

A large, light green globe is the central focus, composed of interlocking puzzle pieces. The globe is slightly out of focus, with the foreground puzzle pieces being sharper. The background is a soft, light green gradient.

Texas Workforce Commission

TAA can help you
Trade up
to a new job

YOU MAY QUALIFY FOR JOB
TRAINING and BENEFITS
UNDER the 2009 TRADE ACT.

Get details at a Workforce Solutions office.



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Fraud is a serious crime

If you do not complete training, job search, relocation, or if you improperly receive payment or cause charges to the TAA program, your benefits may become overpayment that you must repay. If you knowingly commit fraud, you may face fines or jail time.

This booklet is an overview of TAA. It does not cover everything in the 2009 Trade Act or the Texas Unemployment Compensation Act.

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



What Does Trade Adjustment Assistance Offer Me?

The Trade and Globalization Assistance Act of 2009 (Trade Act) helps workers who lost their jobs due to foreign imports or competition. Federal Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) programs include job training and benefits.

To receive TAA benefits, you must have been laid off from a job covered under a trade certification issued by the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL). Your Workforce Solutions office can discuss the following benefits with you:

- **Self-Directed Job Search**—improves job-hunting skills.
- **Job Search Allowance**—pays travel expenses for job interviews outside your local area.
- **Relocation Allowance**—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 you while you are in full-time training.
- **Reemployment Trade Adjustment Assistance (RTAA)**—supplements your wages if 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.



How Do I Request TAA Training?

To request TAA training, you should:

- Contact a career counselor at a local Workforce Solutions Office immediately. Your counselor must approve your training plan **BEFORE** you enter training if you expect TAA to pay for it. This may take several weeks.
- Begin a reemployment plan with your career counselor.
- Select an occupation.
- Find a training program and training provider that matches your needs and meets all of the TAA requirements.
- Meet all of the school and program entrance requirements. Your training programs can include required remedial training such as English as a second language, Adult Basic Education, or GED preparation, and required prerequisite training.
- Develop a curriculum plan with a school advisor including required courses by semester, the beginning, and ending dates, and costs.
- Give the career counselor a list of required books and supplies with estimated costs so the counselor can approve payment.

After training starts, you must:

- Provide your career counselor with progress reports as scheduled.
- Get your career counselor's approval before making any changes to your program or courses.



How Do I Qualify for TAA Training?

You may qualify for TAA training when suitable work is not available within 90 days of your layoff. Suitable work is a job of equal or higher skill level than your trade-affected job and pays at least 80 percent of the average weekly wage.

Federal law regarding TAA training is specific and does not allow the trainee to pay any part of tuition; fees, required books and supplies; transportation or subsistence (the last two apply to training occurring beyond 50 miles of the trainee's home). Your program must ensure that:

- You will learn the skills you need to be job-ready in the selected occupation.
- You have a reasonable expectation of employment using the skills you will learn. TWC cannot guarantee employment after training.
- Your training provider operates legally in the state where the training occurs and first consideration is given to training within 50 miles of your home.
- You are physically and mentally able to complete the training, and have the required educational background, work experience, and financial resources.
- You can complete your training program in 156 weeks or less.
- The total cost of your training is reasonable and the lowest available for your chosen occupation. TAA considers the cost of tuition, required fees, books and supplies, transportation and subsistence in determining whether the cost is reasonable. TAA does not pay for items such as backpacks and computers.

Notes: TAA pays required costs of TAA training after the training program has been approved. TAA does not pick up costs for training that you took before qualifying for TAA.

You may participate in only one TAA training program per trade certification. However, that program may consist of several parts at one or more schools. The training program must include everything to make you job ready for a selected occupation.



How Can I Get TRA Benefits?

After your trade petition is accepted, we send you a TAA trade notification packet with an application for Trade Readjustment Allowance (TRA) benefits. Or, you may call a Tele-Center. Find Unemployment Insurance (UI) Tele-Center numbers at www.texasworkforce.org. You are eligible for TRA after you exhaust all your regular UI benefits.

While you are still receiving regular UI benefits, see a career counselor at your Workforce Solutions office to ensure you meet the deadline for receipt of TRA benefits. You should apply for TRA while receiving your 26 weeks of regular UI benefits, so plan ahead!

You will meet the TRA deadline if:

- You enroll in training within 26 weeks of certification of the petition or layoff; **OR**
- Your counselor gives you a signed form exempting you from training for a specific reason.
- For additional questions, call the TRA unit at (512) 463-2999.

How Do I Get a Health Coverage Tax Credit (HCTC)?

- You are covered under a trade certification, eligible for TRA, and receiving TRA or UI benefits; **OR** you are receiving pension benefits from the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC).
- You are in COBRA or another qualified health plan.
- The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) will send you an enrollment packet after TWC notifies it of your potential eligibility. You may reach IRS at 1-866-628-4282. (TTY: 1-866-626-4282).

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.



What is Reemployment Trade Adjustment Assistance (RTAA)?

If you are a trade-affected worker age 50 or older at the time you start a new job, you may be eligible for RTAA benefits.

RTAA pays 50 percent of the difference between the pay of your trade-affected job and your new job. RTAA payments end when you have received \$12,000, OR two years have passed since you started your new job, OR when your wages on your new job are more than \$55,000 a year.

How do I qualify for RTAA?

- You are covered under a DOL trade certification.
- You obtain full-time employment within established deadlines and the job pays less than \$55,000 a year or you obtain part-time employment while attending full-time TAA-approved training.
- You are at least 50 years old at the time you start the new job.
- You submit an RTAA application to the TRA Unit of the Texas Workforce Commission within two years of your reemployment. Call the TRA unit at (512) 463-2999.

While you are searching for your new RTAA job, talk to your career counselor about other TAA benefits available to RTAA applicants including job search allowances, relocation allowances, and HCTC.



General Rules for Job Search and Relocation Allowances

To qualify, you must:

- Be covered under a DOL trade certification;
- Apply for work search with www.WorkInTexas.com; and
- Have your 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.
- Keep your receipts from the job search trip and fill out your daily worksheet/itinerary.

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 day after completing TAA-approved training.
- TAA pays to move only your household goods and personal property as defined in federal regulations. For details, contact the TAA Unit in Austin before you begin moving.
- TAA does not pay for moving expenses paid by other sources, such as your employer.