

NEW START CAREER NETWORK

HELPING NJ'S LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYED JOB SEEKERS

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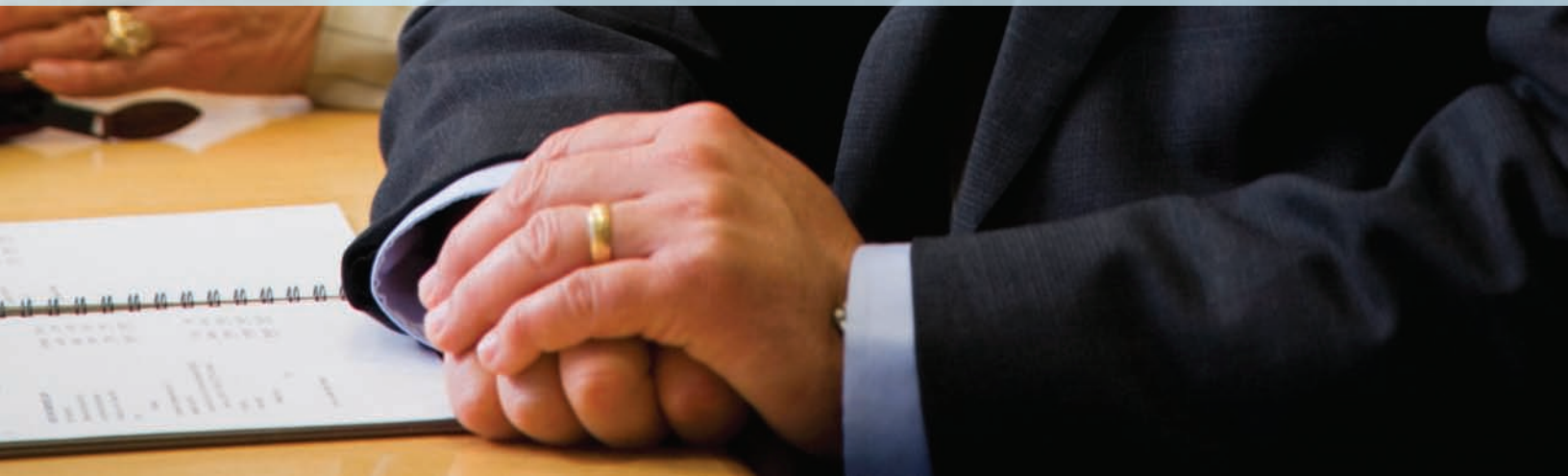
John J. Heldrich Center for
Workforce Development



ABOUT THE NEW START CAREER NETWORK

While the job market is improving, more than 4 in 10 of New Jersey's unemployed job seekers — over 125,000 individuals — have been jobless for more than six months, giving New Jersey one of the highest rates of long-term unemployment in the nation. Three-quarters of these individuals have been unemployed over a year, and half of them are over the age of 45. The public workforce system provides few services targeted specifically to the needs of older, long-term unemployed job seekers, and reliable, unbiased information for job seekers can be hard to find. Many employers are reluctant to hire these individuals, even when job seekers have the requisite skills and experiences.

The Heldrich Center for Workforce Development established the New Start Career Network to help long-term unemployed New Jerseyans, particularly those aged 45 and over, obtain jobs. The network incorporates lessons from research on strategies undertaken in New Jersey and nationally. It serves job seekers through web-based advising and information resources and a cadre of volunteer career coaches. These services are available free-of-charge to individuals who meet basic membership criteria.



SERVICES

The New Start Career Network helps job seekers access the following services:

- **INFORMATION AND ADVICE** about the labor market, careers, and education and training options delivered via a website and tutorials that enable individuals to make wise choices and improve job search skills.
- **ONE-ON-ONE COACHING** provided by a trained corps of volunteers as well as access to peer-support networks and job clubs.
- **ACCESS TO INCENTIVES** that encourage employers to provide trial employment opportunities and on-the-job training for long-term unemployed job seekers.
- **EMPLOYER ENGAGEMENT** and commitments from employers to reform hiring practices, building upon initiatives undertaken by the White House and AARP.
- **ACCESS AND REFERRAL** to a broad range of services, including education, training, mental health counseling, and financial advising.

