

Has your job been adversely affected by foreign competition?

The Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) Program includes among eligible workers those directly affected by increased imports of certain shifts of production to other countries. Eligible workers also include secondarily affected workers of an upstream supplier or downstream producer to a certified primary firm. When a layoff or work reduction occurs, a petition for TAA must be filed with the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) and the TAA Coordinator by:

- A group of 3 or more workers
- A certified union official or representative
- Official of the employer/firm
- One Stop operators or partner
- State dislocated worker unit staff

The petition and help completing the petition is available from One-Stop Centers and other Employment Security offices. Filing a petition will trigger immediate rapid response and basic adjustment services to workers. Rapid reemployment is the goal. The USDOL has forty calendar days to complete its investigation and certify eligibility.

Benefits available through the Trade Act

- Re-employment Services
- Training and Related Expense Reimbursement
- Trade Readjustment Allowance (TRA)
- Health Coverage Tax Credit
- Job Search Allowance
- Relocation Allowance
- Alternative Trade Adjustment Assistance

How can you qualify for these benefits?

- You must complete a "Request for Determination of Initial Entitlement to TAA/TRA"
- You must be pre-approved for all TAA/TRA services and benefits by a Employment Security Counselor

Re-employment Services

- Job Search Strategies
- Resume, cover letters, applications
- Referrals to jobs
- Labor Market Information
- Interview preparation
- Resource Centers

Training – up to 104 weeks

- On-the-Job Training
- Occupational Training
- Remedial Training
- Other training related expenses
 - ⇒ Tuition, books, fees, tools, and uniforms
 - ⇒ Travel expenses (if beyond normal commute)
 - ⇒ Subsistence allowance (if training is not available within your commuting area)

Six criteria must be applied before training can be approved

1. Suitable employment is not available for you (Your Employment Security Counselor will match your skill level, salary, and commuting area to jobs listed)

2. You will benefit from training
3. You meet entry level education/training program requirements and have the financial resources to carry you through
4. Training is reasonably available to you (travel/subsistence)
5. Training is suitable for you and available at a reasonable cost
6. You can reasonably expect to find employment following completion of your training program

Trade Readjustment Allowance (TRA) – Weekly benefits

(You must file a weekly claim and meet eligibility requirements to be paid.)

- Up to 26 weeks of regular unemployment benefits
- Up to 26 weeks of basic TRA
- Up to 52 weeks of additional TRA
- Up to 26 weeks of TRA benefits if in remedial training

Basic TRA benefits can only be paid to you if you applied for your training program within 8 weeks of your company's first TAA certification, or, if later within 16 weeks of your most recent layoff or placed under a waiver from training within those same time frames.

Duration of Training

- Training is available for up to 104 weeks
- Remedial education is available for up to 26 additional weeks for a maximum of 130 weeks

Additional TRA Allowances – You may be able to collect up to 52 weeks of additional TRA if you use up your unemployment insurance and Basic TRA benefits. If you need more time and financial help to complete your training, you can apply for the additional TRA benefits. The additional TRA benefits can only be paid to you if you filed a bona fide application for training within 210 days from the certification date or 210 days from your most recent qualifying separation from the Trade certified company.

Break in Training – If you have more than a 30-day break in your TAA training (not counting National and State holidays and weekends), TRA benefits are not payable. TRA payments will resume when your approved TAA training starts again.

Six specific situations when training can be waived

1. You have a written note that you will be recalled within 6 months (specific recall date is required)
2. You have marketable skills (determined by assessment)
3. You are within 2 years of qualifying for Social Security or a privately sponsored pension
4. You are in poor health but can actively seek and accept full time work
5. You are determined eligible for training but the first available enrollment date is delayed (training must begin within 45 days)
6. Training is not available at a reasonable cost or funds are not available under TAA or other Federal laws

Job Search Requirements – If you complete training or receive a waiver from training, you must actively seek full time employment to receive Basic TRA benefits. Employment Security staff will help you through your work search. Re-employment is the goal!

Health Coverage Tax Credit (HCTC)

- You must be covered under a TAA certification of eligibility for TAA benefits.
- Your HCTC eligibility may begin on the 61st day after the petition was filed.
- You must be entitled to and receiving UI or TRA benefits.
- You must be enrolled in approved training, have completed a training program or have obtained a waiver. (This requirement is applicable during the period that you are receiving TRA as well as UI.)
- You must have received TRA or UI benefits on any day of the month to qualify for HCTC that month.
- You are eligible for an additional month after ceasing to be an eligible TAA recipient and as such remain eligible for the advanced tax credit for one more month.
- For more information on HCTC call toll free **1-866-628-4282**. If eligible, the HCTC would pay 65% of your health insurance premium – you pay 35%.

Job Search Allowance

- You must be pre-approved by your Employment Security Counselor to seek work beyond your commuting area
- 90% of the cost of expenses for meals, lodging, and mileage may be refunded to you.
- Maximum amount \$1,250.00

Relocation Allowance

- You must be pre-approved by your Employment Security Counselor to seek suitable work beyond your normal commuting area (Certain deadlines apply – see your Counselor)
- You must live 50 miles or more from your new place of work
- You must have a written offer of employment
- Your new job must be within the continental United States
- 90% of the total cost of the following:
 - ⇒ Cost of meals, lodging and mileage
 - ⇒ Cost of moving your household goods and personal and family effect (lesser of 2 estimates)
 - ⇒ Up to 2 months storage
- A lump sum payment equal to 3 times your average weekly wage (maximum \$1,250)

Alternative Trade Adjustment Assistance (ATAA) Wage Supplement

- Program for older workers – Must be at least 50 years of age at the time of reemployment
- Must meet eligibility requirements for group and individual
- 50% of difference between reemployment wages and wages earned at separation
 - ⇒ Payments may not last more than 2 years
 - ⇒ Total of payments may not exceed \$10,000 over 2 year period (whichever of these runs out first)

For more information and help with the TAA Program, contact one of our staff at your local Employment Security Offices.

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