

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2023 to 2024

Published January 2025



**First Steps Basic English ... The Employment Pipeline ...  
Summer Youth Work Experience Program ...  
Greater Raritan Job Fair and quarterly Recruitment Events...  
TANF Innovation Initiative ... and more....  
See how the GRWDB and program partners  
supported career pathways for individuals  
and economic vitality for employers  
in Hunterdon and Somerset Counties, N.J.,  
in the past program year  
and will build on that success in 2025.**



# OUR BOARD AND COMMITTEES

Business, education, labor, economic development and volunteer community leaders along with many state and county government partners support the work of the Greater Raritan Workforce Development Board (GRWDB). In collaboration with GRWDB staff and system team members, board members analyze workforce conditions, oversee the use of federal and state grants, and set local workforce development policies, goals and strategy. To ensure that workforce investments in Hunterdon and Somerset counties meet business needs, the GRWDB is required to have a majority of local business representation. GRWDB members are appointed by the Board of County Commissioners in Hunterdon and Somerset Counties. The full board of the GRWDB meets quarterly and is supported by an Executive Committee which meets as needed.

In addition, four GRWDB committees meet at least four times throughout the year to help plan strategy and consider new initiatives in specific areas. The Disabilities Committee, the Literacy Committee, the Operations Committee, and the Youth Committee include members of the full Board as well as community members from various constituencies interested in taking part in the conversation. Information on 2025 meetings, which are open to the public, **can be found here**. All are welcomed!

## Board Members 2024

- **Chair Violet Kocsis**, SVP of Corporate Services and Chief Human Resources Officer, Hunterdon Healthcare System
- **Vice Chair Joanne Hala**, Associate Director, United Way of Northern New Jersey
- **Ram Abarasan**, President, Deni Realty LLC
- **Beth Akkaway**, Director of Business Development, Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Somerset
- **A.D. Amar**, Professor of Business, Seton Hall University
- **Laura Begg**, Vice President Human Resources, Guidehealth
- **Michael McDonough**, President, Raritan Valley Community College
- **Todd Bonsall**, Superintendent, Hunterdon County Vocational School District
- **Adriana Bury**, Human Resources Professional
- **George Courtros**, Lead, State Government Relations. Corporate Affairs, sanofi
- **Danielle Kwan**, Manager, N.J. Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services Representative
- **Fran Leddy**, Adult Adult Programs and Services Supervisor, Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission
- **Poo Lin**, New Jersey Department of Labor & Workforce Development Office of Career Services
- **Clay Mason**, CEO/founder, East West Group
- **Susan Nekola**, Director, Hunterdon County Human Services Department
- **Jessica Paolini**, Manager of Economic Development, Somerset County
- **Christopher Phelan**, President/CEO, Hunterdon County Chamber of Commerce
- **Marc Saluk**, Economic Development Director, County of Hunterdon
- **Nichelle Santos**, CEO/Founder, Legacy's Future Insurance
- **Michelle Satanik**, Assistant Property Manager, OTG, Newark Airport
- **Daniel J. Sebban**, Council Representative, Northeast Council of Carpenters
- **Christina Shockley**, Apprenticeship Coordinator, Hunterdon County Vocational School District
- **Mark Valli**, CEO, NORWESCAP

## Ex-Officio Members

- **Fernandel Almonor**, Greater Raritan One-Stop Operator
- **Zachary T. Rich**, Commissioner Liaison, Hunterdon County
- **Douglas Singleterry**, Commissioner Liaison, Somerset County

### 2024 Hunterdon County Board of County Commissioners

Jeff Kuhl, Commission Director  
Susan Soloway, Deputy Director  
John E. Lanza, Commissioner  
Zachary T. Rich, Commissioner  
Shaun C. Van Doren, Commissioner

### 2024 Somerset County Board of County Commissioners

Shanel Y. Robinson, Commission Director  
Sara Sooy, Deputy Director  
Paul Drake, Commissioner  
Melonie Marano, Commissioner  
Douglas Singleterry, Commissioner

## Join the GRWDB

To learn more about the work of the GRWDB, explore the pages of [www.thegrwdb.org](http://www.thegrwdb.org), or even better, in 2025 attend a quarterly board meeting or join one of the GRWDB's four committees. GRWDB staff are available to meet with potential board and committee members to expand the conversation and assist with questions about board strategy and programming.