PARTNERS & COLLABORATORS

The New Start Career Network is managed by Rutgers University's Heldrich Center for Workforce Development. The Center is collaborating with a wide range of organizations including:

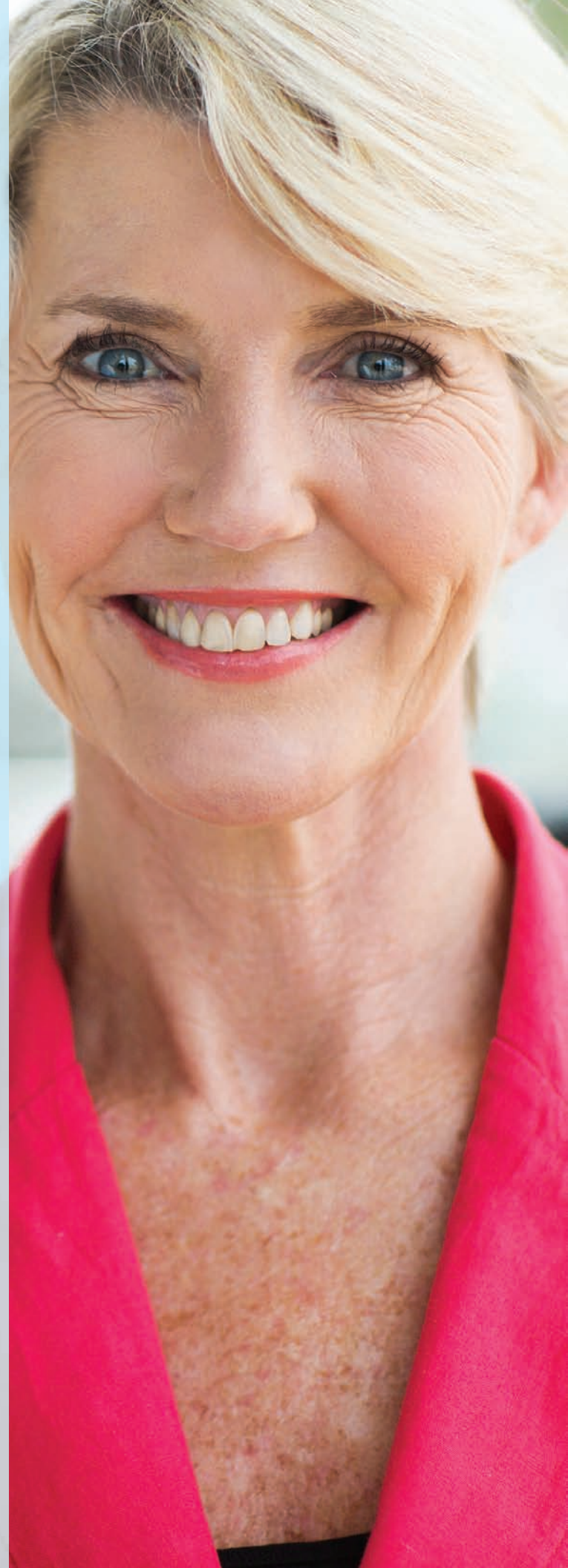
NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS: AARP Foundation, AARP NJ, United Way, Goodwill, Mental Health Association in New Jersey, New Jersey Foundation for Aging, National Council on Aging in New Jersey, JerseyOn, New Start New Jersey, New Jersey Library Association, Experience Works, Dress for Success of Morris County

EMPLOYERS & PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS: New Jersey Resources, UPS, IBM, PSEG, DirectEmployers, BioNJ, New Jersey Chamber of Commerce, New Jersey Business and Industry Association, Statewide Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Garden State Council-SHRM

ORGANIZED LABOR: New Jersey State Building and Construction Trades Council

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES: New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, New Jersey State Library, Governor's Office of Volunteerism, New Jersey Community College Consortium for Workforce and Economic Development

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY: University Career Services, Alumni Association



EXPERT TEAM

The New Start Career Network leadership team and its many partners have the knowledge, operational experience, and resources needed to serve long-term unemployed, older job seekers. Network staff have considerable knowledge of what long-term unemployed older workers need and know how to work with employers and access available public workforce and social service programs.

RESULTS AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Heldrich Center research staff will collect data systematically and report on the progress of the job seekers who are assisted by the New Start Career Network and compare these outcomes with similar unemployed workers who did not receive services. The results of this research could offer potential cost-effective solutions and policies that will assist older long-term unemployed job seekers and other populations.

