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Governor Doyle Announces \$13.6 Million to Assist Over 2,800 Dislocated Workers Statewide

Award is Largest Ever to Wisconsin Under National Emergency Grant Program

MADISON – Governor Jim Doyle announced today more than \$13.6 million in additional assistance for over 2,800 dislocated workers statewide as part of the National Emergency Grant (NEG) program. The award, which includes over \$5 million in immediate funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, is the largest grant of its kind ever awarded to Wisconsin.

"Thanks to our partners in Congress and President Obama's Administration, Wisconsin will invest these funds in additional employment and training services to help prepare dislocated workers for job opportunities as the economy steadily improves," Governor Doyle said. "My top priority is to do everything I can to help create jobs and give our workers opportunities to get those jobs."

"Last year's economic collapse has hurt a lot of workers who are now caught in a crunch through no fault of their own. I'm pleased that funds we provided in the Recovery Act will be used to help them re-enter the job market with new skills as the economy begins to recover," Congressman Dave Obey said.

"Too many Americans have lost jobs through no fault of their own," Senator Herb Kohl said. "Helping them get back to work is the best thing we can do for Wisconsin and the nation."

"I am pleased Wisconsin will receive more than \$13 million in stimulus funding that will help provide critical assistance to thousands of Wisconsin workers who have lost their jobs," Senator Russ Feingold said. "I sent a letter to Labor Secretary Solis last month urging the department to award this funding to Wisconsin. The funding will help to make up for the shortfall in dislocated worker funds that the state has experienced and will help to ensure that many unemployed workers no longer have to remain on waiting lists for retraining services."

"Putting Wisconsinites back to work is our number one priority," Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin said. "This federal-state partnership is a critical investment in our workers and, ultimately, in the success of the state's economic growth."

The federal grant will serve 2,817 workers displaced by multiple layoffs and plant closings at 68 companies, nearly 80 percent of them manufacturing firms. In awarding the grant, the U.S. Department of Labor authorized more than \$5 million in Recovery Act funding for immediate use.

The NEG program helps states respond when significant events create a sudden need for assistance. Services are being coordinated by the Department of Workforce Development (DWD) and provided

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through 10 regional Workforce Development Boards. NEG funding is being coordinated with resources available through the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program. The program commits significant resources to occupational retraining.

Support services include travel payments, child care and other training related expenses. Workers with skills in demand are being assisted in job search activities including workshops on resumes, interviewing and analysis of transferable skills. Those who are determined to need skill development to find suitable employment will have a variety of training options to select from.

The additional assistance will be provided by DWD and its regional partners in 62 counties. The remaining counties are benefiting from an earlier NEG grant of \$3.4 million that is funding additional assistance to displaced workers in the Green Bay area.

The NEG grant dollars are applicable to workers dislocated from specific companies. Dislocated workers interested in learning more about the program and potential eligibility may contact their local Job Center to inquire about services by visiting www.wisconsinjobcenter.org/directory or toll free at 888-258-9966.