

Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) Benefits

January 2012

Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) is a federal entitlement program which offers assistance to workers who lose their jobs as the result of increased imports or production being moved to a foreign country. TAA offers a variety of benefits and reemployment services to help the unemployed workers prepare for and obtain long-term, suitable employment.

The purpose of Trade Act legislation is to assist workers who have been impacted by foreign competition to return to suitable work as quickly as possible. The Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program assists with activities to achieve that goal. The Trade Readjustment Assistance (TRA) program may provide income support during that process.

Group eligibility must be established for workers whose jobs may be affected. A petition must be filed with the U.S. Department of Labor, Trade Adjustment Assistance Program (TAAP). Petitions may be filed by a company representative, a group of three or more workers, their union, or an authorized representative. Petition forms may be obtained from the Office of Trade Adjustment Assistance website <http://www.doleta.gov/tradeact/>.

Certification is an official authorization by the U.S. Department of Labor (DoL) for a specified group of workers to apply for trade adjustment assistance. Once a company's workers are certified, any of them who have been laid off are eligible to apply for benefits.

TAA includes a variety of benefits and reemployment services to help unemployed workers prepare for and obtain suitable employment in sustainable occupations. Workers may be eligible for training, job search allowances, relocation allowances, and other reemployment services. Weekly Trade Readjustment Allowances (TRA) may be payable to eligible workers following the exhaustion of Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits. Another benefit that may be available to older (50+) TAA eligible workers is a wage subsidy when the worker obtains new employment that pays less than their previous wage.

Except for wage subsidy, TAA benefits may **never** be approved retroactively. Training, relocation, job search, or TRA benefits cannot be paid for costs incurred prior to approval of the requested benefit. All reimbursements are subject to a maximum prescribed by the law under which the participant is eligible.

Contact your local Job Service office to get more information about the Trade Adjustment Assistance program and benefits.