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On the Web: <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dwd/news.htm>

## **DWD Secretary Baumbach: Strengthened Link Between UI, Job Service Will Help Unemployed Individuals Move toward New Job Opportunities**

*Agency requires new UI claimants to register with [www.JobCenterofWisconsin.com](http://www.JobCenterofWisconsin.com)*

MADISON – Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Scott Baumbach announced today an additional step the agency is taking to move individuals who are out of work along the path toward new employment opportunities. New Unemployment Insurance (UI) claimants now need to register with Wisconsin Job Service, where they can access resources including some 33,000 jobs posted on [www.JobCenterofWisconsin.com](http://www.JobCenterofWisconsin.com).

“We currently have over 100,000 Wisconsinites who are out of work and in our UI system, and yet we have added almost 30,000 private sector jobs this year and we have tens of thousands of jobs posted on [www.JobCenterofWisconsin.com](http://www.JobCenterofWisconsin.com),” Secretary Baumbach said. “These numbers tell us that we need to do a better job of aligning our UI and Employment & Training systems, so that the path from unemployment to that next job opportunity is more streamlined and, ultimately, shorter. This new policy is one way we can achieve this goal.”

Wisconsinites who file new UI claims must register with the Wisconsin Job Service, in addition to following their current requirement to make an active search for work, i.e., contacting at least two employers each week. DWD notifies claimants of the requirements at the time they file their initial claims. The new requirement took effect in late September.

DWD is taking this step to help match unemployed Wisconsinites with new opportunities that are in line with their identified skills and backgrounds, and is urging new UI claimants to voluntarily comply with the new requirement. DWD also urges all UI claimants to register with Job Service, which during 2011 alone has provided the following proactive assistance to jobseekers:

- The website [www.JobCenterofWisconsin.com](http://www.JobCenterofWisconsin.com) surpassed 100,000 postings in September, outpacing last year's 12-month total of about 75,000 postings.
- DWD has sent email job recruitment notices to over 77,400 job seekers providing information on job opportunities to thousands of Wisconsinites looking for work.
- This year DWD helped organize 189 job fairs and recruitment events serving nearly 1,400 employers and over 24,000 jobseekers.
- Over 1,600 National Career Readiness Certificate credentials have been awarded this year through Wisconsin Job Service to individuals, demonstrating nationally recognized work-readiness credentials. A total of 3,200 have been awarded in recent years.

“A more streamlined, flexible workforce development system will go a long way toward realizing Governor Walker's vision for economic growth and job creation in Wisconsin,” Secretary Baumbach said. “By aligning our UI and employment and training systems, we are helping jobseekers who are out of work access new opportunities, and helping employers fill their skilled labor needs.”