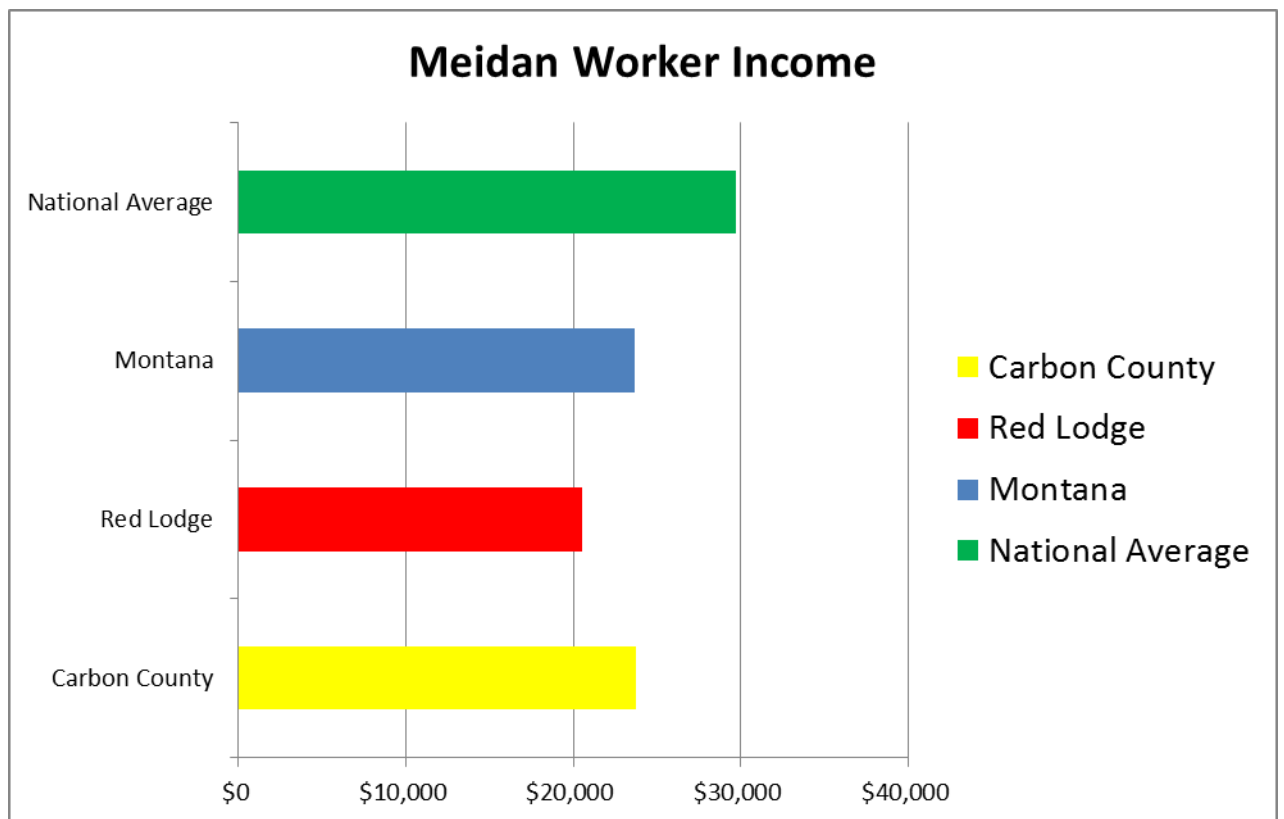


Carbon County Economic Report Card

The unemployment rate in Carbon County is 3.8%, which is lower than both the state (5.7%) and national average (7.9%) (www.usacityfacts.com/mt/carbon/economy). However, the Poverty Rate in Red Lodge alone is very high. Red Lodge's poverty rate is 17.31%, which is higher than both the Carbon County (11.6%) and Montana (14.8%) poverty rate (www.usa.com/red-lodge-mt-income-and-careers.htm). The median worker income in Carbon County is \$23,756, which is lower than the national average (\$29,701). The median worker income in Red Lodge is \$20,564, which is lower than both the national and county average (www.usacityfacts.com).



