



TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE

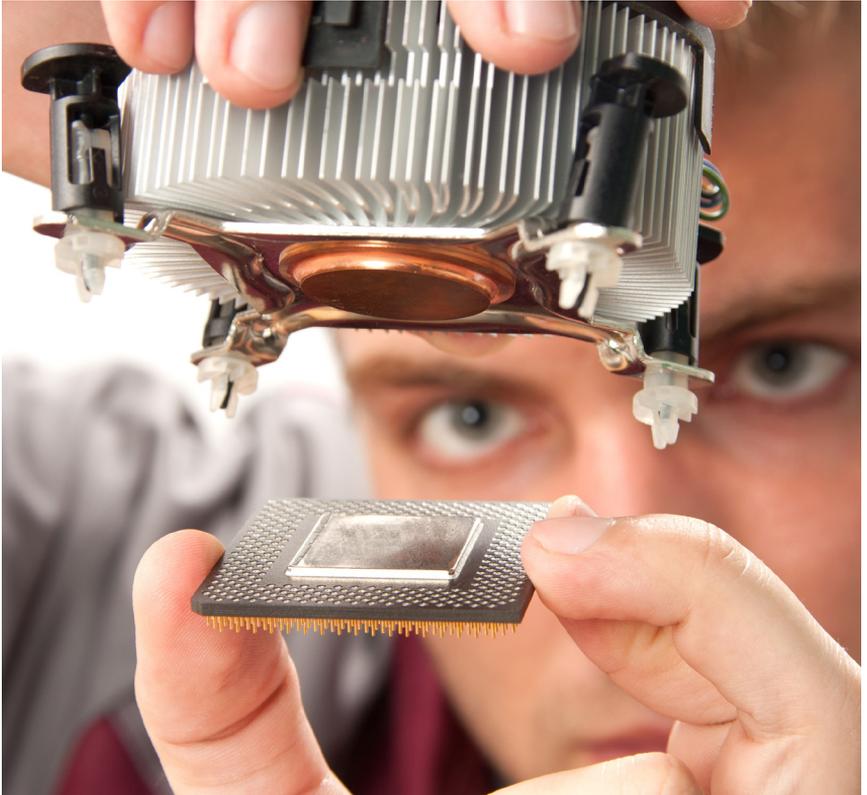
2016 ANNUAL REPORT



Introduction

The Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program helps trade-affected workers transition into long-term suitable employment. The number of participants receiving services and benefits varies based on the specific TAA-related certification. This report describes the services and outcomes for TAA-certified workers who participated or completed training in the TAA program during State Fiscal Year 2016 (SFY'16).

TAA-certified workers covered in this report were certified under and subject to the rules of the Trade Act of 1974, the Trade Act of 2002, the Trade and Globalization Adjustment Assistance Act of 2009, the Trade Adjustment Assistance Extension Act of 2011, or the Trade Adjustment Assistance Reauthorization Act of 2015 (TAARA 2015).



TAA Service Provision and Outcomes

During SFY'16, the Texas workforce system provided the following TAA services and outcomes:

- 11,628 workers were determined potentially TAA eligible and outreached for service provision
- 1,181 workers applied for TAA services or benefits
- 2,733 workers participated in TAA-supported training services. The most common training occupations supported were:
 - ▶ Hairdressers, Hairstylists, and Cosmetologists
 - ▶ Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanic
 - ▶ Truck Driver
 - ▶ Welders, Cutters, Solderers and Brazers
 - ▶ Office Clerk
- 295 workers participated in vocational and remedial training programs, either integrated or conducted concurrently at the same school.

The following performance results were attained for the 1,676 workers exiting TAA services in SFY'16:

- 1,279 (76 percent) entered employment
- Of those entering employment, 90 percent retained employment over the following three quarters
- Workers securing employment regained 90 percent of pre-layoff wage levels, based on a six-month follow-up
- 507 workers participated in basic skills enhancement during TAA-supported training

The following were the most common sectors in which workers secured employment:

- Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services
- Manufacturing
- Retail Trade

TAA Overview and Petition Process

TAA is a federal program that assists U.S. workers who have lost or may lose their jobs as a result of foreign trade. TAA seeks to provide adversely affected workers with opportunities to obtain the skills, credentials, resources, and support necessary to become reemployed. TAA services and benefits are administered by the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) in cooperation with Texas' 28 Local Workforce Development Boards.

The first step to receiving TAA benefits and services is to file a petition online or by mail with the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL). Petitions can be obtained online or at Workforce Solutions Offices and can be filed by:

- three or more workers in the same firm or subdivision
- the workers' employer
- a union official or other duly authorized representative of the workers
- designated TWC or Workforce Solutions Office staff

Upon receiving a petition, DOL initiates an investigation to determine whether the circumstances of the layoff meet the group eligibility criteria established by the Trade Act of 1974, as amended.

TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION
101 East 15th Street ■ Austin, Texas 78778-0001
512.463.2222

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

Relay Texas: 800-735-2989 (TTY) and 711 (Voice).

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WWW.TEXASWORKFORCE.ORG

TAA Program Eligibility

A TAA petition identifies a worker group at a specific firm or subdivision and covers all individuals in that group. Generally, if a worker is laid off, a petition must be submitted within one year of the layoff for that worker to be covered and certified under a DOL-approved petition.

A group of workers may be eligible for TAA if their jobs are lost or threatened due to trade-related circumstances as determined by DOL investigation. These circumstances may include:

- increased imports of articles or products
- shift in production to or an acquisition of services or articles from any foreign country by the worker group's company
- employer's loss of business from a customer with TAA-certified workers
- employer identified as trade-injured by the International Trade Commission

After investigation, DOL determines group eligibility to apply for TAA benefits and services. Once a determination is issued by DOL, TWC contacts the employer to secure individual worker eligibility, which is predicated on separation due to lack of work (layoff). Workers are notified by TWC of their potential eligibility, at which time they may apply for services at Workforce Solutions Offices.

Note: TAARA 2015 restores the service sector coverage. This should eventually increase the number of TAA-certified participants eligible in Texas.



TAA Benefits and Services

If a worker is a member of a DOL TAA-certified group, the worker may be eligible for the following benefits and services at a Workforce Solutions Office:

Employment and Case Management Services

Skill assessments, career counseling, support services, information on training, and more

Training

Up to 130 weeks of occupational training.

Trade Readjustment Allowances

Up to 130 weeks of wage subsidies for workers enrolled in training within 26 weeks of their trade-related layoff or the petition certification, whichever date is later.

Alternative/Reemployment Trade Adjustment Assistance

A wage subsidy, available to workers age 50 or over who are reemployed at annual wages of \$50,000 or less

Job Search Allowance

Reimbursement for costs of job search outside the worker's local commuting area

Relocation Allowance

Reimbursement for relocation costs for a job outside the worker's local commuting area.

Health Coverage Tax Credit

Provides assistance with the payment of premiums for qualifying health insurance, this program is administered by the Internal Revenue Service.

For additional information on TAA benefits and services, visit TWC's website at www.twc.state.tx.us and click on the TWC Agency Information tab, select *Programs & Services Overviews* tab and select the *Trade Adjustment Assistance* link.