

## Hawaii

### Massachusetts/Hawaii Collaborative Rapid Response/Business Services Training Program

# Massachusetts

- 16 Workforce Boards
- 29 full service Career Centers
- Monthly Partners meetings
- WIOA implementation more partner collaborations and business focus
- Rapid Response Centrally managed and operated
- Rapid Response statewide policies

# The Massachusetts Rapid Response Team

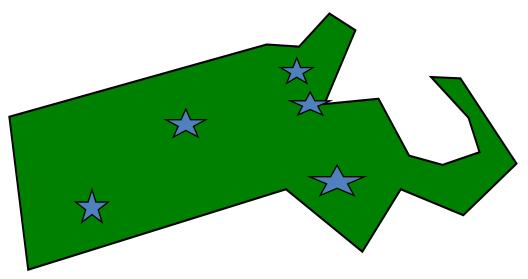
- One Team consisting of Regionally and locally based staff that report to the State-Wide Rapid Response Manager.
- Focus on a proactive approach Layoff Aversion / Business relationship building (Mindset)
- (Biz-Works promotion)
- Consistent Materials and Services
- All services are captured in the statewide Rapid Response database (MOSES)
- Partnerships/ Linkages with all Partner agencies/ programs

# Programs Rapid Response Initiates

- Trade Act
- National Dislocated Worker Grants
- Rapid Response Set Aside Fund
- Workshare
- DUA for businesses, employees
- BizWorks programs

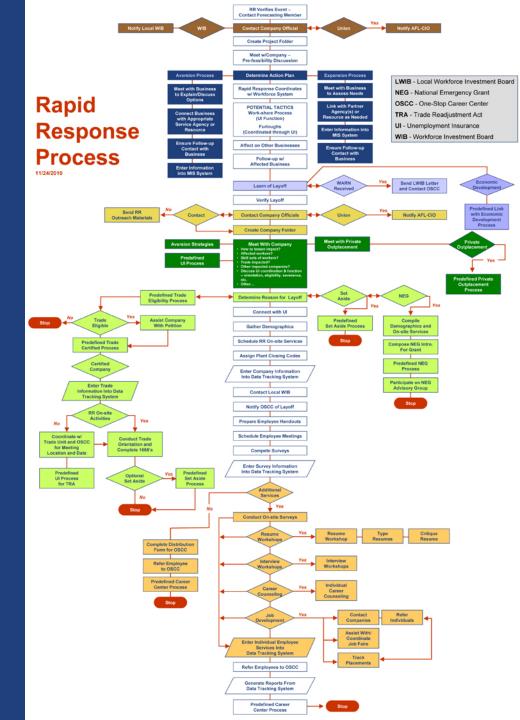
# **Rapid Response Locations**

- Boston
- Leominster
- Lawrence
- Brockton
- Cambridge
- North Hampton
- AFL/CIO Union Staff



### Rapid Response Flow Chart

LWIB - Local Workforce Investment Board
NEG - National Emergency Grant
OSCC - One-Stop Career Center
TRA - Trade Readjustment Act
UI - Unemployment Insurance
WIB - Workforce Investment Board



# **Employer Findings**

- Employers who used Rapid Response services were highly satisfied.
- Most employers only heard of Rapid Response after filing a WARN notice.
- Employers would have preferred to have known about Rapid Response services in advance to any layoff plans.

## Why more companies aren't using Rapid Response Services

- Government program stigma?
- It's free how good can it be?
- Confidentiality !!
- What about sabotage?
- Need to keep layoff information from the employees as long as possible
- Rapid Response, Who?

### Lessons Learned

- Get into the companies as early as possible before signs of trouble.
- Have one point of contact or designated lead to coordinate all of the available economic development tools.
- Think of Rapid Response funding as one of the many economic development tools.



Company Evaluation Summary Sheet

Company Name:	
Company Contact:	Phone:
Date:	

Please rate each item by circling the applicable number on a scale of 1 to 4, with 4 as the highest score.

	Strongly Agree - 4	Agree - 3	Disagree - 2	Strongly Disagr	ee - 1 Does N	ot Apply – 0		
•	Rapid Response provided all	l agreed upon servic	es.	4	3	2	1	0
•	All services were provided in	n a timely fashion.		4	3	2	1	0
•	The employee meeting was e	effective.		4	3	2	1	0
•	The employees were satisfied	d with Rapid Respon	nse services.	4	3	2	1	0
•	The quality of the services pa	rovided met your ex	pectation.	4	3	2	1	0
•	The Rapid Response service	s increase morale.		4	3	2	1	0
•	The onsite services decrease	tensions between en	nployees/company	r.4	3	2	1	0
•	The Rapid Response service	s improved product	ivity.	4	3	2	1	0
•	Rapid Response worked wel	l with company repr	esentatives.	4	3	2	1	0
•	The Rapid Response staff wa	as knowledgeable ar	nd accommodating	4	3	2	1	0
•	I would use Rapid Response	again.		4	3	2	1	0

#### COMMENTS:

• What can we do to improve our services?

