

## Dislocated worker program to award \$600,000 in grants to help laid off workers

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The Dislocated Worker Program has awarded \$600,000 in grants to provide services for 150 workers who were laid off at three metro area businesses.

The former employees of BAE Systems, Cargill and Quality Wine and Spirits will receive a variety of services designed to help them get back to work, including assistance with exploring new careers, updating skills and learning job-hunting strategies. "Losing a job can cause significant stress for workers and their families," said Mark Phillips, commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED), which administers the program. "The Dislocated Worker Program helps ease the transition for people who are looking for new work or want to train for new careers."

Grants in equal amounts were awarded to BAE Systems in Minneapolis, Cargill in Wayzata, and Quality Wine and Spirits in Bloomington. The monetary amount for each grant is \$200,000. Each grant will provide service up to 50 former employees.

DEED is the state's principal economic development agency, promoting business recruitment, expansion and retention, workforce development, international trade and community development. For more details about the agency and the grants, visit [www.positivelyminnesota.com](http://www.positivelyminnesota.com).