



# Business Services Newsletter

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## Welcome to Our Inaugural Issue

By Donna Gerrity

Welcome to our Inaugural Issue of the PA CareerLink Monroe County’s Business Services Newsletter! The members of our Business Services Team will bring this newsletter to you bi-monthly. We hope to provide you with relevant information from a variety of sources on local, state, and national employment issues. And, of course, each issue will educate you a bit more on the types of services we can and do provide for Pennsylvania’s employers at the PA CareerLink!

You are receiving this newsletter because you are a valued employer in our County. We want our valued employers to know about the services that CareerLink can provide. These services have been pre-paid by your tax dollars, so we want you to take advantage and make use of our services and experienced staff. If you know of someone who would like to receive our newsletter, drop me an email at [dgerrity@state.pa.us](mailto:dgerrity@state.pa.us).

If you have any questions about PA CareerLink Monroe County’s Business Services Team, please call or email Donna Gerrity, CareerLink Program Supervisor and BST Leader: [dgerrity@state.pa.us](mailto:dgerrity@state.pa.us) 570-620-2853. Or, contact John Casella, CareerLink Administrator, [jacmcl@ptd.net](mailto:jacmcl@ptd.net), 570-620-2960. We hope you enjoy this issue and find it useful!

*Find out about our Business Services Team below...*

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*“Our Mission and Vision  
are aligned with  
Governor Rendell’s Job  
Ready PA initiative.”*

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## PA CL Business Services

The PA CareerLink is a Workforce Investment System comprised of service providers, resources and information to connect businesses with qualified people, and people with training, jobs, and careers. The PA CareerLink is funded through an investment of your tax dollars and has been established as a One-Stop system, where employers and job seekers can access a comprehensive menu of workforce and employment related services. PA CareerLink Monroe County is comprised of 4 distinct teams: Customer Information & Resources Team, Career Guidance Team, Administrative Team and the Business Services Team.

## PA CL Business Services cont.

The PA CareerLink Monroe County's Business Services Team is composed of 11 permanent members representing the following agencies: [Department of Labor & Industry \(Bureau of Workforce Development Partnership aka BWDP\)](#), [Monroe County Job Training](#), [Pocono Mountains Economic Development Corporation](#), and the [Office of Vocational Rehabilitation \(OVR\)](#). The experience of the team members goes back as far as the days of CETA and JTPA...so we've been in workforce development for a long time!

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*"Each edition of our Newsletter will feature information on a unique service that one of our BST partner agencies can provide to employers."*

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In a nutshell, our Mission and Vision are aligned with Governor Rendell's Job Ready PA initiative. Job Ready PA is a complete overhaul of the Commonwealth's workforce development system, which has a dual focus on businesses and job seekers. As a workforce development agency, PA CareerLinks are working together to keep Pennsylvania competitive and create opportunity for our citizens. For more information on Job Ready PA, see the article on page 3.

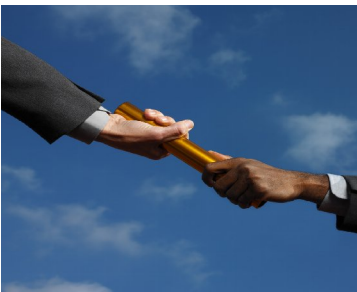
Our Business Services Team (BST) is committed to providing quality service to the employers of Monroe County. Each of the agencies represented on our BST provide specified services that are valuable to employers on a variety of levels. Each edition of our Newsletter will feature information on a unique service that one of our BST partner agencies can provide to employers. Beginning in the next edition, we'll feature a spotlight on the Department of Labor & Industry, Bureau of Workforce Development Partnership (DLI, BWDP) and what this agency can offer to businesses.

But, as a sneak peak, here's just a sampling of what our Business Services Team can do for you!

- Assistance from accredited Workforce Development Professionals
- Online job posting; prescreening, assessment and referral of applicants
- Coordination of job fairs and on-site recruitment
- Information on Industry Partnerships and Training Grants
- Identify funding available to assist with employee training
- Tax Credit information and assistance in application processes
- Wage and employment trends information
- Advertisement assistance
- Locate and hire the perfect candidate for your position

We hope that each new edition of our Newsletter will provide you with more information about our Business Services Team and what we can do for you!

