

A winter landscape with snow-covered trees and a wooden cabin under a sunset sky. The scene is serene, with the warm colors of the sunset contrasting with the cold, white snow. The trees are heavily laden with snow, and the cabin is partially visible on the left side of the frame.

GREATER RARITAN ONE-STOP ~ SERVING HUNTERDON COUNTY AND SOMERSET COUNTY

ONE-STOP OPERATOR DECEMBER REPORT

Program Year 2023

December 1 -31

DECEMBER REVIEW

Over the past three months the One-Stop Operator has been developing the 2024-2026 One-Stop Partner Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the GRWDB state, county and vendor partners. A draft has been recently shared with partners and the Department of Labor. It will be reviewed during a mandatory partner meeting on Thursday, January 18. The draft will also be reviewed by a Department of Labor representative.

We also submitted a response to the N.J. Department of Labor TANF Innovation Grant opportunity. This proposal contains essential measures to improve customer transportation and expand childcare resources and digital resources, and includes outreach and marketing support so potential customers are aware of the services available to them. The proposal was developed collaboratively by the GRWDB, with input from partners currently providing services. The grant response was due January 4, and the GRWDB will know the proposal's status by February 1.

Lastly, we scheduled 2 brainstorm sessions to explore solution strategies to further improve our childcare and transportation customer support resources. We invited local experts and leaders to participate in these discussions.



TESTIMONIAL FROM A WORKFORCE LEARNING LINK CUSTOMER #1

MC is a young mother. She enrolled in the One-Stop Workforce Learning Link for Hunterdon and Somerset County (WLL). While working towards obtaining her General Educational Development (GED) certificate MC increased her National Reporting System for Adult Education (NRS) score which gave her an Educational Functioning Level (EFL) gain. In four months MC was able to pass Science and Math.

MC is now enrolled at Raritan Valley Community College and is working towards becoming a Medical Assistant. She hopes to graduate at the top of her class. She plans on attending Rutgers and would like to become an Ultrasound Technician.



TESTIMONIAL FROM A WORKFORCE LEARNING LINK CUSTOMER#2

TC came to the Somerville Workforce Learning Link program through the Youth Employment Services (YES) Program. He was interested in becoming an electrician or plumber. TC obtained his General Education Development (GED) certification in two months time. All four of his exam grades were in the 170s range. Two of his grades were high enough to possibly receive college credit. TC is now in the Visions Program through Middle Earth. He has completed his Job Readiness Group.



DECEMBER 2023 PERFORMANCE REVIEW

New Training Services Customers Served: **131**

New DVR Customers Served: **25**

New Training Grants Provided: **8**

WFNJ Referrals received: **75**

Individual Assessments: **4**

Youth Employment Services Referrals: **5**

Active Youth Employment Services Clients: **72**

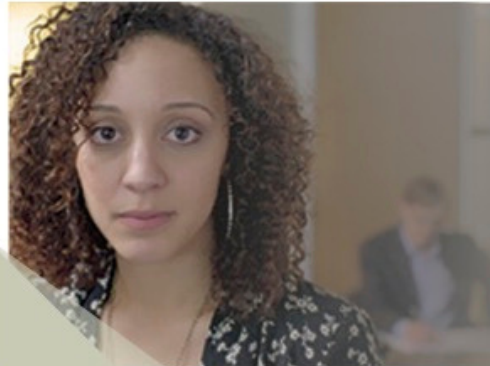
SkillUp Registrants: **139**

Employment Services Customer Appointments: **179**



UPCOMING EVENTS

Defeating Unconscious Bias: 5 Strategies



"Human beings are poor examiners, subject to superstition, bias, prejudice, and a PROFOUND tendency to see what they want to see rather than what is really there."
— Scott Peck

DATE: Wednesday,
February 7th, 2024

TIME: 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

*In collaboration with the
Somerset County Library System*

Speaker: Jan Goodman

Community Outreach Specialist,
Greater Raritan One-Stop Career
Training Center

SC
LS
NEW JERSEY

Please note this is a virtual
workshop via Zoom. To
register for this workshop
please click on the link below:

<https://bit.ly/3Nvr9JH>

then click on the button that says
register to attend online

ZOOM: <https://bit.ly/3RJOmKT>

This program is being offered in partnership with
the Greater Raritan One-Stop Career Center and
the Somerset County Library System (SCLS).



