



PLUMAS RURAL SERVICES

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CHILD CARE RESOURCE & REFERRAL

Plumas Rural Services (PRS) operates the Child Care Resource & Referral (R&R) program in Plumas County. Funded by the California Department of Social Services, the R&R program offers support both to parents looking for local child care and to child care providers and those interested in becoming providers in Plumas County.

R&R has funding available for individuals who are interested in becoming a child care provider. The program can reimburse up to \$1,000 in expenses, which is typically more than is required to start a home-based child care business. Providers can get tax business deductions (such as for a portion of rent or mortgage payments, utilities, supplies), stay home with their kids, and make anywhere from \$35-\$45 daily per child in their care. The R&R Coordinator guides new providers along the way, providing assistance with meeting requirements and advocating with Community Care Licensing. A new provider can be licensed within 1-3 months, depending on how quickly they'd like to get things completed.

The steps of becoming a provider are: attend a licensing orientation and trainings for child health and safety, CPR/First Aid, and the Mandated Reporting Law; provide proof of immunizations for pertussis and measles and a flu shot; complete a tuberculosis screening; submit a License Application; undergo a LIVESCAN fingerprint/background check; and have a pre-license visit from a Licensing Analyst.

After getting licensed, providers can continue to get assistance and support from the R&R Coordinator. They can get continuing education and free trainings where incentives up to \$100 value are available. The R&R Coordinator can do a home visit and provide some health & safety

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PAULA JOHNSTON

NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The PRS Board of Directors has appointed Paula Johnston as the agency's new Executive Director. The Board made the appointment at its December 10th meeting, the culmination of six months of consideration of the position, the agency's needs going forward, and Paula's vision for the agency as it moves into its 45th year.

Paula moved to Plumas County in 1991 when her husband, Rich, was hired with the Plumas County Sheriff's Office; she joined PRS in a clerical and bookkeeping position. After three years getting to know the agency from that perspective, she moved into the position of HR Director for the next 12 years. In 2006, she added Chief Operating Officer of the agency to her duties while continuing to oversee HR for another 10 years. By 2016, her duties were wholly engaged as the COO until she stepped into the Interim Executive Director position in May 2024.

"I am incredibly pleased to move forward with PRS in this position," Paula says. "After working with PRS for over 33 years, I am very excited to further engage our community and partners and provide opportunities to our staff to grow and develop. I look forward to supporting all individuals and families living in Plumas, Sierra, Lassen and Modoc Counties with a variety of services to meet their specific and unique needs. One thing I'm particularly interested in focusing on is increasing our service delivery for the elderly and teen populations in our counties."

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During her time with PRS to date, Paula has championed the agency's staff, working diligently to develop a professional climate that balances life and work for its employees, values them and their families, and encourages flexibility and recognition for hard work. She has been an unflagging advocate for building collaborative relationships with partners across the agency's 4-county service area, dedicating countless hours to participating with councils and advisory groups to determine how PRS can best support community-based initiatives and serve its neighbors. Most recently, Paula was the driving force behind the enormous response PRS presented in the face of the Dixie Fire, coordinating services and distribution of resources to fire survivors across Plumas County.

"We are pleased to welcome Paula as our new Executive Director," says Patty Clawson, PRS Board President. "She will bring experience, enthusiasm and great communication skills to our organization. We look forward to a successful future with her at the helm."

In her free time, Paula enjoys reading, card making, scrapbooking and spending time with her family, as well as spending time with her doting cat, Wesley.

211 COMING TO PLUMAS

After years of work, the 211 Plumas service has been approved, expected to go live in Spring 2025. 211 is a free information and referral service that connects people to health and human services in their community 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Overseen by United Way of Northern California (UWNC), PRS will support the line's Plumas County information database.

PRS has been working with UWNC for the past two years to establish the 211 in database Plumas County to support callers. Local organizations that want to ensure information is available and up-to-date are encouraged to contact Nina Peay at 530-283-2735, ext. 830 or npeay@plumasruralservices.org.



JOB OPENINGS

PRS is hiring! The following information includes a snapshot of available positions at the time of this newsletter's publication. Click on job titles for more information, including job descriptions, hours and requirements.

