



executive summary

Who We Are



The **Bergen County Workforce Development Board (WDB)** is one of 17 WDBs in New Jersey and one of 550+ WDBs in the United States. All WDBs are mandated by federal law (the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act) to monitor spending and programs at a One-Stop Career Center that assists in recruiting and training employees and job seekers. Bergen WDB Board members are appointed by the County Executive.

The Bergen WDB is a local, business-led Board of Directors composed of private and public-sector leaders from business, education, labor, community and faith-based organizations, and government. Board members represent the comprehensive, diverse needs of our community.

What We Do



The Bergen WDB is dedicated to supporting workforce and economic development by connecting Bergen County residents to jobs and ensuring that employers have the skilled workers they need to grow, compete, and prosper.

- **What we do for employers:** The Bergen WDB, working with the One-Stop Career Center and other organizations, helps employers find and hire qualified workers. Employers access the County's talent pool through the Business Resource Center (BRC) at the One-Stop Career Center, 60 State Street in Hackensack. The WDB also acts as a liaison between the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development (LWD) and local businesses, connecting them to education and training for current ("incumbent") and future workers seeking highly skilled jobs. The WDB also connects employers to vital services, such as incentives and training grants, tax credits, on-the-job training for workers, and other business-related services.
- **What we do for job seekers:** The Bergen WDB helps job seekers find jobs and careers. The One-Stop Career Center provides dozens of employment resources, most of which are free of charge. Special programs are available to assist job seekers of all ages, independent of their socioeconomic backgrounds or challenges to employment.
- **What we do for the community:** The Bergen WDB envisions a thriving regional economy. We are not alone. We have partners in this effort —community, faith-based, and government organizations with which we are collaborating to create and support initiatives that tackle our most pervasive human capital challenges. We focus on youth, literacy, veterans, the disabled, and individuals seeking re-employment and re-entry into the workforce.



Benefits for Bergen County



- **Contributed Services:** WDB business and community leaders contribute thousands of hours of in-kind services every year, saving the County tens of thousands of dollars in consulting fees.
- **Revenue:** The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) authorizes WDBs in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Territories to oversee and coordinate employment services through a network of 3,000 One-Stop Career Centers. In 2012 nearly \$7 million in WIOA federal funds have been allocated for One-Stop training programs to meet the needs of Bergen County residents and employers.
- **Grants:** Thanks to the combined efforts of the Bergen WDB and its regional industry partners, nearly \$40 million in grants have been awarded over the past several years to train Bergen County residents. The Bergen WDB has taken a leadership role in securing these grants. Industry partnerships have also offered access to regional and industry- specific knowledge and training. They have built professional networks that promote innovation and efficiency and provide a forum for collaboration and sharing best practices. These strategic partnerships are helping to shape the County's workforce.
- **Transparency & Accountability:** To ensure full transparency, the One-Stop Career Center is audited regularly by state, federal, and independent auditors. The WDB uses certification and accountability policies defined by the State Employment and Training Commission (SETC) to monitor all fiscal expenditures. The Bergen WDB has consistently met or exceeded all 9 federally mandated performance metrics. These metrics ensure that Bergen County's limited funding sources are being spent in the most appropriate and effective way.
- **New Technology:** The New Jersey Department of Labor launched the New Jersey Career Connections website (careerconnections.nj.gov), a new job search and career navigation platform taking the place of Jobs4Jersey.com. The site offers businesses and job seekers with employment assistance, training and resources from workforce experts.

A Common Goal

The County Executive, the Bergen County Freeholders, and the WDB share a common goal of getting people re-employed in Bergen County. The members of our board work tirelessly to accomplish this goal, volunteering their time to ensure that we are a "blue-ribbon" WDB. We will continue to work closely with County government to find effective and innovative ways to re-employ people through the resources of the public workforce system.



Bergen County Workforce Development Board
60 State Street, Room 200
Hackensack, New Jersey 07601
T 201-343-8830
F 201-996-6975
staff@bergenworkforce.org
www.bergenworkforce.org