



New Jersey
career
connections
careerconnections.nj.gov



Overview

Our ever-evolving and increasingly competitive labor market has forever changed the way people find jobs and manage their careers.

The Department of Labor and Workforce Development is leading the New Jersey Career Connections initiative to ensure that all New Jerseyans have the tools and resources they need to have successful careers.

New Jersey Career Connections consists of government, nonprofit, and educational institutions, including One-Stop Career Centers, community colleges, public libraries, and community-based and faith-based organizations, that work together to provide personalized, comprehensive, and effective career navigation assistance, both online and in person, to jobseekers throughout the state.



Cornerstone Beliefs

The New Jersey Career Connections effort is built on **5 cornerstone beliefs**:

- 1** The labor market is increasingly complex and fast moving.
- 2** At many points in their lives, all New Jerseyans will need to make decisions about their careers.
- 3** All New Jerseyans need to develop the skills necessary to manage their careers.
- 4** Individuals look to a wide variety of organizations and institutions when they need assistance with a career decision or job search.
 - Some organizations and institutions will be able to provide guidance.
 - Some will be able to provide more intensive assistance and access to training.
 - All have a part to play.
- 5** By working together and harnessing our collective expertise, we can improve the quality of career navigation services.



Main Components

At its core, New Jersey Career Connections consists of three simple parts: a **service model**, a **network of partners**, and a **website**.



The New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, using input from partners, has developed a career navigation framework featuring expert insights and actionable guidance. The three steps of this model - **Plan, Prepare, and Succeed** - simplify job-search and career planning efforts while giving partners a framework for providing services uniformly.



New Jersey Career Connections consists of various locations throughout the state where individuals can get career navigation assistance. These locations include One-Stop Career Centers, community colleges, public libraries, and a wide array of community- and faith-based organizations throughout the state.



The New Jersey Career Connections website delivers the service model across the network and directly to users, providing interactive tools, resources, and advice. The website is optimized for mobile use and designed to enable a fluid user experience.

careerconnections.nj.gov

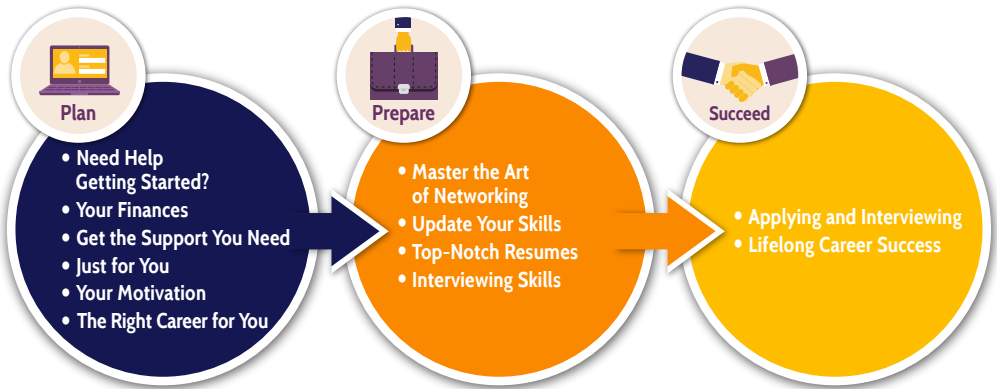


Service Model

The New Jersey Career Connections career navigation model is called **The Path to Employment** and consists of the steps **Plan**, **Prepare**, and **Succeed**. Each step of the process provides information and activities that jobseekers can use as needed throughout their search for employment.

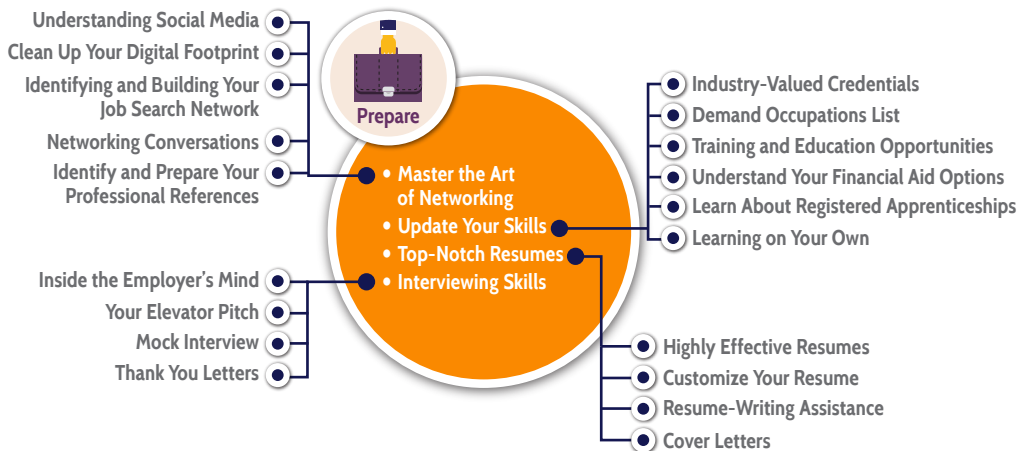
The Path to Employment

Career Navigation Model: a consistent and comprehensive approach to career guidance



Plan

In the **Plan** stage, jobseekers are encouraged to assess their current skills and interests and explore the job market, as well as apply for funding assistance, if needed, and prepare a personal budget.



