



Family Self-Sufficiency

From the Office: Year in Review

Happy New Year! As we head into 2012, I'd like to take a moment to reflect on your successes in 2011. 5 participants successfully completed their Contracts of Participation and a total of over \$23,000.00 was awarded to them from their escrow savings account.

I'm very happy to report that the average annual income for FSS participants increased by over \$4,000.00 this past year. This is due in large part to the fact that eighteen of you found new employment. Additionally,

eleven of you were able to reduce the amount of cash welfare assistance you are receiving and 7 of you ceased receiving cash welfare assistance as a result of increased household income. Kudos to all of you for all your hard work in 2011.

In other news, this February we will be putting on 2 workshops on how to pass the HQS inspection (see page 3) and in April we will be presenting a series of "Second Chance Checking Account" workshops hosted by Rabobank. More information on dates and times will be posted in

the spring newsletter.

The FSS program has entered into collaborative partnerships with an eye care provider, a medical clinic and a pharmacy training program. If you are in need of low-cost, no-cost eye glasses, basic medical treatment, or are interested in pharmacy technician training, please contact the FSS office

As a reminder, please continue to update the FSS office monthly via email, telephone or in person on program progress.

I wish you continued success in 2012!

Butte County Economic Forecast

Butte County, the largest California County in terms of population north of the Bay Area and the Sacramento Valley has definitely been hit hard by unemployment over the past two years.

While having one of the highest unemployment rates in the state in 2011, it does appear as if

hiring might pick-up in 2012 and the economic forecast is not all bad!

Butte County has a population of 221,331 people and 75,258 wage and salary jobs. The per capita income in Butte County is \$31,358, and the average salary per worker is \$39,065.

In 2010, approximately 2,600 total wage and sala-

ry jobs were lost in Butte County, representing a significant decline in employment of 3.3 percent. The unemployment rate increased to 13.9 percent in 2010.

Education and healthcare was the only sector to create jobs during 2010, adding 80 workers or 0.6 percent to

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Effective 1/1/2012
 Section 8 Participant Walk-In
 Hours are:
**1:00 pm to 4:00 pm only
 or by appointment.**
 Contact your Case Worker to
 schedule an appointment!

2012 Jobs Outlook Information



For job seekers looking for job opportunities in 2012, there are certain industries that will continue to dominate in

terms of growth, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Jobs in technology and computer-related fields and health care are just a few of the industries that promise the largest expansion in the coming year.

What does that mean to your job search for the New Year? With more and more companies dependent on technology and new digital mediums, employees who are well-versed in and understand digital technology concepts will have the most growth opportunities. **And with the aging of baby boomers, those**

who seek employment in the health care industry with positions like home health aides and medical assistants have a better chance to secure employment. Globalization of the workforce will also attract employees who understand international business issues, can and are willing to work in more diverse environments, and potentially looking to work abroad.

While workers who are more skilled and have college degrees will have more job prospects than their less educated counterparts, of the highest growth jobs, many require short-term, on-the-job training, or moderate training. Fields such as home health aides, physical therapists and medical assistants are just a few.

Those fields that require higher education, as compared to on-the-job

training, will see higher pay scales and growth, however. These include occupations such as network systems and data communications analyst and financial examiners, for instance.

Job seekers will continue to see an increase in the use of social networking sites as a recruiting tool. With the ability to narrow their job search and target employers directly, social media is fast becoming a primary job search tool for job seekers, not to mention a tool that many recruiters capitalize on.

You will need to utilize social media to your advantage in 2012 and with hiring projections anticipated to remain sluggish through the New Year, job seekers who are more willing to accept contract and consulting projects as an alternative to full-time employment, can anticipate expanding their job opportunities in the coming year.

Economic Forecast (*continued from page 1*)

the work force. The public sector, which accounts for 24 percent of total employment in Butte County, shed 300 jobs, or 1.7 percent of total employment.

