

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

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CONTACT: Chris Marschman, Communications Specialist, 608-261-6705

Governor Doyle Announces Additional Assistance for Dislocated Workers at Bourns Automotive Division in Janesville

Employment, training services available for 50 workers of Rock County firm

MADISON – Governor Jim Doyle today announced that 50 dislocated workers formerly employed by Bourns, Inc., Automotive Division, in Janesville are eligible to apply for additional reemployment 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. “The employment and training services now available to these workers will help them reenter the workforce and support themselves and their families.”

The U.S. Department of Labor approved TAA services, citing the firm’s decision to close its plant and shift production of electronic sensor assemblies to Mexico and Hungary. All workers totally or partially separated from employment on or after May 22, 2008, through June 24, 2011, are eligible to apply for assistance.

The Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) will administer the federally funded services, which are available through local Job Centers. They include retraining and reemployment 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 (TRA),
- **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.

“These are services that we and our local partners can provide affected workers, to help connect them with employers in search of workers with the right skills,” DWD Secretary Roberta Gassman said.

The 50 workers certified for additional assistance include temporary workers that Manpower and Spherion provided Bourns.

Last month, 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 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 reemployment 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 (888) 258-9966 toll free.

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