

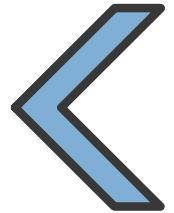


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NEWSLETTER

Career Resources & News for Businesses and Job Seekers in Hunterdon and Somerset Counties

GRWDB supporting career events in two counties



On Thursday, October 10, team members of Greater Raritan Workforce Development Board (GRWDB) will be in Bridgewater to support the Somerset County Veterans Resources, Job & Wellness Fair.

In what has been a very busy late summer and early fall, the GRWDB and its partners have taken part in several different events designed to assist businesses and job seekers in Hunterdon and Somerset Counties. (Pictures from some of these events can be found on Page 2.)

This Thursday's Veterans Resource, Job & Wellness Fair will be conducted from 3 to 6 p.m. at the Senior Wellness Center at Bridgewater, 876 E. Main St., next to the TD Bank Ballpark.

Veterans, the families and the public are invited to the free event sponsored by the Somerset County Board of County Commissioners. The event offers information and resources

Events in two counties, Page 2

The Oct. 10 Veterans Resource Jobs & Wellness Fair will feature 50-plus employers and local and state agencies sharing information about available jobs and valuable resources. Click here for the event map and participant list.

Commissioner Director
SHANEL Y. ROBINSON
 (AIR FORCE VETERAN)
 and the
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
 PRESENT
VETERANS RESOURCE
JOB & Wellness FAIR
 THURSDAY
October 10, 2024
3:00 – 6:00 PM
 SENIOR WELLNESS CENTER AT BRIDGEWATER
 876 East Main Street • Bridgewater, NJ 08807
 SCAN HERE FOR THE EVENT MAP AND VENDOR DETAIL LIST
 Or go to <https://bit.ly/3NggwNJ> for the map and vendor detail list of employers, agencies and wellness services

RFP Opportunities

Font Size

Greater Raritan Workforce Development Board Work Experience & Training Programs Option A: On-the-Job Training Option B: Incumbent Worker Training Option C: Online Incumbent Worker Training

Category: RFPs
 Contract Number: CY-COM-0101-24
 Posting Date: 10/01/2024
 Responses Due: 10/29/2024
 RFP Document: [RFP Document](#)

You are subscribed to RFP Notices provided courtesy of Somerset County Board of County Commissioners.

GRWDB releases RFP for business services

Over the past two years, the GRWDB has worked with several large and small businesses in Hunterdon and Somerset Counties to help support the training of new and existing workers.

The GRWDB's On-the-Training Program provides paid salary assistance for a new hire who has some of the skills needed to succeed but who needs additional training during the initial months on the job. The Incumbent Worker Training pays for cohort or individual training needed to help employees succeed in a current role or grow into a new opportunity.

A Request for Applicants Opportunity was released on Oct.ober 1 for employers in either county interested in taking part in either program. To download the document, go here or go to www.co.somerset.nj.us and click on the Government / Purchasing link. Responses are due by Tuesday, October 29, 2024.



Events in two counties

From Page 1

about services, health and wellness, employment, networking opportunities and more. County Commissioner Director Shanel Y. Robinson, an Air Force veteran, will present a brief keynote on “Transitioning From Military Service to Civilian Workforce.”

Following an opening ceremony and the presentation by Robinson, attendees can network with employers and agency representatives, participate in health screenings, and enjoy light refreshments. Pre-registration is requested but walk-ins will be warmly welcomed. To pre-register, call 908-704-6300, or visit <https://bit.ly/VeteransEventRegistration>.

Attendees will have access to 50 companies and agencies ranging from private to non-profit, healthcare and behavioral health agencies offering resources, services, information, and employment. Participating agencies include:

- American Water (commitment to offering employment to Veterans and their families)
- Bridgewater Marriot (jobs for Veterans transitioning into civilian life)
- Drug Enforcement Administration (employment for administrative, research, forensic science)
- Federal Air Marshal Service (employment for tech jobs, security)
- Fiserv (tech jobs, and sales)
- Johnson & Johnson (military connected opportunities and resources for Veterans and their spouses, military students, and those currently serving)
- Mass Mutual New Jersey (financial advice for unexpected hardships, planning for the future)
- New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (assistance with taxes, housing, employment and skill building)
- Richard Hall Community Health & Wellness Center (access to mental health services)
- Robert Wood Johnson University Somerset (employment, access to resources, Veterans Employee Resource Group)
- Somerset County Department of Health (health information, education materials and free health screenings) as well as the Somerset County Clerk, Somerset County Human Resources, Somerset County Veterans Services and Somerset County Volunteer Services.