Email [info@thegrwdb.org](mailto:info@thegrwdb.org), or call GRWDB Director Paul Grzella at 908-541-5790. To join the GRWDB mobile platform and get weekly text alerts, text onestop to 56512.

# OUR MISSION— AND OUR WORK—



**“Through policy, oversight, and planning, The Greater Raritan Workforce Development Board (GRWDB) ensures that workforce training and education are responsive to and meet the needs of employers and job seekers.”**

Collaboration, flexibility and adaptability are hallmarks of how partners in the GRWDB local workforce development system approach their work. In addition to attending quarterly board and committee meetings, the team leaders of local and state partners meet monthly in lively discussions led by One-Stop Operator Fernandel Almonor. These are opportunities for partners to discuss successes and challenges while sharing best practices that help make services more impactful and effective. The Operator's report and meeting minutes are on the Partners page of [www.thegrwdb.org](http://www.thegrwdb.org).

## Here are some notable 2024 system accomplishments:

- The GRWDB's **Summer Youth Work Experience Program** served **83** youth, up from 69 participants in 2023. The program was funded by a \$297,248 grant from the New Jersey Department of Labor (NJDOLE), along with additional support from Somerset County, which provided **American Rescue Plan (ARP)** funding to assist four youth. The participants completed eight-week work experiences with **30** employers and governmental agencies in the two counties; **four** youth were hired in the fall. The GRWDB has applied to be part of the 2025 program.
- The Commissioner Boards in Somerset County and Hunterdon County allocated additional ARP funding for **scholarships for in-demand training programs at Raritan Valley Community College**. In 2024, **20** individuals were assisted by the program, bringing the total of scholarships awarded to **62** since this program began in the fall of 2022. These individuals, from **20** municipalities in the two counties, have studied in the phlebotomy technician, electrocardiogram (ECG) technician, welding and manufacturing programs in RVCC's Workforce Training Center. In the fall of 2024, the Somerset County Board of Commissioners allocated an additional \$200,000 for scholarship awards in 2025 and 2026..
- Throughout the year, the GRWDB staff supported and helped organize community-wide resource events in the two counties. These included a **Cannabis Town Hall and Job Fair**, the **Somerset County DisABILITY Expo and Job Fair**, and the **Somerset County Veterans Resource, Job and Wellness Fair**. These events attracted more than **325** job seekers. In addition, staff were at many other local resource and school events throughout the year to promote system services. Staff and partners also supported a **Manufacturing Recruitment** at the Hunterdon County Chamber of Commerce in September. Based on that event's success, in 2025 the GRWDB is working with the One-Stop Operator and state partners to promote four quarterly sector-focused recruitment events with multiple employers. The first, on January 14 in Somerville, is a **Healthcare Recruitment event**.
- The **2024-2026 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)**, developed by One-Stop Operator Fernandel Almonor with all Local Area One-Stop Partners and then signed by each, was approved by the NJDOLE this fall. In addition, the GRWDB received its **bi-annual certification from the New Jersey State Employment and Training Commission**. This certification, running through June 2026, signifies that the GRWDB "maintains its high standards of excellence and engages in continuous improvement to better serve the state's workforce and employers."

