

Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA)

What you should know about your job and foreign trade!

Did you lose your manufacturing job because of foreign imports, or because your employer moved your job to a foreign country?

If so, Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) may help you get a new job. You may also qualify for paid benefits while you participate in job training.



2002 Trade Act

**Get details at your Workforce Solutions office
(Workforce Center)**



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This is an overview of TAA. It does not cover everything in the 2002 Trade Act or Texas Unemployment Compensation Act. For specific assistance, contact your local Workforce Solutions (Workforce Center) office. Find your nearest Workforce Center at www.texasworkforce.org.



What are TAA benefits?

TAA provides benefits and training to workers who lost their manufacturing jobs to foreign imports or competition. To qualify, you must be a trade-affected worker covered by a trade petition certified by the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL). TAA includes the following benefits:

- ***Self-Directed Job Search***—improves job-hunting skills.
- ***Job Search Allowances***—pays travel expenses for job interviews outside your local area.
- ***Relocation Allowances***—pays most of the moving expenses for you and your family if you get a job outside your local area.
- ***Training (Vocational and Remedial)***—pays for training for a new occupation.
- ***Trade Readjustment Allowances (TRA)***—pays while you are in full-time training after your regular Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits end.
- ***Alternative Trade Adjustment Assistance (ATAA)***—supplements your wages after certification when you are at least 50 years old, working full-time, and earning less than you did before.
- ***Health Coverage Tax Credit (HCTC)***—pays partial premiums for health insurance. You may use the credit to pay health insurance premiums or as a credit on your annual income tax return.



What are my TAA responsibilities?

Take these actions if DOL certified you as trade-affected worker:

- Contact a career counselor at a local Workforce Solutions (Workforce Center) office immediately. Your career counselor must approve training before TAA can pay for it.
- Complete and continuously update your www.WorkInTexas.com registration.
- Complete the assessment process at the local Workforce Solutions (Workforce Center) office.
- If you are requesting a Job Search Allowance, apply before making the job search; keep your receipts of the job search, and fill out your daily worksheet/itinerary.
- If you are requesting a Relocation Allowance, apply before you move; obtain estimates from commercial movers or trailer/truck rental, keep your receipts, and complete a daily worksheet.
- If you request TAA-approved training, complete an assessment with your career counselor, and select a training program.
 - Get your counselor's approval before making any changes to the program or courses.
 - Maintain contact with your counselor.
 - Provide progress reports as required by your counselor.



Job Search and Relocation Allowances

To qualify, you must:

- Be a trade-affected worker covered by DOL trade certification;
- Register for work with www.WorkInTexas.com; and
- Have the local Workforce Solutions staff confirm that there is no suitable work for you in the local area.

Additional rules for job search allowances

- Submit a written request (Form ETA-861, “Request for Job Search Allowance”) **BEFORE** each job search trip.
- Make your written request no later than 365 days after the date of your trade certification; **OR**, after your most recent trade-affected layoff, whichever is later; **OR**, no later than 182 days after completing TAA-approved training.
- Have at least one legitimate job interview with someone with hiring authority in the area of the job search trip.

Additional rules for relocation allowances

- Have a suitable long-term verifiable job or have a valid offer of a job where you want to move.
- Submit Form ETA-860 for relocation allowances **BEFORE** you begin the move. Submit your written request no later than 425 days after the date of your petition certification **OR** after your most recent total layoff, whichever is later; **OR** no later than 182 days after completing TAA-approved training.
- TAA pays to move only your household goods and personal property as defined in federal regulations. Contact the TAA Unit in Austin before you begin moving.
- TAA does not pay for moving expenses available to you from



other sources, such as your employer.

Remember!

- To receive TAA benefits, you must be a trade-affected worker covered under a trade petition certified by the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL).
- Visit your local Workforce Solutions (Workforce Center) office for details. The staff there will evaluate your job history and skills before approving any benefits.
- TAA programs have strict deadlines so follow the rules and keep in touch with your career counselor.

Training and Eligibility Requirements

- Develop a training program with your career counselor after an assessment of your education and job skills.
- TAA cannot pay any training expenses until your career counselor approves your training program.
- Meet all of the school and program entrance requirements. Your training program can include remedial training such as English as a second language, Adult Basic Education, or GED preparation.



