

City of Cleveland/Cuyahoga County Workforce Investment Board



Cuyahoga County Department of Workforce Development
1275 Ontario Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44113

• City of Cleveland Division of Workforce Development
1701 East 13th Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44114

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Dennis Roberts, Esq., Director
Cuyahoga County Department
of Workforce Development
216-698-2820

Employment Connection reaches out to jeopardized Ford workers

The Cleveland/Cuyahoga Workforce Investment Board, through the local public workforce system, Employment Connection, organizes efforts to reach out to and engage Ford employees in danger of losing their jobs

CLEVELAND – May 8, 2007 – The Cleveland/Cuyahoga Workforce Investment Board (WIB) is mobilizing the public workforce system, Employment Connection, to reach out to Ford Motor Co. workers who will be affected by the impending Ford plant closings in Brookpark, OH. On May 7th Ford Motor Co. announced the immediate shut down of Engine Plant #1 for 18 months, which will result in 600 workers being laid off in the next two weeks. Ford also announced the permanent closing of its iron casting plant in 2 years time, which may result in an additional 1,200 workers losing their jobs.

The Workforce Investment Board is developing a strategy to address the immediate and long-term needs of laid off workers. Immediately, the Workforce Investment Board, through the utilization of the public workforce system, Employment Connection, will work with partners to identify the Engine Plant #1 workers that will lose their jobs as a result of the temporary plant shut down and the plant closing. These workers will be engaged by the Employment Connection system and made aware of the myriad of workforce services available to them via a variety of outreach efforts including; a virtual One-Stop, rapid response sessions, Employment Connection locations and an information campaign within the community. In addition, the Workforce Investment Board will work with the Union(s) to gain access to the workers in jeopardy of losing their jobs to perform skills assessments and identify companies within the region that are seeking the skill sets possessed by these Ford Employees.

In anticipation of the downturn in the automotive industry locally, The Cleveland/Cuyahoga Workforce Area has already procured \$451,000 from the State of Ohio for the purpose of developing an early warning system that will assist in detecting mass layoffs at an earlier stage. These funds will be utilized to assist companies in meeting the challenges associated with massive layoffs and to mitigate the effects on employees. With these funds the Cleveland/Cuyahoga Workforce Investment Board, on behalf of the local workforce area, plan to forge partnerships among other workforce areas and WIBs throughout the region to gain access to employers, employment opportunities and the full array of services available throughout the region.

For more information contact Dennis L. Roberts, Esq., Director, Cuyahoga County Department of Workforce Development at 216-698-2820.