## 2024 by the numbers:

*SkillUp Greater Raritan had **1,348** new registrants, and participants completed **more than 6,100** training courses during the year.*

*The mobile text alert system attracted **679** new users; it currently has **1,032** active subscribers. **Text onestop** to **56512** to subscribe. In addition, the mobile web page had **18,183** page views from **3,572** users.*

*[www.thegrwdb.org](http://www.thegrwdb.org) had **13,262** active visitors and **60,862** page views.*

*Greater Raritan Training Center Certified Workforce Development Professional Jan Goodman led **38** workshops for **674** job seekers.*

*In addition to **6** individual business Recruitment Events, the GRWDB's 2024 Job Fair at the Hindu Temple in Bridgewater in June attracted **79** employers and **450** job seekers.*

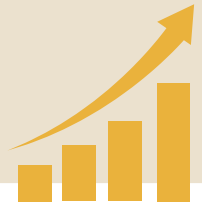
*The GRWDB funded On-the-Job Training and Incumbent Worker Training for **10** individuals.*

*The state Employment Services team had **489** in-person and **3,336** virtual appointments.*

*The Greater Raritan Training Center provided **159** Individual Training Grants to job seekers in the two counties.*

*The GRWDB's two youth outreach providers referred **96** individuals between the ages of 16 and 24 to intensive program services.*

# OUR NEW INITIATIVES AND OUR OUTREACH



## Impact of TANF Innovation Grant Amplified with Pipeline Project

In the spring of 2024, the GRWDB was awarded a competitive a \$440,000 TANF Innovation Initiative grant from the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

The funding, which runs through June of 2025, aims to assist Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) recipients by providing additional supportive services that will help them complete career-related programming and attain stable employment. The GRWDB's program includes:

- Transportation to and from programming and any career-related appointments.
- Additional childcare services for recipients with small children.
- Assistance with car repairs and license restoration as needed.
- Loaning of Chromebooks with the WiFi enabled to assist in completing required classes and job searches.
- Financial incentives for those who complete a career preparedness program and for those retain employment for 90 days or more.

These services and program participants are being supervised by team members of Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission which was competitively chosen to be the vendor of the program. A second vendor, Creative Marketing Alliance, was chosen to provide outreach and social media services to ensure eligible residents in both clients know about the program. This outreach effort includes **special landing pages on [www.thegrwdb.org](http://www.thegrwdb.org) for clients** who wish to be considered for the program and employers interested in hiring program participants.

This outreach grew out of another new initiative, the Pipeline Project, which was conceived by Fernandel Almonor, the Greater Raritan One-Stop Operator. With this initiative, the Operator is connecting work-ready TANF clients to employers who are looking to fill a current open position. The goal of this project is to fill the positions local employers have vacant right now with the program participants Greater Raritan partners are currently assisting. Employers can use the **link in the flyer at right** to become part of the program.

While this program was developed for TANF clients, in recent months its been expanded to include other local system participants who are looking for work.

## Outreach improvements ongoing on GRWDB platforms

The GRWDB is constantly developing collateral to support the promotion of new and existing programs on its website and social media channels. For example, at the end of 2024 new QR codes for state initiatives were added to the English and Spanish call-to-action flyers, left, for the **Greater Raritan One-Stop Career Center**. In the late summer, the flyer for the **Greater Raritan Resume Portal** was updated to reflect new easy-to-use features on the platform. Be sure to bookmark the **Greater Raritan calendar page** which is updated continuously with the latest career events, and the website **home page** for the latest career programs.

# OUR PERFORMANCE

Understanding local market data and program outcomes is key for GRWDB staff and board members as system strategies and direction are devised. Local data collected monthly by the One-Stop Operator is shared with partners and posted on the **About - Performance Metrics** page of [www.thegrwdb.org](http://www.thegrwdb.org).

Performance Matters from Futureworks is another important tool in this work. The web-based intelligence system, utilized nationwide, tracks, analyzes and compares localized performance Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Title I and III data for Adult, Dislocated Worker, Youth and Wagner-Peyser (Employment Services) customers. This data can be compiled into individualized reports which help identify trends. Here are Greater Raritan's key performance metrics in employment, credentialing and skill gains outcomes for Program Year (PY) 2023 and the first three months of still-developing PY 2024.

