

Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) - Frequently Asked Questions

General

Q. What is Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA)?

Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) is a federal program to help people who lost, or may lose, a job because specifically their employer was negatively impacted by foreign trade/competition.

Q. What are the benefits of TAA?

- **Help finding a new job** – NYS Employment Counselors can assist impacted workers with skills assessment, career counseling, resume writing and interview skills, job referrals and more.
- **Reimbursement for training or school** -- The TAA Program will pay for tuition and other expenses involved in obtaining a degree or industry-recognized credential.
- **Transportation and subsistence payments** – The TAA Program may pay for transportation and lodging costs when attending training outside your commuting area.
- **Job search allowances** – The TAA Program may pay for travel expenses to job interviews outside your commuting area.
- **Relocation allowances** – The TAA Program may pay moving expenses for you and your family if you must move outside your commuting area for a new job.

Q. How do I qualify for TAA?

To be eligible for TAA benefits, the United States Department of Labor (USDOL) must certify the employer was impacted by foreign trade and that is the reason the worker became unemployed, or wages/hours were reduced.

Q. Who lets USDOL know of a potential impact from foreign trade?

Notification is done by submitting a petition. A petition can be submitted by any one of the following:

- A group of two co-workers from the same firm at the same job location
- A union official
- A company official
- A representative of a state or local agency

Q. How can I learn if a petition was filed for my employer?

The USDOL website at www.doleta.gov/tradeact maintains a list of petitions and certifications.

Q. Will I be notified by NYSDOL if I am eligible for TAA benefits?

Yes. You will receive an introduction letter from the NYS Department of Labor that will provide information on the TAA program, help get you engaged with re-employment services available at NYSDOL, and who will help you apply for TAA benefits.

Q. How do I find a local NYS Career Center?

To find the NYS Career Center nearest you, go to <http://labor.ny.gov/career-center-locator/>, or call the NYSDOL Contact Center at 1-888-469-7365.

Q. What are the criteria for approved training under the TAA program?

To receive paid training under TAA, you must meet the following criteria:

- No suitable employment is available for you
- You will benefit from the training
- There is a reasonable expectation of re-employment following the completion of training
- You are qualified to undertake and complete the training
 - You have the knowledge, skills, abilities, educational background, work experience, and financial resources are adequate to undertake and complete the specific training program being considered
- Training is reasonably available
- Training is appropriate and available at a reasonable cost

Q. Does my training benefit expire?

No. Once your training benefit (paid tuition and related expenses) is approved under a certified petition there is no expiration date, provided the federal government continues to provide funding for the TAA program.

Q: What happens if I exhaust my weekly Unemployment Insurance benefits?

You may be eligible for Trade Re-Adjustment Allowances (TRA). Basic TRA benefits are weekly allowances payable for up to 26 weeks after your regular Unemployment Insurance benefits are exhausted. To receive all 26 weeks of basic TRA, you must be either enrolled in TAA-approved training or waived from training on or before your training enrollment deadline.

To learn more about TRA contact the NYS Department of Labor. To find the NYS Career Center nearest you, go to <http://labor.ny.gov/career-center-locator/>, or call the NYSDOL Contact Center at 1-888-469-7365.

Q. What is Job Search Allowance?

Job Search Allowance offers reimbursement for a percentage of travel expenses when you must travel outside your commuting area for a job search. In most cases, this would be to attend a pre-scheduled and verifiable interview with an employer.

Q. What is Relocation Allowance?

Relocation Allowance helps defray the cost of relocation when: you cannot reasonably be expected to find suitable employment in the commuting area in which you reside AND you have found suitable, employment in an area (within the United States) in which you wish to relocate.

Q. What is Alternative Trade Adjustment Assistance (ATAA)?

The ATAA program helps workers over age 50 by providing a supplement of 50% of the wage difference between their previous employment and new employment. To qualify, you must be entitled under petition numbers 98,000 and above. The petition number you are entitled under can be found on your Notice of Entitlement (Form TA722).

To qualify for ATAA, you must be:

- Determined entitled to TAA and ATAA
- Employed full-time within 26 weeks from your last day of work with the trade-affected

- employer
- At least 50 years old when you start your new job
- Expected to earn an annual salary that is less than what you earned with the trade-affected employer and less than \$50,000 a year

Q. What is Re-employment Trade Adjustment Assistance (RTAA)?

The RTAA program helps workers over 50 years of age by providing a supplement that pays 50% of the wage difference between their previous employment and new employment. To qualify, you must be entitled under petition numbers 70,000 to 97,999. The petition number you are entitled under can be found on your Notice of Entitlement (Form TA722).

Q. Who can I contact for more information about the TAA benefits?

TAA Central Office

Email: TAA.WDTD@labor.ny.gov

Phone: 518-457-1829