Milwaukee’s unemployment back up to 12% in January 2010 (10.2% for Milwaukee County)

The number of workers receiving unemployment insurance is showing modest declines, likely due to expired benefits. 58% are on permanent layoff.

Firm plant closings and mass layoffs: In February 2010, 1 firm in Milwaukee County (Milwaukee Forge) reported an anticipated plant closing affecting 107 workers.

Safety Nets for Workers and Families

204,503 on FoodShares: One in 5 Milwaukee County residents relies on food stamps to help pay grocery bills. Numbers keep climbing.

BadgerCare Plus: 203,374 residents were enrolled in BadgerCare Plus as of February 2010, including 54,439 parents/caretakers, 121,821 children, 4,276 pregnant women, and 22,838 single adults on the Core Plan.

Wisconsin Shares: 13,856 Milwaukee County families received Shares child care subsidies for 26,474 children in February 2010. These numbers are down from September.

Families receiving W-2: The numbers of families receiving income support under W-2 continue to rise but are far lower than the unemployment rolls. Only 6,639 Milwaukee County families received W-2 cash support in February 2010.

Drilldown Data Sources: Wisconsin departments of Children and Families, Health Services, and Workforce Development. (3/18/2010); John Pawasarat, Understanding the UI Population in Milwaukee County (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, March 2010).