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Bronx job center is working to beat the odds of unemployment

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During Tuesday's steady downpour, a steady stream of well-dressed Bronxites made their way in and out of NYC Workforce 1 Career Center in the Hub with umbrellas and portfolios in tow.

"It's frustrating," said Sandra Burton, 40, of Co-op City. "There are so many people that are trying to work."

The Labor Department's report last week of zero job growth in August is salt in the wound for residents in the borough with the highest unemployment rates in the city.

Burton was among the job-seekers, hoping to find a permanent position closer to home, to replace her temporary maintenance job in Queens.

"It's been kind of hard these last years," she said, noting she had to move out of her own home and in with family to make ends meet.

The borough's abundance of job hunters and scarcity of positions forces many residents to seek jobs elsewhere.

Single mothers like Rosalina Corsino face even bigger challenges. Before losing her job as a health aide coordinator last May, Corsino was making a daily commute from Parkchester to her office in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn.

"I'm a single mom. I have teenagers. I can't be that far," she said.

Leander Griffin, 32, was on his way to apply for a part-time position at Ricky's costume and variety store. He and his wife have been unemployed for nearly three years.

"Together, we were making about \$75,000 to \$80,000 a year," said the [Soundview](#) father. "The pressure is on. The rent is backed up, the car payments are past due."

Longwood resident Andre Williams has seen his share of embattled job seekers as a security guard for the city's career center headquarters in Harlem.

"People come in here frustrated, dressed up for nothing," said Williams, 34, of the Bronx. He was out of work for two years before finally landing the security job in February.

"It hurts; it dampens your spirits," he said.

Griffin said, "I definitely think there's more that can be done. But there are things being done such as places like this [career center.] As far as some type of New Deal agreement ... that's not going to happen again."

Meanwhile, Williams echoed the sentiments of many other Bronxites.

"Unemployment is always going to increase. . . . I don't think there's a solution. There is no solution."