



National Employment Law Project

Economic Adjustment Initiative

2011 Media Kit

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Dear Sir or Madam:

I am happy to provide you with this MEDIA KIT as an introduction to the National Employment Law Project and its Economic Adjustment Initiative.

The National Employment Law Project (NELP) works to advance economic security and opportunity for low-wage workers and the unemployed. We promote policies to create good jobs, enforce hard-won workplace rights, and help unemployed workers regain their footing.

Our attorneys, policy analysts, and program specialists are nationally recognized experts on a wide range of subjects, including the U.S. low-wage labor market, unemployment insurance, workplace standards and enforcement, the minimum wage, workforce development programs, and more.

In 2006, NELP launched the Economic Adjustment Initiative (EAI) in response to manufacturing job losses in the Midwest. The EAI team works with government agencies, unions, and employers to improve the way they respond to plant closings and major layoffs, so that workers can get the help they need or even find ways to avert impending job losses.

Several states, including Ohio and Michigan, have adopted many of our recommended best practices. Labor Department officials and members of Congress and their staff seek our input on federal policies. When agencies fail the public by wrongfully denying aid to eligible workers, NELP takes the cases to court, helping workers secure the benefits they deserve.

Enclosed, you will find more information about NELP's work in the Midwest, as well as staff bios, links to publications and videos, and news clips. Our website, www.nelp.org, has more.

Please contact us if we can be of assistance in the future.

Sincerely,

Christine Owens
Executive Director

BACKGROUND

WHAT WE DO

- Legal and policy analysis and advocacy
- Strategic leadership in coalitions
- Insightful empirical research
- Public education
- Expert legal advice and technical assistance
- Capacity building

Workforce Development

- Trade Adjustment Assistance
- High-Road Economic Development
- Plant Closing Transitions

Social Insurance

- Unemployment Insurance
- Labor Market Data and Research Social
- Security

Fair Labor Standards

- Wage Theft
- Living Wage/Minimum Wage
- Employment Rights of Workers with Criminal Records

ECONOMIC ADJUSTMENT INITIATIVE

In response to manufacturing job losses in the Midwest, NELP began the Economic Adjustment Initiative (EAI) in 2006 to ease the path to reemployment for thousands of laid-off workers. The EAI team specializes in workforce development issues, including mass layoffs, Trade Adjustment Assistance, and Workforce Investment Act programs. **Recent accomplishments include:**

- **Trade Adjustment Assistance:** NELP’s legal expertise and hands-on experience informed drafting of the 2009 Trade and Globalization Adjustment Assistance Act, which doubled training funds for laid-off workers and broadened eligibility to include service workers and workers whose jobs were exported to countries without a free-trade agreement with the U.S., including China and India.
- **Workforce Investment Act:** After NELP advised the State of Ohio on ways to improve its response to mass layoffs and plant closings, the state now has one of the most effective “Rapid Response” systems in the nation.
- **Litigation:** NELP won two court cases in Ohio where individual workers were denied certain trade benefits as the result of a misinterpretation of the law by the state.
- **Administrative Advocacy:** EAI helped workers at numerous companies convince the U.S. Department of Labor to overturn decisions denying them trade benefits.

STAFF BIOS



Christine L. Owens
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Expertise: *Living Wage & Minimum Wage • Labor Market Research • Workplace Equity*

Christine Owens is the executive director of the National Employment Law Project, where she leads an extraordinary team of 30 lawyers, policy analysts, and workforce specialists in cutting-edge research, education, and advocacy for low-wage, unemployed, immigrant, and other disadvantaged workers. Chris previously served as director of the AFL-CIO Public Policy Department and director of the American Majority Partnership of the Democratic National Committee. In 1995, she founded the Worker Options Resource Center (WORC) where she spearheaded the successful efforts of a broad-based coalition of national and community organizations to win passage of the 1996 federal minimum wage increase.