Other employment sectors with significant employment losses included retail trade (-520 jobs), leisure (-440 jobs), construction (-390 jobs) and professional services (-380 jobs). Manufacturing employment fell to the lowest level on record.

The population in Butte County grew at a rate of 0.4 percent between 2008 and 2010. The largest city in the county is Chico (87,713 residents), which grew at a rate of 1.1 percent between 2008 and 2010. Net migration slowed but remained positive last year, with an estimated 662 mi-

grants entering the county. That total is less than half of the average annual net migration over the past 10 years.

Total wage and salary job growth is forecast to be near zero in 2012, with an estimated gain of 0.2 percent. Between 2010 and 2015, total employment growth is expected to average a modest 1.4 percent per year. Average salaries adjusted for inflation are currently below the California state average and are expected to remain so over the forecast period. Inflation adjusted salaries are expected to rise by an average of 0.8 percent per year from 2010 to 2015.

Between 2010 and 2015, principle job creation is expected to occur in construction, professional services, education and healthcare services,

retail trade, and government jobs. These sectors are projected to account for 69 percent of all jobs created in Butte County during this time period.

Population projections indicate that the population in Butte County will continue to grow at a modest rate. Annual growth in the 2010 to 2015 period is expected to average 0.8 per cent per year.

Employment opportunities are expected in the following companies: Butte County Social Welfare, Enloe Medical Center, Feather River Hospital, Home Health Care Management, Pacific Coast Producers, Tri Counties Bank, United Health Care, Valley Clinical Laboratories, Walmart, and Butte County Department of Probation.

About Oroville Adult Education Career and Technical Center

The aim of any school is to graduate responsible and productive citizens with strong critical thinking and academic skills by providing a rigorous, dynamic, comprehensive curriculum delivered in partnership with the community, family and a competent, qualified staff in a safe and caring environment.

Oroville Adult Education Career and Technical Center serves 7,500 youths and adults annually with academic and vocational programs at 18 different sites. Academic programs include High School Diploma, General Education Diploma (GED) preparation, computer applications, job readiness, English as a Second Language (ESL), Adult Basic Educa-

tion, and Career Exploration. Vocational programs include Office Technology, Computer Repair, Certification, Medical Assistant, and Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) Training.

At Oroville Adult Education Career and Technical Center, staff identifies and implements critical professional development opportunities to strengthen student learning. Oroville Adult Education is committed to a quality adult education system that is accountable, efficient and meets the needs of all students.

The school is located at 2750 Mitchell Avenue, Oroville, CA 95966. Phone contact is: (530) 538-5350.

FAFSA 2012 DEADLINES

Federal Deadline:

Online applications must be submitted by midnight Central Time, June 30, 2012. Any corrections or updates must be submitted by midnight Central Time, September 21, 2012.

State Deadline:

California - For initial awards - March 2, 2012. Applicants encouraged to keep a record of their submission by printing out their online FAFSA confirmation page.

2012 Class Schedules

All students enrolled in institutions of higher education or career technical training, please remember to turn in a copy of your spring 2012 class schedule to the FSS office by the end of January 2012!

Common HQS Inspection Fail Items



Seven common fail items on annual Housing Quality Standards inspections are:

Entry Doors:
Must lock se-

curely. Check the weather-stripping. If there are gaps that let air in, weather-stripping must be applied. Check the doorjamb and strike plate for defects.

Windows: Those designed to open must open and have a permanent lock attached (sticks and thumbscrews are not accepted as locking devices). The windowpanes must not be broken or cracked.

Electrical Hazards: All outlets and switches must have cover plates, intact and secured to the wall. There can be no exposed wiring. All light fixtures must work and be properly mounted to

the wall or ceiling.

Oven/ Range: The range and oven should be clean so they do not constitute a fire hazard. Burners must lay flat and all elements must be working properly. All knobs and dials should be on the appliance. Filter screens should be installed in front of fans.

Refrigerator: The rubber gasket around the door should be intact and fit snugly. Loose and/or cracked gaskets must be replaced. The kick plate at the bottom of the refrigerator must be secured properly.

