COUNTY CONTINUED...

Tehama County has long invested in strong Career Technical Education programs, including agriculture mechanics, automotive technology, construction, and manufacturing pathways across its high schools. These programs provide students with foundational technical skills, modern facilities, and instruction from experienced teachers. Yet local manufacturers and agricultural processors continue to report difficulty finding qualified maintenance technicians. The Youth Apprenticeship pilot is designed to bridge that gap by connecting classroom learning directly to paid, real-world work opportunities.

“This project is about turning the assets we already have into a true talent pipeline for our businesses,” said Carrie Ferchaud, Executive Director of the Job Training Center and project lead. “Our schools are doing incredible work preparing students with technical skills. Apprenticeship allows us to connect that preparation directly to real jobs.”

After nearly a year of planning, employer needs assessments, staffing, and cross-district collaboration, the first group of youth apprentices have now been placed with local employers, marking a major milestone for the pilot.

In early 2026, students from Red Bluff High School, Corning High School, and Los Molinos High School interviewed with participating businesses before being selected for apprenticeship placements. These students earned their positions through a competitive process and will now participate in 12–18 month paid work-based learning experiences, developing hands-on skills under the mentorship of experienced mechanics.

Regional employers have made an incredible investment in the success of this pilot—contributing their time, expertise, and leadership to help design the program and mentor the next generation of technicians. Their involvement ensures the training reflects real industry needs while giving businesses the opportunity to recruit directly from a pool of motivated and qualified students.

The early success of the pilot signals something larger: when education and industry work together, communities can create lasting pathways to good jobs—right here at home.



CONSTRUCTION BOOT CAMP OPENS PATHWAYS TO CAREERS IN THE TRADES

The Job Training Center recently launched a Construction Boot Camp through the NORTEC-funded Accelerator Grant, enrolling 13 participants interested in building careers in the construction industry. The program is designed to help individuals develop practical skills and earn industry certifications, that support entry into the trades.

Throughout the program, students participate in hands-on training that focuses on construction fundamentals, workplace safety, and industry-recognized certifications.

Participants are gaining valuable foundational skills that can help them become more competitive in the workforce while preparing for employment opportunities in the construction field.

The course is led by instructor Dan Proctor, whose hands-on teaching style helps bring the material to life. His ability to connect with participants and make the lessons practical has helped create a positive and engaging learning environment.

Programs like the Construction Boot Camp help create new pathways for individuals looking to enter the trades while supporting the growing workforce needs of the region.



Job Training Center's Construction Boot Camp Participants outside of Corning Adult Ed Classroom

JOB TRAINING CENTER CONNECTS WITH COMMUNITY AT B.E.A.M. BUSINESS EXPO

The Job Training Center and Main Street Productions (MSP) participated in the 14th Annual B.E.A.M. Business Expo & Mixer on February 18 at the Red Bluff Community Center. The event brought together local businesses, organizations, and community members to connect and share resources.

Staff hosted a booth to highlight the hands-on training opportunities available through Main Street Productions, along with the employment and job readiness services offered through the Job Training Center. Attendees had the opportunity to learn more about training programs, career support services, and ways to connect with local employment opportunities.

Events like the B.E.A.M. Expo help strengthen relationships with local employers and community partners while increasing awareness of the workforce services available to Tehama County residents.



JTC Staff at BEAM Business Expo

INSIDE THE WALMART DISTRIBUTION CENTER: JOB TRAINING CENTER STAFF TOUR FACILITY

On March 6, nine staff members from the Job Training Center toured the Walmart Distribution Center in Red Bluff. The visit provided a firsthand look at the facility's operations and the wide range of roles that support Walmart's supply chain and logistics work.

During the tour, staff learned more about the day-to-day workflow of the distribution center and the skills required for positions within the facility. Seeing the operation firsthand gave staff a better understanding of the types of opportunities available to job seekers interested in warehouse, logistics, and transportation careers.

Visits like this help the Job Training Center stay connected with major local employers while strengthening partnerships across the community. By gaining insight into workplace environments and hiring needs, staff are better equipped to guide job seekers toward career pathways that align with the needs of Tehama County's workforce.

CONNECTING STUDENTS TO CAREER PATHWAYS THROUGH LOCAL CAREER FAIRS

The Job Training Center continued its outreach with local schools by participating in the Los Molinos High School Career Fair on February 6, 2026. A Young Adult Career Navigator from the Job Training Center connected with students in grades 9–12, sharing information about available programs, career exploration, and employment support services.

