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Increased collaboration between career centers around the Capital Region has resulted in a win for area job seekers – a dramatic expansion of **free** virtual training opportunities.

Starting last April, as the COVID-19 pandemic took hold and devastated the local economy, employment and training directors from Warren County and 10 other counties in the region have met on a weekly basis to discuss challenges, share best practices, resources, and plan innovative ways to provide services to job seekers in the Capital Region despite the limitations caused by the health emergency.

This group of leaders quickly realized that each career center had staff specialized in various topics, and that they could partner together to host a series of virtual workshops while career centers remained closed to in-person visitation from the public.

“This plan allowed for a wider segment of the population in the Capital Region to have access to more information that will help them obtain and retain jobs,” said **Liza Ochsendorf, Warren County’s Director of Employment & Training**.

The pilot program kicked off in October and went through November by offering the workshops on the following topics: Resume and Cover Letter Development, Online Job Applications, Interview Preparation, Social Media, Transferrable Skills, Overcoming Barriers to Employment, and Goal Setting.

December will include virtual workshops on preparing for a job interview, writing a resume, highlighting skills you can use when changing careers and using social media to find a job.

With positive feedback from the community and a collaborative spirit between the center staff, the workshops will continue to be offered monthly while most regional career centers remain closed to in-person visits.

Please see full details in the attached **December** workshop offerings and schedule flier.

For more information, go to <https://thejoblink.org/>.