



MISSOURI SENATE

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State Senator Jeff Smith Calls Attention to Free Worker Assistance Programs

Senator Jeff Smith, D-St. Louis, encourages St. Louis residents affected by unemployment to take advantage of free worker assistance programs that help ease job-loss transitions and help put people back to work.

“The downturn in the American economy has unfortunately caused more workers here and throughout Missouri and the U.S. to experience job losses,” Sen. Smith said. “Fortunately, there are a number of state resources available to residents experiencing those job losses that can assist them with job skills training and re-employment plans.”

Senator Smith said local employees — and employers — can alleviate some of the economic and unemployment stress through two programs offered by the Missouri Department of Economic Development’s Division of Workforce Development: the Missouri Rapid Response Program and the Missouri Dislocated Worker Program.

The Missouri Rapid Response Program works with all Missouri employers and affected workers when business closings and layoffs are announced to assist workers in finding new employment. The Dislocated Worker Program helps permanently laid-off Missouri workers re-enter the workforce through job training and placement. Both programs are administered locally through the [St. Louis Agency on Training and Employment Career Center](#) (SLATE) at 1017 Olive St., St. Louis, phone (314) 589-8000, and the Missouri Career Center - St. Louis Central, 4811 Delmar Blvd., St. Louis, phone (314) 877-0916.

For more information on either program, you may also contact the Missouri Department of Economic Development toll-free at 800-877-8698 or visit the department's website at www.ded.mo.gov/wfd.

Both City of St. Louis career centers also provide a number of other related services, including information on job openings, career assessment and counseling, job training programs, GED education, resume preparation, job search seminars, job placement, and access to computers and reference materials.

“Being laid off or without work can be one of life’s most traumatic events,” Sen. Smith said, “but there are great resources available — free of charge — for those who need help re-entering the workforce.”

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