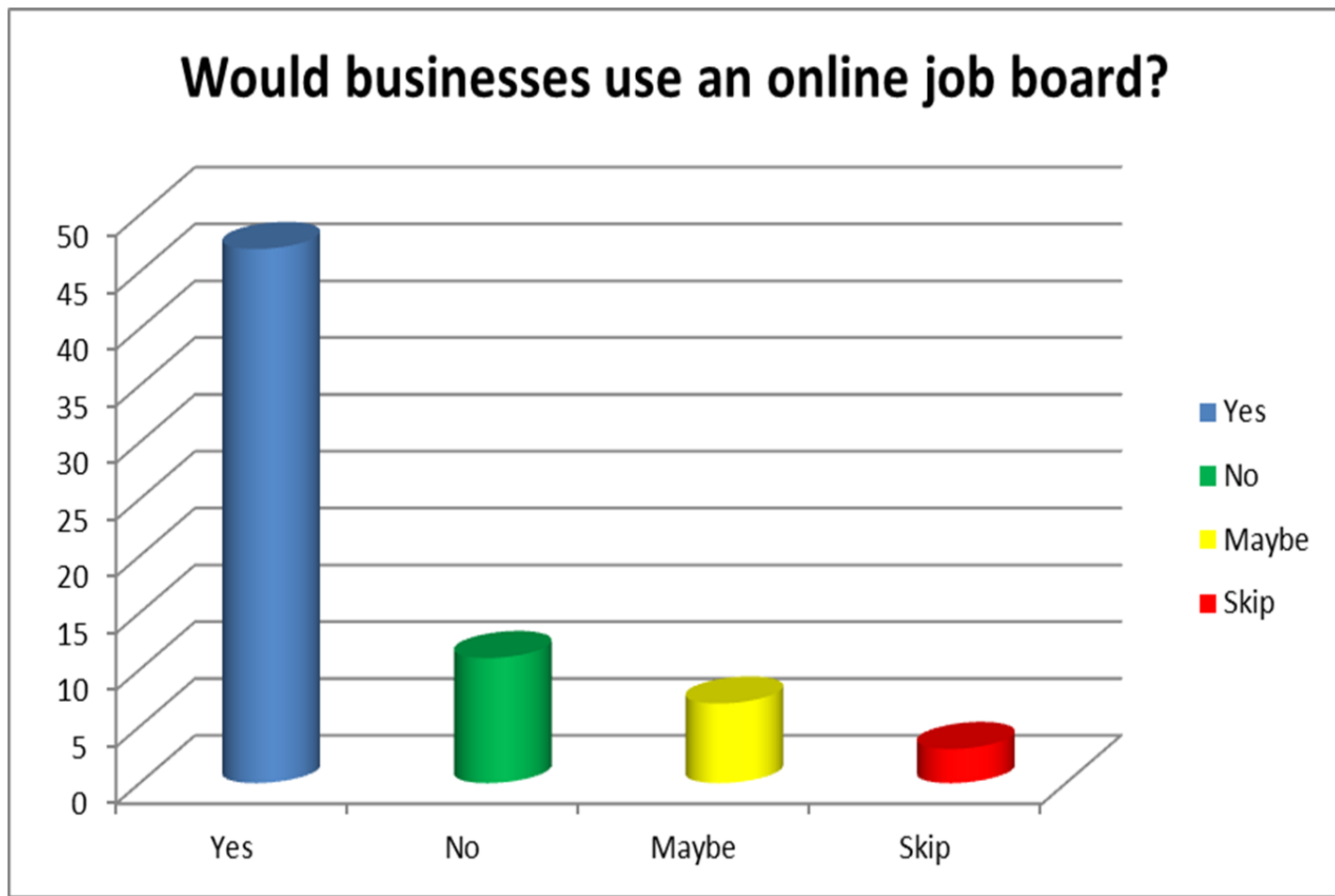
Source: www.usacityfacts.com

In relation to income and jobs is education. A high number of people in Carbon County have less than a high school diploma. The percentage of people with less than a high school degree is 8.9%, which is higher than the state average (8.3%). Education attainment has an effect on the type of career someone pursues. Carbon County needs resources to help residents in accomplishing their career goals (U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2010 US & MT).