TAA Training

How do I qualify for TAA training?

- You qualify for TAA training when suitable work in your local commuting area or the area to which you want to relocate is not available. Suitable work means a job of equal or higher skill level as your trade-affected job and paying at least 80 percent of the average weekly wage of your trade-affected job.

In addition:

- You have a complete and accurate work registration on www.WorkInTexas.com.
- You have a reasonable expectation of employment using the skills you will learn. TWC cannot guarantee employment after training.
- You can complete your training program in 104 weeks or up to 130 weeks if you need remedial training.
- TAA pays all **required** costs of tuition, fees, and books of a TAA-approved training program. TAA does not pay for items such as backpacks and computers.
- You are physically, mentally, and financially able to start and complete training. After completing training, you must be fully qualified to work.
- You receive training from an approved provider.
- The training cost is reasonable, and is the lowest cost for the selected occupation.
- You attend training full-time as defined by school policy.
- TAA approves only one training program per certification.
- A training program may consist of several components at one or more schools.



Trade Readjustment Allowances (TRA)

How do I qualify for TRA?

- You have used all of your regular UI benefits AND applied for Trade Readjustment Allowances (TRA) separately from UI benefits. To apply, contact your local TWC Tele-Center. You can find Tele-Center numbers on our Web site, www.texasworkforce.org.
- You have enrolled in training before the deadline (within 8 weeks of certification of the petition, **OR**, 16 weeks after layoff, whichever is later). These deadlines probably will occur while you are receiving 26 weeks of regular UI benefits, so plan ahead!

OR

- Your counselor gives you a signed form temporarily exempting you from training for a specific allowable reason.

IMPORTANT: Discuss details for receiving TRA with your career counselor as soon as possible after layoff.



Health Coverage Tax Credit (HCTC)

How do I qualify for HCTC?

- You are a trade-affected worker under a DOL trade certification and eligible for TRA;

OR

- You are receiving pension benefits from the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC).

AND

- You are in COBRA or another qualified health plan.
- You apply for the credit with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) at 1-866-628-4282.

You qualify automatically for HCTC if:

- You have COBRA continuation coverage.
- Your spouse has coverage and your spouse's employer pays less than 50 percent of the premium.
- You have individual (non-group) health coverage that began at least 30 days before separation from employment.

NOTE: IRS, not the State of Texas, administers HCTC.

You must apply for TRA separately from regular UI benefits before Texas can notify IRS of your eligibility. TWC notifies IRS that an individual is eligible for TRA.



Alternative Trade Adjustment Assistance (ATAA)

How do I qualify for ATAA?

- You are a trade-affected worker approved under a DOL trade certification.
- You obtain full-time employment within 26 weeks of your most recent layoff from the trade-affected employer. The job pays less than \$50,000 a year.
- You are at least age 50 when you start the new job.
- You submit an ATAA application to the TRA Unit of the Texas Workforce Commission within two years of your reemployment.
- ATAA pays 50 percent of the difference between the pay of your trade-affected job and your new job. ATAA payments end when you have received \$10,000; **OR** two years have passed since you started your new job; **OR** when your wages are more than \$50,000 a year.

Special ATAA rules

- After you begin receiving ATAA payments, you are no longer eligible for training.
- If you are unable to find a job within 26 weeks of your layoff, you are still eligible for training.
- You may be eligible for Relocation Allowances and HCTC in addition to ATAA payments.



Overpayment and Fraud

- If you improperly receive payment or cause charges to the TAA program in any of these activities without good cause, your benefits may become an “overpayment.” Overpayments are benefits you received for which you are not eligible. If you have an overpayment, you must repay it.
- If you knowingly make, or cause someone else to make, false statements or misrepresent the facts to receive or cause payment to which you are not entitled, you may face fraud charges.



How to contact us

- For more information, contact:

OR

Visit our Web site at www.texasworkforce.org.

- Find your nearest Workforce Solutions (Workforce Center) office at www.texasworkforce.org, click on “Directory of Texas Workforce Centers,” and enter your ZIP code.

Equal Opportunity Employer/Services
Relay Texas: 1-800-735-2989 (TDD) ■ 1- 800-735-2988 (Voice)