

SMART BUSINESS RESOURCE CENTER

CERTIFIED NURSE ASSISTANT TRAINING 2009

In conjunction with the Smart Business Resource Center in Redding, Mayers Memorial Hospital District received a \$50,000 grant to conduct two Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA) classes by December 31, 2009. Shelley Lee, Director of Staff Development at Mayers has already finished teaching the first class of seven students and has just begun the second class. By the end of 2009, approximately 18 students will have gone through the training and be prepared to take the state exam and skills test. Those who pass the exams will become Certified Nurse Assistants and be eligible for full-time employment at Mayers or another hospital within Shasta County.

Of the \$50,000 grant that was awarded, \$15,352 is being used to support each student enrolled in the class through purchase of their uniform, equipment, physical exam and licensing fees. The Smart Business Resource Center is providing the Program Advisor and \$16,588 of grant funds has been budgeted for her compensation. The remaining \$18,060 will be used to cover the instructor's salary and supplies for each class.

In preparation for these classes, Mayers Memorial Hospital District needed to be approved for an in-house program. Approval by the Department of Health Services through the State of California came only a few days before the first class was scheduled to begin. Each class consists of 184 hours of instruction – 72 theory and 112 clinical. Clinical days are being split between the Burney and Fall River campuses.

The goal of these classes is to assist students in furthering their career in the healthcare field and provide them the training they need to obtain certification and employment at a local hospital. The training will not only give each student the skills to work as a Certified Nursing Assistant, it will also expose them to nursing and allied health careers that will pay them a decent living wage and allow them and their family to stay within the region. Many of the students from the first class are using their training for employment that will help them further their education. Eight of the students in the second class have indicated interest in working for Mayers following certification, which will significantly diminish the District's reliance on the registry for CNA staffing.