

Trade Reform Act of 2002

NEtwork '03

May 16, 2003

Major Changes

- Expanded Eligibility
- Health Coverage Tax Credit
- 8/16 week enrollment rule
- Co-enrollment & Rapid Response
- Remedial education w/ additional TRA
- Job Search and Relocation
- Alternative Trade Adjustment Assistance

Expanded Eligibility

- Certification for relocation of employer was only available for Canada or Mexico
- Now available for more than 30 nations
 - Does not include Europe or China

Health Coverage Tax Credit

- Covers 65% of the monthly insurance premium for “eligible TAA recipients”
- Available on an advance or tax credit basis
 - Participant will send 35% to the state / Treasury who will then pay 100% to the provider
- States must apply for grants to cover this program until August 1, 2003 (national system will be in place)
- Creates an additional “opt in” period for COBRA

HCTC Continued

- State also have access to HHS funds to start high risk insurance pools (NH has an existing one)
- Requires states to re-engineer their process for determining TRA eligibility
- Should not be described as health insurance program
- 60-day TRA eligibility delay also impacts HCTC eligibility
- Requires states to track eligible participants and report to Treasury
- Not automatic
 - Medicare / Medicaid
 - Spouse's employer

8/16 Week Enrollment

- Participant must be enrolled in training no more than:
 - **8 weeks** from the date of the employer certification; OR
 - **16 weeks** from the worker's most recent total separation from adversely affected employment
 - **45-day** “extenuating circumstance” waiver is possible
- Counselors should consider the use of remedial education to assist participants in meeting this requirement
- Break in Training expanded from 14 to 30 days

Co-Enrollment and Rapid Response

- Section 112 (a)2(A)
 - Requires that Rapid Response services be provided to every worker group that files a petition
 - Requires co-enrollment with the WIA Dislocated Worker program

Remedial Education

- Up to 26 weeks of remedial education may be provided
- One week of TRA will be provided for every week of remedial education
- TRA payments for remedial education weeks are made at the end of the “regular” TRA period
- Brings total available weeks of TRA to 130

Job Search and Relocation

- Increases payments maximum to \$1250
- Under relocation the payment is the lesser of 3x the participant's weekly wage or \$1250.00
- Under job search the payment is the lesser of 90% of the actual costs or \$1250.00

Alternative TAA

- Begins August 1, 2003
- Original petition must request determination on worker group's eligibility as a whole
- Requirements
 - Obtains employment within 26 weeks of separation
 - At least 50 years of age
 - Earns not more than \$50k/year in reemployment wages
 - Employed full-time
 - Does not return to employment from which they were separated
- Paid 50% of the difference from the wages at reemployment to the wages at separation, not to exceed \$10k over two years

Other Major Issues

- Limitation on distance learning
- Travel reimbursement guidelines
- Effect of “bumping” on eligibility

Open Mic / Q&A / Issues?

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