

A GUIDE TO LABOR DEMAND OCCUPATIONS IN NEW JERSEY

The Department of Labor and Workforce Development (LWD) has released the April 2005 edition of *A Guide to Labor Demand Occupations in New Jersey*. This *Guide* is in effect immediately, supercedes all previous editions and remains in force until the next release. It is not, nor is it intended to be, an all-inclusive listing of appropriate or recommended areas for training.

The *Guide* provides information on anticipated employer needs for trained workers. The New Jersey Workforce Development Partnership (WDP) Act, the Federal Workforce Investment Act (WIA) of 1998, and all other occupational training initiatives that are included in the *Strategic Five-Year Unified State Plan for New Jersey's Workforce Investment System* utilize the *Guide* as a starting point when establishing education and training programs or issuing training program grants to individuals who are upgrading skills or changing careers.

The labor demand information presented in the *Guide* is based upon a geographic configuration developed by each of the local Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs). The WIB jurisdictions are defined in Table 2. In deciding upon which counties should be included in the jurisdiction for job demand, each WIB took into account such information as the commuting patterns of its residents and employers recruiting areas for hiring its residents.

The careers contained in the *Guide* are those that meet the criteria specified by the WDP legislation. Each is expected to provide annual job openings that will exceed the supply of trained workers. All careers deemed to be "in demand" require some level of training to acquire the knowledge and skills an individual should have prior to job entry. In most instances, the occupations are projected to grow over time.

If the WIB believes that an occupation, not listed in this publication, is in demand in its area, it can designate such an occupation as being "in demand" and allow program participants under its jurisdiction to be placed in training. This is done in accordance with the procedures outlined in the LWD's Workforce New Jersey Bulletin ET No. 0013, Rev. 3/UI No. 0649 dated September 3, 2002.