FEC FAMILY SPECIALIST \$19.32-\$25.89/hr

Family Empowerment Center (FEC) direct service position providing free information on community resources for parents and caregivers of children and young adults with disabilities in Modoc, Lassen, Plumas and Sierra counties. (Bilingual \$21.25-28.48/hr)

RESPITE CARE PROVIDER \$17.49-\$23.26/hr

RESPITE PROVIDER II \$20.53-\$25.53/hr

The Respite program provides respite care for caregivers of the elderly and people with physical and/or developmental disabilities. These positions provide in-home care and developmentally and age-appropriate activities for clients. May also provide transportation.

TRANSIT DRIVER \$18.00/hr during training,

\$20.00/hr after getting Class B License

Full time & on-call. Provides safe, reliable and courteous service to the general public while operating any Plumas County Transit vehicle. Applications must include a DMV driving record. This position includes a \$500 hiring bonus, another \$500 after obtaining the appropriate license, and another \$1,000 after 1 year of employment.

ALIVE SUPPORT SPECIALIST I \$19.32-\$25.71/hr

The ALIVE program provides day services, independent living, job development and job coaching services to individuals with development, intellectual and physical disabilities.

Up-to-date information on employment opportunities may be found on [PRS's website here](#). Each applicant must submit an application, cover letter and resume. Applications and instructions for submitting can be found at the link above.

STAFF ACCOLADES

Emily Fullerton, a contractor and former participant with the Visions youth development program, has graduated from Northern Arizona University with a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology. Emily has been instrumental in developing the Envisions life skills opportunity for Visions participants who are preparing to graduate high school and working on their plans for their future.

R&R CONTINUED

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items free for the home that are required for licensing. Providers also receive additional resources as well as law center support for those that need it.

Providers set their own hours (part-time, full-time, after school, evenings, nights, weekends), set their own rates, choose the ages of children they'll care for (infants, toddlers, preschoolers, school-age), and get cash reimbursements for serving nutritious meals/snacks. They can care for up to 8 children (more with an assistant). This is very flexible work, and the potential income is significant whether for a full-time or supplemental income.

For parents looking for child care, the Coordinator offers contact information for local providers. The program also provide referrals to other programs, such as the Child Care Payment Program (income thresholds are often higher than most people think), WIC, and the Family Empowerment Center.

Community-wide, R&R helps coordinate the Children's Fair, annual Provider Appreciation Day, and annual Parents Conference; R&R also collaborates with everyone locally in the field of early childhood care and education. Many resources are shared on social media to inform young families about what's happening in the area (library resources, events, etc.). More information about the R&R program can be found [here](#).

January



Wednesday, January 8, 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Webinar: IEP Meeting Preparation & Organization
Free Training and Informational Session for Caregivers
[Register here](#)

Wednesday, January 8, 2:00 - 3:00 PM

Webinar: What is a section 504 Plan?
Free Training and Informational Session for Caregivers
[Register here](#)

Monday, January 20

PRS Offices Closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

What the new year brings to you will depend a great deal on what you bring to the new year.

- Vern McLellan



PREPARING IN WINTER

Winter is a great time to begin preparing for the coming fire season as well as other natural disasters.



Some items you can check off your disaster preparedness list over the winter include:

- Make sure you are signed up to receive emergency notifications in [Plumas County](#), [Lassen County](#), [Modoc County](#), or [Sierra County](#).
- Make a plan for emergencies: write down names and numbers of individuals you might need to contact, and create a plan with your family about where you would go if you must evacuate or cannot return home.
- Pack a Go-Bag with copies of important documents (ID cards, insurance, deeds, titles, photos of family members and pets, and other important documents), cash (small bills), lists of prescription medications, and a paper map of routes out of the area. Include pet supplies (food, water, medications, crate) if necessary.
- Make a Stay-Box in the event of Shelter in Place orders with 3 gallons of water per person, non-perishable foods that do not require cooking, trash bags with ties and a bucket to use as a toilet, and any other item you may need if you cannot leave home for several days.
- Address roof and crawl space vents to resist allowing embers to enter in the event of a wildfire. [More information here.](#)
- Create defensible space: Ember Resistance Zone (0-5' around home), Lean, Clean and Green Zone (5-30' around home), and Reduced Fuel Zone (30-100' around home). [More information here.](#)

DONATE TODAY:



530-283-2735

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Plumas Rural Services
Serving people, Strengthening families, Building communities