



Trade Adjustment Assistance State Profile: Puerto Rico

The Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) Program is a federal program that assists US workers who have lost their jobs as a result of foreign trade. The TAA program seeks to provide these trade-affected workers with opportunities to obtain the skills, resources, and support they need to become reemployed.

...This cannot be and will not be a subsidy program of government paternalism. It is instead a program to afford time for American initiative, American adaptability and American resiliency to assert themselves... Trade Adjustment Assistance... is designed to strengthen the efficiency of our economy, not to protect inefficiencies.

-President John F. Kennedy

2010 Puerto Rico Data

1 TAA petition was certified

130 estimated Puerto Rico workers were covered by new certifications

\$783,391 in federal funds allocated to Puerto Rico to provide benefits and services

How It Works

A petition must be filed with the US Department of Labor by or on behalf of a group of workers who have experienced a job loss as a result of foreign trade. After the Department of Labor investigates the facts behind the petition, it determines whether statutory criteria are met. If the Department grants the petition to certify the worker group, individual workers may apply for TAA benefits and services through their State Workforce Agency.

What We Offer

TAA offers a variety of benefits and services to support workers seeking reemployment: **job training**, **income support**, **job search** and **relocation** allowances, and assistance with **healthcare premium** costs.

Who We Serve

TAA participants come from a variety of backgrounds and industries, and therefore many enter the program with a wide array of skills and experience. However, the majority of TAA participants who enter the program face similar challenges in obtaining reemployment, which can include **no education beyond high school**, job skills solely in the **manufacturing** sector, and an average **age of 46** with over **12 years of experience** in a specific job that may no longer exist. The TAA program has been developed through legislation, regulation, and administrative guidance to best serve the needs of this unique population.

In 2009, the TAA program was expanded to cover more workers, including service sector workers, but those statutory expansions have expired. While the 2009 law was in place, **42 Puerto Rico workers** were certified under the expanded criteria, who may not have been eligible under current law.

Susan worked at her job for approximately 30 years prior to her layoff, and was extremely worried to be "60 years old, without a job, and only have a high school degree." Through TAA, Susan is now in training to become a medical administrative assistant. "The [program] is a blessing for me...it has made a difference, it gives me more dignity. I don't know where a lot of us would be without that education"

-Susan B.