

Trade Readjustment Allowances / Reemployment Trade Adjustment Assistance Petitions 90,000 and above

Trade Readjustment Allowance (TRA) is a weekly income support payment and Reemployment Trade Adjustment Assistance (RTAA) is a wage subsidy. Both are benefits of the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program. In Minnesota both are administered by the Unemployment Insurance (UI) Program. The following information is intended as a guideline. For information specific to you, contact UI Customer Service at 651-296-3644 and ask for a TRA Specialist.

Eligibility for TRA

- TRA participants must have been employed by a **TAA-Certified Employer** for at least 26 weeks of the 52 weeks prior to layoff. (If not, you may be eligible for TAA, but not TRA.)
- The weekly TRA payment is based on the weekly unemployment insurance (UI) benefit amount you already have received. You must have been entitled to receive UI benefits before you may receive TRA and you must have exhausted your UI entitlement;
- **DEADLINE:** You must be enrolled in a full-time TAA-Approved Training Program or have received a Waiver of Training within 26 weeks after layoff or within 26 weeks after petition certification, whichever is later.

Types of TRA

Basic TRA benefits

Basic TRA is payable if you are enrolled or participating in TAA-approved training, have completed training, or have obtained a waiver of the training requirement. (See the section Waivers for Basic TRA)

Basic TRA can be added to your regular state unemployment benefits (UI), including federal extended benefits, for a **combined maximum** of 52 weeks.

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

The eligibility period to receive Basic TRA is up to 104 weeks after your most recent qualifying layoff from the TAA-certified employer.

Additional TRA benefits

If you are in TAA-approved training you may qualify to receive an additional 65 weeks of TRA once you have exhausted all rights to Basic TRA.

Completion TRA benefits

Once you have exhausted all rights to Basic TRA and Additional TRA, up to 13 weeks of Completion TRA may be available. You must be within the last 20 weeks of completing your training program and meet additional specific requirements. Ask your counselor or contact TRA staff for details.

Estimating the potential length of TRA

Ideally you should complete your training plan before exhausting TRA. For an estimate of your remaining benefits, call 651-296-3644 and ask to be transferred to a TRA Specialist.

Breaks in training

TRA benefits are not payable during any break in training of more than 30 days, not counting weekends and holidays.

Waivers for Basic TRA

If you have not enrolled in or completed TAA-approved training, you must have an approved waiver to receive Basic TRA. The TRA training requirement may be waived if training is not appropriate. Waivers must be issued within 26 weeks after your qualifying layoff or within 26 weeks after petition certification, whichever is later.

A waiver may be issued for one of the following reasons:

- **Health** – The worker is unable to participate in training due to the health of the worker, except that a waiver under this subparagraph shall not be construed to exempt a worker from requirements relating to the availability for work, active search for work, or refusal to accept work under Federal or State unemployment compensation laws.
- **Enrollment Unavailable** – The first available enrollment date for the approved training of the worker is within 60 days after the date of the determination made under this paragraph, or, if later, there are extenuating circumstances for the delay in enrollment.
- **Training not Available** – Training is not reasonably available to the worker from either governmental agencies or private sources, no training that is suitable for the worker is available at a reasonable cost, or no training funds are available.

Your waiver may be revoked for the following reasons:

- You began training (and it is no longer needed)
- The basis of your waiver no longer applies
- Your entitlement to Basic TRA exhausts
- Your 26 week waiver expires, and was not extended
- You fail to comply and follow-up as directed with your dislocated worker counselor every 30 days.

Deadline: Once your waiver is revoked, you must be enrolled in TAA approved training by the Monday of the 1st week occurring 30 days after the waiver ends in order to be eligible for any remaining TRA benefits.

Work Search Requirements for Basic TRA

- If you have been issued a waiver from training, or have successfully completed a TAA approved training program and are still receiving Basic TRA, you must make an effort to obtain work by contacting several employers each week and report your work search activities for each week you request benefits.
- You must be available for any type of work you are able to do which pays at least the equivalent of your TRA weekly benefit amount.

UI or TRA choice

If you work and are able to establish a new Unemployment Insurance account you can choose to stay on the new UI account or go back to your TRA account. Contact a TRA Specialist with any questions.

Working

When you are in fulltime TAA approved training and receiving TRA payments, you may work and earn up to your weekly TRA benefit amount without having your benefits reduced.

HEALTH COVERAGE TAX CREDIT (HCTC)

For information about HCTC, go to the IRS website at: www.irs.gov – Search: HCTC

Reemployment Trade Adjustment Assistance (RTAA)

RTAA is a wage subsidy that pays up to 50% of the difference between your wages at separation and your wages in reemployment, up to a maximum of \$10,000.

RTAA is available to you up to a two year eligibility period if:

- Your new job pays less than your trade-impacted job.
- Are at least 50 years of age or older.
- Your new wage does not exceed \$50,000 per year.
- You are working at least 32 hours per week in one or more jobs, **or**
- You are working at least 20 hours per week while also in fulltime TAA approved training.
- You are working at a different firm or firm subdivision from which you separated.

If your reemployment ends, your RTAA subsidy will end. Your RTAA wage subsidy may resume, when you obtain qualifying reemployment and re-apply within your established RTAA eligibility period.

Once you have elected RTAA, and receive a payment, you cannot receive TRA payments.