Trade and Economic Transition National Dislocated Worker Grants (DWG), with funding of up to $100 million for each award, $8 million for each individual award. This grant will enable successful applicants to address ongoing or emerging workforce and economic challenges by providing training and career services to dislocated workers seeking reentry into the workforce, and increasing their skill levels to become competitive for growing or high-demand employment opportunities.

The goal of this project is two-fold. First, it is to ensure that dislocated workers are able to obtain training that leads directly to employment in priority sectors. Second, it is to close the skill gap between what employers are seeking and the industry knowledge of those who are dislocated to ensure that we are meeting the current and future openings in both the Manufacturing and Information Technology fields.

With an increasing amount of retail stores closing both locally and nationwide, our region has found itself a part of the Retail Apocalypse - the closing of a large number of brick-and-mortar retail stores due to a number of factors such as over-expansion of malls, rising rents, bankruptcies of leveraged buyouts, low quarterly profits outside holiday binge spending, delayed effects of the Great Recession, and changes in spending habits and the rise of e-commerce. While nationally, Retail continues to grow, regionally we have seen a downturn with the trend predicted to continue declining.

The proposed program will strengthen relationships between local areas and will foster new relationships as we reach out to local areas in New Jersey through this program. In the past, Bucks County has trained a significant number of job seekers from the Mercer County area. In addition to this, Bucks County and Mercer County job seekers and employers ignore borders as they look for, and find, gainful employment. Significant numbers of the workforce travel to and from their home state.