



# State of New Mexico

## *Office of the Governor*

**Bill Richardson**  
*Governor*

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### ***Governor Richardson Directs State Rapid Response to AOL Layoffs***

#### ***More Than 900 Dislocated Employees to be Assisted with Job Placement***

Albuquerque - At the direction of Governor Bill Richardson, The Governor's Office of Workforce Development, New Mexico Department of Labor and the Economic Development Department will be providing Rapid Response services to dislocated employees from the Albuquerque AOL Call Center, which recently announced the layoff of more than 900 employees.

"We will stand with these call center employees during this tough time," said Governor Richardson. "The state is committed to doing everything we can to get these AOL employees back into the workforce as quickly as possible. I am confident that New Mexico's strong economy will be able to absorb these workers quickly."

AOL employees looking for more information and assistance should go to: <http://www.dol.state.nm.us/>. State officials have also contacted AOL executives in Virginia and are expected to meet before the end of the week to discuss specifics about the planned layoffs.

"We will be requesting direct access to employees of AOL to provide them with the necessary information that the Rapid Response effort will offer", said Labor secretary Conroy Chino. "Our services are designed to cushion the economic impact this may have not only on the affected workers but also to the community."

The Tri Agency rapid response effort is designed to assist dislocated workers with the multiple services that will be available which include; re-employment opportunities, registration for Unemployment Benefit Insurance, Training opportunities, access to assistance programs available through the Children Youth and Families Department and the Human Services Department. The New Mexico Call Center Alliance will also assist the rapid response team with employee placement.

The New Mexico Department of Labor is also organizing a job fair that will provide the affected AOL workers with transferable employment opportunities as well as new career opportunities. More information about the job fair will be available once the date and location are finalized.