At the Job Training Center booth, students learned more about the Young Adult Program through informational materials and one-on-one conversations. An interactive activity invited students to identify workplace “red flags” and “green flags,” encouraging them to reflect on what makes a healthy and respectful work environment. The activity sparked thoughtful discussions—especially among juniors and seniors—about workplace expectations, communication, and personal accountability on the job.

The Job Training Center also participated in the Red Bluff High School Career Fair on March 10, where staff connected with students through similar conversations about career planning and future employment opportunities. By participating in events like these, JTC continues to build early connections with local students while helping them better understand the skills and expectations that support long-term career success.



JTC Staff at Red Bluff High School Career Fair

JOB TRAINING CENTER – QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER COMMUNITY COORDINATOR REPORT – Q3 (2025-2026)

FROM CLASSROOM TO CAREER: A DAY AT THE JOB TRAINING CENTER

On February 12, the Job Training Center welcomed a Corning High School business student for Job Shadow Day, providing a behind-the-scenes look at how different departments support job seekers and local employers.

Throughout the day, the student met with staff across several program areas, including the Youth Program, Main Street Productions, marketing, business operations and finance. Each session gave the student insight into how the organization works and how different roles contribute to workforce development and community services.

Staff also hosted a casual lunch, giving team members a chance to connect with the student and share their experiences working at the Job Training Center.

Experiences like Job Shadow Day help students explore career interests while gaining a better understanding of how organizations support the local workforce and community.



JTC Staff with CUHS Student

JOB TRAINING CENTER CONNECTS COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO RESOURCES AT PROBATION FAIR

On February 19, 2026, staff from the Job Training Center participated in the Probation Resource Fair, where Christi Goni and Melissa Pearce connected with individuals currently under probation supervision. The event brought together community partners to share information about employment, education, and supportive services that help individuals move toward stability and long-term success.

A total of 63 attendees participated. One of the most impactful moments was a presentation from a formerly justice-involved individual who shared her journey of completing probation, achieving sobriety, and enrolling at Shasta College through the Step-Up Program. Her story highlighted how determination, support, and access to resources can create new opportunities.

The event also included several community partners, including the Job Training Center, Shasta College Step-Up Program, the Department of Motor Vehicles, Sierra Pacific Industries Millworks, Empower Tehama/Project Restore, and Tehama County Social Services. Together, these partners connected attendees with employment opportunities, vocational training, and support services that help reduce barriers to employment and support successful reentry into the workforce.

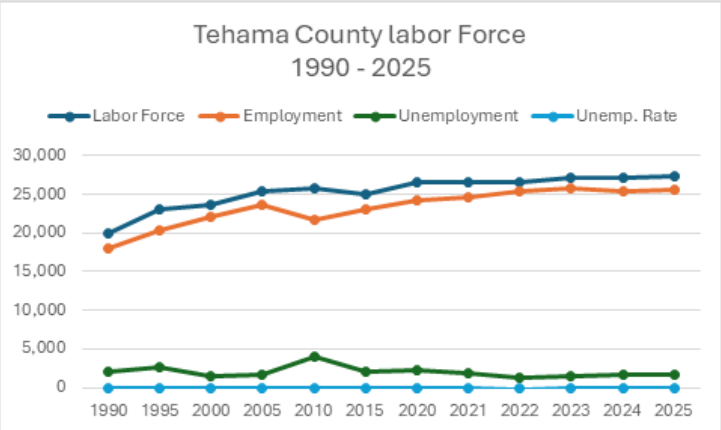
LABOR FORCE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Tehama County | 1990–2025

Tehama County’s workforce is growing — and in 2025 reached its highest level in over 15 years (27,415).

Employment has also increased significantly, meaning more people are working than in recent history. This directly challenges the perception that the workforce is shrinking.

And yes—we looked all the way back to 1990. Not because we miss dial-up internet, but because the long-term data confirms this isn’t a short-term spike. It’s sustained growth.



Key Trends:

15-Year Trend (2010–2025)

Labor Force: ▲ +6.5% (+1,665)

Employment: ▲ +17.9% (+3,889)

Unemployment Rate: ▼ 15.6% → 6.5%

5-Year Snapshot (2020–2025)

Labor Force: ▲ +3.0% (+795)

Employment: ▲ +5.6% (+1,349)

Unemployment Rate: ▼ 8.8% → 6.5%

Bottom Line

Tehama County’s workforce is growing and predominately employed. The challenge is not supply — it’s productivity, experience, and how we support the workforce we have.



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