

# 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 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44114

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Regional Plan Implemented to Assist Displaced Tops Workers** *Local Workforce Investment Boards Collaborate on Rapid Response*

**CLEVELAND** – December 5, 2006 –Seven independent local Workforce Investment Boards (WIBS) began collaborating the week of the Tops Markets layoff announcements (WIBs) to conduct coordinated, regional Rapid Response meetings for the over 4100 workers affected by store closures in Northeast Ohio, as well as Tops Ohio Regional Headquarters. Collaborating Workforce Investment Boards include those from Cleveland/Cuyahoga, Summit, Medina, Trumbull, Lake, Ashtabula, and Lorain counties. Quentin McCorvey, Cleveland/Cuyahoga WIB Chair and Key Corporate Philanthropy Vice President, stated “The regional approach that the WIBs are using to coordinate these meetings is significant and appropriate due to this unique situation. The displaced workers come from several counties- not just one location which is typically seen, for example, when a manufacturing plant closes.”

The planned Rapid Response meetings will provide information to laid-off workers about unemployment compensation, health insurance, and advice on 401K funds. Those in attendance will also be made aware of the State of Ohio’s online labor exchange system, Sharing Career Opportunities & Training Information (SCOTI), a valuable tool for connecting employers and potential employees. Dislocated workers will also receive information regarding federally funded, free services available including, job search/job readiness training, job placement assistance and a variety of career-focused workshops.

Workforce Investment Boards provide oversight of federally-funded workforce systems which provide employment and training information and assistance to job seekers and employers through one-stop career centers. “These centers have proven to be significant in helping to reemploy laid-off, skilled workers. Figures for the 2005 program year showed that nearly 84.7% of displaced workers who sought assistance from the Cleveland/Cuyahoga career centers, known as Employment Connection, entered employment” reported McCorvey. One-stop career centers

offer training funds for dislocated workers of up to \$10,000 (depending on the County) per participant.

The store closings were announced in July of this year, when all 46 locations were put up for sale by parent company Dutch grocer Royal Ahold NV. Most of the workers are members of Local 880 United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) and Local 19 of the Bakers, Confectioners, Tobacconists, and Grain Millers (BCTGM) unions.

For more information on the Cleveland/Cuyahoga one-stop career centers known as Employment Connection, call 216-664-4673 or 216-898-1366 or visit [wfd.city.cleveland.oh.us](http://wfd.city.cleveland.oh.us) or [www.workforce.cuyahogacounty.us](http://www.workforce.cuyahogacounty.us).

The Rapid Response sessions have been scheduled as follows:

<b>County</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Phone</b>
Ashtabula	Ashtabula Tops Store	Monday, December 4 <sup>th</sup> (two sessions were held)	10 am & 2 pm	440-994-2532
Cuyahoga	Cleveland Convention Center 500 Lakeside Avenue, Downtown Cleveland	Thursday, December 7 <sup>th</sup> Two sessions this day	10 am to Noon & 5 to 7 pm	216-664-4673
Cuyahoga	Cleveland Convention Center 500 Lakeside Avenue, Downtown Cleveland	Friday, December 8 <sup>th</sup> Two sessions this day	10 am to Noon & 2 to 4 pm	216-664-4673
Lake	4-H Building at Lake County Fairgrounds 1301 Mentor Avenue in Painesville	Tuesday, December 5 <sup>th</sup>	4 pm	440-350-4000
Lorain	Holiday Inn, Elyria, 1825 Lorain Blvd.	Wednesday, December 6 <sup>th</sup>	10 am to Noon	440-324-5244
Lorain	Holiday Inn, Elyria, 1825 Lorain Blvd.	Wednesday, December 6 <sup>th</sup>	4 to 6 pm	440-324-5244
Medina	Medina County Workforce Development Center 3271 Pearl Road, Medina	Tuesday, December 5 <sup>th</sup> Limited seating- call ahead	5 pm	330-722-9386
Medina	Medina County Workforce Development Center 3271 Pearl Road, Medina	Wednesday, December 6 <sup>th</sup> Limited seating- call ahead	5 pm	330-722-9386
Medina	Medina County Workforce Development Center 3271 Pearl Road, Medina	Monday, December 11 <sup>th</sup> Limited seating- call ahead	9 am	330-722-9386
Medina	Medina County Workforce Development Center 3271 Pearl Road, Medina	Tuesday, December 12 <sup>th</sup> Limited seating- call ahead	9 am and 5 pm	330-722-9386
Medina	Medina County Workforce Development Center 3271 Pearl Road, Medina	Wednesday, December 13 <sup>th</sup> Limited seating- call ahead	3 pm	330-722-9386
Medina	Medina County Workforce Development Center 3271 Pearl Road, Medina	Thursday, December 14 <sup>th</sup> Limited seating- call ahead	5 pm	330-722-9386
Medina	Medina County Workforce Development Center 3271 Pearl Road, Medina	Friday, December 15 <sup>th</sup> Limited seating- call ahead	9 am	330-722-9386
Summit	The Job Center, 1040 Tallmadge Ave, Akron	Tuesday, December 5 <sup>th</sup>	5 to 6:30 pm	330-786-2501
Summit	The Job Center, 1040 Tallmadge Ave, Akron	Thursday, December 7 <sup>th</sup>	5 to 6:30 pm	330-786-2501

Summit	The Job Center, 1040 Tallmadge Ave, Akron	Tuesday, December 12 <sup>th</sup>	5 to 6:30 pm	330-786-2501
Summit	The Job Center, 1040 Tallmadge Ave, Akron	Thursday, December 14 <sup>th</sup>	5 to 6:30 pm	330-786-2501
Trumbull	Youngstown Road Tops Store (these sessions are for employees of both Trumbull Tops Stores)	Friday, December 8 <sup>th</sup> Two sessions this day	11 am and 11:44 am	330-675-2179