

Trade Act Assistance

What is Trade Adjustment Assistance?

Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) is a federal entitlement program administered by the Idaho Department of Labor that assists U.S. workers who have lost or may lose their jobs as a result of foreign trade. The program provides adversely affected workers with opportunities to obtain the necessary skills, credentials, resources, and support necessary to become re-employed.

Eligibility

Workers may be eligible for the TAA Program if job loss or reduced work hours are due to:

- Production shifted or is shifting to a foreign country
- Increased imports of articles
- Loss of business with a TAA certified firm

Services and Benefits

- **Re-employment Services**

The Idaho Department of Labor assists workers in finding a new job. Re-employment services include: job referrals, job search assistance, resume writing, interview skills workshops, and employment counseling.

- **Training**

The Idaho Department of Labor connects workers with training services at no cost. Allowable types of training include: classroom training, on-the-job training, customized training designed to meet the needs of a specific employer, apprenticeship programs, post-secondary education, remedial education (may include GED preparation), literacy training, basic math or English as a second language. When the training facility is outside the commuting area, some transportation costs may be paid. Additional eligibility criterion must be met to receive training paid by the TAA Program.

- **Job Search Allowance**

Job search allowance reimburses workers for authorized expenses incurred while seeking employment outside the commuting area. Job search allowance may include 90 percent of the authorized travel and subsistence costs up to \$1,250 maximum. An application for job search allowance must meet filing deadlines and be submitted before the job search begins.

- **Relocation Allowance**

Relocation allowance reimburses workers for authorized expenses to move outside the commuting area for employment. Relocation allowances may include 90 percent of the reasonable and necessary costs to move the worker, family and household goods to a new area. In addition, workers may receive a lump sum payment equal to three times their former average weekly wage up to \$1,250 maximum. An application for relocation allowance must meet filing deadlines and be submitted before the relocation begins.

- **Trade Readjustment Allowance (TRA)**

Trade Readjustment Allowance (TRA) is weekly income support to workers enrolled in full-time training. The amount of each TRA payment is based on the weekly unemployment insurance (UI) benefit amount already received. *Workers must have been entitled to receive UI benefits and exhausted UI entitlement before receiving TRA.* There are three types of TRA: Basic, Additional, and Completion. Additional eligibility criterion must be met to receive each type of TRA.

- **Reemployment Trade Adjustment Assistance (RTAA)**

Reemployment Trade Adjustment Assistance (RTAA) is a wage subsidy available to re-employed workers age 50 or older who do not earn more than \$50,000 annually. RTAA payments may total 50 percent of the difference between the old and new wages, with a maximum of \$10,000 paid over a period of up to two years. Workers who receive RTAA are eligible to apply for Health Coverage Tax Credit (HCTC) and TAA training. *Workers may qualify for RTAA when working part-time (employed at least 20 hours a week) and participating in TAA approved training.* Workers may choose between TRA and RTAA but may not receive both concurrently or TRA after receiving RTAA.

Trade Adjustment Assistance Petitions

Workers must be approved under a federal Trade Adjustment Assistance petition to receive services and benefits. Petitions may be filed by any of the following: three or more workers, the worker's employer, a union official or duly authorized representative of such workers, and State Workforce agencies. Petitions are submitted on the U.S. Department of Labor website www.doleta.gov/tradeact or by mail. The U.S. Department of Labor Office of Trade Adjustment Assistance conducts an investigation resulting in approval (certification) or denial of the petition application. Approved petitions carry an impact date and generally are valid for two years from the certification date. Denied petitions may be appealed in writing through the Office of Trade Adjustment Assistance. All petition determinations are posted on the USDOL TAA website and published in the Federal Register.

For additional information, contact any Idaho Department of Labor local office or

Idaho Department of Labor
Workforce Development Division
317 W. Main St. Boise, ID 83735-0780
Phone: (208) 332-3570
Fax: (208) 947-0047
Email: trade@labor.idaho.gov