

The 411



Photo by VijaySingh [CC BY](#)

The new year stands before us, like a chapter in a book, waiting to be written. We can help write that story by setting goals.

-M. Beattle

NETWORK YOUR WAY INTO A NEW JOB

1. Develop a firm grasp of job search basics.
2. Conduct a self-assessment.
3. Prepare a strong resume.
4. Decide how to organized your network.
5. Communicate with your network.
6. Initiate Informational interviews.
7. Follow up with your network.

For more info, visit

[https://
www.livecareer.com/
career/advice/jobs/](https://www.livecareer.com/career/advice/jobs/)

From the Office

Effective January 1, 2018, the minimal wage in California is \$11.00 per hour. To receive 100% of your escrow credit, you must be “suitably employed” on the last day of your FSS contact. **“Suitable employment”** is defined as earning the equivalent of someone working thirty-two hours a week at the prevailing minimal wage.

Prior to January 2018, suitable employment was comparable to earning \$336 or more a week. Effective

January 1, 2018, suitable employment is comparable to earning \$352 or more a week. This applies to self-employment as well.

As a reminder, there are three criteria that a FSS participant must meet on the last day of their FSS contact or graduation date: (1) Suitable employed, (2) TANF-free (welfare) for twelve consecutive months prior to contact end date and (3) meet all of the ITSP goals.

Basic Job Search Tips

<https://www.themuse.com/advice/6-job-search-tips-that-are-so-basic-people-forget-them>

1. Study the job description and any available information you have on the position.

2. By lining up with people on the inside of the companies at which you

want to work, you will instantly set yourself apart.

3. Consider crafting, original, genuine thank you notes (one for each interviewer) the moment you get back to a computer, following the interview.

For more information about the FSS program, contact Bow Lee at 530-895-4474 extension 234.



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Job Networking Ideas

<https://www.helpguide.org/articles/relationships-communication/job->

Make a list of people. You may think that you do not know anyone who can help you with your job search but you know more people than you think. There is a very good chance that at least a few of these people know someone who can give you career advice or point you to a job opening.

Reach out. Do not assume that certain people will not be able to help. You may be surprised. Start making contact with the people in your network. Let them know that you are looking for a job. Be specific about what kind of work you are looking for and ask them if they have any information or know anyone in a relevant field. Do not assume that certain people will not be able to help. You may be surprised by who they know.

Build relationships. Networking is a give-and-take process that involves making connections, sharing information and asking questions. It is a way of relating to others, not a technique for getting a job or a favor. You do not have to hand out your business cards on street corners, cold call everyone on your contact list or work a room of strangers. All you have to do is reach out.

Evaluate the quality of your network. Take some time to think about your net-

work's strengths, weaknesses and opportunities. Without such an evaluation, there is little chance your network will adapt to your needs and your future goals. You may not notice how bound you are to history or how certain connections are holding you back. And you may miss opportunities to branch out and forge new ties that will help you move forward.

Take inventory of your network. If you feel your network is out of date, then it's time to upgrade! Your mere awareness of your needs will help you connect you with new and more relevant contacts and networks.

Everyone has both “strong” and “weak” ties. Strong ties occupy that inner circle and weak ties are less established. Adding people to networks is time consuming, especially strong ties. It requires an investment of time and energy to have multiple “best friends.” Trying to stay in touch with new acquaintances is just as challenging. But adding new “weak tie” members gives your network vitality and even more *cognitive flexibility*—the ability to consider new ideas and options. New relationships invigorate the network by providing a connection to new networks, viewpoints, and opportunities.

No-Cost Tax-Prep Services

Final Deadline to submit 2017 taxes:
Tue., Apr. 18, 2018

Information or Questions:
Dial 211

Income limit:
\$54,000 or less annually

PARADISE

Paradise Ridge Senior Center
877 Nunneley Road

DURHAM

Durham Public Library
2545 Durham Dayton Highway

OROVILLE

Oroville Branch Library
1820 Mitchell Avenue

CHICO

BMU/Chico State
400 1st West Street

Dorothy Johnson Center
775 E 16th Street
Hablar Espanol

C.A.R.D.
5454 Vallombrosa Ave