

# **From Rapid Response to Reemployment: Better Policies for Jobless Workers**

**NELP Unemployment Insurance Conference**

**December 8, 2009**

**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)**