



Trade Adjustment Assistance

Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) helps trade-affected workers who have lost their jobs as a result of increased imports or shifts in production out of the United States. TAA program benefits and services are provided to help eligible workers get back to work. This fact sheet provides details on the TAA benefits and services available to eligible workers through their local One-Stop Career Centers, and highlights the requirements and deadlines that workers must meet in order to gain the maximum benefit from the program.

Program Services and Benefits

Certified workers who apply for TAA services and benefits may be eligible for the following:

- 1. Reemployment Services** – offers workers assistance in finding a new job. To ensure workers are referred to appropriate job openings and placed in jobs that utilize their highest skills, the following services are generally provided through One-Stop Career Centers:
 - Employment counseling
 - Supportive services
 - Case assessment
 - Job development
 - Job search programs
 - Job referrals
- 2. Job Search Allowances** – may be payable to cover expenses incurred in seeking employment outside a certified worker's normal commuting area if a suitable job is not available in the area. Job search allowances reimburse 90% of the total costs of allowable travel and subsistence: 90% of allowable travel (the lesser of public transportation or mileage based on the Federal mileage rate) and subsistence (the lesser of actual lodging and meals or 50% of the total Federal per diem rate for the area).

Notes:

- *The total maximum allowance for one or more job searches is \$1,250.*
- *An application for a job search allowance must be submitted before a job search begins. Applications may be submitted prior to certification, but will only be approved if the worker group is certified.*
- *An application for a job search allowance must be submitted before the 365th day after the layoff or certification, whichever is later, or 182 days after the conclusion of training.*

- 3. Relocation Allowances** – may reimburse approved expenses when certified workers must move to a new area of employment outside their normal commuting area. Relocation allowances may include:
 - 90% of the reasonable and necessary expenses of moving workers who have secured employment outside of their normal commuting area, their families and their household goods. The amount will be reduced if the worker is entitled to reimbursement from other sources.
 - A lump sum payment equal to three times the worker's average weekly wage (but no more than \$1,250) to help them get settled.

Notes:

- *Requests for relocation allowances must be submitted before the relocation begins. Applications may be submitted prior to certification, but will only be approved if the worker group is certified.*

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4. **Training** – may be provided to certified workers to secure employment of a similar or higher skill level and sustain that employment at the best wage available. Certified workers may receive up to 104 weeks of approved occupational training in a demand occupation. This may include: 1) classroom training; 2) on the-job training; 3) customized employer-based training; 4) basic or remedial education, which may include training in literacy or English as a second language. Up to an additional 26 weeks of training is available to workers who require remedial education.

Six criteria are used to determine if training is approvable under TAA:

1. There is no suitable employment for the worker.
2. The worker would benefit from appropriate training.
3. There is a reasonable expectation of employment following training.
4. Training must be reasonably available to the worker.
5. The worker is qualified to obtain and complete the training, including having adequate financial resources available to complete the training when income support is exhausted.
6. The training is suitable and available at a reasonable cost.

5. **Income Support – Trade Readjustment Allowances (TRA)**– TRA benefits are defined in two (2) categories: Basic TRA and Additional TRA.

Certified workers may be eligible for 104 weeks of income support:

- Generally 26 weeks of state unemployment compensation,
- Followed by 26 weeks of basic TRA, and
- Up to 52 weeks of additional TRA to assist the worker in completing a TAA training program.

Exception: Certified workers who must undergo remedial education as a part of his/her training plan may be eligible for up to 130 weeks of income support:

- Generally 26 weeks of state unemployment compensation,
- Followed by 26 weeks of basic TRA,
- Up to 52 weeks of additional TRA to assist completion of TAA training (as normally allowed), and
- Up to an additional 26 weeks of additional TRA for any weeks the individual must undergo remedial education. The worker is eligible for one week of these 26 weeks for each week that the worker participates in remedial education.

Basic TRA is payable if the worker is enrolled or participating in TAA training, has completed such training, or has obtained a waiver of such training requirement.

Additional TRA is payable only if the worker is participating in TAA approved training.

Notes:

- ***Time Requirement – Workers must be enrolled in approved training within 8 weeks of certification or 16 weeks of the most recent qualifying separation, or have a valid waiver, to receive TRA.***

6. **Training Waivers Under TAA** – Under certain circumstances, eligible workers may be waived from participating in training and still receive Basic TRA. One of the following conditions must exist for training to be determined not feasible or appropriate and thus, waived:

- Worker will be recalled reasonably soon;
- The worker has marketable skills for suitable employment and a reasonable expectation of employment in the foreseeable future;
- The worker is within two years of eligibility for a pension or social security;

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- The worker is unable to participate in or complete training due to the health of the worker;
- Immediate enrollment is not available; or
- No training program is available.

Notes:

- *Waivers are usually issued just once, but are reviewed every 30 days.*
- *Additional TRA is not payable during waiver status (the worker must be in training).*

- 7. Health Insurance Coverage Assistance** - Certified workers may be eligible to receive tax credits for 65% of the monthly health insurance premium they pay. Insurance coverage covered by the tax credit includes COBRA, state COBRA, continuing individual coverage or other state pooling options.

Reemployment Services and Benefits Appeal Rights - All TAA reemployment services and benefits have different deadlines and individual eligibility criteria. Certified workers must meet the criteria under each benefit to receive that reemployment service or benefit.

If certified workers are dissatisfied with the determinations of their individual applications for reemployment services or benefits, they have the same appeal rights as those provided under their state UI law. The determination notice that certified workers receive after filing their applications for each benefit will explain their appeal rights and time limits for filing appeals.

Other Training Opportunities and Reemployment Services - Adversely affected workers who do not qualify for TAA reemployment services and benefits may be eligible for services under the WIA Dislocated Worker program (<http://www.doleta.gov/layoff>), or other programs which may be accessible through a local One-Stop Career Center. Adversely affected workers can find the One-Stop Career Center closest to them by calling 1-877-US2-JOBS toll-free, 1-877-889-5627 (TTY), or by using America's Service Locator (<http://www.servicelocator.org>).