

For Immediate Release: Thursday, June 14, 2012
Media Contact: Dawn Dovre, 605-773-3094

Re-employment Intensive Services Puts People Back to Work

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation’s (DLR) new effort to help get unemployment insurance claimants back to work more quickly is working.

The Re-employment Intensive Services (RIS) initiative began on May 1. Since then, 92 of the 186 participants are now either in new jobs or pursuing other opportunities and no longer are receiving a benefit check. Of the remaining participants, 94 continue to receive services.

“Our employment representatives are helping claimants identify in-demand careers, evaluate their current skills, identify training options and direct them to appropriate job openings,” said State Labor and Regulation Secretary Pam Roberts.

A number of studies have shown the duration of unemployment insurance assistance is shortened when attention is given to the claimants’ efforts to find new work.

“There are over 11,000 job openings in South Dakota,” said Secretary Roberts. “This re-employment program helps employers get the skilled workers they need.”

The RIS initiative requires all people who receive unemployment benefits for more than 10 weeks to seek one-on-one assistance from a DLR local office. Failure to comply can result in a loss of unemployment benefits.

Unemployment insurance provides temporary financial assistance to people who have lost their jobs, through no fault of their own, until they find other employment. Recipients are required to actively search for work while receiving the employer-paid benefit.