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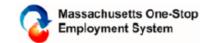
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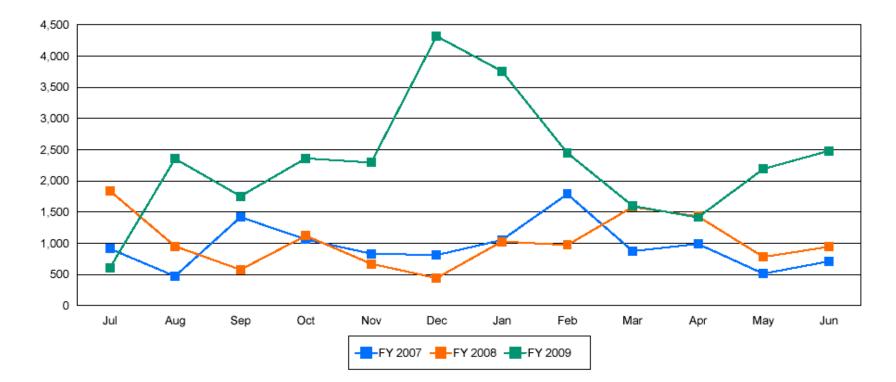
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### RAPID RESPONSE EMPLOYEES AFFECTED MONTHLY TRENDS BY FISCAL YEAR

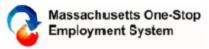


#### INVESTIGATION START DATES FROM 7/1/2006 TO 6/30/2009

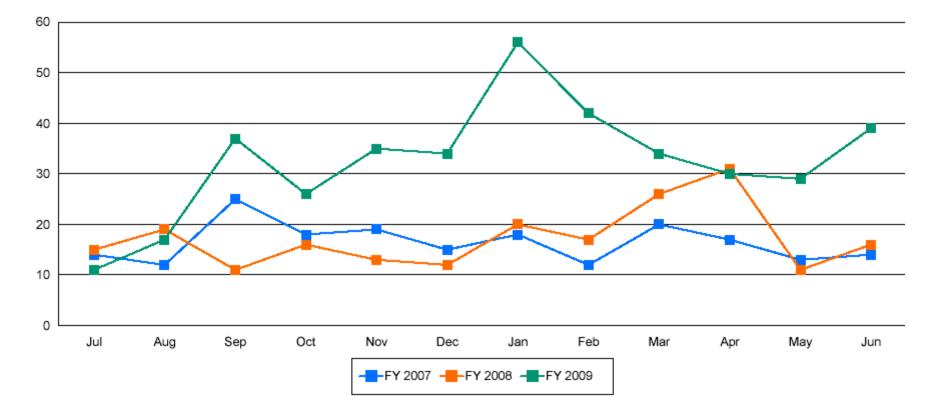




### RAPID RESPONSE EMPLOYER EVENTS MONTHLY TRENDS BY FISCAL YEAR



### INVESTIGATION START DATES FROM 7/1/2006 TO 6/29/2009



# Rapid Response was first with Business Engagement !!

- 1987 regulations
  - Linking with economic development
  - Layoff aversion
  - Union collaborations(labor /Mgmt. com.)
  - Community focus
  - Informing business of government / state programs
  - First face of government to meet with business
  - 1997 RR Summit
- Career Center focus on employees

