

Mass Workforce Issuance

Workforce Issuance No. 11-12

Policy Information

To: Chief Elected Officials
Workforce Investment Board Chairs
Workforce Investment Board Directors
Title I Administrators
Career Center Directors
Title I Fiscal Officers
DCS Regional Managers

cc: WIA State Partners

From: Michael Taylor, Director
Department of Workforce Development

Date: February 14, 2011

Subject: **Sunset of Expanded TAA Program**

Purpose: To notify Local Workforce Investment Boards, One-Stop Career Center Operators and other local workforce investment partners of the sunset of the expanded TAA Program under the Globalization Adjustment Assistance Act of 2009 and the reversion to the former TAA Program effective February 15, 2011.

Background: The Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program provides benefits and support to U.S. workers who become unemployed due to the impact of international trade. Enactment of the Trade and Globalization Adjustment Assistance Act of 2009 (Division B, Title I, Subtitle I of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009) expanded the parameters of the TAA Program in a number of ways. The changes are described in MassWorkforce Issuance No. 09-36 (5/28/2009):

http://www.massworkforce.org/_uploads/iss/0936.doc

These expanded TAA Program services/benefits went into effect on 5/18/2009.

The Trade and Globalization Adjustment Assistance Act of 2009 (TGAAA) “sunsets” (after a temporary Congressional extension) on February 14, 2011.

Therefore, the expanded services/benefits of the TAA program available to eligible workers under TGAAA will also sunset as of that date. As a result, on February 15, 2011 administration of the TAA Program will revert to the operational parameters that were in effect prior to the enactment of TGAAA.

Workers covered under petitions that are filed *on or after* February 15, 2011 will be subject to the more limited benefits and services of the former TAA Program.

Revision to the former TAA parameters will result in:

- a reduction in the number of TAA certified workers;
- a general reduction in benefits and eligibility windows for accessing services and benefits;
- a reduction in the number of older workers (50 years of age or older) eligible for wage subsidization;
- a reduction in available training funds; and
- a reduction in income support and health benefits.

However, please note, those workers covered by TAA petitions filed *after May 18, 2009 and before* February 15, 2011, whether or not the petition is actually certified before or after that date, *will remain eligible* for the expanded TAA Program services as established under TGAAA.

Specific details regarding the sunset of expanded TAA Program services and benefits are found in Attachment A.

Additionally, effective February 15, 2011, petitioners must begin utilizing the attached versions (Attachments B and C) of the **Petition for Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) and Alternative Trade Adjustment Assistance (ATAA)** to file for benefits and services under the 2002 program.

An on-line version of the petition can be accessed through the following link:

<https://www.etareports.doleta.gov/petition/index.cfm?reset=true>

The U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration (ETA) has also prepared a Q & A regarding the sunset of the Expanded TAA Program and is included as Attachment D

Action

Required:

Please assure that all appropriate staff and partner organizations are apprised of the contents of this issuance. Local WIBs and One-Stop Career Center Operators should begin preparations to revert to the pre-TGAAA TAA program parameters immediately, including ensuring that appropriate staff are fully knowledgeable of the required program changes that will be in effect as of February 15, 2011.

Inquiries: Direct questions to Courtney Shepard at Cshepard@detma.org. Indicate Issuance number and description.

Attachments: Attachment A - Details - Sunset of Expanded TAA Program Services

Attachment B - Petition for Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) and Alternative Trade Adjustment Assistance (ATAA) – English Version

Attachment C - Petition for Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) and Alternative Trade Adjustment Assistance (ATAA) – Spanish Version

Attachment D - Trade Adjustment Assistance Program Q & A