



**BUSINESS & EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES
IN THE REGIONAL CENTER**
An Overview & Available Benefits

THE
**REGIONAL
CENTER**

BRIDGEWATER • RARITAN • SOMERVILLE
A partnership for a better tomorrow
IN SOMERSET COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
www.regionalcenterpartnership.org

BUSINESS RESOURCE OPPORTUNITIES

The **SOMERSET COUNTY BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP (SCBP)** is Central New Jersey's premier business resource. As an enhanced Chamber of Commerce, the Partnership represents business interests and shared economic, educational, and quality-of-life goals.



Planning sessions have helped to set the Regional Center agenda

The Business Partnership Economic Development division works closely with the Somerset County Regional Center, assisting companies in determining whether relocating or starting a business here is the best option. The professional staff examines needs and provides unbiased information and strategic planning assistance. The Partnership's business relocation, attraction, and expansion resource services provide the information necessary to assist corporate leadership in making essential decisions. The organization's resources are also available to help a company integrate into the local economy to 'hit the ground running.'

Upon request, the Business Partnership will provide an up-to-date overview of the industrial and commercial office markets in the Regional Center. Contact the SCBP at 908-218-4300 or info@scbp.org. Visit the website at www.scbp.org.

COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

The Somerset County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), *Investment Somerset, a Collaborative Blueprint for Economic Growth*, prepared by the Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the Somerset County Business Partnership (SCBP), is an economic road map to diversify and strengthen regional economies. The study identifies nine Priority Focus Areas within which are 33 goals supported by nearly 200 discrete projects, programs, and activities.

The United States Economic Development Agency approved the CEDS, explaining, "The priorities and focuses...will help form the



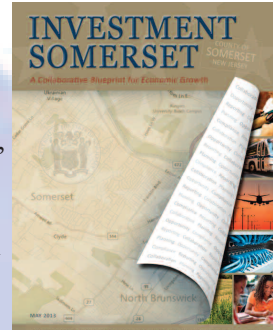
Setting goals for the Regional Center at the 2015 Visioning Workshop

foundation of how EDA reviews applications of Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Programs from your region."

The effort positioned Somerset County as New Jersey's leader in strategic economic planning and places us in a priority position for state and federal funding. The CEDS identifies initiatives that will "afford the highest degree of local success in implementing job creation and private sector economic investment strategies." The report identifies

strategies developed from robust planning and research efforts, visioning and vetting of concepts and their intended consequences, and the collaboration among partners across the public and private sectors.

The conclusions drawn in the report consider initiatives including re-use of properties, talent attraction and retention, workforce delivery based on the needs of employers, creating great places, attracting international businesses, and communicating the advantages of our vibrant location.



Strategies in the report are based on the premise that the limited public-sector investments should be focused where it can have the greatest impact on job creation and leverage of private-sector investment while establishing one voice for the business community in public policy decision-making.

In 2014, the Somerset County Planning Board adopted the CEDS as an element of the Somerset County Master Plan. Investment Somerset is available online at <http://www.scbp.org/economic-development/ceds>.

SOMERSET COUNTY: A HUB OF INNOVATION

Somerset County has among the highest concentrations of pharmaceutical and life sciences industry professionals in the state, supporting the County's largest industry and the fourth highest concentration of related companies in New Jersey.

In addition, corporate neighbors are at the forefront of innovation, providing products and services to world markets.

Somerset County companies are engaged in initiatives to develop and improve 3-D printing and production, 5G telecommunications deployment, commercialization of disease therapies and numerous other manufacturing and research initiatives.



Somerset County is home to the world's major corporate headquarters

Somerset County has invested years of effort to develop and enhance a talented labor pool to support bioscience, telecommunications, and research and development through an active approach to delivery of business development services.

RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE has taken a lead role in furthering the educational and workforce objectives in line with the goals of the CEDS by providing degree programs, seamless degree transfer programs, certificate programs for retraining and workforce development, Allied Health programs, a Master's degree articulated transfer program, internships, faculty research, and high school initiatives including programs focusing on math, science and health careers and K-12 teacher education.

The College is an important contributor to Somerset County's reputation as an attractive business destination. Targeted educational opportunities provide support to international headquarters of pharmaceutical companies, medical industry support businesses, and numerous communication and technology companies in Somerset County. Information available at www.raritanval.edu/general-information.