## PY23 - July 2023 to June 2024

Performance Summary cards

	Employment Q2	Median Earnings	Employment Q4	Credential	Measurable Skill Gains
<b>Adult</b>	<b>102.95%</b> Actual: 63.83% (30 / 47)   Goal: 62.00%	<b>127.47%</b> Actual: \$8,285.78   Goal: \$6,500.00 Cohort: 30	<b>107.87%</b> Actual: 66.67% (22 / 33)   Goal: 61.80%	<b>106.91%</b> Actual: 81.25% (26 / 32)   Goal: 76.00%	<b>129.94%</b> Actual: 80.95% (17 / 21)   Goal: 62.30%
<b>Dislocated Workers</b>	<b>118.08%</b> Actual: 73.68% (42 / 57)   Goal: 62.40%	<b>124.19%</b> Actual: \$11,053.28   Goal: \$8,900.00 Cohort: 42	<b>106.53%</b> Actual: 70.31% (45 / 64)   Goal: 66.00%	<b>109.76%</b> Actual: 90.00% (54 / 60)   Goal: 82.00%	<b>148.58%</b> Actual: 95.24% (60 / 63)   Goal: 64.10%
<b>Youth</b>	<b>112.22%</b> Actual: 81.25% (13 / 16)   Goal: 72.40%	<b>115.55%</b> Actual: \$3,928.58   Goal: \$3,400.00 Cohort: 8	<b>113.54%</b> Actual: 78.57% (11 / 14)   Goal: 69.20%	<b>156.99%</b> Actual: 100.00% (4 / 4)   Goal: 63.70%	<b>141.47%</b> Actual: 82.05% (32 / 39)   Goal: 58.00%
<b>Wagner-Peyser</b>	<b>122.94%</b> Actual: 60.12% (1025 / 1705)   Goal: 48.90%	<b>253.51%</b> Actual: \$14,577.11   Goal: \$5,750.00 Cohort: 1025	<b>127.71%</b> Actual: 61.81% (764 / 1236)   Goal: 48.40%		
<b>All</b>	<b>60.22%</b> (1037 / 1722)	<b>\$14,400.00</b> (Cohort: 1037)	<b>61.96%</b> (772 / 1245)	<b>87.37%</b> (83 / 95)	<b>88.33%</b> (106 / 120)

**LEGEND**

- Red**: Less than 90% Achieved
- Yellow**: 90% to 100% Achieved
- Green**: Greater than 100% Achieved

## PY24 - July 2024 to September 2024

Performance Summary cards

	Employment Q2	Median Earnings	Employment Q4	Credential	Measurable Skill Gains
<b>Adult</b>	<b>147.06%</b> Actual: 100.00% (3 / 3)   Goal: 68.00%	<b>115.00%</b> Actual: \$12,710.76   Goal: \$11,053.00 Cohort: 11	<b>96.42%</b> Actual: 63.64% (7 / 11)   Goal: 66.00%	<b>74.07%</b> Actual: 50.00% (5 / 10)   Goal: 67.50%	<b>93.28%</b> Actual: 62.50% (5 / 8)   Goal: 67.00%
<b>Dislocated Workers</b>	<b>85.94%</b> Actual: 55.00% (11 / 20)   Goal: 64.00%	<b>115.00%</b> Actual: \$12,710.76   Goal: \$11,053.00 Cohort: 11	<b>117.13%</b> Actual: 80.00% (4 / 5)   Goal: 68.30%	<b>73.44%</b> Actual: 60.00% (3 / 5)   Goal: 81.70%	<b>133.33%</b> Actual: 100.00% (4 / 4)   Goal: 75.00%
<b>Youth</b>	<b>72.67%</b> Actual: 50.00% (3 / 6)   Goal: 68.80%	<b>200.75%</b> Actual: \$15,658.80   Goal: \$7,800.00 Cohort: 271	<b>70.03%</b> Actual: 50.00% (1 / 2)   Goal: 71.40%	<b>0.00%</b> Actual: 0.00% (0 / 1)   Goal: 62.70%	<b>63.94%</b> Actual: 43.48% (10 / 23)   Goal: 68.00%
<b>Wagner-Peyser</b>	<b>113.32%</b> Actual: 60.63% (271 / 447)   Goal: 53.50%	<b>200.75%</b> Actual: \$15,658.80   Goal: \$7,800.00 Cohort: 271	<b>96.28%</b> Actual: 57.29% (279 / 487)   Goal: 59.50%		
<b>All</b>	<b>60.75%</b> (274 / 451)	<b>\$15,807.23</b> (Cohort: 274)	<b>57.17%</b> (279 / 488)	<b>57.14%</b> (8 / 14)	<b>54.55%</b> (18 / 33)