To see an event map and list of participating vendor details, please [click here](#) or go to <https://bi.ly/3NgwgNj>.

For more information about participating in future events, employers may email info@thegrwdb.org or call 908-541-5790.



Attendees talk with exhibitors at the Oct. 5 Somerset County 2024 DisABILITY Expo and Job Fair.

Out and About in the Community We Serve

Jeanne Cassano, the GRWDB Contract Compliance and Engagement Specialist, has been busy in recent weeks, working in concert with partners to help spread the word about the Local Area's varied services. In the past month, she's been at :

- Sept. 18 Manufacturing Recruitment presented with the Hunterdon County Chamber of Commerce in Flemington
- Sept. 19 Career and Resource Fair presented by Judiciary Opportunities for Building Success (JOBS) Program, Somerset/Hunterdon/Warren Vicinage, in Flemington
- Oct. 5 Somerset County 2024 DisABILITY Expo and Job Fair, presented by the Somerset County Office on Aging and Disability Services and the GRWDB, in Bridgewater.

To have Cassano come to your event, contact her at jcassano@co.somerset.nj.us.

Right, state veterans services counselor Daphne Hilton at the Sept. 19 in Flemington, Below, state Business Services Representative Karen Araujo at the Sept. 18 Manufacturing event.



One-Stop Operator supporting employer, job seeker needs

In the past year that Greater Raritan One-Stop Operator Fernandel Almonor has worked in Somerset and Hunterdon counties, he has brought new ideas and renewed focus to the programs and services offered by partners in the local workforce system. For the Oct. 10 quarterly board meeting, he put together a succinct summary of his most recent efforts.

Partner Focused Support Measures:

To provide recruitment/enrollment support, the Operator has outreached local community-based organizations to promote One-Stop services and establish customer referral pipelines.

To provide job placement support, the Operator worked with Business Services to re-establish quarterly industry focused recruitment events. The first one of these events was conducted in September in Flemington and featured four manufacturers. Customer job preference research data will be used to drive recruitment event themes.

To improve One-Stop job placement support, the Operator worked with partners to provide more granular customer job preference data. This data is gathered, analyzed and used to direct business outreach efforts.

To support WFNJ client outcomes, the Operator and GRWDB Director are working with Rutgers MSW Department to assign an intern that will administer motivation assessments and reports. These reports will be used to better understand motivational factors for each client, therefore leading to more effective Individual Employment Plans.

Employment Pipeline Update

The Operator worked with Business Service Representative to outreach to local employers to promote the Employer Pipe-

Greater Raritan
Workforce Development Board
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Connecting Businesses to Talent

The Greater Raritan One-Stop has launched a new **Employment Pipeline Initiative**. This pilot project aims to link employers in Hunterdon and Somerset Counties to the qualified talent pool assisted by partners in the local workforce system.

The **Employment Pipeline** can be utilized by businesses of all sizes and types. This includes healthcare, manufacturing, transportation and logistics, IT and more.

This new service comes at no cost to businesses - **it's FREE to register and join** - and is designed to **save time and resources** in acquiring new staff.

The Greater Raritan Workforce Development Board is a federally and state-funded organization serving the employment, training and supportive service needs of thousands of residents in Somerset and Hunterdon Counties. The GRWDB works with local and state partners, including the New Jersey Department of Labor, to provide businesses services. The **Employment Pipeline** project is an extension of those services. The project is led by Greater Raritan One-Stop Operator Fernandel Almonor, working with local workforce system partners.

Next steps: To join the Employment Pipeline project, use this registration link or the QR code below.

line Initiative (see flyer above). Most recently two employment pipeline partners were onboarded: Marriott and Empower Somerset. This will be an Operator priority for the next several months.

