

Reemployment Trade Adjustment Assistance (RTAA) Information

The Trade Act of 1974 established the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program for workers who lose their jobs or have their hours and wages reduced as the result of import competition, or a shift in production to another country. The TAA program provides federal training/retraining benefits and services to trade impacted workers.

The Trade Act program, as amended in 2002 and 2009, includes an alternative TAA program for older workers. The Reemployment Trade Adjustment Assistance (RTAA) program is designed to allow TAA eligible workers who are at least 50 years old, and who find reemployment, to receive a wage subsidy to help bridge the salary gap between their old and new employment.

Trade impacted workers age 50 and older who become reemployed full time, or become reemployed at least 20 hours per week and are enrolled full time in approved training, may be eligible for the RTAA program. Reemployment must be at a firm other than the firm where separated, unless the TAA certification is for a subdivision of the firm and the reemployment is in another subdivision. Workers earning less in their new job than they were earning in their adversely-affected employment are eligible to receive one-half the difference between the worker's old RTAA qualifying wage and the new wage, as long as the new wage is less than \$55,000 a year. The RTAA wage subsidy payments are payable during a two-year eligibility period, up to \$12,000, depending on Trade Readjustment Assistance (TRA) participation.

Participants in the RTAA program may also receive TAA training, employment and case management services, and job search and relocation allowances under certain conditions.

RTAA may be paid to participants working part time if they are enrolled full time in a TAA-approved training. Participants may collect RTAA payments after a period of receiving TRA payments. While workers are seeking employment (to qualify for the RTAA program), actions should be taken to ensure regular TAA deadlines are met and program options preserved.

The TAA program requires participants be enrolled in and attending an approved training/retraining program to be eligible for extended federal weekly income support (TRA benefits). To qualify for TRA benefits, under the TAA program, you must be enrolled in and attending an approved training/retraining program within:

- The later of 26 weeks after the petition certification date or 26 weeks after layoff, or
- Have applied for and received a training waiver during the same 26 week timeframe.

Submit a *Reemployment Trade Adjustment Assistance (RTAA) Individual Application*, DE 8330RTAA, at the time of reemployment.

The Internal Revenue Service does consider payments made on the RTAA program as taxable income.