

Fiscal Year 2005- Year End Highlights

Overview

The Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program provides assistance to workers that have been adversely affected by foreign trade. Economic globalization has led to dynamic changes in many business sectors. While many new jobs are created, others are lost.

The TAA program offers the following services to certified individuals: training, weekly income support, out-of-area job search and relocation allowances, and a Health Coverage Tax Credit (HCTC). Reemployment services, including assessment and placement services, are provided as “wrap-around” services through the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and other partner programs, and are essential to ensuring that the TAA training investment results in optimal performance outcomes.

| FY 2005 Performance Highlights | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Petition Investigations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Total Petition Decisions Issued: 2,586 ▪ Total Certifications Issued: 1,545 ▪ Estimated Number of Workers Covered by Certifications: 117,904 ▪ Average Petition Processing Time: 30 days |
| Service Delivery | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ New TRA Recipients: 55,293 ▪ Training Participants: 99,419 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Continuing: 61,224 ○ New Enrollments: 38,195 ▪ Average Weeks of Training Received: 58 ▪ Percent Completing Training: 70 percent |
| Outcomes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Entered Employment Rate: 70 percent (Goal: 70 percent) ▪ Employment Retention Rate: 91 percent (Goal: 89 percent) ▪ Wage Replacement Rate: 76 percent (Goal: 80 percent) ▪ Average Cost Per Participant: \$10,653 (Goal: \$16,000) |

SEPTEMBER 30, 2005 QUARTERLY HIGHLIGHT: TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE

The TAA program is an integral part of the comprehensive workforce development system. The program is essential to helping workers dislocated because of foreign trade adjust to changing market conditions and shifting skill requirements. Addressing the needs of trade-affected workers involved in this transformation is a unique challenge because, in general, these workers are being dislocated from relatively low-skill, high-wage employment. In many cases, this is complicated by mass layoffs or plant closures that occur in single industry towns, which makes finding comparable employment in the same geographic area difficult. Furthermore, many of these jobs are lost permanently from the domestic economy, requiring the skills of affected workers to be completely retooled.

The TAA program achieved significantly improved participant outcomes for FY 2005. Performance on all three of the participant outcomes improved from FY 2004. The entered employment rate rose from 63 percent to 70 percent, the employment retention rate rose from 89 percent to 91 percent, and the wage replacement rate rose from 74 percent to 76 percent. In addition, TAA successfully achieved national performance goals on three of the four outcomes measures: entered employment, employment retention, and the new cost per participant measure.

Participant Characteristics

Participants in the TAA program tend to be older, more experienced workers, with no education beyond high school. Half of all participants are over the age of 45, and a full 18 percent are over the age of 55. On average, a TAA participant has almost 10 years of tenure with the layoff employer. Most TAA participants, 69 percent, have a high school degree or less, and only 6 percent have a college degree.