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## **Text Messaging Number Change**

Washington, N.C. – As we continue to expand and adapt our services to the residents and employers of Beaufort County, beginning Friday, May 15, the Beaufort County NCWorks Career Center is transitioning its existing text messaging system to a new number and adding additional "keywords".

The Center's new text-only number is: 252.494.9627.

JOBS – job seekers seeking employment assistance

HIRE – employers that have immediate hiring needs

**NEXTGEN** – for anyone 16 to 24 years old who needs assistance with obtaining a job or obtaining needed training including their high school equivalency

**TRAIN** – for anyone 18 and over who needs assistance with classroom training to obtain a job

**VET** – if you are a Veteran or eligible family member in need of services

NCWorks Career Center staff will be available to field text messages and respond to inquiries from 9 am to 4 pm, Monday through Friday. Please be aware this is a "text only" line, so you cannot call the number to receive services. Data and message rates may apply. Users are cautioned not to send personal information.

To receive services by phone, you may call any of the local NCWorks Center numbers listed below:

Beaufort: 252.940.0900 or <u>ncworks.0520@nccommerce.com</u> Bertie: 252.794.0799 or <u>ncworks.0521@nccommerce.com</u> Hertford: 252.862.1257 or <u>ncworks.1400@nccommerce.com</u> Martin: 252.792.7816 or <u>ncworks.9400@nccommerce.com</u> Rivers East is committed to serving our job seekers and employers. While our Career Centers remain closed to the general public, services are being provided by phone and virtually for anyone who needs assistance.

Jennie Bowen, Workforce Development Director, states, "We started a pilot program in Beaufort County on April 2 and we have been pleased with the results. Having a text option has really allowed us to expand our service capabilities as we all continue to navigate these challenging times. We have since expanded the text service to Pitt County with plans to have a text option available in Bertie, Hertford and Martin counties in the next few weeks. As we begin to look at reopening options, we wanted to transition Beaufort County to one phone number to make it easier for residents and employers. While the Center doors may still be temporarily closed, staff are still working and ready to assist you."

The board's office is located at 1502 N. Market St., Suite A in Washington, N.C. For more information, call 252.974.1815.

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