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US Department of Labor provides grant to assist workers affected by closure of Idaho beef processing plant

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Labor today announced a \$1,825,595 National Emergency Grant to provide re-employment services to about 250 workers laid off by XL Four Star Beef Inc., following the June closure of the company's beef processing and packing plant in Nampa, Idaho.

“I know that it is difficult to find a job in an area experiencing high unemployment. That’s why this federal grant which will support the retraining of Canyon County residents is so important,” said Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis. “The Obama administration is committed to assisting both these workers, and at the same time Idaho’s businesses, by making sure the local labor force is ready and able to help support the state’s growing industries.”

The grant is being awarded to the Idaho Department of Labor, which will use skill assessment tools and career counseling to identify education and retraining opportunities, including English for speakers of other languages instruction. Of the total funding amount, \$928,386 will be released initially. Additional funding up to the amount approved will be made available as the state demonstrates a continued need for assistance.

National Emergency Grants are part of the secretary of labor’s discretionary fund and are awarded based on a state’s ability to meet specific guidelines. For more information, visit <http://www.doleta.gov/NEG>.

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