

Mass Workforce Issuance

Workforce Issuance No. 11-75

Policy Information

To: Workforce Investment Board Chairs
Workforce Investment Board Directors
Title I Administrators
Career Center Directors
Title I Fiscal Officers

cc: WIA State Partners

From: George Moriarty, Director
Department of Career Services

Date: December 8, 2011

Subject: **Training for TAA Program Changes Resulting from Enactment of the Trade Adjustment Assistance Extension Act of 2011**

Purpose: To notify Local Workforce Investment Boards, One-Stop Career Center Operators and local workforce investment partners of changes to the Trade Programs resulting the Trade Adjustment Assistance Extension Act of 2011 (TAAEA).

Background: On October 21, 2011. President Obama signed the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) Extension Act of 2011, which change the group eligibility requirements, and individual benefits and services available under the Trade Adjustment Assistance program, for some workers, restoring (with some exceptions) the expanded certification criteria and benefits and services provided under the Trade and Globalization Adjustment Act of 2009.

The changes to benefit levels and certification criteria apply to workers covered by TAA petitions filed on or after October 21, 2011. As well as a specific “election group” the increase in the amount of the Health Coverage Tax Credit (HCTC) from 65% to 72.5% of an eligible participant’s monthly qualifying health insurance premium is retroactive to the month of March 2011 and applies to *all* recipients, regardless of when their petition was filed.

Other changes may be summarized thusly:

- The maximum number of weeks for which Trade Readjustment Allowance (TRA) payments can be is 130 weeks.
- New criteria for waiving Training Requirement.
- Workers must be enrolled in training 26 weeks after certification or layoff, whichever is later, to receive TRA.
- The TAAEA eliminates Remedial TRA as “category” of TRA (referred as Remedial TRA is no longer payable).
- Training “Benchmarks” required for completion of TRA eligibility.
- 2011 Law created a Federal “Good cause” provision that applies only to training or TRA deadlines.
- Payment of 90% of allowable costs for Job Search (up to \$1,250) and Relocation (up to \$1,250).
- Training may be approved on either a full-time *or* part-time basis, but full-time training *is required* for TRA eligibility.
- Certified workers may begin training when threatened with separation and do not have to wait until fully or partially separated.
- Reemployment Trade Adjustment Assistance, RTAA is offered in 2011 Act.
- TAA Eligibility for workers group coverage under the 2011 Program is restored to the coverage and remain the same with the exception of coverage for workers in public agencies; workers in service sector firms, based on:
 - increased imports of like or directly competitive articles or services; or
 - increased imports of a finished article for which the workers’ firm produces component parts or supplies services; or
 - increased imports of articles directly incorporating foreign components that are like or directly competitive with the component parts made by U.S. workers; or
 - shifts in production of articles or supply of services to any foreign country; or
 - workers in firms that supply component parts or services to firms with TAA-certified workers or perform additional, value-added production processes to firms with TAA-certified workers; or
 - workers in firms identified in International Trade Commission “injury” determinations

Details regarding these changes can be found DOL website (see link below)

<http://www.doleta.gov/tradeact/>

NOTE: This training is essential for all career center managers and staff who either administer the TAA program at the local level or provide direct assistance to TAA eligible customers.

SCHEDULE:

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Friday, December 16, 2011	<i>9 a.m. to 4 p.m.</i>	Franklin Hampshire Career Center, 178 Industrial Drive – Ste. 1 Northampton, MA 01060
Thursday, January 19, 2012	<i>9 a.m. to 4 p.m.</i>	Greater New Bedford Career Center 618 Acushnet Ave. New Bedford, MA 02740
Friday, January 20, 2012	<i>9 a.m. to 4 p.m.</i>	Boston, Hurley Building Minihan Hall 6 th Fl. 19 Staniford St. Boston, MA 02114
Wednesday, January 25, 2012	<i>9 a.m. to 4 p.m.</i>	Workforce Central Career Center WIB Office on the 3 rd Fl. 44 Front Street Worcester, MA 01608
Friday, January 27, 2012	<i>9 a.m. to 4 p.m.</i>	ValleyWorks Career Center Heritage Place 439 South Union Street - Building #2 Lawrence, MA 01843

Registration Information: Forward registration information to Nikisha Glasgow at Nglasgow@detma.org.

PLEASE SPECIFY THE DATE THAT YOUR STAFF WILL ATTEND.

Seating is limited to **30 participants** per session. **Lunch will not be provided.**

Action

Required: Please disseminate this information and assure that all appropriate staff registers for their choice of training sessions. Available seating for each session is limited.

Inquiries: Direct all inquiries to Beth Goguen at bgoguen@detma.org or 617-626-6053.