

## **The Pulse of WDBRC**

Issue 5, May 2022

Welcome to the May 2022 edition of The Pulse of WDBRC! In this issue you will find updates from WDB partners, learn about the structure of the public workforce system, and much more.

*Debra J. Thomas, PhD - Executive Director, Deborah Studnitzer - Business Liaison*  
Executive Committee: *Lynne C. Allan - Chair; Howard Hellman - Vice Chair; Michele Green - Secretary; Matthew Shelley - Treasurer; Lucy Redzeposki - Rockland County Liaison*

**Labor Summary Report:** Johny Nelson, Labor Market Analyst – Hudson Valley Region, New York State Department of Labor | Research & Statistics

4/19/22 Johny Nelson's Report for the Hudson Valley Region: The March 2022 unemployment rate for the Hudson Valley Region is 3.5 percent. It is down from 3.7 percent in February 2022 and down from 5.7 percent in March 2021. In March 2022, there were 39,800 unemployed in the region, down from 42,300 in February 2022 and down from 64,400 in March 2021. Year-over-year in March 2022, labor force increased by 12,700 or 1.1 percent, to 1,145,600.

4/19/22 [Press Release: State Labor Department Releases Preliminary March 2022 Area Unemployment Rates](#)

**Hiring Qualified Job Candidates with Disabilities in the Hudson Valley on 3/28:** The WDBRC sponsored this workshop facilitated by Wendy Strobel Gower, Director, Northeast ADA Center, Cornell University and Michele Green, ACCES-VR. 84 representatives from businesses, workforce employees, and disability advocates attended the session. Michele Green followed up on requests for more information that were received after the presentation. Thanks to Sr. Kathleen Sullivan and Tom Wells of Dominican College for hosting the virtual webinar. Here is a sampling of feedback from the session:

*"There are no limits in hiring qualified candidates with disabilities! As someone who has a disability that cannot be seen, I appreciate this additional learning and understanding of all that was presented."*

*"Great webinar. I was reminded of a few things and learned a couple of new things."*

*"The webinar this morning was very informative. I will be printing the handout and pass it to staff. Thank you so much for all the resources"*

Powerpoint presentation

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**WDB of Rockland County Presentations:** Dr. Stephanie Compasso (RW) and Deborah Studnitzer (WDB) met with the School Counselors of Rockland County on 4/27/22. School Counselors from all public school districts and 2 private schools, Green Meadow Waldorf School and the Summit School In Nyack, participated in the session, "Changing the Trajectory of Lives". A presentation is scheduled at the Haverstraw Collaborative at their June meeting. Contact [rcwdb1@gmail.com](mailto:rcwdb1@gmail.com) to request a presentation that meets your organization's needs.

**WDB of Rockland County Meeting:** June 9, 2022 8AM–930AM Contact [rcwdb1@gmail.com](mailto:rcwdb1@gmail.com) for more information.

### Funding

**Disability Resource Coordinator:** This position, known locally as the Rockland Workforce Resource Coordinator, is being offered through a partnership with BRIDGES. The candidate must have ability to work with diverse populations, especially those with barriers to employment, and develop/implement workshops with local businesses, employers, and workforce staff on the Americans with Disabilities Act, disability etiquette, identifying invisible disabilities, and the provision of reasonable accommodations.

[Full job description and application.](#)

### Strategic Partnerships

**Rockland Community College (RCC):** RCC offers career pathway courses and credentials through its [Career Skills Academy](#). RCC is presently offering CDL Training: Class A Truck Driver curriculum and will continue to offer the CDL certification. This summer RCC will offer its second EMT-Basic course from 5/31 to 8/11/22. Funding is available to qualified individuals in eligible programs through WDBRC/RW. Contact [workforce@sunyrockland.edu](mailto:workforce@sunyrockland.edu)

6/8/22 11AM–3PM RCC [Virtual Job Fair](#)

**Rockland Employment Network (REN):** The REN and Westchester Employment Networks will be collaborating with the Long Island Working Partnership by participating in the Getting the Winning Edge Conference on 6/3/22. This virtual no-cost conference is packed with cutting edge information, including workshops designed for professionals who are working with job candidates with disabilities and are involved with workforce development. Contact [Michele.Green@nysed.gov](mailto:Michele.Green@nysed.gov).

The REN met with Charles Curtis of VolunteerNY at the April 2022 meeting. The Job Readiness Through Volunteerism (JRTV) program helps job seekers interpret their relevant volunteer experience to bolster their work histories while building social and human capital. Candidates for JRTV include, but are not limited to adolescent job seekers, victims of domestic violence, persons with developmental and/or physical disabilities, persons recovering from substance abuse, and persons who are unemployed.

Contact: Charles Curtis [charles@volunteernewyork.org](mailto:charles@volunteernewyork.org) (914) 227-9302

Michele Green, of the ACCES-VR Statewide Business Relations Team, provided a training to the Challenge Collaborative in Rockland County on the ADA Amendments and how to obtain a reasonable accommodation in the workplace.