One-Stop Partner Communication and Collaboration

The Operator has accomplished a full year of facilitating monthly partner leadership meetings and check ins. These measures have improved system wide communications, rapport and outcomes. The minutes of these meetings can be found on the **About: Greater Raritan's One-Stop Partners** page of www.thegrwdb.org. Almonor also compiles a monthly Operator Report. These also can be found and read on the Partners page.

Summer Youth Work Experience Program 2024

Greater Raritan's Summer Youth Work Experience Program, in its fifth year, served youth in a variety of positions with 30 employers in Hunterdon and Somerset counties. The 83-participant census is up from 69 youth last year. This year the participants worked 180 hours on site, 20 hours on job readiness training and were paid their \$16.00 an hour tax-free stipend at the program's completion. The job readiness training hours include an hour orientation, a two-hour in person Job Success Program and 16 hours of the online course work.

The employers included Somerset County Information Technology Department, Emergency Services, Clerk's Office, the Clerk of the Board Commissioners Office, Administrator's Office, Prosecutor's Office, Surrogate's Office, and 4-H, along with Bridgewater/Raritan School District, Adult Day Center of Somerset County, Assemblyman Erik Peterson's Office, Aurora Kitchens & Design, Bernardsville Library, Franklin Grace Resource Center, Greater Somerset County YMCA, Hillsborough Township, America's Grow-A-Row, Hunterdon Chamber of Commerce, Hunterdon Vocation School District, Hunterdon Land Trust, the JCC, of Somerset, Hunterdon and Warren Counties, Jewish Family Services, of Somerset, Hunterdon & Warren Counties, LK Tutor Pros, Montgomery Township, Somerset Community Action Program, Visions and Pathways and The Vision Development Group.

The employers completed performance evaluations and overwhelmingly the youth were successful in their work experience, while the employers felt participant input was positive for their organization. In addition, four of the participants were hired as permanent part-time employees with the organizations they did their work experience with this summer.

NJ Labor Spotlight

In honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, the New Jersey Department of Labor's Office of Research and Information's latest Labor Market Spotlight highlights the vital contributions of the state's Hispanic residents.

With Hispanics making up nearly 22% of the state's population and a significant share of the workforce, this report offers insights into their demographic distribution, educational attainment, and economic impact.

Learn which counties and municipalities have the highest concentrations of Hispanic residents and delve into the diverse origins of this vibrant community.

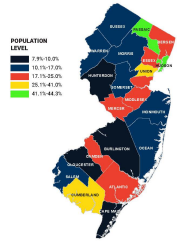
Download the full report: Labor Market Spotlight: Hispanic Heritage Month.

For other Labor Market Spotlights, go to the Publications and Reports page on the New Jersey Department of Labor site.



New Jersey, with its diverse population of 9.2 million, is home to 2 million Hispanics, who make up 21.9% of its residents. Hispanics make a significant contribution to New Jersey's workforce accounting for 21.6% of the labor force statewide. New Jersey ranks 7th highest among the states for its total Hispanic population.

NJ's Hispanic Population by County



The top four counties (+20k each) by Hispanic population size are Hudson, Passaic, Bergen and Essex. However, the counties with the highest concentrations of Hispanic residents (over 30% of population is Hispanic) are Passaic, Hudson, Union, and Cumberland.

Municipalities with the Largest Hispanic Populations	
Newark	
Paterson	
Elizabeth	
Jersey City	
Union	
Passaic	

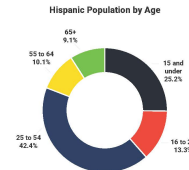
Six New Jersey municipalities have Hispanic populations that exceed 50,000. With 114,400 residents or 37.2% of total population, Newark has the largest Hispanic population in the state.