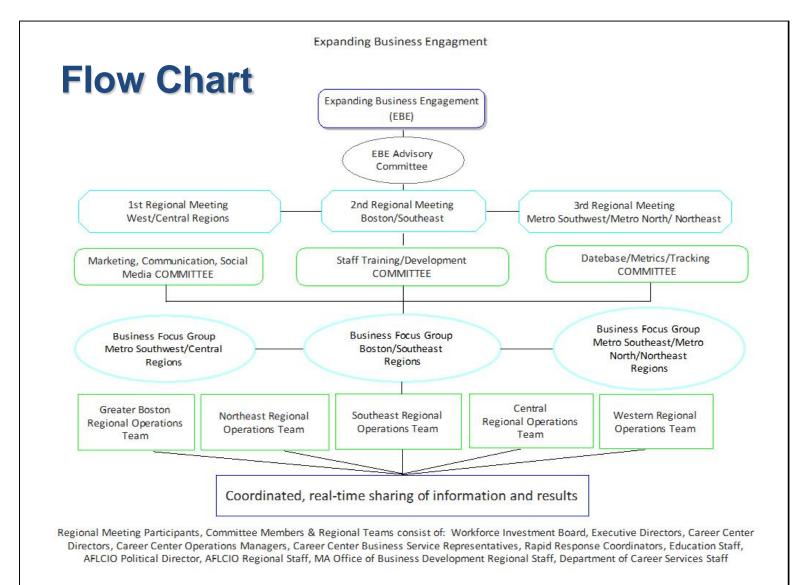
# What is **Mass Biz Work\$**

Mass BizWorks is designed to meet business needs.

- State and federal collaboration- **TEAM Effort**
- Funded by USDOL's Expanding Business Engagement
- Connect businesses to resources

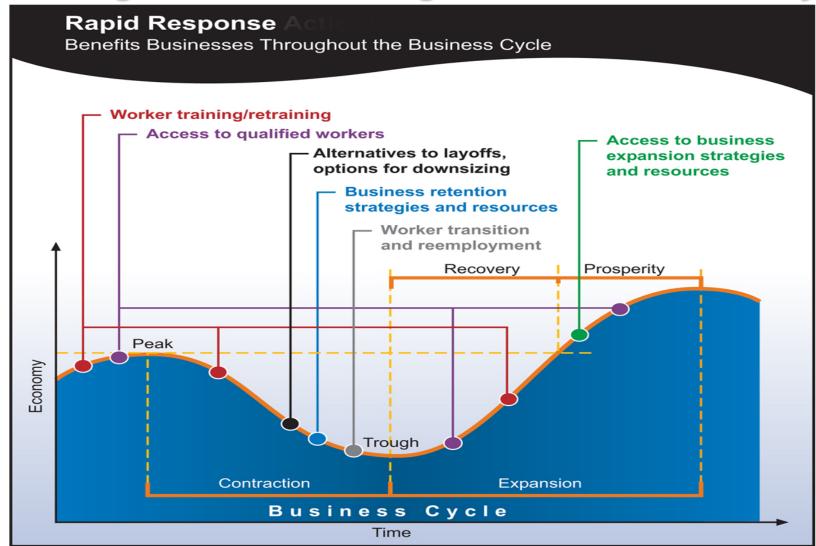
"We need to make it as easy as possible for Massachusetts business owners to take advantage of all of the services the state offers. Whether they are growing their business or downsizing, Mass BizWorks pulls all these services together in one easy to find place."







### **Providing Services Throughout the Business Cycle**









### Mass Biz Works

#### Hiring and Recruiting

Department of Career Services (DCS) - One Stop Career Centers Employment-related services for businesses' needs Contact: DCS - 617-626-5300

www.mass.gov/careercenters

#### JobQuest

Online resource to post job openings Contact: JobQuest Helpline - 617-626-6571 www.mass.gov/jobquest/employers

Dept. of Career Services - Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) Tax credits for hiring targeted populations Contact: WOTC Unit - 617-626-5353 www.mass.gov/dcs/wotc

Massachusetts State Colleges and Universities Talented graduates and contract training www.mass.edu/campuses/phecampuses.asp

#### Training and Consultation

Commonwealth Corporation -Workforce Training Fund Program (WTFP) Funding and resources to train current and new employees Contact: Robert Oftring, Jr. - 617-717-6915 www.commcorp.org/wffp

Dept. of Career Services - On-the-Job Training (OJT) Program Assistance with the cost of hiring and training new employees Contact: Your nearest career center www.mass.gov/dcs/ojt

Div. of Apprentice Standards (DAS) – Apprenticeship Programs Apprenticeship programs available to businesses Contact: Madeleine McGuire – 617-626-5989 www.mass.gov/das

Department of Industrial Accidents (DIA) - Safety Grant Program Funding for workplace safety training Contact: Kathy Manson - 617-727-4900 ext. 7374 www.mass.gov/dia/safety

Department of Labor Standards (DLS) - OSHA Consultation Program Free service to assist private employers meet OSHA requirements Contact: 508-616-0461 www.mass.gov/dols/consult

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### **Programs & Services**

- Training grants and programs
- Tax credits for hiring
- Incentive programs for growth or expansion
- Business development/mentoring services
- Manufacturing support
- Workplace safety grant and consultation
- Recruitment services
- Layoff aversion

