

TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE (TAA) FOR WORKERS ***In Washington State***

(A related TAA for Firms program is administered by the U.S. Department of Commerce: www.nwtaac.org)

ABOUT

The U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) TAA program or "Trade Act", first created in 1974, assists individuals who have become unemployed as a result of foreign trade or outsourcing. It hardly compensates for the loss of American jobs but it does provide far superior benefits to any other program that's available to support laid off workers in returning to work.

ELIGIBILITY

TAA eligibility is determined by the USDOL. Generally speaking, it is available to workers who have lost their jobs, through no fault of their own, due to the below factors:

- A **shift in production** to a foreign country;
- the **outsourcing of work** to a foreign country;
- **increased imports** of competing products into the United States;
- the loss of business from a **TAA certified customer**; and/or,
- the industry was affected by unexpected import surges, as defined by an **affirmative injury decision by the U.S. International Trade Commission**.

Certified TAA petitions cover workers laid off one year prior to the date the petition is filed and up to two years after the certification date.

BENEFITS

Benefits for TAA eligible workers may include, based on the worker's needs:

- **Retraining Support** –fully funded training
- **Trade Readjustment Allowance** – extended income support (equivalent to a weekly Unemployment Insurance benefit) while in long-term training
- **Job Search Allowance** – reimbursement to travel for interviews
- **Relocation Allowance** – reimbursement of travel costs and a relocation stipend to move for employment
- **Older Worker Wage Subsidy** – a 50% wage subsidy – for workers over 50 who receive employment at a lower wage than their trade affected layoff
- **Health Coverage Tax Credit** – 72.5% coverage of a qualified healthcare plan

PROCESS

To access TAA benefits a petition must be submitted to the USDOL by three workers, the employer, the union, WorkSource or the WA Employment Security Department (ESD). The determination process can take up to 3 months on average. Upon determination, the petitioner is notified by the USDOL. If certified, the worker group is contacted by ESD.

WE CAN HELP

The Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO (WSLC) provides technical assistance to all Washington workers and employers (union and non-union) in the TAA program. We help **evaluate the impacts of foreign competition/trade** in layoff events, **file petitions**, **access benefits** and **track pending and certified petitions** state-wide. In partnership with ESD, the WSLC administers a TAA-Washington website to provide these services and connect workers and employers with the resources available in the program and through WorkSource (www.go2worksource.com).

www.TAA-Washington.org
Bill Messenger – 360.357.8736 – bmessenger@wslc.org
Emmanuel Flores – 360.570.5170 – eflores@wslc.org