Prepare

Next, in the **Prepare** stage, jobseekers can consider activities such as researching and attending skills trainings, sharpening existing skills, building and enhancing a resume, and learning interview and job-search techniques.



Succeed

Ultimately, in the **Succeed** stage, jobseekers pursue their chosen job opportunities with confidence, applying the tools and skills they acquired throughout their New Jersey Career Connections experience to realize their career goals.



Network of Partners



Government and community-based organizations throughout the state offer New Jersey Career Connections services.

The state's **One-Stop Career Centers**, operated by local Workforce Development Boards in partnerships with the state, are the foundation for the New Jersey Career Connections network, providing intensive assistance and access to training for jobseekers.

The state's **community colleges** provide critical education and skills development to over 400,000 students, helping them make informed career decisions and create rewarding careers. New Jersey Career Connections informs the career navigation services of community colleges.

Local libraries and library systems across the state offer New Jersey Career Connections services to enhance the career navigation assistance they provide to local residents.

Community- and faith-based organizations throughout New Jersey provide literacy, skills development, and job-search assistance, often in partnership with the Department of Labor and Workforce Development and local Workforce Development Boards. New Jersey Career Connections assists the service delivery of these organizations.



Website: careerconnections.nj.gov

The Department of Labor and Workforce Development has launched the **careerconnections.nj.gov** website to house the service model for the network and provide users direct access to career navigation resources. The website offers interactive tools, including a job board and a career navigation module, as well as useful resources, including a directory of training programs, information on hundreds of careers, and advice and guidance on a wide variety of topics. Among other functions, **careerconnections.nj.gov** helps jobseekers learn how to network, find employment, and prepare for interviews.





Support for the Network

The Department of Labor and Workforce Development supports the development of the New Jersey Career Connections network by offering professional development for network partner staff and providing common branding and materials for network locations.

Professional Development

Staff at partner agencies receive professional development in the delivery of New Jersey Career Connections services to become either **coaches** or **navigators**.



Coaches

Professionals who provide in-depth, personalized assistance to jobseekers using the Path to Employment as a guide.

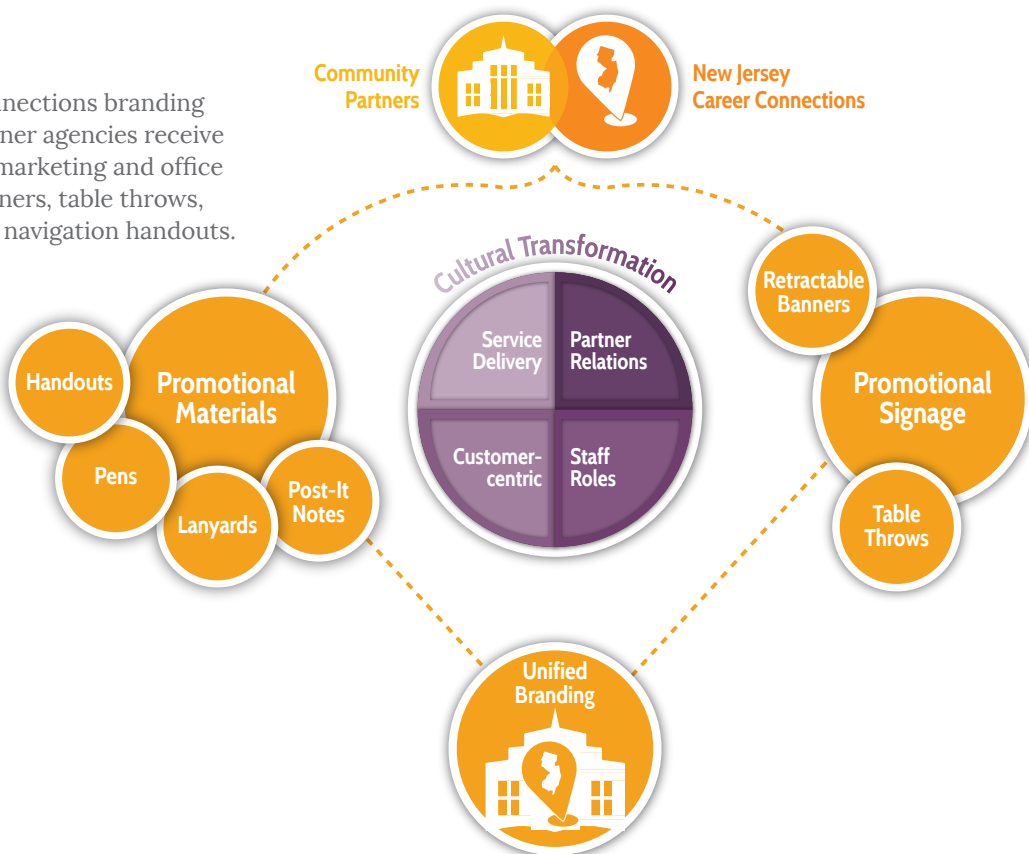


Navigators

Professionals who provide high-level, general assistance to jobseekers using the Path to Employment as a guide.

Materials

Universal New Jersey Career Connections branding is essential to network unity. Partner agencies receive New Jersey Career Connections marketing and office materials, such as retractable banners, table throws, post-it notes, and written career navigation handouts.



How to Get Involved



Organizations interested in joining the partner network should contact the New Jersey Career Connections Partner Engagement Team at careerconnectionspartners@dol.nj.gov. The team will work with you to determine how best our job search and career navigation services can help the individuals you serve achieve their career goals.