

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

OUTREACH AND RESOURCES

Produced by the EWR Redevelopment Community Outreach Offices of Elizabeth and Newark



Industry Day Opens Doors for Local Businesses at Newark Liberty International Airport

On April 14, more than 150 business owners, entrepreneurs, and community partners gathered at the Holiday Inn Newark Airport for New Jersey Aviation Industry Day hosted by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. Many others joined virtually, all eager to learn about upcoming opportunities at Newark Liberty International Airport.

The Port Authority provided an overview of its 2026–2035 Capital Plan, highlighting major projects including runway rehabilitation, taxiway realignment, continued improvements to Terminal A, a new Terminal B, upgrades to the Central Heating and Refrigeration Plant, and the replacement of the AirTrain system.

Attendees also learned about certification programs and initiatives such as the Local Business Enterprise (LBE) designation, designed to help local firms compete for contracting opportunities.

"It was a very informative session, encouraging and empowering," said Karina Martinez, owner of MedXpress Couriers in Elizabeth, NJ. "I'm grateful to the Port Authority team for creating these opportunities for small, local businesses to be part of these important projects."

More than just an information session, Industry Day connected local businesses with resources, opportunities, and relationships that can help them grow alongside one of the region's most significant redevelopment efforts.



If you missed the event and would like to learn more about it, please use this link to view the recording: [Industry Day 2026 Video](#)

CONNECT WITH US

Ready to do business with the Port Authority?

Register, get certified, and connect with the Community Outreach Offices to stay ahead of upcoming opportunities at Newark Liberty International Airport. Connect with us here: [EWR Community Outreach & Engagement](#)

Happenings in Elizabeth



Elizabeth Comes Together for Earth Day

The City of Elizabeth came alive with purpose and pride this Earth Day as more than 600 volunteers rolled up their sleeves for the annual Citywide Clean-Up. Led by Mayor Chris Bollwage, the April 22 effort built on the momentum from the Earth Month kickoff earlier in the week, turning community spirit into real impact across neighborhoods.

From local organizations to schools and businesses, volunteers braved a chilly spring morning with one shared goal: keeping Elizabeth clean, green, and thriving. Among them, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey team once again showed its dedication, spending hours helping spruce up the E-Port area and surrounding streets.

Union County Fatherhood Initiative Coalition Brings Community Together

On April 17, community leaders, elected officials, advocates, fathers, and families gathered at the STEM Building of Kean University for the 14th Annual Fatherhood Conference, hosted by the Union County Fatherhood Initiative Coalition, an organization that has served more than 1,500 participants since 2013.

The EWR community outreach team attended the event to share employment opportunities through its partnership with the Council for Airport Opportunity, along with resources for local small businesses and aspiring entrepreneurs.

The conference featured Dr. Dale G. Caldwell, NJ lieutenant governor, as keynote speaker and included dignitaries such as J. Christian Bollwage, Annette Quijano, and Joseph Cryan.



Inspiring the Next Generation STEM Program Sparks Student's Path to Success

Marysella Mularz, a proud mom of three, shared her son Bishop's journey, though as she says, "it's really a family story." It's a story of curiosity, opportunity, and what can happen when a student takes that first brave step toward something new.

In 2025, before starting high school, Bishop discovered the STEAM program at Kean University while scrolling through social media. Supported by the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey through its Community Benefits Initiative, the program immediately caught his attention. Excited by the opportunity, he applied right away and was thrilled to be accepted.

Over four weeks, Bishop immersed himself in hands-on learning and connected with students who shared his passion for STEM, especially mathematics. The experience helped shape his future goals and opened new doors.

"The STEAM program definitely impacted my interest in STEM," Bishop shared. "It helped me win the W.E.B. Du Bois Scholar Scholarship, which I now attend one weekend a month in Princeton."

