

Department of Labor & Industry
Rapid Response
Services Provided to State Agencies During Layoff, Furlough and Closings

Rapid response is an early-intervention service that helps workers and employers affected by layoffs, plant closures, or natural disasters. It provides information about and access to the commonwealth's PA CareerLink® and unemployment compensation systems, helping to transition workers into reemployment. The primary objective of rapid response is to provide workers with the resources and services necessary to allow them to find new jobs or get the training and education needed for new careers so they can return to work quickly.

In support of state agencies, the Rapid Response Unit will help provide the following during a Layoff, Furlough and/or Closing. It is understood, the lead agency will work with the affected workers to find new employment opportunities at other facilities, however, in cases where this may not occur, the information provided will help support their new employment search.

Informational Meetings:

Rapid Response, in coordination with the agencies Bureau of Human Resources will schedule Employee Informational Meetings. Scheduling of the dates, times and details of the agenda will be coordinated prior to the events and presented to the affected workers for attendance.

Example Agenda:

- Introduction & Overview – Bureau of Human Resources (BHR)
- Benefits - Office of Administration (OA)
- SEAP – OA
- Leave Issues – BHR
- Unemployment Compensation – Office of UC Service Centers
- Dislocated Worker Services – Bureau of Workforce Partnership Operations
- Civil Service Reemployment Rights for Management Employees – BHR
- Contractual Placement & Recall Process – OA/BHR
- Beyond the Furlough Process -- Other Commonwealth Opportunities to Consider – BHR
- Question & Answer Session

Workforce Development:

The Bureau of Workforce Partnership Operations, Rapid Response Unit will cover the following:

- Present an overview of the PA CareerLink® through a PowerPoint
- Provide dislocated worker packets with specific information relevant to their local area.

This information will be explained and presented during the dislocated worker services portion of the agenda. All participants will be advised to complete a dislocated worker survey provided in their packet and submit it to our staff upon completion. In addition, follow-up sessions will be scheduled with those affected workers who need assistance with their Job Gateway Registration and PA CareerLink® services.