



News Release

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Workers in Brownstown eligible for federal aid

INDIANAPOLIS (September 21, 2007) – The Indiana Department of Workforce Development today announced a ruling by the U.S. Department of Labor that former employees of Dura Automotive Systems, Inc. in Brownstown, Indiana are eligible to receive services under the federal Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program. The ruling also applies to on-site leased workers from Elwood Staffing, Employment Plus and Manpower who were employed at the Dura facility.

The TAA program, which is administered at the state level by the Indiana Department of Workforce Development, is made available to workers who are displaced due to foreign imports or shifts in production out of the country.

The federal ruling was issued on August 9, 2007 and applies to all workers of Dura including on-site leased workers from Elwood Staffing, Employment Plus, and Manpower, who became totally or partially separated from employment on or after July 22, 2006, through August 9, 2009.

In order for dislocated workers to be eligible for TAA benefits, a company executive, union representative or three former employees must file a petition with the Department of Labor and it must be approved before benefits can be released. The investigation was initiated on July 23, 2007 in response to a petition filed by a company official on behalf of the workers. The workers at the subject facility produce automotive parts such as tire carriers, latches, lock assemblies and ash trays.

The TAA program provides a variety of benefits and services to help unemployed workers prepare for and obtain suitable employment. Workers may be eligible for a variety of re-employment services, job search and relocation allowances and training. In addition, weekly trade re-adjustment allowances may be payable to eligible workers following the exhaustion of unemployment insurance benefits.

In addition, the Department of Labor also issued a certification for alternative trade adjustment assistance (ATAA) for separated older workers at the company. It was found that a significant number of workers at the company age 50 or over possess skills that are not easily transferable and that competitive conditions within the industry are adverse. Older workers may choose between regular TAA benefits or a wage subsidy of 50% of the difference between their new salary and old salary, up to \$10,000.

Eligible parties may obtain information at their local WorkOne center. A listing of all of the centers can be found at http://www.in.gov/dwd/employers/workone_centers.html.

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