



SLOCal Careers Business Retention Services: Q1 Summary

Program Overview The Atascadero and South County Chambers of Commerce have a contract with the Workforce Development Board to provide WIOA Business Retention Services through the SLOCal Careers System. Simply stated, Chamber staff visit businesses, listens to challenges, provide resources, connection to the SLOCal Careers Center and document activities in CalJobs.

Q1 WIOA Services

North County – Gloria Balderas

- Business Assessments - 71
Businesses in Paso Robles, Atascadero, Templeton, Santa Margarita, and Cambria
- Contract allows for Gloria to work 5 days per week.

South County – Dale Aldrich

- Business Assessments - 9
Businesses in Nipomo, Arroyo Grande, and Pismo Beach.
- Dale hired in August, began learning CalJobs data entry in September.
- Contract allows for Dale to work 2 days per week.

Key Trends and Challenges

- Small businesses are struggling due to inflation, wage increases, and skyrocketing SBA Loan interest rates.
- Grant information is needed to help small businesses.
- Some downtown Atascadero businesses were affected due to recent construction.

- Hiring qualified candidates remains a challenge.
- Interest in learning more about what SBDC has to offer.
- Businesses need help with accounting.
- Businesses need help with marketing.

Outcomes

- 80 businesses visited.
- Assisted 2 businesses with Job Sharing applications to avoid layoffs.
- Sent grant information emails to 55 businesses.
- Sent 15 job developer references.
- Helped a Paso Robles bookstore find a buyer.

Additional Work Activities

- Attendance at Regional Business Engagement & Strategy Academy (Sept 12-13)
- Grant resources via e-newsletters
- Grant resources via quarterly newsletter
- Grant resources on Chamber website