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State employees may lose jobs

The state Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities is preparing to layoff about 290 employees statewide this fiscal year, including up to 45 Staten Island Developmental Center employees.

Between 200 and 350 jobs statewide are expected to be lost, said Lou Ganim, an OMRDD spokesman, but state officials remain "hopeful" that the jobs can be saved.

The layoffs are a result of having less people now in care in these facilities, Ganim said, and are not directly related to SIDC's closing, which has been slated for several years now.

But, James Walsh, SIDC director, said he is optimistic that the layoffs will not occur, at least not at SIDC. The facility, he said, had its last staff reductions on March 11 when 96 employees left the facility either through voluntary or involuntary transfers, layoffs or retirement, Walsh said, leaving about 780 OMRDD employees Islandwide.