

Mass Workforce Issuance

Workforce Issuance No. 09-36

☐ Policy ☒ Information

To: 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: May 28, 2009

Subject: **TAA Program Changes Resulting from Enactment of the Trade and Globalization Adjustment Assistance Act of 2009**

Purpose: To notify Local Workforce Investment Boards, One-Stop Career Center Operators and local workforce investment partners of changes to the Trade Programs resulting from The Trade and Globalization Adjustment Assistance Act of 2009.

Background: On February 17, 2009 the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 was signed into law. The Trade and Globalization Adjustment Assistance Act of 2009 was part of the Recovery Act, and made changes to the TAA program.

The changes to benefit levels and certification criteria apply *only* to workers covered by TAA petitions filed on or after May 18, 2009. The exception is that the increase in the amount of the Health Coverage Tax Credit (HCTC) from 65% to 80% of an eligible participant's monthly qualifying health insurance premium is effective as of the month of May 2009 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 made increased from 104 to 130 for workers in full-time training and from 130 weeks to 156 if the worker is also enrolled in remedial training.

- Workers must be enrolled in training 26 weeks after certification or layoff, whichever is later, to receive TRA.
- Payment of 100% of allowable costs for Job Search (up to \$1,500) and Relocation (up to \$1,500).
- 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, with different criteria replaces the Alternative Trade Adjustment Assistance for workers covered under petitions filed on or after May 18, 2009.
- TAA Eligibility has been expanded to additional groups of workers:
 - Workers in firms that supply services.
 - Workers whose firm has shifted production to any foreign country.
 - Workers in public agencies.
 - Workers whose firm produces component parts of a finished article produced by its customer(s).
 - Workers in firms that supply testing, packaging, maintenance and transportation services to companies with TAA-certified workers.
 - Workers whose firm is identified in an International Trade Commission “injury” determination listed in the Act.

Details regarding these changes can be found in Attachment A.

Action

Required: Please inform all persons concerned with Trade, WIA and Employment Services through the local One-Stop Career Center system of the content of this issuance.

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