

Getting Back to Work After a Trade-Related Layoff

Trade Adjustment Assistance, as expanded by the Trade Adjustment Assistance Reauthorization Act of 2015

The Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program, known as the “Trade Act,” provides benefits and support to workers who become unemployed, or are threatened with job loss, due to the impact of international trade. If you are eligible, you can receive benefits and services such as:

- Job training
- Income support payments
- Job search and moving allowances
- A tax credit to help pay for health insurance
- A wage supplement if you are age 50 or older

The Trade Adjustment Assistance Reauthorization Act of 2015 expands the group eligibility requirements, and individual benefits and services, available under TAA. These changes apply to TAA group eligibility applications filed on or after January 1, 2014 through June 30, 2021. These applications are assigned petition numbers TA-W-85,000 and higher. Applications that the United States Department of Labor certifies generally cover workers who are laid off over a three-year period.

Who Can Benefit?

Workers can qualify for TAA benefits if the company they work (or worked) for has or will reduce its workforce due to pressure from international trade, and the company:

- Produces articles (manufacturing company)
or
- Provides a service (service company) such as IT support, financial services, testing, packaging, maintenance, transportation
or

- Produces parts of a finished article produced by its customers
or
- Is identified by the US International Trade Commission as trade-injured

Trade Adjustment Assistance includes:

Training Options

Workers can receive various kinds of training for in-demand skills, such as:

- On-the-job training
- Customized training designed to meet the needs of a specific employer or group of employers
- Higher education
- Remedial education (may include high school equivalency diploma preparation, literacy training, basic math, or English as a Second Language)
- Apprenticeship programs

Either full- or part-time training may be approved. However, you must be enrolled in full-time training to receive a Trade Readjustment Allowance.

You may enroll in classes at accredited colleges and universities, including pre-requisite courses required for a degree-granting program.

Training may be approved to begin before you are laid off.

Employment and Case Management Services:

- Skill assessments
- Career counseling
- Resume-writing and interview skills workshops
- Job referrals
- Supportive services
- Information on training, and more



Trade Readjustment Allowances

While you are in full-time training, you may receive Trade Readjustment Allowances (TRA) (similar to Unemployment Insurance payments) for up to 130 weeks.* To be eligible for TRA, you must be:

- Approved for training and
- Enrolled within 26 weeks after your layoff or after your company is certified for TAA benefits, whichever is later.

*130-week maximum includes the weeks of Unemployment Insurance collected.

Job Search Allowances

Workers can have eligible expenses from job searches outside the area covered. Job search allowances reimburse 90% of the costs of allowable travel and subsistence, up to a maximum of \$1,250.

Health Coverage Tax Credit

You can receive a tax credit for 72.5 percent of your monthly health insurance premium, as long as your insurance plan qualifies.

Relocation allowances

Workers can be approved to have some of the cost of moving to a new area for a new job covered. Relocation allowances may include 90% of the reasonable and necessary expenses involved in moving you, your family and household goods to a new area following your re-employment outside of your normal commuting area. In addition, you may receive a lump-sum payment equal to three times your average weekly wage, up to a maximum payment of \$1,250.

Re-employment Trade Adjustment Assistance (RTAA)

You may be eligible for a wage supplement for up to two years, if you are age 50 or over and are re-employed at annual wages of \$50,000 or less.

When can I access my Trade Adjustment Assistance Benefits?

Once you are identified as belonging to a worker group whose petition was certified by the United States Department of Labor, you will receive an Application for Trade Adjustment Assistance from the New York State Department of Labor. You must return this application immediately. Your application will be reviewed, and you will receive a Determination of Entitlement to Trade Adjustment Assistance. You should then make an appointment with a TAA counselor at your local Career Center as soon as possible. Your TAA counselor will explain what benefits you may be entitled to. There are deadlines associated with certain TAA benefits.

Benefits are available beginning September 28, 2015.

For details, contact your local New York State Career Center. For more information on TAA benefits, visit www.doleta.gov/tradeact/.