

Hudson County

The right place for you and your business



Minutes from Manhattan, Hudson County offers accessibility to major markets via extensive mass transit options.

Hudson County continues to drive growth and economic activity both statewide and internationally due to its highly educated, global workforce and strategic location. Providing easy access to the nation's top markets, Hudson County's dynamic business community – comprising global brands and individual entrepreneurs – has distinguished itself through the cultivation of a unique ecosystem of public and private partnerships. The future of Hudson County's workforce continues to be an area of focus for these organizations through dynamic programs, accessible training and funding.

Comprised of 12 municipalities, the County's rich heritage and diversity add to the vibrancy of regional communities. Thriving local retail corridors with award-winning dining, family-owned and operated retail stores, art, culture and open spaces make Hudson County an ideal place to live, work and play.

Investing in education

New Jersey is home to the best state education system in the country, according to a new national ranking from Education Week, due to the State's ongoing investment

in the quality of private and public institutions. Hudson County's significant commitment to providing accessible education is unique to the region's heritage which continues to serve as a gateway to a global community.

Hudson County Community College (HCCC) is a critical driver of the economic development and health of Hudson County and the surrounding area as well as a cornerstone of Hudson County's uniquely diverse educational community. Serving more than 18,000 credit and non-credit students annually, the College offers more than 60 degree and certificate programs, including STEM, Nursing and Health Services, Culinary Arts/Hospitality Management, Business and Computer Science. In 2017, the Equality of Opportunity Project ranked HCCC in the top 5% of 2,200 U.S. higher education institutions for social mobility. The College has earned national, state and local recognition. The institution is the only community college in the country, in partnership with The Aspen Institute Economic Opportunities Program, to lead and fund a Workforce Leadership Academy to supercharge leadership networks to build a future-proof workforce.

Leading the way in workforce development and training

New Jersey has a well-earned reputation for educational and training programs responsive to rapidly changing economies and the needs of employers.

Hudson County Community College's relationships with area corporations and institutions including RWJBarnabas Health, Eastern Millwork, Goldman Sachs, Compass Group and Sysco strengthen the financial foundation of the region to create a dynamic community ecosystem which is best exemplified by The Hudson County/ Jersey City Workforce Development Board. The powerful partnership engages leaders from the private sector, agencies, labor unions and community-based organizations to guide Hudson County's workforce and economic development strategies.

"HCCC has been instrumental in creating a vision and realizing it to the benefit of our community. Thanks to their pioneering efforts we have been able to train, hire, appoint and promote many Hudson County residents. As one of the nation's best healthcare systems and the largest employer in the State, the College's



The Hudson Waterfront, often called "The Gold Coast" is densely populated, culturally rich and a sought after destination for residents and businesses.

New Jersey's resilience has been proven time and time again as we come together to support our communities and invest in a collective future. With unique assets and a talented, diverse population, Hudson County has become the fastest growing region in the state and continues to drive economic activity and growth.

Whether you're contemplating a relocation or preparing to grow your business in Hudson, you can rely on the strength of our local partnerships, easy to access resources and well-thought-out and established support services to navigate local regulatory requirements.

As a team, we often reflect upon that first week in March of 2020. Now as I'm writing this seven months after Governor Murphy's March 9, 2020, declaration of a State of Emergency and a Public Health Emergency, I am pleased to report that Hudson's recovery is well underway.

Our County administration has consistently embraced the opportunity to collaborate with our Mayors and elected officials, together we share a long history of opening doors in Hudson County. From the first day of the COVID-19 crisis, we addressed the needs of the most vulnerable communities by providing access and resources.

Guided by the Governor and health officials, we implemented systems to help control the outbreak while never losing focus of the concurrent economic impact unfolding in our County. As a County, we joined together and reached out to business owners who were at risk of losing their life's work. The combination of grant and loan programs offered by the County and our nonprofit economic development partner, the Hudson County Economic Development Corporation (HCEDC), helped fill the void across the County.

Commitment to the environment and justice takes on a greater importance today. During my administration, we have prioritized our open space programs and invested heavily in the County park system. Today, these spaces serve as a resource to all, promoting good health and overall quality of life.

We continue our commitment to reentry and affordable housing as we explore ways to ensure our most vulnerable citizens have access to the resources and support they desperately need to thrive and contribute to our unique community.

I invite you to read through our Hudson section and learn more about what Hudson County has to offer: an educated and talented workforce; transportation hubs and access to global markets; quality of life enhanced by thriving diverse communities and open spaces; and a local team of committed public institutions and private partnerships.



Sincerely,
Tom DeGise
Hudson County Executive



contributions are important to our ongoing growth," said Lourdes Valdes, Director of Workforce Development and Grants, Human Resources and Corporate Services, RWJBarnabas Health.

Hudson County Community College is a member of the Community College Consortium for Workforce and Economic Development. The Consortium, founded in 2004 by the State's community colleges, provides coordinated, one-stop statewide education and training services for businesses and industries. New Jersey companies have access to the resources of all the State's 18 community colleges through HCCC, including over 1,700 programs taught by faculty with business and industry experience.

Supporting growth through opportunity

Too many American communities have been left behind by widening geographic disparities... [Opportunity Zones] will unlock new private investment for communities where millions of Americans face the crisis of closing business, lack of access to capital, and declining entrepreneurship.