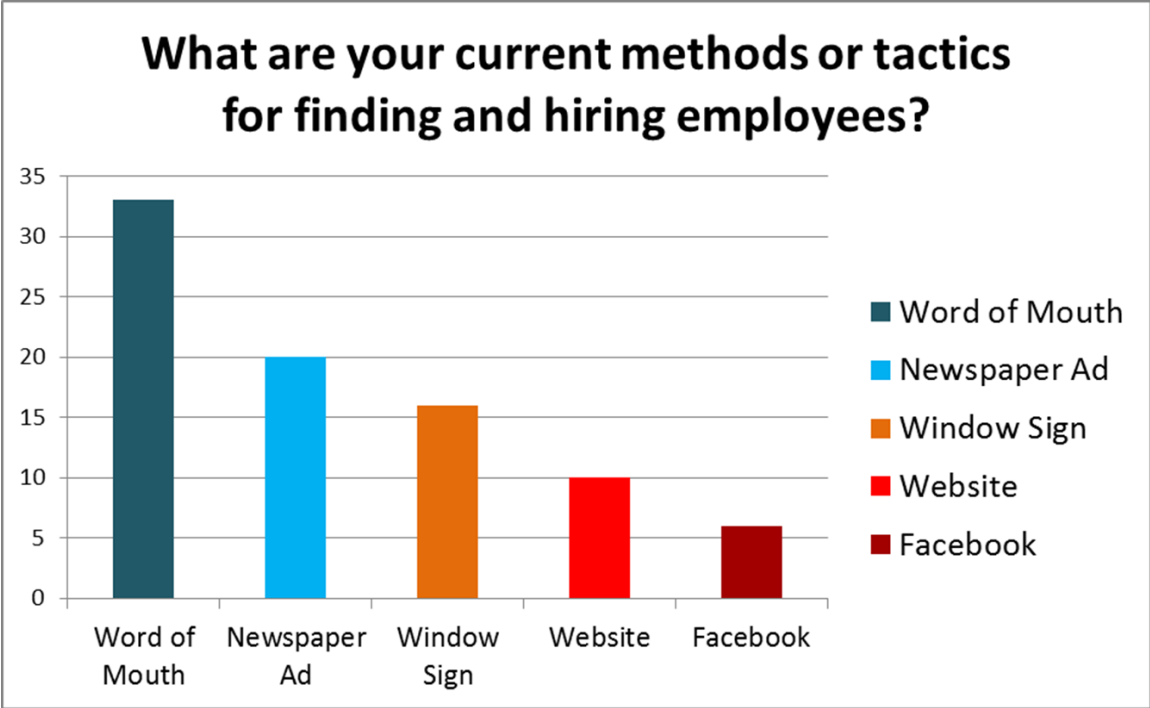
In a recent economic development survey, conducted by AmeriCorps VISTA Stephen Stefan, businesses were asked if they would have their employees go through any specific training that are not currently offered to them. Only 15% of businesses expressed interest. However, many businesses expressed the need for skill building workshops that focus on individuals who are seeking employment. Many business owners and managers said that “people do not know how to dress for or act on an interview.” As a result, the Red Lodge Area Community Foundation is teaming up with Red Lodge Adult Education to hold the Steps to Success workshop series.

Another resource the Red Lodge Area Community Foundation will offer the people of Carbon County is the online job board. In the economic development survey 47 out of 68 businesses said that they would utilize an online job board to post the positions they are hiring for. The main reasons why some businesses said no were:

- They were their only employee and their business does not hire
- Their office only has independent contractors



Current hiring and advertising practices were also explored in the survey. The number one way businesses advertise their job openings and recruit employees is by word-of-mouth, followed by newspaper ads. By the creation of the online job board, it will give the citizens of Carbon County a more fair chance at knowing what type of businesses are hiring. Word-of-mouth limits the number of people who know about an opportunity and not everyone has equal access to employment by that method alone. The online job board will increase accessibility for people to learn about job opportunities.



To assist the low-income citizens in Carbon County with accomplishing their career goals, a Career Resource Directory will be available on www.rlacf.org. The directory will list nonprofit organizations, social service groups, and governmental agencies that can assist with job trainings, tuition assistance, and grant opportunities. A job fair is also in the works to help people find employment in Carbon County.