
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Governor Doyle Announces Additional Assistance for Dislocated Workers of Briggs & Stratton Home Power Division, Jefferson

Employment, training services for 39 workers displaced due to foreign competition

MADISON – Governor Jim Doyle today announced that 39 workers displaced at the Briggs & Stratton Power Products Group in Jefferson are eligible to apply for additional re-employment and training services under the federal Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program.

“This additional assistance will help these workers increase their job skills and find new employment,” Governor Doyle said. “These employment and training services will help them re-enter the workforce and support themselves and their families.”

Employed by Briggs & Stratton Home Power Division, the affected workers produced portable generators, home stand-by generators, and pressure washers. Federal officials attributed the layoffs to a decline in sales to Briggs & Stratton customers as imports of similar products increased.

The TAA certification applies to workers displaced as of October 29, 2008, through January 11, 2011. The decision applies to temporary workers provided by Lifestyle Staffing, Adecco, Techstaff, Alaris Group and Aerotek. Affected workers will be notified of meetings to discuss program benefits.

The Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) will administer the federally funded services, which are available through local Job Centers. They include retraining and re-employment services tailored to meet the needs of individual workers. These workers can now apply for the following TAA services:

- **Training** for employment in another job or career,
- **Income support**, known as trade readjustment allowances,
- **Job search allowance** to cover expenses seeking employment outside normal commuting areas, and
- **Relocation allowances** for approved relocation expenses in moving to a new area of employment.

“Working with our partners, we provide these services to displaced workers to help them get the training they need and connect with employers in search of workers with the right skills,” DWD Secretary Roberta Gassman said.

In June of last year, Governor Doyle announced that the U.S. Department of Labor expanded the amount of TAA funds available nationwide to \$575 million from \$220 million as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. The additional funding will help states serve an increasing number of trade-affected workers. More information on the TAA program is available at <http://www.doleta.gov>.

Individuals interested in receiving re-employment assistance should contact a local Job Center or visit <http://www.wisconsinjobcenter.org/directory/> to find a Job Center nearby. The nearest Job Center location also can be found by calling toll free (888) 258-9966.