Let's face it, everybody has some unconscious bias. This is not in the context of talking about a preference for Mexican food or an inclination toward the color blue. The focus here is on those inflexible beliefs about whole categories of people that keep us from seeing others accurately, from making fair and appropriate decisions, and from building the kind of harmonious relationships that make our lives more successful.

Clearly, biases are bad news. On the other hand, the good news is that biases do not make us bad people. Human nature is to lump people into categories. Because of this predisposition, we are vulnerable to unconsciously believing the messages that bombard us from family, media, experience, and society as a whole. But we are not stuck with our unconscious biases; we can defeat them.

The "Defeating Unconscious Bias" workshop is designed to address the hidden biases that can affect hiring, team building and challenges the ability to create inclusivity in both professional and personal settings. A 14 minute video accompanies this training offering 5 simple, actionable, and memorable strategies to enhance workplace productivity and innovation by addressing bias. The authenticity and diversity of the scenarios utilized keeps participants attention, and the solutions suggested support change without blame.

Now Brewing!

Greater Raritan One-Stop Career
Training Services Center's

Career Cafe

SERVING YOU A FRESH BLEND OF JOB SEEKER RESOURCES!

If you are a job seeker, Community or Faith-Based Organization, One-Stop or Workforce Partner please join us for coffee, cookies, and a casual conversation about our menu of services!

April 26, 2024

May 31, 2024

June 28, 2024

2:00PM – 4:00PM

One-Stop Career Training Services Center
**27 WARREN STREET • 2ND FLOOR
SOMERVILLE NJ**

Our doors are open!



Questions? Reach us at
onestop@co.somerset.nj.us
or 908-541-5780



Fernandel Almonor,
Greater Raritan One-Stop Operator
falmonor@co.somerset.nj.us

We Mean Business

The Greater Raritan Workforce Development Board and state system partners provide funding, services and resources to support businesses and non-profit organizations in Hunterdon and Somerset Counties with hiring, training and retention needs.



How New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development Assists with Recruitment and Hiring

Job postings and talent search: Utilize the national labor market exchange site and local Job Match team to promote job openings: <https://newjersey.usnlx.com/>

Virtual Job Fairs and Information Sessions: Events focused on employers' hiring needs and opportunity to share information about the company with job seekers

Return & Earn and On-the-Job Training: Provide 50% wage reimbursement for a training period to NJ employers who hire eligible applicants with identifiable skill gaps

Federal Bonding Program: Insurance for hiring job seekers with risk factors – including poor credit score, recovering from substance abuse, on public assistance or are justice involved

Work Opportunity Tax Credit Program: Federal tax credit for employers who hire individuals from target groups with significant barriers to employment

Additional services for **veteran-friendly** companies and companies who want to employ **people with disabilities**

How the Greater Raritan Workforce Development Board Assists with Hiring and Training Costs

On-the-Job Training: Get help covering the costs of training a full-time new hire (unemployed or underemployed) with a 50 percent reimbursement of a new employee's salary for a defined period

Incumbent Worker Training: Receive funding of up to \$4,000 per employee to provide targeted cohort upskilling/cross-training to help employees and employers remain competitive

SkillUp Greater Raritan: Enroll workers in free New Manager and Job Readiness Badge programs which take 16-20 hours to complete over a 60-day period or get help building a custom track using existing courses

Contact: GRWDB Director Paul Grzella at info@thegrwdb.org or call 908-541-5790.

