

Mass Workforce Issuance

Workforce Issuance No. 14-104

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 Operations Managers

Cc: WIA State Partners

From: Alice Sweeney, Director
Department of Career Services

Date: December 1, 2014

Subject: **Trade Programs Sunset Provisions Initial Implications NOTICE**

Purpose: To notify Local Workforce Investment Boards, One-Stop Career Center Operators and local workforce investment partners of some of the immediate effects of the Sunset Provisions of the Trade Adjustment Assistance Extension Act Programs (Reversion 2014) effective December 31, 2014. The Department of Labor expects to provide guidance to states in December 2014 which will include operating instructions for the program for January 1, 2015, and beyond.

Background: The Trade Adjustment Assistance Programs are due to sunset on December 31, 2014. All appropriate staff and partner organizations should be aware:

- FY2015 funds will be issued to the states based on the existing formula. However, the amount of funds available may be significantly reduced from FY2014 levels due to the language in the Act that provides an authorization for funds through December 31, 2014 only. Congress, of course, could choose to provide funds in excess of that amount. ETA cannot allocate funds until a full year FY15 appropriation is enacted by Congress.
- Any TAA Petitions already filed or potentially to be filed should be filed immediately. Any Petitions not certified by December 31, 2014 will not be certified. This includes amendments and appeals.

- Workers must have a qualifying separation on or prior to December 31, 2014. They may file an Eligibility Application (1666) after December 31, but their layoff will need to be on or prior to December 31, 2014 to be potentially eligible for any Trade Programs benefits.
- Training will continue for participants already enrolled. In addition, workers covered under petitions certified through December 31, 2014 and who are separated on or prior to December 31, 2014, can be enrolled in training, even if that training begins after December 31, 2014.
- Trade Readjustment Allowance (TRA) payments will continue to be paid for participants by the Department of Unemployment Assistance (DUA).
- R/ATAA benefits will continue for participants who receive a first check by December 31, 2014. Customer's whose first check is not issued by December 31, will not be eligible to apply for R/ATAA benefits.
 - Outreach to customers who have obtained employment is suggested so they can make their applications as soon as possible. DCS suggests the submittal of the December weeks, up to the week ending December 20th, by December 26, 2014. This will enable the weeks to go into the check run issued by December 31, 2014. The remaining weeks in December can be subsequently submitted for payment.

Effective: Immediately.

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