EXPERIENCED ORGANIZATION

The New Start Career Network builds on the Heldrich Center's considerable experience with dislocated worker programs and practices. The Heldrich Center assisted the September 11th Fund in the design, implementation, and management of a \$78 million Employment Assistance Program, which served 11,000 dislocated workers in New York City and New Jersey following the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center. Learn more about the Heldrich Center at www.heldrich.rutgers.edu.

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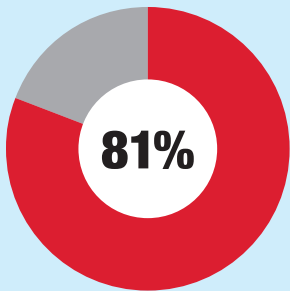
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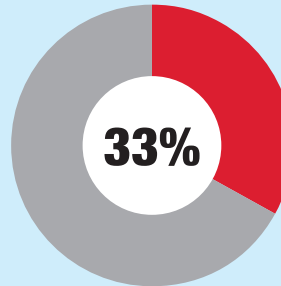


DEVASTATING IMPACTS OF LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYMENT

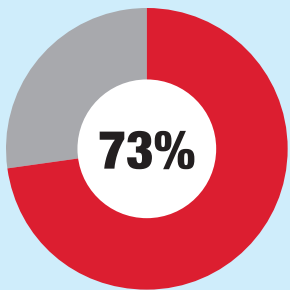
Long-term unemployment is devastating for individuals, families, and the community. Heldrich Center research on long-term unemployed job seekers reports that:



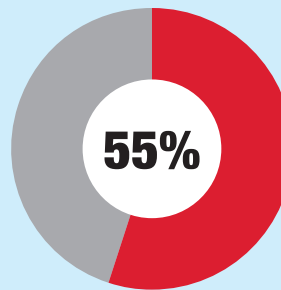
Rate their personal financial situation negatively as only fair or poor



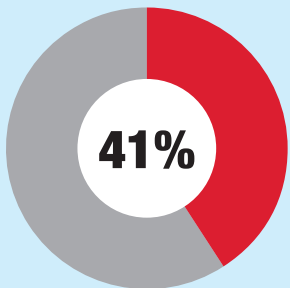
Borrowed money from family and friends



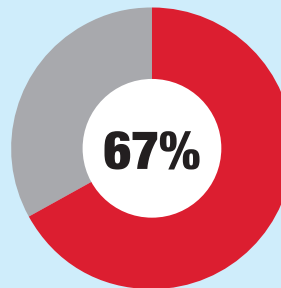
Have less in savings and income than they did five years ago



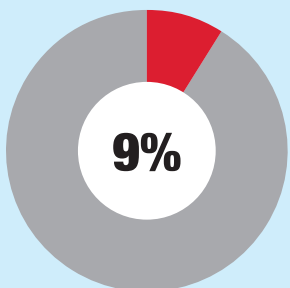
Will need to retire later than planned because of the recession



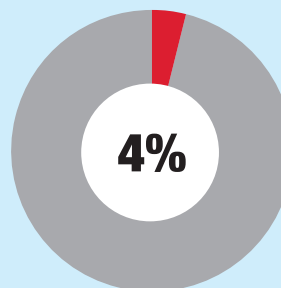
Sold possessions to make ends meet



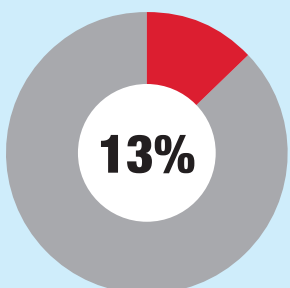
Experienced stress in their family relationships and close friendships



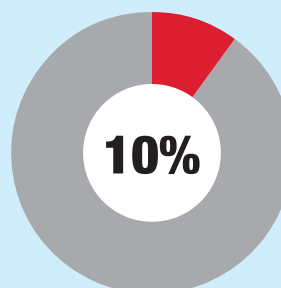
Received assistance (other than Unemployment Insurance) from a government agency when they were looking for a job



Received funding from the government for a training program



Met with a job coach or counselor



Attended a job club or professional networking meeting

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GET INVOLVED

To register for NSCN, volunteer as a career coach, or hire an unemployed worker, contact:

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CONNECT WITH US

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Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, New Jersey Resources Corporation

PHILIP MURPHY

Chair, New Start Career Network Advisory Board
Chairman and Co-Founder, New Start New Jersey

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