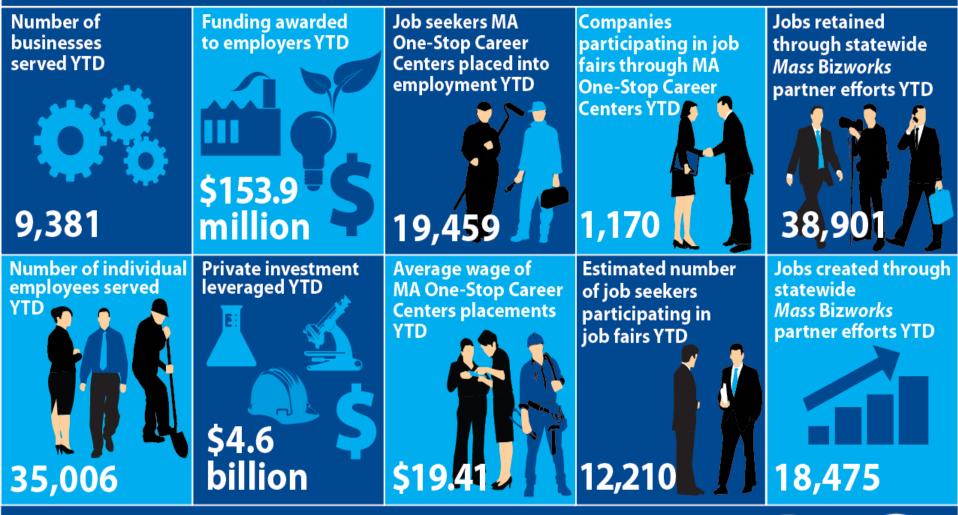
One-Stop support for businesses.

# Mass Biz-Works-Staff Training and Development Group

- Mass BizWorks Training
- Modular One training- Trained over 350 business services Representatives
- Modular Two Training Trained over 170 business services Representatives
- Modular Three Trained over 200 business services Representatives
- Now training non Business services career center staff
- Connecticut training collaboration

## **Mass Biz Work\$** Statewide Business Services

### FY 14, Quarter 3 (7-1-13 to <u>3-31-14</u>)



*Mass* BizWorks is funded by the Expanding Business Engagement (EBE) Initiative, a state and federal collaboration designed to enhance and align the services offered to Massachusetts businesses by partner agencies and organizations.



# Challenges

- Identify staffing needs and resources
- BSR's availability to meet with companies
- Businesses are often unaware of the services available to assist them
- Collaboration and cooperation between agencies
- Business services follow up plan
- Develop a system that will ensure that we are not duplicating efforts with businesses
- Performance metrics, crystal report and tracking activities

# Moving Forward

- Create a Unified Employer Engagement Strategy
- Develop an infrastructure that promotes teamwork
- System to measure performance metrics
- Service Delivery Strategies
- Goals of the Technical Assistance Initiative
- Review existing outreach efforts and services provided to companies

# Moving Forward (cont'd)

- Review ways to increase and expand employer engagement
- How to measure improvements
- Defining appropriate roles and responsibilities
- Programs and services that could add value to our relationship with business
- Staff training needs, especially around new programs and services
- Develop Policies

# Layoff Aversion

# What is Layoff Aversion ?

- Many do not understand the full meaning
- Some thing it really doesn't work
- Some think you have to bring in a white knight company to save a business from closing

• There are many facets to layoff aversion !!

## A Definition

ETA defines layoff aversion as the prevention or minimization of unemployment, either for employees of companies that have announced layoffs, are struggling, or are looking to retool for new products or industries, through a range of strategies and approaches.

# What if !!

- We were never surprised by the news of a layoff!
- Employees that received a layoff notice never got laid off!
- When Rapid Response responds to a layoff 5 companies willing to hire the affected workers were already setup.
- What if everybody was working together to ensure better connections with businesses!