The **SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER AT RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE** provides management assistance to companies in all industries, including technical, consulting, manufacturing, service, retail and wholesale, and international trade. The services of the Center provide start-up and existing business owners with the skill sets needed to establish and operate their businesses. Services include training, workshops, seminars, customized training programs, and non-credit courses for individuals seeking personal and professional development. Information at www.sbdcrvcc.com.

THE GREATER RARITAN WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD (GRWIB) works to enhance the regional economy through the creation and support of an innovative and responsive workforce system focused on the needs of local employers and job seekers.

Through strategic planning, partnerships, and collaborations giving priority to local employer workforce needs, the 32-member appointed board invests federal, state, and local resources to highlight employer opportunities and enhance the capacity of the labor force through the services of the One Stop Career Center to meet those needs. Information is available at www.grwib.com/index.htm or by calling 908-218-4300, ext. 25.

THE GREATER RARITAN ONE STOP CAREER CENTER provides quality, accessible, and comprehensive employment services to equip job seekers with up to date employment search tools, skills, and resources. Managed by and located at the Somerset County Department of Human Services, individual career and vocational counseling, skills-based workshops (resume writing, interviewing skills, etc.), online assessment tools, and job matching are included in the the array of services available to Somerset and Hunterdon County job seekers.

In addition, the One Stop Career Center administers the individualized training grant program for unemployed and underemployed youth and adults in the region. Through the creation of an Employment Development Plan, professionals from various career sectors work with eligible customers to

identify and enhance marketability and access to education and training opportunities available through the grant program. For information on the GRWDB and the One Stop Career Center, contact Monica Mulligan, Director, P.O. Box 3000, Somerville, NJ 08876, phone: 908-704-6326, mulliga@co.somerset.nj.us. Information at www.co.somerset.nj.us/government/human-services/greater-raritan-one-stop-career-centers.

RideWise of Raritan Valley is a Transportation Management Association (TMA) that partners with organizations, businesses, and municipalities on transportation solutions for individuals living and working in Somerset County. Founded in 1990, RideWise is the source for sustainable travel alternatives. Contact RideWise at 908-704-1010. Information may be found at <http://www.ridewise.org>.

Somerset County Vocational & Technical Schools offers 20 career and technical education programs for full- and shared-time county students (grades 9-12); an Academy for Health & Medical Sciences; an alternative high school program (TOPS); and a unique training program (Twilight). Information is available at <http://www.scvths.org> or by calling 908-526-8900.

LOGISTICS & DEMOGRAPHICS

The Regional Center presents a diversity of available business locations ranging from Class A office space in proximity to the interstate highway system to second and third floor locations in a downtown environment. Opportunities are abundant to satisfy both immediate relocation or expansion needs and long-term economic development planning.

POPULATION SNAPSHOT:

Bridgewater	45,198
	For population 25 years and over
	High school graduate: 95.5%
	Bachelor's degree: 57.3%
	Unemployment rate: 4.1%
Raritan	8,031
	For population 25 years and over
	High school graduate: 95.2%
	Bachelor's degree: 36.5%
	Unemployment rate: 4.2%
Somerville	12,202
	For population 25 years and over
	High school graduate: 91.5%
	Bachelor's degree: 38.0%
	Unemployed: 4.9%

Population figures: *US Census*. Annual Estimates of Population for Municipalities in New Jersey by County April 1, 2010 - July 1, 2015.

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME:

Bridgewater	\$114,510 +/- \$4,497
Raritan	\$73,827 +/- \$8,693
Somerville	\$70,643 +/- \$3,953

Selected Economic Characteristics 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

WHY FOCUS ON THE REGIONAL CENTER COMMUNITIES

In 1996, the Boroughs of Raritan, Somerville, and the adjacent portion of Bridgewater jointly received designation from the New Jersey State Planning Commission establishing New Jersey's first tri-municipal Regional Center. The designation was awarded based on highway and mass transit connections, the concentration of county-wide facilities and services, regional shopping opportunities, and major institutional and health facilities.