**Hudson Valley Economic Development Corporation (HVEDC):** Debi Thomas of WDBRC and Manuel Juarez are new members of the Higher Education and Workforce Committee.

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## Strategic Partnerships – 55 and Older Workers

**Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP):** SCSEP is the largest federally funded program specifically targeting older adults seeking employment and training assistance. The SCSEP program is funded by the U.S. Department of Labor under the authority of Older Americans Act of 1965 (Title V). SCSEP provides paid, part time temporary work experience assignments for people aged 55 and over that are income eligible. Enrollees are given work (training) assignments with nonprofit or government organizations (host agencies) where they have an opportunity to utilize and develop necessary employment skills outside of the program. [Flyer](#)  
Contact: Christopher Hamilla, Acting SCSEP Program Coordinator, [HamillaC@co.rockland.ny.us](mailto:HamillaC@co.rockland.ny.us)

**MaturityWorks:** MaturityWorks is a training program that helps people, age 55 and older, increase their job skills through paid community service in local non-profit organizations. Participants will be matched with training assignments that fit their unique skill set, schedule, and training needs. While in the program, individuals receive support to secure employment. [Flyer](#)  
Contact: Rochelle Ameri, [rameri@workplace.org](mailto:rameri@workplace.org)

## From the Desk of Stephanie Compasso PhD Director, Rockland Works (RW)

**Partnership with Finkelstein Memorial Library:** Rockland Works will be hosting Employer “Meet & Greets” at the Finkelstein Memorial Library each Friday in the month of May. Every Friday, a new employer will have a chance to meet with members of the Spring Valley community to discuss employment opportunities and showcase the work that they are doing within their community. [Flyer](#)  
Additionally, Rockland Works will partner with the Finkelstein Memorial Library to develop a career event in July.

**EMT-B Partnership with Rockland Community College and Rockland Paramedics Update:** All participants in the EMT-B program via our partnership with RCC and Rockland Paramedics have completed the course and are working towards their official certification. Those who are interested in employment with Rockland Paramedics are in the process of completing the contracts for the On-the-Job (OJT) training. The OJT program allows Rockland Paramedics to receive a reimburse of \$4,000 for hiring employees who need additional hands-on training.

**Upcoming Orientations and Workshops:** Career Center Orientations are held on Tuesdays at 2PM and Fridays at 10AM.

- Resume Building Workshop: May 5th at 1PM
- Job Searching Skills Workshop: May 12th at 1PM
- Interviewing Skills Workshop: May 19th at 1PM
- Professionalism in the Workplace Workshop: May 26th at 1PM

Rockland Works is also in the process of partnering with BRIDGES and Mind Open Learning Strategies to expand workshop opportunities. New workshops will include topics such as fair chance hiring, advocacy skills, entrepreneurial skills, and social media training.

[www.rocklandwork.org](http://www.rocklandwork.org)

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The logo for Workforce Development Board (wdb) is located in the bottom right corner. It consists of the lowercase letters "wdb" in a white, sans-serif font, centered within a dark teal circular background. The circle is partially overlapped by a larger, lighter teal circle to its right.

**Youth Services:** Youth Connections' Work Readiness Bootcamp ended in April and the participants are beginning their internships in May. Sites include employers such as a Pediatric Cardiologist office in West Nyack and Society of The Arts in West Haverstraw.

**Unlocking Futures:** Rockland Works has partnered with Unlocking Futures to provide mentoring services for youth between the ages of 18-24. Each participant is matched with a mentor in their career field of interest to learn about that career pathway. They discuss topics like education pathways, interview skills, and job opportunities relevant to their specific field.

**Gaining Vision and Potential (GVP) Update:** Over 20 youth have been enrolled in the (GVP) program with many of them already completing soft skills training and earning a credential. Their next steps include work experiences or placement into employment. The goal of the GVP program is to place unemployed or underemployed youth between the ages of 18-24 in meaningful employment.

### [Hot Job Newsletter #12](#)

## Grants

**The Rockland Small Businesses Rescue Grant Program:** This grant program aims to provide funding for Rockland County small businesses and micro-enterprises, who can demonstrate revenue declines or unexpected operating cost deficits from March 3, 2021, up to the contracted date, to offset increased expenses or revenue loss caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Individual reimbursement grants, ranging from \$5,000 - \$50,000, will be awarded to select applicants who meet the eligibility requirements and will be awarded until the total funding amount is expended.

[Click here for general information](#)

[Click here for eligibility information and the application portal](#)

**NY Office of Children and Family Services Child Care Deserts Grant:** The grant application portal will close on May 19, 2022 at 11:59PM.

Child Care Deserts Help Line: 844-863-9320. Child Care Resources of Rockland, Inc. is Rockland County's childcare resource and referral agency and can provide information on starting a childcare facility.

## Resources

**Harvard Business Review catalog:** free webinars on various topics

**Mental Health at Work: What Can I Do? Public Service Announcement:** The Campaign for Disability Employment "All of us have a role to play in promoting a mental health friendly workplace."