Chris received her undergraduate degree from The College of William and Mary and her law degree from the University of Virginia School of Law. The Coalition on Human Needs recently named Chris its 2010 Human Needs Hero in recognition of her decades-long advocacy for low-wage workers.



Andrew Stettner
Deputy Director
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Expertise: *Labor Market Research • Unemployment Insurance*

Andrew Stettner joined the National Employment Law Project in 2002, and became deputy director in 2007. During that time, the UI Safety Net project has helped to achieve major successes, including winning numerous extension of benefits on the federal level, historic reforms to the UI program through the Recovery Act, and modernizing state UI programs. Andrew has been involved in analyses of state unemployment insurance taxes in a majority of the states, including the authorship of national reports and in-depth state examinations of most states that faced trust fund borrowing after the 2001 recession. Andrew authored original research on the decline of unemployment insurance reciprocity and policy changes that could increase access to the unemployment benefits program for low-wage, women, and part-time workers. Andrew produces original research on the latest labor market trends and is frequently cited in the media about the latest development in jobless policies.

Andrew received a Masters in Public Policy at Georgetown University, including training at the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration Office of Policy Research, and is a member of the National Academy of Social Insurance.



Rick McHugh
Staff Attorney & Midwest Coordinator
Ann Arbor, MI
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Expertise: *Workforce Development • Unemployment Insurance • Minimum Wage and Living Wage*

Before joining NELP in 2000, Rick represented low-income workers as a legal services attorney, and he was a lawyer for the UAW, representing laid-off workers seeking unemployment benefits and Trade Adjustment Assistance. At NELP, he has successfully worked with advocates in the Midwest and other states to improve state unemployment insurance programs. In 2005, he helped establish the Economic Adjustment Initiative, serving Midwest states suffering from major manufacturing layoffs. He has testified before committees of Congress and state legislatures on many occasions. Rick has written on unemployment insurance, dislocated worker programs, and other worker rights issues in publications ranging from blogs to law reviews. His views have been quoted in articles in the Washington Post, Cleveland Plain Dealer, Chicago Tribune, Atlanta Journal-Constitution, and New York Times, and he has been interviewed by National Public Radio, and Michigan, New Hampshire, and Wisconsin public radio programs.



Lindsay Webb
Trade Adjustment Assistance Coordinator
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Expertise: *Trade Adjustment Assistance • Dislocated Worker Programs*

Lindsay Webb joined NELP in 2006, where she advocates for dislocated workers in the manufacturing sector in the Midwest. Her experience with the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program began at the United Auto Workers Legal Department, where she worked as a law clerk filing TAA petitions for certification and helping to organize post-certification worker rights and responsibilities meetings. Lindsay also serves as an elected member of the Toledo City Council.



Lorene Randall
Dislocated Worker Facilitator
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Expertise: *Economic and Workforce Development*

Lorene joined NELP in 2008 after working with AFL-CIO Michigan Human Resources Development Inc. as a peer counselor assisting with TAA/TRA. As a training specialist, she worked with various unions assisting with leadership development and diversity training. She is involved with Flint Area Churches Together and other grassroots organizations. Her goal is to ensure that workers are equipped with knowledge and training for the future.



Lynn Minick
Workforce Development Specialist
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Expertise: *Economic and Workforce Development • Rapid Response and Economic Dislocation Services*

Lynn joined NELP in 2006, after working for nearly 20 years promoting workforce development and training initiatives with the AFL-CIO Working for America Institute and the Indiana AFL-CIO Labor Institute for Training. Since joining NELP, he has participated in NELP's Economic Adjustment Initiative, focusing on dislocated workers in Midwest states suffering from layoffs in the auto industry. Lynn collaborates with these states to promote innovative models of rapid response, including layoff aversion, and to increase access to training and other services provided by the Trade Adjustment Assistance program and the Workforce Investment Act. He was a member of the International Association of Machinists for over 33 years and is currently a member of the NELP Staff Association, NOLSW, UAW, LOCAL 2320.



