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## **Secretary Newson Announces Assistance to Allstate Insurance Company Employees Facing Layoffs at Cross Plains Call Center**

MADISON – Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Reggie Newson today announced \$25,000 in assistance is being provided to immediate job search assistance Allstate Insurance Company employees facing layoffs at its call center in Cross Plains.

DWD provided its regional partner, the South Central Wisconsin Workforce Development Board, the funding to initiate services to 214 employees affected by plans to close the center effective December 31. In its layoff notice last month, Allstate cited improvements in technology, declining insurance claims and efficiency gains.

In the weeks ahead, the funding will be used to provide such services as career assessment, job search workshops, information on the job market and a job fair. Services will be provided on site at Allstate prior to the scheduled layoffs and at local job centers following separation.

Workers have access to grant-funded services through local job centers. In addition, individuals can apply for other resources, such as a federal Pell Grants, to assist with costs of retraining.

Wisconsin spends nearly \$40 million annually serving approximately 20,000 dislocated workers in various programs. Wisconsin consistently ranks highly among states in receipt of discretionary federal funding for dislocated workers.

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