— U.S Senators Tim Scott (R-SC) and Cory Booker (D-NJ)

The Opportunity Zone program, co-sponsored by New Jersey Senator Cory Booker and South Carolina Senator Tim Scott, is strategically designed to drive long-term capital investment into underserved rural and urban communities by granting generous tax benefits to investors.

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately impacted the health and economic fortitude of Opportunity Zone communities. By investing in these regions, investors empower communities



Dr. Velino Joasil (second from left) lectures to biology students in one of Hudson County Community College's STEM labs.



Steps from the PATH station connecting NYC and Hudson County, Newark Avenue, Jersey City's pedestrian plaza is a destination for diners, shoppers and strollers.

to become increasingly self-sufficient and resilient. The program's rules provide great flexibility to start your own business or invest in partnership with existing businesses and landowners.

Hudson County is home to twenty-one Qualified Opportunity Zones in six municipalities: Bayonne, Jersey City, Kearny, North Bergen, Union City, and West New York. Hudson's access to labor and consumer markets and its variety of transportation hubs and options offers a mix of investment opportunities in businesses, multifamily residential, vacant land, industrial and commercial development.

Driving success through the power of partnerships

The Hudson County Economic Development Corporation (HCEDC) is a not-for-profit economic development organization that plays a unique role in a network of partners serving businesses in Hudson County.

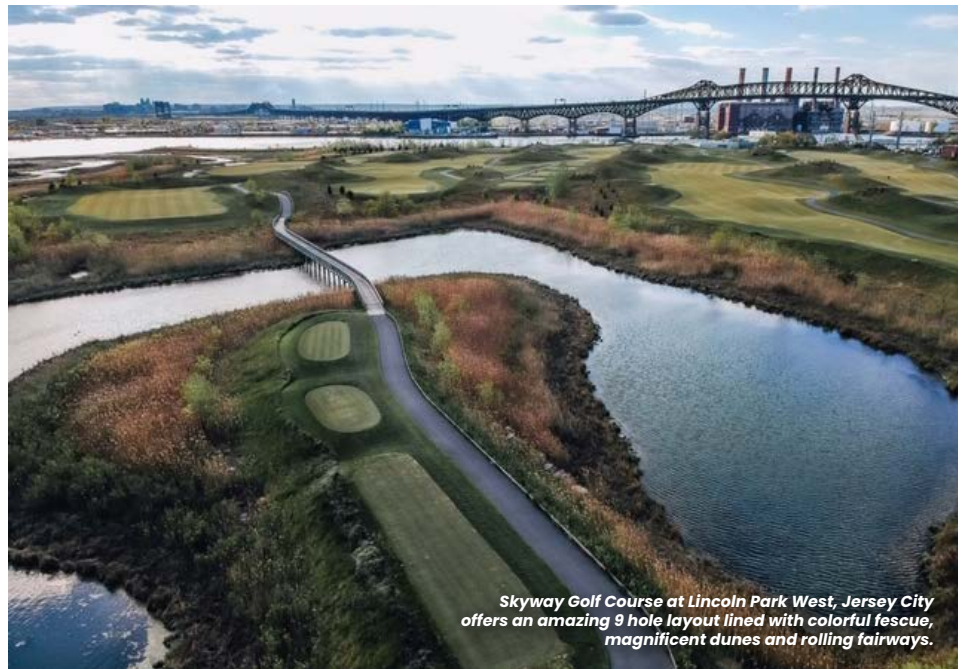
The organization's work supporting local businesses contributes to a thriving

All of our work is through partnerships, so we're able to find solutions and resources for our business clients, no matter their size or industry.

— Michelle Richardson,
Executive Director, HCEDC

We are proud of what we have accomplished through our work with HCEDC. Simply put, the UCEDC and HCEDC staff take the time to understand the needs and concerns of every individual client and then provide the resources that best fit their needs. This could take the form of providing attractive financing options, one-on-one mentoring, enrolling in a variety of training programs focused on growing a business as well as connecting the business with the services of other resource partners or government agencies. We are grateful to have found a partner aligned with UCEDC in both mission and values.

— Adam Farrah, President, UCEDC



Skyway Golf Course at Lincoln Park West, Jersey City offers an amazing 9 hole layout lined with colorful fescue, magnificent dunes and rolling fairways.

Hudson economy, an ideal setting for businesses seeking to relocate or expand.

While the HCEDC works with state, county and municipal partners to attract businesses, the organization is mission-driven to serve and support the diverse local businesses and owners which comprise the backbone of Hudson's economy. These engines fuel activity in neighborhoods and retail corridors and are critical participants in the business-to-business market, offering products and services to Hudson's growth sectors, including but not limited to healthcare, financial services, transportation, distribution and logistics.

Providing expertise in the areas of access to capital, business training,

information and affordable housing, the HCEDC has successfully aligned initiatives with community development financial institutions to provide over \$2 million in financing to businesses and hundreds of professional training hours to the community that supports underserved Hudson County neighborhoods.

Businesses seeking to relocate and grow in Hudson County will find a welcoming team through HCEDC's powerful network of partnerships.

For more information or assistance, please contact Michelle Richardson at (201) 369-4370 or email us at info@hudsonedc.org.