Heating and Plumbing: The heating system must be in working order and provide adequate heat. All heat sources should be clear of furniture, bedding, clothing and other items.

Flooring : Carpets that are frayed or torn, or vinyl, tile or linoleum that would be a tripping hazard must be replaced or repaired.

February 2012 Workshop

Want to know the secrets to passing your next HQS inspection? Help has arrived!

Passing the HQS Inspection Workshop

Saturday February 11, 2012
Housing Authority Office
10:00 to 11:30 am

or

Saturday February 18, 2012
Housing Authority Office
10:00 to 11:30 am

Tips for Job Seekers



Finding a job can, and should be, a job in itself. Unless you are extremely lucky, finding a job can be a trying and frustrating process. Rejection, depression, feelings of hopelessness can become an overwhelming force when looking for employment. The good news is, it can only be so, if you let it.

The best way to effectively job hunt, while minimizing frustration, is to develop a routine. Make it your job to find a job! One way to do this is to devise a weekly schedule of job hunting activities. For example: Monday morning could be the morning that you check local employment ads, newspaper ads, etc. Tuesdays may be designated as the day that you work on

producing cover letters and copies of your resume, Wednesdays may be the day that you send out your resumes and Thursdays may be the day that you follow up with potential employers on resumes you sent out the week prior. This is just an example of a routine and it may not be right for you. The point is, develop a routine that works for you and stick to it.

Developing a routine allows you to get a greater sense of control. Many people let the 'job hunting blues' get to them because they cannot motivate themselves. They will often times let one incident where they were rejected by an employer, put a damper on future job searches.

A routine will allow you to feel like you are making progress. Although you may not see immediate results, you will end each day

knowing that you are one step closer to finding an opportunity. A routine also will prepare you for the working world where you will be expected to keep certain working hours. In the end, you will find that a regimented approach will translate into greater opportunities!

Another golden rule of job searching is never to take a rejection personally. Rejection is very much part of job searches. You will likely encounter numerous rejection letters or negative responses before you find someone who will grant you an interview or give your application due consideration.

Take it in stride and tell yourself that it was worth at least getting your name known to the company.

Resume Myths-Debunked

There is no one best way to write a resume; there are no absolutes. Every career counselor and recruiter has his or her own take on resume writing. Even the formatting you use and the positions you list depend on the industry, the specific job, and your experience. But amid all the potentially conflicting opinions, there is some agreement on common resume myths.

1. Your resume must be only one page. False. "Your resume should be as long as needed in order to get your concise message across with zip and punch," says Joyce Lain Kennedy, careers columnist and author of *Resumes for Dummies*. If your experience and background justifies two or more pages, so be it. Recent grads shouldn't go beyond one page, but senior executives with decades of experience will probably need at least

two pages.

The rules are slightly different for resumes sent via e-mail. Laura Dominguez Chan, a Stanford University career counselor, says that in that instance, shorter is better for both cover letters and resumes.

2. Prospective employers don't read cover letters. False. "Remember that anything you send is part of an image you're projecting," says Dominguez Chan. "If nothing else, your cover letter shows your writing skills...and if all the candidates for the position really are top notch, it could be the cover letter that lands you the job."

3. Resumes should include and describe your entire work history.

False. Your resume is a sales piece, a personal marketing tool. Take time to consider what skills the position requires. It's likely that a part-time job

you took for a few months isn't going to be relevant or impressive. Unless you need to cover a significant time gap, it's wise to include only those jobs that will showcase your ability to excel in the position for which you're applying.

Volunteer and other non-paid positions can be just as valuable as paid ones—especially if you're a recent grad or are re-entering the workforce after an absence. Use your resume format to communicate.

4. If your resume is good enough, it will produce a job offer.

False. Your resume is only one part of the process. Its job is to land you an interview. "Once you get the interview, says Joyce Lain Kennedy, "you are what gets you a job—your skills, your savvy, your personality, your attitude."