The designation serves to expedite the achievement of policy objectives in critical areas of growth. Through participation with the State Planning Commission and cooperation among the governing bodies and the business community, the Regional Center Partnership guides development and redevelopment efforts through funding priorities for land use studies and cooperative planning.

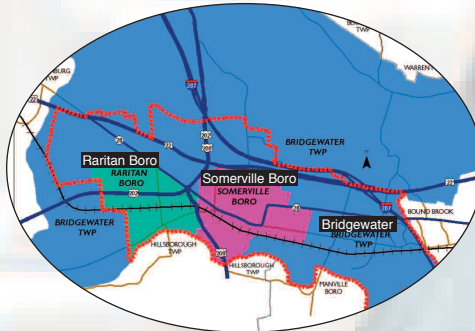
The Regional Center is an 11.5 square mile area of central Somerset County, bisected by the major transportation corridors of U.S. 206, U.S. Route 202, U.S. Route 22, and I-287. The Center includes three Raritan Valley Line commuter rail stations, four New Jersey Transit bus lines, three County-operated bus lines, three private bus lines, and the NJ Transit Wheels Suburban Transportation Service.

The Center is the focal point of the regional economy and government, including the Somerset County seat, county library, the regional medical center, and the county's only regional mall. The area incorporates a myriad of commercial uses with diverse residential neighborhoods offering a full range of housing options.

The Regional Center designation provides for priority funding for economic and community development programs and housing and non-residential development along major highway and mass transit corridors. The designation also allows for the establishment of

mass transportation linkages and support for the linear open space concepts in county and local master plans.

Priority funding is available for clean-up of contaminated sites, and for improvements to new and existing recreational facilities, programs, passive open space acquisitions, and historic preservation and revitalization programs. The Center Designation helps to coordinate public facilities planning and provides priority funding for the replacement of deteriorating infrastructure such as sewer and water lines.



The Somerset County Regional Center is situated geographically at the midpoint between New York City & Philadelphia and at the midpoint between Boston & Washington. Twenty-five percent of the U.S. population lives within 250 miles of the Regional Center.

The Center is located in the geographical center of New Jersey. New York's financial districts and national and international connections by air, rail, and sea transport are within an hour by road or rail. The Regional Center communities serve as the core of Somerset County with Somerville serving as the County Seat of one of the wealthiest counties in the nation, making it an appealing executive destination.

The Regional Center is easily accessible to 4 International Airports - Newark



THE REGIONAL CENTER

BRIDGEWATER, RARITAN, SOMERVILLE • SOMERSET COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

Contact: Somerset County Planning Board • Post Office Box 3000, Somerville, New Jersey 08876
Phone 908-231-7021 • www.regionalcenterpartnership.org

Liberty, Kennedy, LaGuardia, and Philadelphia; 3 general aviation airports; the seaports of Elizabeth, Newark, and New York; Interstate Highways 287, 78, 95, and 295; and rail transport through Amtrak, CSX, and Norfolk Southern.

Corporate neighbors represent some of the world's most important companies:

AT&T
CitiGroup
Chubb Insurance Companies
Henkel AkzoNobel
Imclone Systems, Inc.
Johnson & Johnson
LifeCell Corporation
Linde North America
MetLife
Nestlé Health Science
Pfizer
Roche Molecular Systems
Sanofi Pharmaceuticals
Valeant Pharmaceuticals
Verizon

Within and near the Regional Center are found museums and galleries; live theater, concert venues, and movies; public & private golf courses; trail systems of walking, cycling, and horseback riding; Duke Farms, thousands of acres of active and passive parkland; fishing, canoeing, kayaking, swimming, birdwatching, & ice skating; the Bridgewater Commons regional mall; shopping in traditional downtown settings; minor league baseball, and restaurants & pubs representing nearly every region of the world.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

John Maddocks - Vice-president, Economic Development Somerset County Business Partnership, 908-218-4300 jmaddocks@scbp.org

Howard Turbowitz - Bridgewater Township Economic Development Officer 908-725-6300 x5090 econofficer@bridgewaternj.gov

Colin Driver - Somerville Borough Director of Economic Development 908-369-3241 colin.driver@gmail.com

Charles McMullin, Mayor,
Raritan Economic Development Committee
Raritan Municipal Building, 22 First Street,
Raritan, NJ 08869 - 908-231-1300

