

This is a printer friendly version of an article from [lancastereaglegazette.com](http://www.lancastereaglegazette.com)
To print this article open the file menu and choose Print.

[Back](#)

Article published Apr 16, 2007

Lancaster Glass employees contemplate next career moves

By TAMARIA L. KULEMEKA
The Eagle-Gazette Staff
tkulemeka@nncogannett.com

LANCASTER - Fairfield County Job & Family Services is formulating plans and meeting with service providers to assist and guide Lancaster Glass employees to the next step once the company shuts down.

About a handful of Lancaster Glass employees do not plan to work once the company shuts down. But most of the company's employees do plan to seek work once permanent layoffs begin at the end of May, according to surveys filled out by most of the company's 141 employees.

Christy Nichols, workforce supervisor for Fairfield County Job & Family Services, presented the Lancaster Glass Employee Interest Form results at JFS' Rapid Response meeting on April 4.

Rapid Response, a state sponsored program, will aid JFS in helping Lancaster Glass employees obtain resources to get back on their feet when the company closes.

The survey enables JFS officials to customize services and resources that will be provided to Lancaster Glass employees, rather than workers receiving general services that do not meet their needs, Nichols said.

"I didn't want to have us spend all this money on something they weren't going to take advantage of," Nichols said. "We want to develop programs they actually wanted."

About 110 employees responded to the survey by the time the results were presented.

"We had a lot of feedback," Nichols said. "Some surveys have been turned in since. We had one or two (employees) who weren't interested."

Some of the immediate needs identified from the surveys include updating employees' interviewing skills and providing computer training classes, Nichols said.

"For some of them, it's probably the only job they've ever had or the longest they've had, so it's been a while since they went on an interview," Nichols said. "There were a few people who didn't get their GED, so that may be something we'll customize for them as well."

Results also showed that more than 50 employees desire to change careers and are interested in going back to school. Many of the employees surveyed also would like assistance with their resume and finding a job.

The average desired wage listed in the survey was \$12.04.

Louis Vamos, who's worked at the Lancaster Glass for 34 years, hasn't thought about what his next career move will be yet. Vamos is the union president of Local 506.

"I haven't really let it sink in yet as to what I'm going to do," Vamos said following the first Rapid

Response meeting. "I probably won't until they start the layoffs.

Tony Bennett, vice president of Local 506, was one of 30 employees who would prefer to find work in the same field when the plant closes.

"I've been in it for 30 years," Bennett said following the Rapid Response meeting. "I want to stay in the same type of work, if possible."