### DEFINITIONS:

**Adult:** A person who is age 18 or older.

**Credential:** Training resulting in industry-recognized credential for career pathways

**Dislocated Worker (DW):** A person who has been terminated or laid off, or who has received a notice of such, from employment or was self-employed but is unemployed as a result of economic conditions

**Employment Q2 and Employment Q4:** Is working in unsubsidized employment in either the second quarter or the fourth quarter after exiting program

**LWDB:** Local Workforce Development Board

**Program Year (PY):** Runs from July 1 to June 30

**Wagner-Peyser (WP):** A jobseeker utilizing the programs offered by Employment Services in the One-Stop system

**Youth:** Out-of-school youth 16 to 24 years of age.

**Note:** In each box under the percentages are two numbers separated by a slash. The first number is the **Numerator** - the total clients who successfully completed a program. The second number is the **Denominator** - the total clients in the category receiving services

# OUR FINANCES, MONITORING AND ACCOUNTABILITY



The direct services and outreach efforts provided by the GRWDB and its partner programs in Hunterdon and Somerset Counties are funded through federal and state annual grants. The administrative and career services (program) budgets below were approved by the GRWDB Board at its June 2024 meeting. All budgets and updates are shared at quarterly board meetings, and the the agendas in the **Events-MeetingPackages** tab of the GRWDB site include links to reports. The budgets are created by the GRWDB's Business and Finance Manager who tracks and reports on them throughout the program. All monthly GRWDB expense reports staff are reviewed by the board's fiscal agent, Somerset County, prior to submission for final state approval and cost reimbursement.

The below chart on the top left details the amount awarded to the GRWDB by the state for Program Year 2024, running from July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025. To the right of that is the administrative budget supporting some personnel and administrative costs. Below those are charts showing how costs are allocated for staff- and vendor-supplied program services. On the left is Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) funding for Adult, Dislocated Worker and Youth programs. On the right is WorkFirst NJ funding for TANF and SNAP programs. These budgets do not include additional GRWDB funding for competitively awarded state grants – \$440,000 for the TANF Innovation program and \$297,284 for the 2024 Summer Youth Work Experience Program – and American Rescue Plan funding provided by Somerset County to support Raritan Valley Community College Workforce Scholarships for \$98,000 and \$157,058 for the First Steps Basic English literacy program.

At the start of 2024, GRWDB staff took over monitoring of all vendor contracts for the One-Stop Operator (Empower Somerset), Training Services (Somerset County Department of Human Services), WorkFirst New Jersey (Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission and Somerset County Board of Social Services) and Youth Services (Middle Earth and Hunterdon County Polytech). For the 2025 monitoring, which includes board members on the review teams, a fiscal component has been added to the process. After the in-person meeting, summary documents are provided to the full board which reviews and approves the final reports.

