

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**April 22, 2009**

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

### **ODJFS Reaches Out to Wilmington Air Park Workers**

Since DHL announced last May that it would be eliminating operations in Wilmington, Ohio, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) has been proactive in offering services to the affected workers, to help them find new jobs and, when necessary, receive training.

“We are doing everything in our power to help,” said ODJFS Director Douglas Lumpkin. “From the beginning, we have been there for Wilmington’s Air Park workers, and we will continue to provide services to these families in crisis.”

In response to notifications of plant closings and layoffs, the ODJFS Rapid Response Team provides a variety of no-cost assistance to workers and employers. So far, 4,184 Wilmington Air Park employees have been dismissed from DHL, ABX Air and A-Star Air Cargo. Of those:

- Approximately 2,457 have received ODJFS Rapid Response services.
- More than 2,660 have attended Rapid Response workshops.
- 355 have entered into long-term training programs.
- 696 are participating in case management programs.

Last summer, the ODJFS Rapid Response Program awarded \$1 million to the region for local workforce professionals to establish programs for Air Park workers. ODJFS also applied for and received a \$3.9 million National Emergency Grant specifically to offer services to dislocated workers affected by the closing. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act gives us another \$14.6 million for Rapid Response efforts, to help dislocated workers in Wilmington and throughout the state.

The ODJFS Rapid Response Program established three Transition Centers for Air Park workers, two on-site and one off-site, to offer such things as skills assessment, basic skills training, individual career counseling, short- and long-term occupational skills training, and job seeking and placement assistance. Among other things, the Transition Centers host job and career fairs, where businesses can recruit potential workers and interview applicants on the spot.

ODJFS and the Ohio Board of Regents compiled comprehensive job search and training information for Air Park workers, with links to resources in each of the state’s 12 economic development regions, at <http://www.airparkhelp.com/Documents/WilmingtonAirparkNov4.pdf>. Additional information for Air Park workers is available at <http://www.airparkhelp.com/> and <http://www.myabx.com/ownyourfuture/>. Additional job opportunity information is available at <https://ohiomeansjobs.com/omj/> and [http://jfs.ohio.gov/ocomm\\_root/1000OurServices.stm](http://jfs.ohio.gov/ocomm_root/1000OurServices.stm).

Air Park workers also can get help at the One-Stop Centers in Workforce Investment Areas 13, 12, 11, 20, 1 and 7. **One-Stop Centers** offer free job training and other employment services to Ohioans looking for work, and match job seekers with businesses looking to hire workers. Workforce Investment Area 7 has been designated as the lead for Wilmington. In all, 16 of Ohio’s counties are affected by this shutdown.

By July 30, an additional 3,996 Air Park workers are expected to be dismissed. Another 1,000 more will be without jobs by September. All of the employment and training services mentioned above will be offered to these workers, as well, to help them support their families and get back on the road to economic recovery.