

TRADE READJUSTMENT ALLOWANCES (TRA)

for Petitions numbered less than 70,000 and 80,000 and above

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 16 weeks after layoff or within 8 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. This 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.

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** 52 weeks of Additional TRA.

You must make a bona fide application for training within 210 days after petition certification or layoff, whichever is later.

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.

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 16 weeks after your qualifying layoff or within 8 weeks after petition certification, whichever is later. A waiver may be 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.

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

If you are receiving UI or Federal extension payments, your 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 must exhaust all eligibility for UI on that second account before receiving further TRA payments.

Alternative Trade Adjustment Assistance (ATAA)

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

ATAA 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 less than 70,000 and 80,000 and above, **and**;
- your wage is not expected to exceed \$50,000 per year, **and**;
- you are reemployed full-time, working at least 32 hours per week in one or more jobs.

The ATAA eligibility period is two years from the date of your qualifying reemployment.

You may not return to the employment from which you separated, meaning the firm or, the firm subdivision, specified in the Trade Act certification of your worker group. If your reemployment ends,

your ATAA subsidy will end and you may not again receive TRA. Your ATAA subsidy may resume, however, if you obtain qualifying reemployment within the established ATAA eligibility period. The maximum ATAA subsidy allowed is \$10,000.

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

Email: deed.tra@state.mn.us

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 more information visit: www.positivelyminnesota.com Keyword: TRA