

**TRADE READJUSTMENT ALLOWANCES (TRA)
for Petitions 70,000 to 79,999
(This information applies to petitions numbered
70,000 to 79,999 only)**

Trade Readjustment Allowances (TRA) provide income support to workers enrolled in full-time training. If you qualify for TRA, the number of weeks potentially available will depend upon the duration and nature of your training. One form of TRA - Basic TRA - may be received without training if you qualify for a training waiver.

Training Enrollment Deadline for TRA

You must enroll in Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) approved training within 26 weeks after layoff or within 26 weeks after petition certification, or by the Monday of the first week occurring 30 days after the termination of a timely issued waiver, whichever is later. The 26 week deadline may be extended by 45 days if it is determined that there are extenuating circumstances that justify an extension of the training enrollment period. Additional provisions relating to the deadline may also apply. For example, if you received late notice of your ability to apply for Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA), your training enrollment deadline is extended to the Monday of the first week occurring 60 days after notification.

Basic TRA Benefits

The maximum amount of Basic TRA you may receive is 52 times your TRA weekly amount minus all unemployment compensation benefits you are entitled to receive. Unemployment compensation includes regular state unemployment benefits (UI), and Federal extended benefits.

For example: If you are entitled to 26 weeks of regular UI, you may receive up to 26 weeks of Basic TRA.

The eligibility period to receive the maximum amount of Basic TRA is typically 104 weeks, beginning the first week after your most recent qualifying layoff.

Additional TRA Benefits

You may qualify to receive additional weeks of TRA in order to complete an approved training program. You may receive up to 78 weeks of Additional TRA during a 91-week eligibility period.

Up to 26 weeks of Remedial TRA may also be available if your training program includes remedial education. Such weeks are also intended to help you complete your training. The additional 26 weeks may be based on participation in either remedial education or necessary prerequisite courses.

Training Programs and Waivers

The TRA training requirement may be waived if it is determined that training is not appropriate; however, if a waiver is issued, it must be issued within 26 weeks after your qualifying layoff or within 26 weeks after petition certification, whichever is later. A waiver may issued for one of the following reasons:

- 1) you expect to be recalled to work;
- 2) you have marketable skills and there is a reasonable expectation of suitable employment in the foreseeable future;
- 3) you are within two years of meeting all requirements for receipt of Social Security or a private pension;
- 4) you are unable to participate in training due to your health;

- 5) the first available enrollment date for the approved training is delayed;
- 6) approved training is not reasonably available to you from either governmental agencies or private sources;
- 7) training is not available at a reasonable cost, or;
- 8) no training funds are available.

In some cases, workers who have post-graduate degrees or certifications in specialized fields may be considered to have “marketable skills.” A waiver may be issued to you, if appropriate, following an assessment of your employment and training needs. Follow-up is required to determine whether the circumstances existing at the time of waiver issuance continue to exist.

Your waiver may terminate if the basis of your waiver is no longer in effect, your entitlement to Basic TRA exhausts, or you fail to comply with follow-up as directed. Your waiver may also terminate due to expiration. Once your waiver terminates, you will still need to be enrolled in TAA approved training by the Training Enrollment Deadline for TRA in order to be eligible for any remaining Basic, Additional or Remedial TRA.

If you have not enrolled in or completed TAA-approved training, a waiver signed within the deadline is necessary to receive Basic TRA.

Work Search Requirements

If you have been issued a waiver from training, or have successfully completed a TAA approved training program, you must make a systematic and sustained effort to obtain work and report your work search activities for each week you request benefits. A sustained effort is a search for work conducted in a systematic manner by contacting several employers each week.

If you do not have a systematic and sustained search for work for any week you request TRA benefits, you have the option of not requesting the week to avoid disqualification.

You must be available for any type of work you are able to do which pays the equivalent of your TRA weekly benefit amount.

If you are disqualified from receiving TRA benefits for refusing a job, refusing an appropriate training program, or for not making a systematic and sustained work search; the disqualification continues until you return to work for at least four weeks and earn at least four times your TRA weekly benefit amount.

Part-Time Work

You may earn up to the amount of your weekly TRA benefit without any deduction while you are in full-time TAA approved training and receiving actual TRA payments. However, if you are receiving UI or Federal extension payments, your part-time earnings are deductible.

Important: If you have sufficient earnings from new part-time or temporary employment to establish a second UI benefit account at the end of your benefit year, you may be able to choose between staying on the new account or returning to the TRA account.

Reemployment Trade Adjustment Assistance (RTAA)

If you become reemployed, you may be eligible to receive Reemployment Trade Adjustment Assistance (RTAA). RTAA is a wage subsidy that pays fifty percent of the difference between your wages at separation and your wages in reemployment.

RTAA is available to you if:

- you return to a job that pays less than your trade-impacted job, **and**;
- are at least 50 years of age or older (or will be at the time of reemployment), **and**;
- your petition number is between 70000 and 79999, **and**;
- your wage is not expected to exceed \$55,000 per year, **and**;
- you are reemployed either full-time, working at least 32 hours per week in one or more jobs, or part-time -- at least 20 hours - but no more than 31 hours - per week -- while also participating in full-time TAA-approved training. (If you are reemployed part-time while in training, the RTAA subsidy is prorated.)

The RTAA eligibility period is either (whichever comes first):

- two years from the date of your qualifying reemployment, **or**;
- two years after exhausting unemployment compensation based on your most recent separation from trade-impacted employment.

If you have already received TRA, the RTAA eligibility period will begin with the date of your qualifying reemployment, reduced by the number of weeks of TRA you have received. You may not return to the employment from which you separated, meaning the firm or, if applicable, the firm subdivision, specified in the Trade Act certification of your worker group. If your reemployment ends, your RTAA subsidy will end and you may not again receive TRA. Your RTAA subsidy may resume, however, if you obtain qualifying reemployment within the established RTAA eligibility period. The maximum RTAA subsidy allowed is \$12,000.

Health Coverage Tax Credit (HCTC)

If you qualify for TRA and during any given month you receive one of the following payments: TRA; **UI** (includes Federal extension benefits); RTAA, or ATAA; you may be eligible for the Health Coverage Tax Credit (HCTC). If you are determined eligible and have a qualified health plan, you can use the credit to cover 65% of the cost of health insurance premiums for yourself and any eligible family members. For additional information, access the IRS web site at www.irs.gov (Keyword/Search: "HCTC") or call 1-866-628-HCTC (4282) [TTY phone is 1-866-626-4282].

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Fax: 651-296-0253

UI Customer Service Center: 651-296-3644 Twin Cities
1-877-898-9090 Greater Minnesota
1-866-814-1252 TTY (for the hearing impaired)

For further information visit: www.positivelyminnesota.com Keyword: TRA