

## **TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE (TAA) TRADE READJUSTMENT ALLOWANCES (TRA) BENEFIT RIGHTS INFORMATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

**IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU READ THIS INFORMATION TO UNDERSTAND WHAT BENEFITS ARE AVAILABLE, HOW TO APPLY FOR EACH BENEFIT AND WHAT IS REQUIRED TO QUALIFY FOR EACH BENEFIT.**

Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) helps workers who have been adversely affected by foreign competition. This document provides information about the benefits and reemployment services that may be available under TAA to assist you prepare for and obtain suitable employment. These benefits and services include training; job search allowances; relocation allowances; Trade Readjustment Allowances (TRA); Health Coverage Tax Credit (HCTC); and a wage subsidy for workers 50 years of age and older, Reemployment Trade Adjustment Assistance (RTAA) or Alternative Trade Adjustment Assistance (ATAA), depending on your applicable Trade Act petition number and certification. Details about ATAA are available on form TAA-228A/*Benefit Rights Information and Responsibilities Supplement*.

### **REEMPLOYMENT SERVICES**

**TRAINING** You will have an opportunity to meet with staff in your local CTWorks center for an assessment of your employment and training needs. You will be advised about the employment outlook for workers with different job skills, the kinds of work best suited to your aptitudes and interests, and the no-cost instructional opportunities that may be available to you such as workshops on résumé writing and interviewing techniques. If there are no suitable jobs and training would improve your reemployment chances, you may explore appropriate training opportunities and related occupational goals. TAA will sponsor training if your training plan meets TAA requirements and funds are available. Training may occur on-the-job or in a classroom setting and may include college-level courses, technical or vocational training and remedial education. You may receive the balance of your unemployment compensation or TRA funds while you train, as long as you continue to participate in an approved training program. Information about training disqualifications is included on the next page.

**JOB SEARCH ALLOWANCES** A job search allowance may be payable to cover expenses incurred while seeking employment outside your commuting area. Only travel within the United States is authorized. **There are time limits for filing applications for job search allowance.** You must file for job search allowances within 365 days after the date of certification or 365 days after the date of your last total qualifying separation (whichever is later), or within 182 days after the completion of TAA-approved training. **Your application must be filed and approved before seeking employment outside your commuting area.** Additional details are available on form TAA-861C/*Job Search Allowance Process and Fact Sheet*. A TAA counselor in your local CTWorks center will help you apply.

**RELOCATION ALLOWANCES** If you are successful in obtaining long-term employment outside your commuting area, requiring relocation within the United States, the TAA program offers financial assistance for you to relocate to your new area of employment. **There are time limits for filing an application for relocation allowance.** You must file for a relocation allowance within 425 days after the date of certification or 425 days after your last total qualifying separation (whichever is later), or within 182 days after you complete TAA-approved training. Also, you must relocate within 182 days after you apply for a relocation allowance, or within 182 days after you complete training. **Your application must be filed and approved before moving.** Additional details are available on form TAA-860C/*Relocation Allowance Process and Fact Sheet*. A TAA counselor in your local CTWorks center will help you apply.

### **TRADE READJUSTMENT ALLOWANCES (TRA)**

Trade Readjustment Allowances (TRA) provides income support to workers enrolled in full-time training. If you qualify for TRA based on your length of employment, the number of weeks potentially available will depend upon the duration and nature of your training. One form of TRA, basic TRA, may be received without training if training is not suitable and appropriate and you qualify for a training waiver. Additional details follow on the next page.

**There is a training enrollment deadline for TRA:**

If your Trade Act petition number is greater than 70000

You must enroll in TAA-approved training, or obtain a training waiver, before the last day of the 26th week after the date of either 1) the Trade Act certification providing your TAA eligibility or 2) your most recent qualifying separation, whichever is later.

If your Trade Act petition number is less than 70000 (and greater than 50000)

You must enroll in TAA-approved training, or obtain a training waiver, before the last day of the 8th week after the date of the Trade Act certification providing your TAA eligibility or the last day of the 16th week following your most recent qualifying separation, whichever is later.

The time limits described above may be extended by 45 days if the Administrator determines that there are extenuating circumstances that justify an extension in the training enrollment period. Additional provisions relating to the deadline may also apply if your petition number is greater than 70000. For example, if you received late notice of your ability to apply for TAA, your training enrollment deadline is the Monday of the first week occurring 60 days after notification.

**BASIC TRA BENEFITS** If you qualify for TRA, you have an eligibility period of 104 weeks, in which you can be paid TRA. This eligibility period begins the first week after your most recent total qualifying separation from adversely affected employment. The maximum amount of basic TRA you may receive during this period is limited to 52 times your TRA weekly amount payable minus all unemployment compensation benefits you are entitled to receive. [Unemployment compensation includes regular state unemployment benefits, extended benefits (EB) and emergency unemployment compensation (EUC).] For example: If you are entitled to 26 weeks of unemployment benefits, you may receive up to 26 weeks of basic TRA. If your petition number is between 70000 and 79999, participation in prerequisite training may also extend your eligibility period, as may other factors such as military service or delayed certification of your worker group, if a lengthy appeal process in fact preceded certification. If your petition number is less than 79,999 you may have an eligibility period of up to 130 weeks if remedial education is part of your employment plan.

**ADDITIONAL TRA BENEFITS** You may qualify to receive additional weeks of TRA to assist you to complete an approved training program. Once additional TRA payments begin, they must be paid during an eligibility period that runs for consecutive weeks.

If your Trade Act petition number is between 70000 and 79999

You may receive up to 78 weeks of additional TRA during a 91-week eligibility period.