PY24 Available Funding		
	PY24 Budget Allocations	PY23 Carryover*
Title I Adult	\$ 418,970	\$ 186,137.13
Title I Dislocated Worker	\$ 868,378	\$ 485,737.99
Title I Youth	\$ 466,830	\$ 90,829.57
TANF	\$ 448,280	\$ 49,665.18
SNAP	\$ 282,517	\$ 85,563.06
WIOA Data Reporting and Analysis	\$ 12,971	
WLL		
FutureWorks		
Add additional lines for any additional funding sources		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 2,497,946</b>	

\*20% of Title I allocations may be carried over into next year for WIOA; WFNJ may be carried over if obligated by June 30, 2023 - must be spent within six months

PY24 Planned WIOA Expenditures					
	Allocated Admin	Allocated Program	Allocated Total	Unallocated Funds	Admin Rate
Title I Adult	\$ 36,516.67	\$ 518,426.36	\$ 554,943.02	\$ (135,973.02)	7%
Title I Dislocated Worker	\$ 51,110.56	\$ 1,083,184.94	\$ 1,134,295.50	\$ (265,917.50)	5%
Title I Youth	\$ 35,095.22	\$ 453,265.96	\$ 488,361.17	\$ (21,531.17)	8%

Cost Category	Amount
<b>Total Personnel Costs</b>	<b>\$ 137,597.84</b>
<b>Total Non-Personnel Costs</b>	<b>\$ 8,036.00</b>
Facilities (Occupancy Costs) <sup>3</sup>	\$ 8,036.00
Equipment (Occupancy Costs) <sup>4</sup>	\$ -
Information Technology (Occupancy Costs) <sup>5</sup>	\$ -
Professional Development (Conference & Training)	\$ -
Travel	\$ -
<b>Contracted Services</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
Add additional contracts	\$ -
<b>Other-Describe</b>	<b>\$ 1,200.00</b>
Other Expenses	\$ 1,200.00
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$ 146,833.84</b>

Cost Category	Total Title I Funding	Title I Adult Funding	Title I DW Funding	Title I Youth Funding (ISY)	Title I Youth Funding (OSY)
<b>Total Personnel Costs</b>	\$ 845,479.08	\$ 235,668.63	\$ 397,553.70	\$ -	\$ 212,256.76
<b>Total Non-Personnel Costs</b>	\$ 108,923.60	\$ 31,773.60	\$ 45,140.80	\$ -	\$ 32,009.20
Facilities (Occupancy Costs) <sup>3</sup>	\$ 82,070.50	\$ 23,883.00	\$ 34,124.00		\$ 24,063.50
Equipment and Materials (Occupancy Costs) <sup>4</sup>	\$ -				
Information Technology (Occupancy Costs) <sup>5</sup>	\$ -				
Professional Development (Conferences & Training)	\$ 25,053.10	\$ 7,290.60	\$ 10,416.80		\$ 7,345.70
Travel	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00		\$ 600.00
<b>Total Adult/DW Participant Services</b>	<b>\$ 770,542.10</b>	<b>\$ 233,484.13</b>	<b>\$ 537,057.97</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
ITAs (Training Contracts)	\$ 577,992.10	\$ 150,084.13	\$ 427,907.97		
OJTs (OJTs)	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00		
Incumbent Worker Training	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00		
Other WBL (Work-Based Training)	\$ -				
Supportive Services	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00		
Contracted One Stop Operator Services	\$ 87,550.00	\$ 30,900.00	\$ 56,650.00		
Contracted One Stop Career Services	\$ -				
<b>Total Youth Participant Services</b>	<b>\$ 206,000.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 206,000.00</b>
(Training Contracts)/Middle Earth Visions	\$ 110,000.00				\$ 110,000.00
Middle Earth Outreach	\$ 56,000.00				\$ 56,000.00
HC Polytech Outreach	\$ 40,000.00				\$ 40,000.00
Other Expenses	\$ -				
<b>Other-Describe</b>	<b>\$ 125,872.28</b>	<b>\$ 17,200.00</b>	<b>\$ 105,199.96</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 3,472.32</b>
Other Expenses	\$ 22,439.81	\$ 7,200.00	\$ 11,767.49		\$ 3,472.32
New GRWDB Programs	\$ 103,432.47	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 93,432.47		
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,056,817.06</b>	<b>\$ 518,126.36</b>	<b>\$ 1,084,952.43</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 453,738.28</b>

