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Group i&i Engages with Union County in Workforce Strategic Planning Effort

The relatively new federally instituted Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) presents a significant opportunity for workforce development systems across the country. The guidelines within the legislation expand the role and accountability of Workforce Development Boards and seek to enhance their role even further within their local and regional communities. As a result, many local boards are digging in and beginning the work necessary to equip their members and staff to transform their systems.

Group i&i has previously completed several contracts with WDB's (called WIB's at the time) in New York and interfaced closely with ten NJ workforce systems in New Jersey through the external evaluation of the multi-county Health profession Opportunity Grant. Today, it is pleased to announce its first formal, direct engagement with a New Jersey Workforce Development Board in Union County.

Group i&i will be assisting the Board through the end of this calendar year with the development of a comprehensive four-year plan to the Governor of New Jersey.

"It is with great enthusiasm that we engage in this project," said Toufic Hakim, PhD, Senior Managing Principal. "We bring a deep bench of skills and experience in strategic planning and rich practical knowledge in workforce development, which we hope Union County's WDB and American Job Center will find most valuable."

A team has been assigned to work on this project, including Dan Passarella, a seasoned workforce manager; and organizational developers Kathy Wiener, MPA, and Eve Wenger, MBA. The team will interface with management and staff of both the American Job Center (One-Stop Career Center) and the Board, and will conduct its independent research and review in support of the planning effort.

Group i&i is a firm based in Union, NJ, focused on advancing communities. Through its work, it helps facilitate the development of partnerships, fostering of community dialogue, and empowerment of individuals through education, employment, and personal development. The firm's activities revolve around strategic funding, outcomes and impact evaluations, and forward-looking, strategic organizational development.

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