

TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE (TAA)

Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) was established under the Trade Act of 1974 to help American workers who lost their jobs as a result of increased imports, or shift in production to foreign countries. It is a federal program administered by the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) and cooperating state employment security agencies.

The Trade Act has been amended several times over the past 35 years. The latest amendments in 2009 made substantive changes to the TAA program including expanded coverage to more workers and firms (including those in the service sector), and improved workers' opportunities for training, health insurance coverage, and reemployment.

Allowances and Special Assistance

Eligible workers receive Trade Readjustment Allowances (TRA) during periods of unemployment. The program also assists workers to regain satisfactory employment through the use of a full range of employment services and, if needed, provides classroom and/or on-the-job training, job search, and relocation allowances. Eligible TAA recipients receiving TRA benefits may also be eligible for the Health Coverage Tax Credit program.

A basic claim is a fixed dollar amount payable within a 130-week benefit period that begins with the first week following the worker's most recent TRA-qualifying separation.

Within the 130-week benefit period, the worker may receive up to 26 weeks of regular Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits, 26 weeks of basic TRA benefits, and up to 78 weeks of additional TRA allowances while attending training. In addition, individuals needing to complete remedial education courses may be entitled to another 26 weeks of additional TRA allowances.

The weekly TRA rate is the same as for UI. The maximum TRA benefit is 78 times the weekly UI benefit amount minus the total amount of a worker's UI claim and any related extensions.

Petitioning for TAA

If increased import competition has contributed significantly to the workers' unemployment, a petition for TAA may be filed by any group of three or more workers of a firm or subdivision of a firm, their union, or their duly authorized representative. The group may petition the U.S. DOL for a determination of eligibility to apply for TAA.

Workers may obtain a *Petition for TAA* (ETA 9042A) by:

- Contacting any local Employment Development Department (EDD) staff at: www.edd.ca.gov or
- Downloading the petition form from the U.S. DOL, Employment and Training Administration Web site at: www.doleta.gov/tradeact/petitions.cfm

Certification

If the U.S. DOL determines that trade import injury has occurred, it will issue a certification of eligibility so that employees who have been laid off or had their hours reduced, as well as incumbent workers, may apply for TAA.

A certification is an official authorization by the U.S. DOL for a specified group of workers to apply for TAA. The certification indicates the date that the group of workers becomes eligible to apply for TAA.

A worker who learns that their group has been certified must contact the local EDD office to apply for TAA. The EDD will determine if the worker is covered by the certification, and whether basic qualifying requirements have been met.

Qualifying Requirements

The basic qualifying requirements are:

- The worker must have been laid off for lack of work on or after the impact date and before the termination date of the certification.
- The worker must have had weekly wages of \$30 or more in adversely affected employment in at least 26 of the previous 52 weeks, ending with the week of the worker's separation.

Affected workers who move to another state and learn subsequently that former employees of their previous company have been certified eligible to apply for TAA should contact the nearest employment office immediately to file a benefit application.

EDD is an equal opportunity employer/program.
Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.