

Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. The TAA program was reauthorized in May 2009. What are the major changes in benefits from the 2002 Act program to the 2009 Act program?

The following chart provides a side-by-side analysis of the two programs and explains the major changes as follows:

Old TAA Program (Available to Workers Covered by Petitions with Numbers Below 70,000)	New TAA Program (Available to Workers Covered by Petitions with Numbers Above 70,000)
<p>Trade Readjustment Allowances (TRA) (Additional Unemployment Insurance benefits)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to 104 weeks of cash payments provided for workers enrolled in full-time training. • Up to 130 weeks of cash payments provided if the worker was also enrolled in remedial training. 	<p>Trade Readjustment Allowances (TRA) (Additional Unemployment Insurance benefits)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to 130 weeks of cash payments provided for workers enrolled in full-time training. • Up to 156 weeks of cash payments provided if the worker was also enrolled in remedial training.
<p>Training Enrollment Deadlines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workers must be enrolled in training 8 weeks after certification or 16 weeks after layoff, whichever is later, in order to receive TRA. 	<p>Training Enrollment Deadlines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workers must be enrolled in training 26 weeks after certification or layoff, whichever is later, in order to receive TRA.
<p>Job Search Allowances</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 90% of allowable costs provided, up to \$1,250. 	<p>Job Search Allowances</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% of allowable costs provided, up to \$1,500.
<p>Relocation Allowances</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 90% of costs provided, up to the statutory limit for Federal Employees. • Provides an additional lump sum payment of up to \$1,250. 	<p>Relocation Allowances</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% of costs provided, up to the statutory limit for Federal Employees. • Provides an additional lump sum payment of up to \$1,500.
<p>Training Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training may only be approved on a full-time basis • Certified workers may not begin approved training until they have been totally or partially separated from adversely affected employment. 	<p>Training Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training may be approved on a full-time or part-time basis, although full-time training is required for TRA eligibility. • Certified workers may begin approved training when threatened with separation from adversely affected employment.

<p>Health Coverage Tax Credit (HCTC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prior to May 2009, a tax credit provided covering up to 65% of an eligible participant's monthly qualifying health insurance premium. • Beginning May 2009, the tax credit will be raised for all participants to cover 80% of an eligible participant's monthly qualifying health insurance premium. 	<p>Health Coverage Tax Credit (HCTC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A tax credit provided covering 80% of an eligible participant's monthly qualifying health insurance premium.
<p>Alternative Trade Adjustment Assistance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Available to workers 50 years of age or older. • Requires a separate certification of group eligibility. • Workers may not participate in TAA-approved training. • Requires full-time employment within 26 weeks of separation. • Available only for workers earning less than \$50,000 per year in reemployment. • Maximum benefit of \$10,000 over a period of up to two years. • Participants are eligible for the HCTC. 	<p>Reemployment Trade Adjustment Assistance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Available to workers 50 years of age or older. • Does not require a separate certification of group eligibility. • Workers may participate in TAA-approved training. • Requires full-time employment, unless the worker is also enrolled in TAA-approved training and employed at least 20 hours per week, and does not set a deadline for reemployment. • Available only for workers earning less than \$55,000 per year in reemployment. • Maximum benefit of \$12,000 over a period of up to two years. • Participants are eligible for the HCTC.

2. Do I have to file my TAA application as soon as I am laid off?

A trade affected worker has 26 weeks from certification or layoff (which ever is later) to enroll in training or to receive a waiver from training. A worker can file an application at any time within that 26 week time period. However, if the worker is interested in receiving the Health Coverage Tax Credit (HCTC), the worker should file an application as soon as possible. A worker must be found eligible to receive Trade Readjustment Assistance (TRA) (extended Unemployment Insurance (UI)) benefits to be eligible for the HCTC tax credit. Additionally, in order to continue to receive this tax credit, a worker MUST be receiving unemployment insurance/TRA benefits or RTAA to continue to receive the tax credit.

3. Am I still eligible for the Job Search Allowance and/or Relocation Allowance once I complete my training?

Yes. As long as the labor market in a location (outside a workers normal commute area) shows a reasonable expectation a worker may find suitable employment in that area, a worker can apply for job search allowances to assist them in their job search. The worker must apply for the allowance before the 365th day after the date of the TAA certification or worker's separation date, whichever is later; or within 182 days of the conclusion of TAA-approved training.

As for relocation allowances, as long as a worker has a written bona fide job offer of suitable employment from an employer outside their normal commute area, a worker can apply for relocation allowance. The relocation must occur within 182 days after filing the application for relocation assistance or within 182 days after the conclusion of training if the worker entered a TAA-approved training program.