Cost Category	Total Funding	TANF Funding	SNAP Funding
<b>Total Personnel Costs</b>	\$ 149,898.84	\$ 82,271.00	\$ 67,627.85
<b>Total WFNJ Participant Services</b>	\$ 528,476.00	\$ 323,339.00	\$ 205,137.00
HCESC-Somerset County	\$ 292,048.64	\$ 177,120.64	\$ 114,928.00
HCESC-Hunterdon County	\$ 164,277.36	\$ 99,630.36	\$ 64,647.00
SCBSS	\$ 56,700.00	\$ 36,288.00	\$ 20,412.00
Contracted WFNJ/SNAP/GA Services	\$ -		
Contracted WFNJ/SNAP/GA participant services/ One Stop Operator	\$ 15,450.00	\$ 10,300.00	\$ 5,150.00
<b>Total Non-Personnel Costs</b>	<b>\$ 20,017.25</b>	<b>\$ 10,951.80</b>	<b>\$ 9,065.45</b>
Facilities (Occupancy Costs) <sup>3</sup>	\$ 12,929.50	\$ 7,106.00	\$ 5,823.50
Equipment (Occupancy Costs) <sup>4</sup>	\$ -		
Information Technology (Occupancy Costs) <sup>5</sup>	\$ -		
Professional Development (Conferences & Training)	\$ 6,087.75	\$ 3,345.80	\$ 2,741.95
Travel	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
<b>Other-Describe</b>	<b>\$ 9,193.50</b>	<b>\$ 5,261.30</b>	<b>\$ 3,932.20</b>
Chromebooks	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,250.00	\$ 750.00
Other Expenses	\$ 6,193.50	\$ 3,011.30	\$ 3,182.20
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$ 707,585.59</b>	<b>\$ 421,823.10</b>	<b>\$ 285,762.50</b>

# OUR SUCCESS STORIES



Job seekers working with GRWDB partners have unique life stories, and these stories are shared in two ways on [www.thegrwdb.org](http://www.thegrwdb.org): One-Stop Operator Fernandel Almonor highlights several success stories in monthly One-Stop Operator Reports, which are found on the **About - Greater Raritan's One-Stop Partners** page. In addition, select stories are highlighted in the **Resources- Success Stories** tab on the website. Here are some to consider:

## Learning to Go In A New Direction

A client walked into the Greater Raritan One-Stop Career Training Services Center seeking the assistance of the Community Outreach Specialist's skills in resume review and interview preparation. The client had a wealth of knowledge and expertise in the real estate industry, working for many years as an independent concierge with licenses in real estate, title insurance and mortgages. Her career was lucrative with high earnings and many performance awards as a top producer. As the real estate industry slowed with little inventory on the market and high interest rates, the client's business took a significant hit. She was in fear of not meeting her financial obligations and was concerned about her losing her concierge status and licenses. To make ends meet, she rented out her home for income.



The Community Outreach Specialist worked intensively with the client, revamping her resume, providing job leads and prepping her for interviews as they were offered. After several months of very focused coaching, the client was able to land a job with a major financial institution working in its training and development division providing regional support to its employees. She thanked the Training Center team for investing time with her and showing her how to highlight and market her transferable skills. The client noted that the new perspective given to her enabled her to find stable and sustainable employment outside the real estate industry.

## First Steps Basic English Program Impacts Lives In Many Ways

The GRWDB and three partners - Literacy Volunteers of Somerset County, Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission and Raritan Valley Community College - launched First Steps Basic English in the fall of 2023 with American Rescue Plan funding from the Somerset County Commissioners. Here are translated comments from some of the 150 participants focusing on how the literacy program is improving their lives. With additional Somerset County funding, the program will go through 2026. Go to [www.thegrwdb.org/esl/](http://www.thegrwdb.org/esl/) for details.