Since then, Bishop has participated in the Rutgers STEM Ambassador Program, joined his school's STEM Club, and continues building an impressive path at the JVJ STEM Academy as a 9th-grade student. For Bishop and his family, the experience proved how early opportunities and strong family support can inspire students to dream bigger and aim higher.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE NEWARK LIBERTY INTERNATIONAL
AIRPORT REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, PLEASE VISIT WWW.ANEWWR.COM



Happenings in Newark



Micro-Job Fair at the Newark Outreach Office

On May 19, the Newark Outreach Office proudly hosted an exciting Micro Job Fair in partnership with CAO, bringing together employers and job seekers from across Essex, Hudson, and Union counties. Employers from Newark Airport were on-site recruiting candidates for a variety of in-demand positions in the food service industry, including servers, cooks, customer service representatives, and CDL drivers. The event welcomed job seekers from Essex, Union, and Hudson Counties, all eager to connect with potential employers, explore career pathways, and take the next step toward meaningful employment. The energy throughout the day reflected the community's strong commitment to workforce development and economic opportunity.



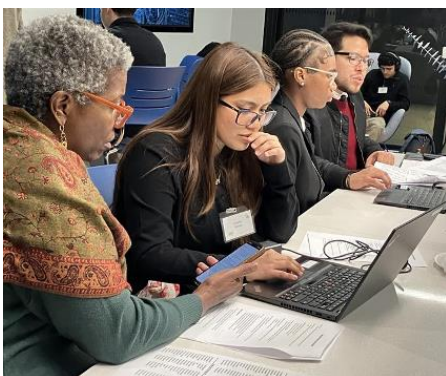
The event proved to be an immediate success, with some participants receiving on-the-spot job offers before the event concluded. CAO remains dedicated to connecting residents with valuable employment opportunities and supporting employers in meeting their hiring needs. Individuals interested in learning more about career opportunities are encouraged to contact the local outreach offices in Newark or Elizabeth for additional resources and upcoming events. Employers seeking to host a micro job fair or receive assistance filling open positions are also invited to partner with the outreach offices to help strengthen and grow the local workforce. [EWR Contact Us](#)

How to do Business with the Port Authority x Invest Newark

Community members, entrepreneurs, and local businesses joined Invest Newark and the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey for the “How to Do Business with the Port Authority” workshop on May 7. The session provided valuable guidance on becoming a Port Authority vendor, navigating supplier diversity and certification programs, and accessing opportunities through the Local Business Enterprise (LBE) Program.

As major redevelopment projects continue across the region, attendees gained practical insights into connecting with one of the area's largest transportation and infrastructure agencies and positioning their businesses for future contracting opportunities.

Interested in working with the Port Authority? Reach out to EWR Redevelopment's Outreach Specialists to catch up on what you missed! [EWR Contact Us](#)



All Stars Project, Development School for Youth (DSY)

The Newark Outreach Office proudly participated in the Development School for Youth (DSY) program through the All-Stars Project, supporting young people as they explored professional development, leadership, and career readiness opportunities. Through interactive workshops like resume writing and mock interviews, Newark's youth engaged with industry professionals, strengthening their skills in networking and communication, while gaining exposure to new career pathways. This collaboration highlights the port Authority's investment in workforce development and community engagement – helping prepare the next generation of leaders.

Are you a non-profit organization or local institution looking for volunteers? Reach out at the EWR Newark Outreach Office to get us involved! [EWR Community Outreach & Careers | Newark Airport Engagement](#)

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Newark Airport Earth Day Tour

What does the future of sustainability look like?

This Earth Day, students didn't just talk about it – they got a behind the scenes look. At Newark Liberty International Airport, participants from Newark Youth Career Pathways and Groundwork Elizabeth stepped into a living classroom where innovation is not theoretical. It is built, operational, and evolving in real time. The day invited students to get curious and connect with professionals who are spearheading these innovations.

First Stop: Building One

Have you ever wondered where it all began?

Dedicated in May of 1939, Building One was named the nation's first air passenger terminal. A historic space that once defined the future of travel—until it was outgrown. Now, it continues to define the future, but this time, from a sustainability lens.

Today, Building One stands at the Port Authority's first fully decarbonized facility. Beneath its terrazzo floors and marble walls, students tour the transformation firsthand. 110,000-square feet retrofitted with electric boilers, heat pumps, and other clean-energy tools, eliminating any use of fossil fuels and prioritizing energy conservation at every turn. All while supporting a non-stop workforce of airport operations, maintenance teams, law enforcement, and Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting (ARFF) crews.

