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- News Release -

**NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Jersey Labor Department Joins “Project Homeless Connect” in Bergen County

Homeless Individuals Linked to Employment Opportunities at Annual Event

HACKENSACK, N.J., February 4, 2015 – The New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development joined Bergen County for its 9th Annual “Project Homeless Connect” to assist and link people experiencing homelessness with access to health services, legal advice, social services and employment assistance.

“Connecting people to employment opportunities is part of the overall effort undertaken at this annual event to assist the homeless. My department is pleased to again join Bergen County helping people on their journey back from hard times,” said Labor Commissioner Harold J. Wirths.

Attendees received information on the Department of Labor’s employment services for veterans and individuals with disabilities, as well as the Jobs4Jersey.com website, a portal to all of the employment and training services offered by the department. Staff members from the Department of Labor were on hand to assist with creating resumes, develop profiles to circulate among employers and to recommend training programs that could assist individuals in becoming employed.

Other agencies at the “Project Homeless Connect” provided legal advice, housing assistance, information on Medicaid, access to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, HIV counseling,

flu shots, health screenings, haircuts, warm clothing and gift bags with donated gift cards and personal hygiene items. Breakfast, lunch and dinner also were provided to event visitors at the day-long event, along with dental, blood and glucose screenings. The Parisian Beauty Academy of Hackensack provided free haircuts and manicures.

The event, held at the Bergen County Housing, Health and Human Services Center on South River Street, has assisted an estimated 200 to 300 people each year of its operation.



Between counseling sessions with homeless Bergen County residents, George Arnett of the Bergen County One-Stop Career Center and Joseph Homer of the Department of Labor and Workforce Development (left to right) took a moment to talk with other volunteers and government assistance workers who joined the Bergen County Project Homeless Connect event today.