- *I went to pick up my daughter from school and was able to practice what I learned.*
- *In my son's school meetings.*
- *When I'm home with my partner and when I'm texting to someone.*
- *I feel good when I'm at home and I can talk and ask everything I need in English. That's satisfying.*

- *In my work I didn't speak or understand anything in English and one day my boss asked me a question and I responded even though it was in broken words...she was surprised and congratulated me...*
- *What I learned in class I have been able to use to communicate on the train while I travel to work, and when I have a client at the barbershop who speaks English.*
- *I work in an office building and I am improving in my understanding and speaking.*
- *In my work, I talk with my boss and my patient.*
- *I perform better at my job.*
- *In my work when I have to speak with clients.*
- *I use it daily in my work with my boss...I can express myself a little better.*
- *When I say hello to someone at work.*



# OUR PARTNERS

The mission and vision of the Greater Raritan Workforce Development Board are built on collaborative partnerships. System partners connect employers and job seekers to the services offered by a variety of local, county and state public and private entities, resulting in a system which is flexible, seamless, robust and proactive. Partner relationships and actions are outlined in the 2024-2026 MOU agreement on the **About - Partners page of [www.thegrwdb.org](http://www.thegrwdb.org)**. Here are some current workforce system partners. If your organization isn't on the list, and would like to become involved, reach out to GRWDB staff.

## Business Services Partners

**New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development**, including Business Services Representatives and the Industry Partnership Initiative, Employment Services, Office of Apprenticeship, Office of Research and Information, Veterans Workforce Program,  
**New Jersey Department of Children & Families, Division on Women**  
**New Jersey Business Action Center**  
**New Jersey Economic Development Authority**  
**Raritan Valley Community College Workforce Training Center**  
**Hunterdon County Chamber of Commerce**  
**Hunterdon County Economic Development**  
**Somerset County Business Partnership**  
**goHunterdon; RideWise**

## Educational Institution Partners

**Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission**  
**Hunterdon County Polytech Career & Technical School**  
**Raritan Valley Community College**  
**Somerset County Vocational and Technical Schools**

## Healthcare Partners

**Hunterdon Healthcare**  
**Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Somerset**

## Special Populations Partners

**NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development**, including Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services, National Farmworkers Job Program / Pathstone, Senior Community Services and Unemployment Insurance  
**Hunterdon County** – Division of Senior, Disabilities and Veterans Services, Division of Social Services, Youth Services Commission  
**Center for Educational Advancement, Hunterdon Helpline, Prevention Resources, The StarThrower Group, United Way of Hunterdon County**  
**Somerset County** – Board of Social Services, Community Development Block Grant, Office on Aging and Disability Services, Youth Services  
**Alternatives, Community in Crisis, Empower Somerset, Healthier Somerset, Literacy Volunteers of Somerset County, Matheny School, Middle Earth, United Way of Northern NJ**

## Government Partners

**Somerset County**, including Board of County Commissioners, Department of Human Services, Economic Development Division, Planning Division  
**Hunterdon County**, including Board of County Commissioners, and Department of Human Services  
**Libraries**, including Somerset County Library System of New Jersey, Hunterdon County Library System, Bernards Township Library, Bernardsville Public Library, Franklin Township Public Library, Raritan Public Library  
**Garden State Employment and Training Association**  
**New Jersey State Employment and Training Commission**  
**North Jersey Partners**

## Learn more

This **2023-2024 Annual Report** and past reports are housed on the **About - Annual Reports** tab of [www.thegrwdb.org](http://www.thegrwdb.org). Visit [www.thegrwdb.org](http://www.thegrwdb.org), follow the GRWDB on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn, or contact GRWDB staff directly for more information. Staff members are happy to meet – in person or virtually – with any business, community agency or public body in Hunterdon and Somerset counties to explain the work being done and how this work benefits different stakeholders. Contact:



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Text **onestop** to **56512** for weekly alerts on our mobile platform.