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**(S.D.) - SD effort seeks to get jobless back to work sooner**

By: John Thayer Posted at: 04/27/2012 08:39 AM

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) - Gov. Dennis Daugaard says the South Dakota Labor Department is starting a new effort to get people receiving unemployment benefits back to work sooner.

Daugaard says the Re-Employment Intensive Services initiative begins Tuesday. He says it will offer training and other services to help jobless people find meaningful, suitable jobs.

People getting unemployment benefits currently have to search for work.

The new program will require all people who get unemployment benefits for more than 10 weeks to seek assistance from a local Labor Department office. Department staff will help people evaluate their job skills, identify careers that are in demand, find training programs and direct them to appropriate job openings.

The unemployment insurance program provides financial help to people who have lost jobs through no fault of their own.

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