

City Database A Useful Tool For Job Seekers

By Monica Brown
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A new career website developed by the mayor's office is hoping to keep talented New Yorkers from leaving the city despite its current economic outlook. NY1's Monica Brown filed the following report. Richard Tullo of New Jersey has been out of work since August when he was let go by a financial services firm.

"I try to make it into Manhattan two to three days a week, to network and to use the resources at the library to keep my skills current on the financial end. So now I have a portfolio of new companies that I can cover," said Tullo. Tullo came to the library to search specific industry databases, hoping to get a lead. In the process, he logs onto a new website, launched by the city's economic development corporation, small business services and the New York City Workforce Investment Board.

The site is called careerlinknyc.com, and it's part of Mayor Michael Bloomberg's plan to get New Yorkers back on the payroll as soon as possible.

"For us in New York City, one of the key assets we have is the diversity and the talent of the people who live and work here. So it's critical for us to try to find a way to retain as much of that talent pool as we possibly can," said Robert Lieber, Deputy Mayor, Economic Development.

The city's Office of Management and Budget estimates the slumping economy will slice some 300,000 private sector jobs in New York City from mid-2008 through 2010, with nearly 50,000 coming from the financial services sector alone.

Those losses have a ripple effect, hitting administrative staff, legal and support teams, as well as those in information technology.

While careerlinknyc.com is geared toward some of those areas, there are other components to it as well. Besides job postings, the site offers continuing education links, information about unemployment benefits, even resources for starting your own business.

"What we want to do is create the kind of condition where talented people, smart people, eager people, have the opportunity to stay here in New York City and make a valuable contribution to the fabric of this city and our economy," said Lieber.

The city is looking for feedback on the site, so they've included a contact page. The goal, they say, is to keep it as fresh as possible, in order to give users in the Big Apple the most updated information.