Speaking of ARFF, the ARFF Garage quickly became a clear favorite for the day. What does emergency response look like in a cleaner future? Think of electrified fire rescue vehicles, tools, and clean fire-retardant resources.

And finally—where waste becomes opportunity.

At Terminal B, there is a pilot program giving food waste a second life. Instead of heading to landfills, leftover food is transformed into nutrient rich compost – rich healthy soil – that helps to maintain the airport's landscape. A full-circle system, right on airport grounds. By the end of the tour, one thing was clear: sustainability is not just a goal. At Newark Airport, sustainability is a system and a career pathway that is reshaping what innovation looks like.



Business Opportunities

Big Opportunities for Newark and Elizabeth Small Businesses

This spring, local firms got a firsthand look at upcoming business opportunities with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. Through its "Doing Business with the Port Authority" sessions, held on April 1 in Elizabeth and May 7 in Newark, more than 50 small business owners from Essex, Union, and Hudson Counties learned how to connect with major regional projects.

Participants gained practical insights on vendor registration, procurement processes, and supplier diversity programs, leaving the events with valuable tools to help grow their businesses. The enthusiasm was clear throughout both events. "This type of event helps us grow, create jobs, and strengthen our community," shared one attendee.

These sessions demonstrate how local businesses can compete for larger opportunities and play a role in shaping the region's future. If you missed the events and would like to learn about upcoming opportunities, please contact the EWR Newark or Elizabeth Community Outreach Offices: [EWR Contact Us](#)



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Local Business Story

A Local Business Reaching for the Sky While Making a Community Impact

In 2006, Joseph Flagg founded Flagg World in Union, New Jersey, with a mission centered on second chances and community impact. The company created employment opportunities for individuals participating in New Jersey's Re-entry Program, helping people rebuild their lives while supporting their families.

While Mr. Joseph Flagg led the company, Mrs. Zakiyyah Flagg balanced supporting the business with her career in the financial industry. Their lives changed unexpectedly in 2013 when Mr. Flagg passed away.

"It was one of the most difficult moments of my life," Mrs. Flagg shared.

Determined to continue the mission they built together, Mrs. Flagg revamped the company and renamed it Flagg Labor. Today, the company provides workforce solutions in construction, general labor, snow removal, commercial cleaning, site safety, and support trades.

Like many small businesses, Flagg Labor faced challenges securing contracts and growing operations, but Mrs. Flagg remained committed to creating opportunities for both her business and the community.

In 2014, she connected with the Port Authority outreach team in Elizabeth. Encouraged to pursue certifications and business resources, Flagg Labor became certified as a Minority- and Woman-Owned Business Enterprise (MWBE) in 2016.

"I'm thankful they encouraged me," Mrs. Flagg said. "It truly helped my business grow."



The company later secured a subcontracting opportunity at Newark Liberty International Airport in 2021, and in 2025 proudly earned its first direct contract with the Port Authority.

Mrs. Flagg encourages other local businesses to stay prepared, build relationships, and invest in networking.

"Do your research, understand the cost of doing business, and always have your capability statement ready," she advised.

Today, Flagg Labor's story reflects how resilience, opportunity, and perseverance can help local small businesses create lasting community impact while reaching new heights.

DID YOU KNOW?

What is the Local Business Enterprise (LBE) Program?

The LBE Program recognizes businesses located within designated "zones" as local for redevelopment projects.

Why it matters:

- Encourages economic growth in surrounding communities
- Creates access to contracting opportunities
- Requires contractors to make good-faith efforts toward LBE participation

Who qualifies?

Businesses operating within designated zones for at least one year, with leadership actively managing operations.

To learn more about this exciting opportunity please visit:

<https://www.portauthoritybuilds.com/redevelopment/us/en/ewr/work-with-us/local-business-enterprise--lbe--program.html>



Upcoming Events

Bid Better Workshop Series coming to the Newark Office in Quarter 3!

