

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT DIVISION
Workforce Policy and Service Delivery Branch
Technical Assistance Bulletin 256

Program: TAA; WIA

Topic: Coenrolling Customers in Trade Adjustment Assistance and Workforce Investment Act Services

Date: November 29, 2012

This Technical Assistance (TA) Bulletin provides Local Workforce Development Boards (Boards) with information regarding the coenrollment of customers in Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) and Workforce Investment Act (WIA) services, specifically:

- training occupations and providers;
- training caps;
- sequence of service; and
- use of standardized forms.

Coenrolling customers in TAA and WIA results in TAA-eligible participants receiving both TAA and WIA support services (e.g., transportation to assist with training program attendance).

When serving customers coenrolled in TAA and WIA, it is important to consider the following information:

Training Occupations and Providers

TAA customers are not limited to WIA Target Occupations Lists or the Eligible Training Provider System when pursuing TAA-supported training:

- 20 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §617.22(a)(3) requires that there be “a reasonable expectation that the worker will find a job, using the skills and education acquired while in training.”
- Trade Act §236(a)(5) provides that training options available under TAA are not limited to training programs available under Title I of WIA.

Training Caps

- Board WIA training caps (maximums), established by 20 CFR §663.420, can limit the amount expended on an individual customer’s WIA training plan.
- TAA requires only that training be made available at a reasonable cost and specifically precludes the use of “hard” training caps. WD Letter 06-10, issued February 2, 2010, and entitled “Trade Adjustment Assistance: Statewide Commuting Area and Reasonable Cost of Training Standard,” provides additional information on TAA cost standards.

Sequence of Service

The provision of TAA services focuses on the transition of TAA customers into suitable employment at the first opportunity. If vocational training is the strategy to be used, enrollment into training will occur at the first viable opportunity. The majority of TAA customers will meet WIA eligibility criteria and will likely benefit from coenrollment in WIA services. However, if it is determined that suitable employment is unavailable to the TAA customer, enrollment in TAA training will not be affected by the WIA sequence of service required by 20 CFR §663.240 or delayed by WIA eligibility determination processes.

Use of Standardized Forms

Generally, standardized enrollment forms specific to either TAA or WIA are used when customers are coenrolled in WIA and TAA services. For example, a form that requests the selection of a training program from the Board's Targeted Occupations List or requires the repayment for the cost of training programs not successfully completed is not appropriate for a TAA customer. It is important to review standardized enrollment forms to ensure they are appropriate to the customer being served.

Direct inquiries regarding this TA Bulletin to TAA@twc.state.tx.us.