

Jim Doyle
Governor

Roberta Gassman
Secretary



State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
201 East Washington Avenue
P.O. Box 7946
Madison, WI 53707-7946
Telephone: (608) 266-3131
Fax: (608) 266-1784
<http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/>
e-mail: dwdsec@dwd.state.wi.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, July 29, 2008
CONTACT: Dick Jones, Agency Liaison, 608-267-4780

Secretary Gassman Announces Federal Emergency Grant Request of \$3.8 Million for GM, Other Dislocated Workers

State Labor Secretary says state has never been denied National Emergency Grant

MADISON – Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development Secretary Roberta Gassman announced today the state is seeking a National Emergency Grant of \$3.8 million to assist dislocated workers affected by the elimination of the second shift at the General Motors plant in Janesville.

Secretary Gassman said the state was requesting the emergency funds from the U.S. Department of Labor to provide services not only to the affected workers at the GM plant, but those who were laid off by Lear Corporation, United Industries and Logistics Services as a result of GM's decision to eliminate the second shift.

"We have never been denied a request for a National Emergency Grant," Secretary Gassman said. "As soon as we learned of GM's decision, we worked with our local partners to determine the number of workers affected, not just at GM, but at suppliers. We have met with the workers, identified those who want services, and we have assessed their needs and the funding necessary to assist them."

In its application, DWD and its partners propose to serve 785 workers over the next two years with assessment, counseling, job training and placement services. The project would be operated locally by the Southwest Wisconsin Workforce Development Board through the Rock County Job Center.

"Wisconsin has one of the most effective dislocated worker programs in the country," Secretary Gassman said. "We have a proven record of helping workers land on their feet. Our goal is not to help them get any job, but the next best job. For many workers, the dislocated worker program provides opportunities to change course and begin new careers far more rewarding and satisfying than their old job."