The Two Sides of Layoff Aversion

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)	<b>1</b> Saving the Company or Jobs	2 <b>BROADER IDEA:</b> Lessening the Impact of Layoffs / incorporating the business cycle mindset
	<ul> <li>Lessen number of employees that company needs to layoff</li> <li>Work-share</li> <li>Furloughs</li> <li>ESOPs -Employee buyouts</li> <li>Finding a buyer for the closing business</li> <li>Linking with Economic Development</li> <li>Incumbent worker programs- based on affected company</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Fewer people filing for Ul benefits</li> <li>Linking with other companies that are hiring (Company Match)</li> <li>OJT programs-linking with growing companies</li> <li>Early warning networks</li> <li>Effective partnerships</li> <li>Linking Mass BizWorks services</li> </ul>

# Examples of Layoff Aversion

- Polaroid
- 40 employees affected by layoff Trained employees prior to layoff. Placed 34 of 38 employees trained.
- Method used Rapid
   Response set aside
   funds to train
   employees in new
   career
- ROI = \$238,000 saved on UI funds @ 7000 per claim

## Examples of Layoff aversion

- NECCO 400 employees **retained** their jobs
- Jabil/Raytheon-19 employees hired in one day (Union jobs) 135 additional placed
- Haskon attempted ESOP (Union/RR/ESOP office)
- Polaroid 38 employees (Chemical Department) trained in Bio-Tech, 34 placed in new jobs most prior to layoff

### **Data Collection**

- Data collection can help in predicting trends
- Information when marketing services
- For use when company matching
- Linking with Economic Development
- Indicating return on investment
- Assisting Businesses with information
- History of services

## **Company Furloughs**

- Companies have been using furloughs in an attempt to avoid layoffs.
- Rapid Response offers assistance to companies and their employees in the delivery of services through the furlough process.
- Furloughs may be an indicator of concern that could allow for future services due to the partnerships that are built future services could include an aversion plan.

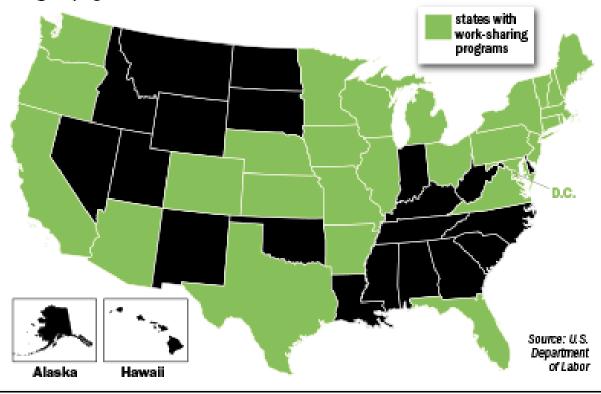
### Workshare

- Rapid Response staff must be well versed in the U. I. Work share program and able to connect companies to this service as an alternative to layoffs.
- Work share allows companies to defray costs during slow periods.

# Workshare

### In favor elsewhere

As of 2016, 29 states used or had set up work-sharing programs, also known as short-term compensation. The U.S. Department of Labor estimates that 570,000 jobs were saved using the program since the start of the Great Recession.



# Forecasting/Early Warning Systems

- Creating mechanisms to try to predict layoffs before they happen and develop a strategy to avert or lessen the number of employees affected by downsizing and company closures
  - -Use of data
  - Effective strategic partnerships, including:
    - Business community
    - Unions
    - Local and state agencies

## Incumbent Worker Training Programs

- Can be funded with Rapid Response with approved waiver from ETA
- Incumbent worker training must be part of broad layoff aversion strategy to receive waiver
- Rapid Response can play an important role in facilitating IWT even without spending Rapid Response funds

## **Company Match**

- Minimize the impact of the layoffs that are occurring at a particular plant closing or downsizing by placing employees in new jobs prior to layoff
  - Also to minimize the length of unemployment if not placed prior to layoff
- Matching the skills of employees who have been notified of a layoff (and not yet laid off) with those of companies that are in need of skilled employees.
  - Jabil/Raytheon- Direct Match
- Training employees and placing them in new careers prior to layoff
  - Biotech Training-Polaroid/Bose

## **OJT Programs**

- Connect employers with workers losing their jobs
- Use OJT funds to assist employers to be able to hire needed workers
- Think of OJT as a layoff aversion program in addition to a jobs program

## Light control - Plympton Mass (ESOP)

- Employee owned / Union company
- 200 employees
- High end Light Control systems
- Company decision to stay in Plympton Mass and sell to employees 15 year plan paid off in 7 years

# Collaborations with other states

- Rapid Response bordering states/ national connections
- Biz Works collaborations span through out the country examples but not limited to Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Colorado, Oklahoma, Louisiana, California, Ohio, Maryland, Virginia, Puerto Rico etc.
- 40 plus states attended the recent summit and continue to collaborate

### Contact *Mass* **BizWork**\$



www.mass.gov-bizworks

800-252-1591



Direct Contact:

Ken Messina, Rapid Response/ Business Services Manager

Ken.messina@massmail.state.ma.us 617-626-5703

We can help you.