Michael Evangelist
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Expertise: *Unemployment Insurance • Economic and Workforce Development*

Michael joined NELP in 2010. As a member of the Economic Adjustment Initiative and Unemployment Insurance teams, his work includes research, analysis, and advocacy in support of state and federal programs for jobless workers as well as unemployment insurance reform. Prior to joining NELP, he was a policy analyst at the Center for Economic Progress in Chicago, where he advocated on behalf of low-income workers for progressive federal tax policies and savings incentives. Michael became interested in social justice issues while serving as a Peace Corps volunteer in Ukraine.

MEDIA MENTIONS

Worker benefits slated to expire

By Alejandra Cancino

February 11, 2011

Chicago Tribune | [article](#)

Nearly 30,000 Ohioans whose jobs were shipped abroad could lose retraining benefits

By Olivera Perkins

February 09, 2011

Cleveland Plain Dealer | [article](#)

Trade Adjustment Assistance program to expire February 12 unless Congress acts

By Jackie Headapohl

February 04, 2011

MLive | [article](#)

Senate votes, 60-40, to advance jobless benefits legislation

By Lori Montgomery

July 21, 2010

Washington Post | [article](#)

Crush of new claims for jobless program creates bottleneck

By Tony Pugh

June 3, 2010

McClatchy Newspapers | [article](#)

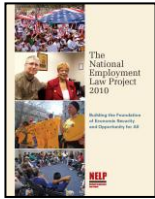
New Economic Fears Arise in Michigan

By Susan Saulny and Monica Davey

November 22, 2008

New York Times | [article](#)

PUBLICATIONS



National Employment Law Project 2010 Annual Report: Building the Foundation of Economic Security and Opportunity for All

March 2011 | NELP Staff | [pdf](#)

NELP highlights 2010 achievements that eased hardships for millions while bringing a sharper focus to economic and workplace problems and needed solutions.



Trade Adjustment Assistance Reauthorization: Congress to Cut Training and Reemployment Opportunities for Victims of Offshoring and Outsourcing

January 2011 | Rick McHugh, Lindsay Webb and Michael Evangelist | [pdf](#)

NELP urges Congress to ensure that workers who have been harmed by trade have access to training programs and reemployment assistance by reauthorizing the “New” TAA program.



Rapid Response and Dislocated Worker Programs: What Should States Do? And What Are They Doing?

July 2010 | Rick McHugh, Lynn Minick and Michael Evangelist | [pdf](#)

NELP reviews strategies for helping workers recover from mass layoffs and examines what steps Midwest states have taken to implement these strategies.



Ohio's Rapid Response System

September 2008 | Lynn Minick | [pdf](#)

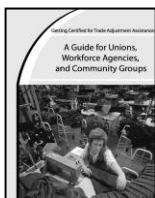
NELP analyzes the State of Ohio's “Rapid Response” services for victims of mass layoffs and recommends improvements to the overall program. The State of Ohio commissioned NELP to produce this report.



Letter to House Ways and Means Committee on Trade Adjustment Assistance

December 2010 | Rick McHugh and Michael Evangelist | [pdf](#)

NELP urges Congress to reauthorize Trade Adjustment Assistance before the program sunsets at the end of 2010, when funding for training will be cut, and service workers, public employees and victims of outsourcing to China will no longer qualify for trade benefits.



Getting Certified for Trade Adjustment Assistance: A Guide for Unions, Workforce Agencies, and Community Groups

December 2005 | Rick McHugh and Phil Gilliam, United Auto Workers | [pdf](#)

NELP and the United Auto Workers explain everything unions, government agencies, community groups, and workers need to know about the trade certification process.

MULTIMEDIA



[Modine Factory Jobs Shipped Overseas](#)

Pemberville, OH



[Peer Networks at Silgan Plastics Layoff](#)

Port Clinton, OH



[Navistar Transition Center Aids Auto Workers](#)

Indianapolis, IN