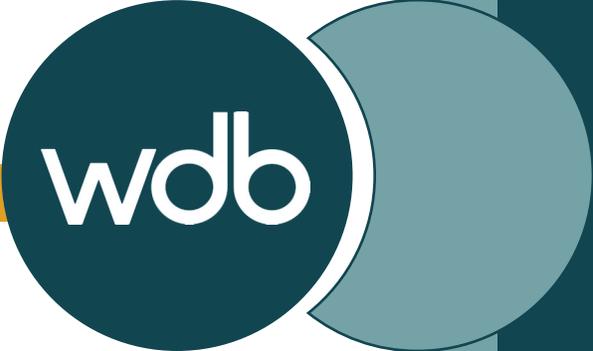
**ACCES-VR:** "Let ACCES-VR be your resource for qualified workers!"

Contact: Michele Green, District Coordinator for Workforce Development & Business Relations, ACCES-VR [Michele.Green@nysed.gov](mailto:Michele.Green@nysed.gov)

**Volunteer NY:** Search volunteer opportunities by zip code

[www.rocklandwork.org](http://www.rocklandwork.org)

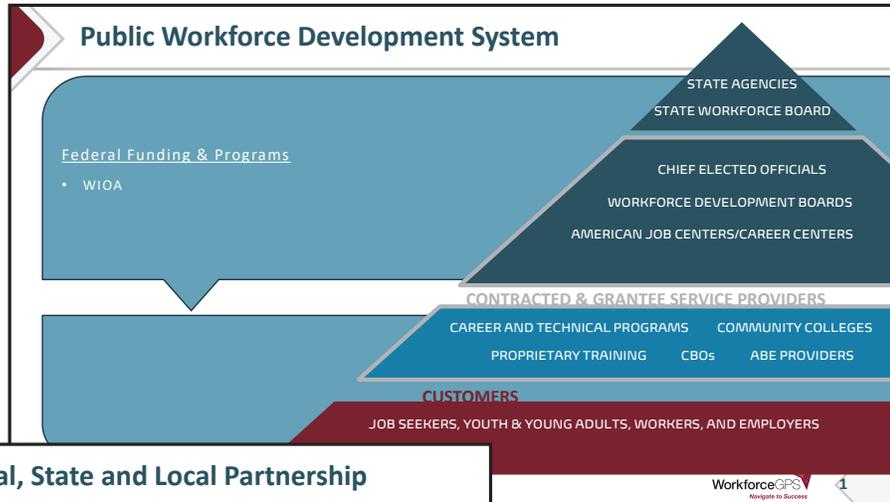
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# Spotlight on the Public Workforce Development System

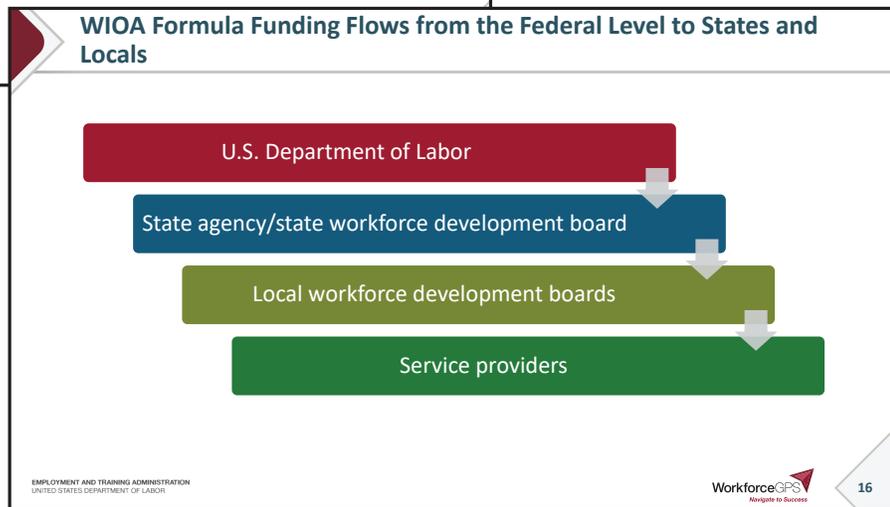
The Workforce Development Board is federally funded through the Workforce Innovative and Opportunity Act (WIOA) of 2014. WIOA is currently up for reauthorization. The slides below are taken from a US Department of Labor training, Connecting to the Public Workforce System, on 4/20/22. The WDBRC is the recipient of WIOA funds in Rockland County. Rockland Works, Rockland County's One Stop Career Center and American Job Center, is the service provider. The WDBRC also receives funds from NYSDOL for specific Initiatives.



### WIOA Operates as a Federal, State and Local Partnership

- ▶ State and local officials collaborate to set policies and map out workforce and economic development goals
- ▶ Local boards implement strategic goals and develop plans to integrate education and workforce activities within our communities
- ▶ American Jobs Centers (AJCs) deliver career resources to local jobseekers and businesses, and are overseen by local workforce boards

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ADMINISTRATION UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR



Please contact [rcwdb1@gmail.com](mailto:rcwdb1@gmail.com) with questions or to provide content for a future edition of The PULSE.