- 2M** Total Hispanic residents
- 114K** Number of Hispanic residents in Newark (New Jersey's municipality with the largest Hispanic population)
- 41.9%** Percentage of Hispanic population that is foreign-born
- 9.3%** Percent of New Jersey veterans who are Hispanic
- 16.8%** Share of businesses that are Hispanic-owned, most are small businesses
- 30K** Received services from NJDOL One-Stop centers in Program Year 2023

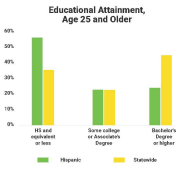
Office of Research and Information | NJ.DOL/LABOR/DATA

Hispanic Population by Descent	
Puerto Rico	24.4%
Dominican Republic	18.1%
Mexico	11.5%
Ecuador	7.5%
Colombia	7.2%
Cuba	4.9%
Venezuela	4.6%
El Salvador	4.1%
Guatemala	3.7%
Honduras	2.8%
All Other Hispanic or Latino	11.4%

The Hispanic population is diverse in its origins. The majority of New Jersey's Hispanic residents descend from Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, and Mexico. Seven percent of the state's Puerto Rican population resides in Newark. The Dominican population is concentrated in Paterson (13.1% of New Jersey's Dominican residents), and the highest concentration of Mexican residents live in Passaic (9.5%).



74.8% of all Hispanics are of working age (age 16 and over).



The chart highlights the educational achievements of New Jersey's Hispanic community. A significant portion of Hispanics have pursued higher education beyond high school, with a notable portion obtaining some college education or completing degrees.

Technical Note: The data in this report are from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) 2022 1- and 5-year estimates, and Annual Business Survey. The New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development (NJ DOL) Office of Research and Information is the singular provider for labor market data needs, combining the power of data and marketing research to deliver evidence-based research. Our team of labor and industry specialists provides technical assistance and information that highlights key New Jersey economic status, such as employment, wages, occupation, workplace safety, and labor force. This workforce product was funded by a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. The product was created by the grantee and does not necessarily reflect the official position of the U.S. Department of Labor. The Department of Labor makes no guarantee, warranty, or endorsement of any kind, express or implied, with respect to such information, including any information on their other web and including, but not limited to, the accuracy of the information or its completeness, timeliness, reliability, confidentiality, or ownership. This product is copyrighted by the publisher that created it. It may be used by an organization and/or person solely by an individual for non-commercial purposes is permissible. All other uses require the prior authorization of the copyright owner.

Literacy efforts are growing

Fall classes are beginning for First Steps Basic English, a free English-language learning program for residents of Somerset County. The program, funded by the Somerset County Board of Commissioners through funds from the American Rescue Plan, is part of the free adult literacy programs for English-language learners in Hunterdon and Somerset counties.

First Steps Basic English has served more than 150 individuals since being launched as a pilot in September of 2023. For the fall, classes and small group instruction will be offered in Bernardsville, Bound Brook, Franklin Township, Hillsborough, Manville, North Plainfield, Raritan Borough and Somerville, as well as on Zoom.

And now, thanks to additional ARP funding allocated to the GRWDB by the Somerset County Commissioners this fall, the program will continue in 2025 and 2026.

The GRWDB also has applied for a new Literacy Initiatives grant opportunity from the New Jersey Department of Labor. This funding would allow the GRWDB and partners to create a Next Steps program serving new locations in Hunterdon County and offer additional services in Somerset County. The program may begin in January 2025. For more about GRWDB Literacy programs and partners, visit www.thegrwdb.org/esl.

Thanks for reading!

Past issues of the GRWDB newsletter can be found on the **Events - Stay Informed** tab of www.thegrwdb.org. Follow the GRWDB on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn, and be sure to bookmark the **Events-Calendar** tab. All board and committee meetings are open to the public; go **here** for the schedule and meeting packages. Community members are welcomed to contact us with their questions and ideas. In addition, we are happy to meet with any business, community agency or public body in Hunterdon and Somerset counties to explain how system services work. **Contact Director Paul Grzella to get on a weekly Resources email list, and sign up for Greater Raritan's weekly (and very convenient!) text alert service.** To contact us:



- Paul Grzella, Director,**
908-203-6044, grzella@co.somerset.nj.us
- Chika Okoye, Business Manager,**
908-541-5723, cokoye@co.somerset.nj.us
- Jeanne Cassano, Contract Compliance and Engagement Specialist,**
908-541-5785, jcassano@co.somerset.nj.us

