

WORKFORCE ALLIANCE OF THE NORTH BAY LAKE COUNTY *WORKFORCE UPDATE*



SUMMER 2025 HIGHLIGHTS

- LAKE WILDFIRE RESILIENCE
WORKFORCE PROGRAM
- THE HEART HUB
- HEALTHCARE CAREERS
PATHWAY PROGRAM



Lake Wildfire Resilience Workforce Program: Building Skills, Strengthening Communities

We're thrilled to celebrate the success of the Lake Wildfire Resilience Workforce Program, a vital initiative preparing local residents for careers in wildfire mitigation and forest management. This summer, we had 2 graduating cohorts.

- **Basic 40 Course:** 17 graduates completed this foundational training, gaining essential skills in wildfire response, safety, and environmental stewardship. They also earned their NWCG FF2 Certification.
- **Fire and Forestry Career Training Program:** 22 individuals graduated from this advanced program, ready to step into long-term roles in fire prevention, forest health, and ecological restoration.

This program is made possible through generous funding from the California Department of Housing and Community Development, which supports workforce development in fire-impacted regions. The grant also enabled the acquisition of a new training facility for TERA (Tribal EcoRestoration Alliance) – a major milestone that will expand capacity for future training and community resilience efforts. These graduates are now equipped to make a meaningful impact in our region, helping protect our landscapes and build a safer, more sustainable future. Congratulations to all our graduates!

SPOTLIGHT ON THE HEART HUB: REIMAGINING HEALTHCARE TRAINING IN LAKE COUNTY

Lake County is poised to become a regional leader in healthcare workforce development—with the HEART Hub emerging as a vibrant focal point for training, innovation, and community opportunity.

Spotlight on the HEART Hub: Reimagining Healthcare Training in Lake County

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At its core, the HEART Hub (Healthcare Education & Regional Training Hub) will offer hands-on, simulation-based programs that bridge education and employment. This facility's goal is to help aspiring healthcare professionals—from middle school learners to adult students—build skills, confidence, and career pathways right here in our community.

One of the centerpieces of the HEART Hub is the SPARK program, designed for students in grades 5–8. Through imaginative, interactive learning, SPARK introduces younger learners to healthcare careers, nurturing curiosity and laying a foundation for future pursuits.

Beyond SPARK, the HEART Hub is intended to serve up to 1,000 high school and adult learners annually, drawing on state-of-the-art simulation labs and supported by deep partnerships. Local institutions—including Sutter Health, Adventist Health–Clearlake, the Tribal Health Consortium, Mendocino College, MLACE, Redwood Coast K-16 Collaborative, Lake County Office of Education, Mendocino County Office of Education, and Sonoma State University—are contributing their expertise to shape responsive, workforce-ready programming.

Funded in part by a \$650,000 Catalyst Grant through California's Redwood Region RISE initiative, the HEART Hub enters its implementation phase in May 2025, with full build-out slated for September 2026. This strategic support helps ensure the Hub has the resources to meet both educational and community health needs.

What's in it for our community?

- Learners gain hands-on experience in realistic clinical scenarios.
- Local healthcare institutions benefit from a steady pipeline of trained professionals.
- Middle schoolers get early exposure to high-demand careers through the SPARK program.
- Lake County builds resilience—and health—right where it needs it most.

The HEART Hub isn't just a facility; it's a path toward opportunity, local growth, and long-term community health. Stay tuned as we follow its progression into the classroom and beyond.

*For a full list of the project partners and more information, [click here](#).



Spring CNA Cohort Opens This September at LCOE

This fall, the Lake County Office of Education (LCOE) proudly launches the fourth cohort of its Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) training program, made possible through the Healthcare Career Pathway (HCP) grant funded by the California Healthcare Access and Information Department. Scheduled to run through June 2026, the program offers a compact yet immersive three-month experience that blends classroom theory with hands-on clinical practice. By providing essential supports such as textbooks, training supplies, fingerprinting, drug screening, and even the state certification exam and ID badge—all included in a \$1,500 program fee with a \$150 deposit—LCOE removes common barriers to healthcare careers.

To ensure learners are well-prepared for both training and certification, applicants must be at least 18 years old, hold a high school diploma or equivalent, and pass basic skills assessments, as well as fingerprinting and drug screening. Instruction occurs evenings and weekends: theory classes are held Monday evenings from 4:00–9:00 p.m. at the Hance Education Center in Lakeport, while clinical sessions take place on-site at Rocky Point Care Center on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Upon completion, graduates are eligible to sit for the state CNA certification exam and often achieve pass rates above the average, reflecting the program's quality.

Recognizing the financial strains many students face, LCOE also offers multiple avenues of financial assistance. Funding and support can be accessed through partners such as CareerPoint Lake, Career TEAM, CalWORKs, California Human Development, the Department of Rehabilitation, Rocky Point Care Center, Scotts Valley Tribal TANF, and others.

As the program continues to grow, LCOE is offering informational sessions for the spring cohort, which begins late this September. These sessions are designed to guide prospective applicants through the process and provide all the necessary details to get started. Whether you're a recent graduate eager to enter the workforce or considering a meaningful career change, becoming a CNA through this program is a powerful opportunity to make a real impact in your community.

For full program details and to take the first step toward this rewarding healthcare career, visit <https://www.lakecoe.org/schools/mtp>.



LAKE COUNTY
OFFICE OF EDUCATION

TO TEACH. TO SERVE. TO LEARN.

WORKFORCE NEWS FLASH!

LAKE COUNTY'S TOP POSTED OCCUPATIONS

1. Registered Nurses
2. Physical Therapists
3. Radiologic Technologists & Technicians
4. Speech-Language Pathologists
5. Retail Salespersons
6. Medical & Health Services Managers
7. Teaching Assistants, Except Postsecondary
8. Occupational Therapists
9. Merchandise Displayers & Window Trimmers
10. Health Technologists & Technicians, All Other

**LAKE COUNTY JOB POSTING
ANALYTICS REPORT**

**LAKE COUNTY
ECONOMY OVERVIEW
REPORT**

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Programs are fully funded by grant awards from the California Employment Development Department (EDD) using Department of Labor funding, which provides 100% of the total program funding. In FY 2025-26 has budgeted the following amounts: WIOA Adult, \$1,289,355; WIOA Dislocated Worker, \$1,362,128; WIOA Youth, \$1,219,142; Rapid Response, \$471,861; Rapid Response Layoff Aversion, \$178,357. The WIOA Title I financially assisted program or activity referenced in this document is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. CareerPoint is a proud partner of the America's Job Center of California network.

Sita Williams, Community & Business Partnerships Officer
swilliams@workforcealliancenorthbay.org
www.workforcealliancenorthbay.org



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