If your Trade Act petition number is less than 70000 (and greater than 50000)

You may receive up to 52 weeks of additional TRA during a 52-week eligibility period. You must also submit a bona fide application\* for training to your CTWorks TAA counselor within 210 days of either the certification date or, if later, your most recent qualifying separation.

If your Trade Act petition number is greater than 80000

You may receive up to 65 weeks of additional TRA during a 78-week eligibility period.

For petition numbers less than 79999, up to 26 weeks of extra benefits may be also available if your training program includes remedial education. Such weeks are also intended to help you complete your training. If your petition number is between 70000 and 79999, the extra 26 weeks may be based on participation in either remedial education or necessary prerequisite courses. For petition numbers greater than 80000 an extra 13 weeks of TRA may be available to help you complete your training. Eligibility will require completing established benchmarks throughout the training plan.

\*A bona fide application is a signed JS-52/TAA *Training Application and Proposal* form. Your initial TAA-855/*Request for Entitlement Determination* is not considered a bona fide application for training.

**TRAINING PROGRAMS AND WAIVERS** The TRA training requirement may be waived if training is not suitable and appropriate. A waiver may be issued for one of the following reasons:

Available for all petition numbers

1) you are unable to participate in training due to your health; 2) the first available enrollment date for the approved training is delayed; 3) approved training is not reasonably available to you from either governmental agencies or private sources, training is not available at a reasonable cost, or no training funds are available.

Available only for petition numbers less than 79999

4) you expect to be recalled to work; 5) you have marketable skills and there is a reasonable expectation of suitable employment in the foreseeable future; 6) you are within two years of meeting all requirements for receipt of Social Security or a private pension

Your waiver may be revoked if training subsequently becomes suitable and appropriate or you fail to comply with follow-up as directed. If you have not enrolled in or completed TAA-approved training, a waiver is necessary to receive basic TRA and satisfy the training enrollment deadline that pertains to basic and additional TRA. If you are participating in or have completed a training course, and are filing for TRA benefits or expect to file for TRA in the future, bring pertinent information about the training program with you when you meet with a TAA representative at your local CTWorks center.

**TRAINING AND YOUR AVAILABILITY FOR WORK** While you are enrolled in TAA-approved training, you will not have to seek or accept employment. You can collect unemployment compensation and your TRA entitlement without being attached to the labor market. If you have completed training, or have had the training requirement waived, you must meet the work search requirements imposed by state and federal law (detailed on form TRA-229/*TRA Work Search Requirements*).

**TRAINING DISQUALIFICATIONS** If you are approved for training and, without justifiable cause, fail to begin or cease participating, you will be ineligible for TRA (if otherwise eligible) and any other payment under the Trade Act, for the week of such occurrence and any week thereafter until the week in which you enter or resume approved training. Justifiable cause would be determined by comparing your actions with the actions of a reasonable individual in similar circumstance and may include, but is not limited to, reasons beyond your control. If you fail to begin or complete approved training, you may be liable for an overpayment of TAA benefits, including TRA and/or training costs.

## REEMPLOYMENT TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE (RTAA)

Reemployment Trade Adjustment Assistance (RTAA) is available to you if you return to work that pays less than your trade-impacted job, are at least 50 years of age or older (or will be at the time of reemployment), and your petition number is greater than 70000. RTAA is a wage subsidy that pays fifty percent of the difference between your wages at separation and your wages in reemployment. Reemployment wages may not be expected to exceed \$55,000 per year for petition numbers between 70,000 and 79,999; petitions numbers greater than 80,000 the reemployment wages may not be expected to exceed \$50,000 per year. You must be reemployed 1) full time, working at least 35 hours per week in one or more jobs, or 2) part time -- at least 20 hours per week -- while also participating in TAA-approved training. (When reemployed part time while in training, the RTAA subsidy is prorated.) The RTAA eligibility period is two years from the date of your qualifying reemployment or two years after exhausting unemployment compensation based on your most recent separation from trade-impacted employment, whichever comes first. If you have already received TRA, the RTAA eligibility period will begin with the date of your qualifying reemployment, reduced by the number of weeks of TRA you have received. You may not return to the employment from which you separated, meaning the firm or, if applicable, the firm subdivision, specified in the Trade Act certification of your worker group. In the event your reemployment ends, your RTAA subsidy will terminate and you may not again receive TRA. Your RTAA subsidy may resume, however, if you obtain qualifying reemployment within the established RTAA eligibility period. The maximum RTAA subsidy allowed for a petition number between 70,000 and 79,999 is \$12,000; for petition numbers greater than 80,000 the maximum subsidy is \$10,000. If you are 50 years of age or older and covered under a petition that includes ATAA (numbered less than 70000 and greater than 50000), you may be interested in a similar wage subsidy, **Alternative Trade Adjustment Assistance (ATAA)**. ATAA benefit requirements are detailed on form TAA-228A/*Benefit Rights Information and Responsibilities Supplement*.

## HEALTH COVERAGE TAX CREDIT (HCTC)

If you qualify for TRA and are receiving either TRA or regular unemployment compensation, or you are receiving RTAA or ATAA, you may be eligible for the Health Coverage Tax Credit (HCTC). If you are determined eligible and have a qualified health plan, you can use the credit to cover 72.5% of the cost of health insurance premiums for yourself and any eligible family members. HCTC is also available to recipients of Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC) pension payments. For additional information, access the IRS web site at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) (Keyword/Search: "HCTC") or call 1-866-628-HCTC (4282) [TTY phone is 1-866-626-4282].

**If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact a Trade Act representative in your local CTWorks center.** For locations visit [www.ct.gov/dol](http://www.ct.gov/dol) or call 1(888)-CTWORKS.