Questions about our services? Email [dgerrity@state.pa.us](mailto:dgerrity@state.pa.us)



## Job Ready Pennsylvania

Job Ready PA is Governor Rendell's Strategy for building a skilled workforce. Today's global economy has created the need for a workforce with strong academic, workplace, and technical skills. Job Ready PA, a complete overhaul of the commonwealth's workforce development system, has a dual focus on businesses and jobseekers. This comprehensive strategy recognizes that to maintain its innovative edge, Pennsylvania needs a workforce with higher levels of education and marketable credentials in high-wage, high-demand occupations.

Job Ready PA makes the most of available resources, helps workers acquire good-paying jobs and establishes a workforce development culture that's efficient and responsive to worker and employer training needs. It approaches this goal with four key strategies:

1. Strengthen PA industries and create industry-led training strategies  
Past workforce programs focused primarily on quickly matching people with jobs, but didn't consider business and industry training needs. Pennsylvania's new Workforce Development System is focused on the future, creating a skilled workforce and insisting that all workforce training and education programs equip Pennsylvanians with the skills employers need to be successful.

2. Increase opportunities for Pennsylvania residents  
At no time in our nation's history has education been more important to a person's success than now; however, too many Pennsylvanians lack the opportunity to obtain additional training beyond high school. Pennsylvania's new Workforce Development System aligns existing resources with High-Priority Occupations - career categories that are in demand by employers, have higher skill needs, and pay a salary on which you can raise a family. These efforts are targeted toward not only those seeking employment, but also toward workers already employed and looking to upgrade their skills.

3. Prepare our youth for the careers of tomorrow  
Today's youth must have the skills they need to succeed in tomorrow's workforce. Governor Rendell's workforce development initiatives deliver by helping school districts improve academic outcomes and career preparedness for students by raising academic standards and aligning curriculums with business needs.

4. Implement rigorous accountability standards  
Pennsylvania's Workforce Development System must guarantee efficient and effective use of taxpayer dollars, and create the best possible outcomes for businesses and residents. That is why we have built accountability and measurement into each program, and have taken steps to ensure that the leadership and capacity to deliver quality services exist at the local and regional levels.

This is just a brief overview of Job Ready PA. Subsequent issues will highlight other strategies and initiatives contained within Job Ready PA. You will find more information on the [Governor's strategy for building a skilled workforce](#) at [www.paworkforce.state.pa.us](http://www.paworkforce.state.pa.us).



Keeping  
Pennsylvania  
Competitive

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## Business Retention & Expansion Program

One of the most important programs that our Business Services Team is privileged to be involved with is the Business Retention & Expansion Program. The Pennsylvania Business Retention Program (BREP) was established in 1997 to forge better working relationships and stronger collaboration among various public, private, state and local economic development organizations, with the goal of enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of efforts to retain and grow existing Pennsylvania businesses. The Pennsylvania Business Retention and Expansion Program is the most aggressive job retention program in the country. Since its inception, representatives of the BREP have completed over 62,000 visits. The BREP Program provides employers with a single point-of-contact to act as liaison between the employer and all the economic development and training programs available to Pennsylvania businesses.



The BST of the PA CareerLink Monroe County is happy to have 5 certified BREP Interviewers on our Team. If you'd like to be visited by one of our BREP Interviewers, feel free to contact our office at 570-620-2850 and ask for a BREP Representative. When visited, the interview will take approximately 1 hour and it will give your business the opportunity to see what is available to help your business stay and grow in PA!

For more information on the BREP Program, please contact our office or for information on other programs that might assist you, visit [www.newpa.com](http://www.newpa.com).

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*"If you'd like to be visited by a BREP Interviewer, please contact us at 570-620-2850. We'll be happy to arrange a personalized visit."*

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*Pennsylvania*  
**CareerLink**  
MONROE COUNTY

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## Newsflash!!!

The PA CareerLink website, [www.pacareerlink.state.pa.us](http://www.pacareerlink.state.pa.us), will be getting a new look and improved capabilities as of September 4, 2007! CareerLink staff all across the state begins training on our new system on July 30...just in time for the launch! You, the Business Community, have given us many recommendations for improving our job posting website over the years...and we've listened!!! Our new website, the Commonwealth Workforce Development System (CWDS), will give both job seekers and employers more job matching capabilities than ever! We're sure you'll be pleased with the modifications and improvements we've made. For more info, please see [www.paworkforce.state.pa.us](http://www.paworkforce.state.pa.us), (keyword search--CWDS).