

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
MEMORANDUM

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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
CHIEF OF STAFF

TO: Joseph C. Salema
Chief of Staff

FROM: Raymond L. Bramucci
Commissioner

Subject: Department Accomplishments

Date: 11/19/91

**\$113 Million Pumped into New Jersey Economy
by Emergency Extended Unemployment Benefits Program**

While a debate between the White House and Congress flourished, New Jersey acted decisively and meaningfully to aid workers adversely affected by the nation's economic downturn. With the full support of Governor Florio, the New Jersey Department of Labor created the New Jersey Unemployment Benefits Program to provide up to 6.5 weeks of unemployment benefits to workers who have exhausted their benefits under the regular 26-week program. As of November 6, 1991, the program had provided financial relief totalling over \$113 million to over 75,000 unemployed New Jersey residents. The program, signed into law by Governor Florio on July 10, assists workers who exhausted their regular benefits after December 29, 1990.

**Training, Matching Workers with Jobs
Made a Priority of the Department of Labor**

Work force entrants, displaced workers and other workers adversely affected by the protracted recession, are able to find help in obtaining training opportunities and employment opportunities through a variety of programs and services of the New Jersey Department of Labor.

The programs and services include:

-- The Customized Training Program. This program, an important component in New Jersey's economic development efforts, enables companies to train, retrain and cross-train their work forces to remain competitive and retain their viability in the face of worldwide competition. This past year the program extended nearly \$1.5 million in the training or retraining of 1,661 workers.

-- Computerized Job Search. The Department of Labor in 1991 installed a new computer system, called Automated Labor Exchange (ALEX), which provides speedy matchups between job openings and unemployed workers by enabling job seekers to scan a listing of thousands of jobs at one computer terminal.

Similarly, a mini-resume system was installed to enable employers to access workers' resumes from the Department on their own computers, speeding the potential linkup between employer and job seeker.

-- Rapid Response Team. The unit, made up of representatives from various divisions within the Department of Labor, provides services to workers who are displaced from their jobs through plant closings or downsizings. Its activities include helping workers obtain new employment or training opportunities and qualify for benefits to which they may be entitled.

New Apparel Law Protects Workers and Employers

With the assistance of the Department, a new Apparel Industry Unit Law was drafted and passed by the Legislature to give the Department strong new tools in dealing with those employers who exploit their workers, and to protect employers from unfair competition from unscrupulous operators.

Services Consolidated at One Location

Groundbreaking soon will be scheduled for the Department's first "Model Office," which will consolidate all of the Department's services at one location to better serve clients in need of one or more programs. These services are now spread over a wide area in each county, making it difficult for clients needing to access more than one service. The first model office will be in Trenton.

"Managing Growth" Program Helps Businesses

The Department, in cooperation with the Regional Alliance of Small Contractors, provides support and funding for business and construction management courses for small, minority and women-owned businesses. The program, called "Managing Growth," was initiated by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. It is aimed at helping the businesses compete effectively for an estimated \$40 billion in public projects to be awarded in the next ten years in New Jersey and New York.

Adult and Youth Education Made a Priority of Department

In an effort to upgrade workers' educational levels, the Department, in cooperation with the United Auto Workers (UAW) and the Union and Middlesex County Community Colleges, established an educational program at the General Motors plant in Linden. The program enrolls laid-off workers in English as a second language, Adult Basic Education and General-Equivalency Diploma classes.

Youth Served by Career Counseling Services

The Department of Labor has organized partnerships between business, government and nonprofit organizations in Hudson and Passaic Counties and the City of Newark for the purpose of establishing Career Counseling Centers to serve at-risk youth; both in and out of school alike. When fully organized, the partnerships will form nonprofit consortia and be financially self-sustaining.

The Career Counseling Centers will provide information about careers that will help the young people understand the relationship between education and career requirements. The Centers will provide the following services: employability skills workshops, access to computerized career and college information, employer displays and job counseling and placement services.

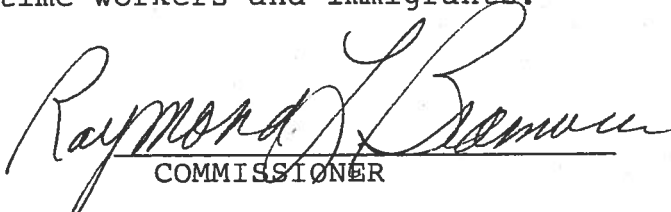
The Department considers the establishment of Career Counseling Centers part of our urban initiative that both addresses the need of at-risk youth and develops tomorrow's work force.

Department Moves Quickly to Protect Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund

Through the efforts of the New Jersey Department of Labor, the State was able to reach agreement with the U. S. Department of Labor on the repayment of \$100 million which was diverted from the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund by the Kean Administration in 1989. The Trust Fund, maintained by contributions from workers and employers, disburses over \$1 billion to unemployed workers annually. New Jersey's fund is ranked first among the 11 largest industrialized states for fiscal integrity by the U. S. Department of Labor.

Work-Based Learning Programs Sponsored with Hudson County Consortium

As a member of the Hudson County Consortium, the Department sponsors a variety of work-based learning activities in conjunction with employers along the Hudson River waterfront. The consortium, which consists of local educational institutions and area employers (including those in the health and financial fields) also provides pre-apprenticeships for women in electronic technologies and English as a second language training for nurses in area hospitals and for first-time workers and immigrants.


COMMISSIONER