

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 28, 2009

Contact: Brian Harter
Phone: (614) 466-6650
E-mail: Brian.Harter@jfs.ohio.gov

Ohio Receives Additional WIA Stimulus Funds for Auto Workers

Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) Director Douglas Lumpkin announced today that Ohio has received the initial \$5.1 million of an \$8.3 million National Emergency Grant (NEG) to offer Workforce Investment Act (WIA) employment, training and supportive services to dislocated auto workers. This grant was made possible as a result of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which gives the U.S. Department of Labor an additional \$200 million in NEG funding to award to states.

National Emergency Grants are discretionary awards designed to temporarily expand service capacity at the state and local levels in response to significant dislocation events, including layoffs and plant closures. Ohio submitted an application in February to request NEG funding to address anticipated layoffs in the automotive industry, which are expected to exceed 6,000 this year. Approximately 2,400 workers—or 39 percent of the workers affected by layoffs and downsizing in the automotive industry in Ohio—will potentially receive services through this grant.

Ohio will use this money to supplement existing Rapid Response funding. The ODJFS Rapid Response Program provides a variety of no-cost assistance to workers and employers in response to notices of Ohio plant closings and layoffs. Among other things, the program funds the establishment of “Transition Centers,” often on-site, where employees can get help with skills assessment and resume writing and receive training, career counseling, and job seeking and placement assistance.

“These funds will allow us to provide auto workers with crucial employment and training services that can help them get back on their feet and reemployed as quickly as possible,” Director Lumpkin said. “We are extremely pleased to be able to offer these services, especially given the likelihood of additional automaker layoffs.”

In addition to funding traditional Rapid Response efforts, the grant also will be used to provide supplemental services for auto workers who receive benefits through the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program. TAA is a federal program that provides benefits and services to workers when jobs are lost to other countries or when foreign imports have decreased domestic sales. The grant will pay for some services not covered by TAA that some workers may need to secure new employment.

The NEG money will be available through March 31, 2011. Ohio can apply for additional allotments, as needed. Earlier this month, Ohio received \$14.6 million in federal stimulus dollars to supplement the state’s Rapid Response efforts for all industries. For more information about how the Recovery Act will benefit Ohio’s workforce programs, see <http://jfs.ohio.gov/releases/WIAStimulusFunds.pdf> and <http://jfs.ohio.gov/releases/WorkforceDevelopmentPrograms.pdf>. For more information about National Emergency Grants, go to <http://www.doleta.gov/NEG/>.