



Trade Adjustment Assistance

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Benefits for workers who lose their jobs due to foreign competition

Many manufacturing and timber jobs affected in Washington

Each trade-related layoff must be certified, then a wide array of benefits is available

Nearly 2,000 participants in FY 2008-09

Retooling America's work force

The Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program is a federal reemployment-benefit program established under the Trade Act of 1974. This program reduces the hardships on U.S. workers who are dislocated by global trade. Workers who lose their jobs because of increased imports from or shifts in production to foreign countries may be eligible for wage subsidies, moving costs, job-search allowances and job retraining.

The most recent trade-related dislocations in Washington have been in the manufacturing and timber sectors, where older workers occupy most of the positions, some even nearing retirement. Many workers obtained these jobs right out of high school and must think about a new career for the first time in their lives. The comprehensive benefits provided by the Trade Act make a new career a viable choice.

Certification

Within one year after a layoff or closure, a petition must be filed with the U.S. Department of Labor and the Governor's representative to be eligible for TAA. The Department of Labor investigates and issues a certification or denial for affected workers. If the layoff or closure is certified, the benefits each certified worker receives encompass a full array of services.

Benefits

The program provides certified workers with comprehensive assistance to return to work. Depending on the results of each individual's assessment, workers may be eligible to receive money to cover costs related to their job search, relocation to a new community and/or training.

The program may provide income support for up to 130 weeks through a combination of unemployment insurance, Trade Readjustment Assistance (which includes basic, additional and remedial TRA). Income assistance during the training period is available for up to 104 weeks of post-secondary training and up to 130 weeks if remedial education is needed. Training costs of up to \$16,000 are covered if funding is available. For more information: <http://www.doleta.gov/tradeact/>.

Results in Washington

During the October 2007-September 2008 federal fiscal year, 1,887 Washington residents received Trade Act services. Of them, 1,158 received job retraining. After receiving Trade Act services, some 88.3 percent of participants obtain new jobs. On average, their new jobs paid 82.4 percent of what they earned before being laid off.

**\$10.1M for
FFY 2008-09**

Funding

For the October 2008-September 2009 federal fiscal year, the U.S. Department of Labor has allocated \$10.1 million to Washington state to pay for TAA services – down 15 percent from the previous year.

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