4. If I choose not to participate in any TAA program benefits, am I still entitled to HCTC benefits?

In order for a worker to receive the HCTC tax credit, a worker MUST be receiving unemployment insurance/TRA benefits and/or RTAA benefits to continue to receive the tax credit.

5. If I am interested in training at a particular school, what steps do I take to get approval?

Per the regulations of the trade program, a training program must be suitable for the worker and available at a reasonable cost. A TAA specialist along with the worker will determine which training provider will best meet the workers training needs. However, the TAA specialist has final approval on which training provider will be chosen for the worker.

6. I did not receive my TAA package from Sacramento. What do I need to do?

Contact your local [One-Stop Career Center](#) and schedule an appointment to meet with a TAA specialist. The specialist will review the program benefits and can assist the worker with completing and submitting applicable program paperwork if the worker is interested in seeking TAA benefits.

7. Do I have to file Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits first before I file for my TAA benefits?

A completely separated worker should apply for UI benefits before submitting an application for TAA benefits so that TRA eligibility can be determined. A worker who cannot establish eligibility for a UI benefit may still be eligible for TAA benefits and should submit a TAA application on notification of TAA group certification. For example, a worker who has been receiving disability compensation may not be eligible for a UI claim or does not have a UI claim (instead has a disability claim) should still submit a TAA application to be considered for TAA training benefits.

8. Will TAA benefits affect my UI benefits?

No. A trade affected worker is eligible to receive UI benefits. Additionally, a trade affected worker is also eligible to receive extended UI benefits (TRA) if the worker meets the 26 week training enrollment deadline date (26 weeks after certification or layoff, whichever is later).

As mentioned in Question #8, a worker can choose to receive TAA training benefits without applying for UI benefits. However, the worker must show they can sustain themselves while

in TAA approved training. Because of this, it would benefit the worker to apply for and receive UI/TRA benefits while in training.

9. Is the TAA program on hold until the state passes a budget? The entitlement letter for TAA says you have to be enrolled by Oct 10th. If that is true, why are people getting letters saying TAA is being waived since you have not applied in 60 days? If they are not extending UI benefits, does that mean if you're already in training thru TAA, you will not get extension on UI?

California state law prevents state agencies from entering into contracts without a signed state budget. Although the TAA program is federally funded and California has the federal funds to pay for TAA benefits, TAA contracts can not being written during a state budget impasse because the EDD (state agency) enters into TAA agreements with a training provider. So yes.....the CA state impasse has a huge impact on the TAA program. It does every year when a budget is not passed by July 1, 2010. Having said this.....the program continues. All TAA eligible workers are encouraged to still meet with their local TAA specialist to complete all the TAA processes in preparation for training when the budget is passed. And by scheduling an appointment with a specialist, it helps the worker meet program deadlines to ensure they remain eligible for UI extensions.

If you are a TAA eligible worker and your deadline to enter training is 10/10/2010, you need to either be enrolled in TAA approved training or receive a waiver from training to remain eligible for UI extensions while in training. You must meet certain conditions to receive a waiver from training....so once again....schedule an appointment with your local TAA specialist so they can go over these requirements with you.

The TAA program is not aware of any letter stating your benefits are being waived because you haven't applied for benefits within 60 days. The EDD and the TAA program do not send letters like this to eligible workers. If you don't meet your deadline date requirements (your 10/10 date).....you can be denied additional UI benefits.....but the TAA program does not send out any other letter denying benefits because a worker has not applied for benefits within 60 days.

10. I'm a former NUMMI employee and registered with TAA and WIA. Now that California has a budget, do I still qualify for the full 10,000 dollars for training?

The EDD can not enter into any contract until the state has a signed state budget. As of today (10/6/2010), the state does not have a signed state budget. The Legislature is scheduled to vote on the budget on 10/7/2010. The governor then has to sign it. After he signs the budget, TAA specialists can begin to work with their clients to enter them into TAA approved training.

If a TAA client meets the six criteria for approval of training, the client can enter into TAA approved training that can cost up to \$10,000. The TAA program goes not automatically pay \$10,000 for training. One of the six criteria for approval of training is.....the training has to be a reasonable cost. If there are training programs in your goal occupation (and in your local area) that costs less than \$10,000...the training program at the lesser cost will be chosen. Your TAA specialist will go over the six criteria with you and when developing your training plan, they will tell you if you met the six criteria.

How do I get more information?

Email your questions to [NUMMI TAA](#).