Ready to compete for larger contracts and position your business for growth? If so, mark your calendars! Join us on July 22 and September 17 at the EWR Newark Outreach Office, located at 58 Park Place, Newark, NJ for hands-on workshops designed to help small and local businesses create compelling capability statements, learn to develop a competitive business portfolio, and learn the ins-and-outs of accessing capital.

Whether you are pursuing opportunities as a subcontractor or preparing to bid as a prime contractor, these workshops will cover the essential elements procurement professionals look for when evaluating potential partners. Participants will leave with practical tools, strategies, and resources to better market their expertise, showcase their past performance, and strengthen their position in the contracting marketplace.

Do not miss this opportunity to elevate your business and prepare for upcoming opportunities connected to major infrastructure and development projects throughout the region.

Write Your Way to Business Success

Presented by UCEDC, a statewide Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI), this hands-on workshop is designed to help firms build a strong foundation for business success. Participants will learn the key components of an effective business plan, including organizational structure, financing strategies, marketing plans, basic financial statements, and management and operational planning. Whether you are launching a new business or looking to strengthen an existing one, this workshop will provide practical tools and guidance to help you move forward with confidence.

Date: August 6

Time: 11:00 AM to 12:00PM

Location: Elizabeth Outreach Office
79 W. Jersey Street, Elizabeth, NJ

Government Contracts: Are You Prepared to Compete? –

Presented by UCEDC, a statewide Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI), this workshop is designed to help businesses determine their readiness for government contracting opportunities.

Participants will learn about eligibility requirements, business registrations, market research, and financial preparation needed to compete for public-sector contracts. Whether you are new to government contracting or looking to expand your opportunities, this workshop will provide valuable guidance and next practical steps toward positioning your business for government contracting success.

Date: August 27

Time: 11:00 AM

Location: Elizabeth Outreach Office
79 W. Jersey Street, Elizabeth, NJ

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT [NEWARK LIBERTY AIRPORT: MODERN TERMINAL A & FUTURE PROJECTS](#). STAY TUNED FOR MORE INFORMATION. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE [CONTACT US](#).



AirTrain Newark Business Capacity Training

The AirTrain Newark Capacity Building & Training program will prepare Port Authority certified local, MBE, WBE, SBE, and SDVOB to compete for subprime, subcontractor and vendor opportunities associated with the AirTrain Newark Redevelopment Program. The AirTrain is a critical elevated guideway system that will link terminals and parking areas at Newark Liberty International Airport.

The goal of the FREE 8-week program is to create opportunities for certified businesses to compete for contracts on the AirTrain Newark Redevelopment Program and other Port Authority projects. The program is designed to support firms located within the cities of Newark and Elizabeth, cities within a 5-mile radius of Newark Liberty International Airport and within the Port District.

Date: Wednesdays, September 2 - November 4,

Time: 6:00PM to 8:00PM

Location: Rutgers Business School,
1 Washington Park, Newark NJ, 07102

Deadline to apply: July 17

Register here:



Career Corner



CAO - Take the next step in your career

Council for Airport Opportunity

Program Details:

- **Dates:** Tuesdays, July 7, 14, 21 & 28
- **Time:** 10:00 AM – 11:15 AM

WHAT OUR OUTREACH DOES FOR THE COMMUNITY

Our outreach isn't just about recruitment, it's about connection, trust, and opportunity. We show up where it matters most: in neighborhoods, schools, and community spaces—listening, guiding, and opening doors.

We help community members turn ambition into action by connecting them with real career pathways, mentorship, and resources that can change lives. At the same time, we bring stakeholders into the process—creating partnerships that strengthen public safety, economic mobility, and community trust.

The impact?

Stronger relationships. More opportunities. A pipeline of dedicated individuals ready to serve and represent the communities they come from.

Together, we're not just filling positions—we're shaping the future of our community.

Stay connected and informed!

To learn more, reach out to us using the contact information below—we'd love to hear from you

Visit us at:

<https://www.portauthoritybuilds.com/redevelopment/us/en/ewr/community-outreach.html>

Email us at:

anewewr@panynj.gov

Call us at:

Newark Community Office: (973) 961-6944
Elizabeth Community Office: (201) 395-7421



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<https://www.panynj.gov/forms/af/port-authority/ewr-contact-us.html>