From Rapid Response to Reemployment: Better Policies for Jobless Workers

NELP Unemployment Insurance Conference
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Washington, DC

Presenters:
Bob Bower, Political Director, Massachusetts AFL-CIO
Lou Jacobson, Labor Economist, CNA and Hudson Institute
Lynn Minick, Workforce Development Specialist, NELP
What are we doing at NELP?

In 2006 NELP received funding from Mott Foundation and Joyce Foundation to assist workers displaced from Midwest manufacturing jobs.

Focus on using effective dislocated worker practices in IL, IN, MI, and OH.

Our goals are to help increase worker participation in dislocated worker programs and to gain more funding and to expand eligibility for dislocated workers.
Economic Adjustment Initiative

EAI team promotes best practices that have proven effective in increasing dislocated workers’ participation in retraining and reemployment such as:

- Early Warning and Layoff Aversion strategies
- Improving WARN Act
- Strengthen Rapid Response systems
- Use of Labor-Management Committees
- Use of Peer networks as best practice
- Use of Labor Program Operators as best practice
- Need for income support for participants in training
- Full implementation of Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA)
Major successes in 2009

The reauthorization and expansion of Trade Adjustment Assistance by Congress with significant input from NELP

The reform of Ohio’s rapid response programs along lines recommended in a NELP report

Rick McHugh spoke at Brookings Institution/Upjohn Institute Automotive Communities and Workforce Adjustment Conference in Detroit and I did workshop at NASWA’s Annual Conference. Presentation furnished good opportunities for NELP to advise policy makers and stakeholders about key aspects of its workforce development agenda.
EAI team members in Michigan

To assist those working with affected dislocated workers, EAI team members in Michigan coordinated “Toolkit” trainings in Flint, Grand Rapids, and Bay City, a series of community-based training sessions to give those assisting dislocated workers detailed information about a range of human services and dislocated worker programs.
Model Job Quality Standards

America’s employment and training system should adopt job quality standards. A model system should:

• Ensure adequate resources are available for comprehensive displaced-worker program that will lead workers to family-supporting reemployment

• Make sure workers are informed of programs and services (outreach, location, start training early)

• Provide training to workers who do not have the skills they need

• Make sure support services are available to help workers succeed

• Assist workers in finding good jobs

• Ensure workers succeed in their new jobs (follow-up)