

Washington State Trade Adjustment Assistance Policy

Policy Number: 3080, Revision 1 (2002)

Policy Title: Use of the Eligible Training Provider List (ETPL) under TAA

Effective Date: January 24, 2013

1. Purpose:

To ensure that the selection of training programs from statewide training providers retains the highest quality standards and performance outcomes while optimizing customer choice.

2. Background:

The Trade Adjustment Assistance for Workers Program (TAA program) was first established in the Trade Act of 1974 as a tool to retrain trade impacted workers and help them find suitable employment.

The Trade Adjustment Assistance Reform Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-210) reauthorized and expanded the scope of the TAA program. It also repealed the North American Free Trade Agreement Transitional Adjustment Assistance (NAFTA-TAA) program, which had been added to the TAA program in 1993 to provide benefits to workers who lost their jobs because of trade with Mexico and Canada after NAFTA. The NAFTA-TAA program was no longer necessary because the 2002 amendments extended the same favorable TAA coverage to workers who lost their jobs because of shifts in production to other countries with which the United States had trade agreements, treaties or where there was also a likelihood of increased imports because of shifts in productions to Mexico and Canada.

The 2002 amendments expanded coverage to adversely impacted secondary workers, whose layoffs could be attributed to trade impacts demonstrated by TAA certifications of workers for companies considered upstream suppliers or downstream producers to the certified primary firm. The 2002 Program applies to workers covered under petition numbers TA-W 50,000 – 69,999.

3. Policy:

Since 2002, the criterion for Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) training approval has been conditioned upon the training being in an Eligible Training Provider (ETP) approved program. This policy has been effective in integrating both TAA and WIA Dislocated Worker programs by enabling a smooth transition with co-enrollment through simplified assessment, similar eligibility requirements, and the ability of participants to access the Washington

Unemployment Insurance Training Benefits program. Training providers listed as an ETP have demonstrated quality and performance through an approved evaluation process. These programs must meet certain standards for completion, earnings and employment from an annual evaluation conducted by the Workforce Training & Education Coordinating Board (Workforce Board).

Participants who want to enroll in a training program that is not listed on TAA service providers will assess customer needs and develop individual training plans that support the occupational goals of participants. TAA service providers will continue to promote the ETP list to participants and training providers and will encourage participants to select training programs available from the ETP list on the Washington Career Bridge [website](#).

The ETP list will need to submit a written request for training exception to the state Trade Act coordinator. Requests for training exceptions, along with additional information provided by the Workforce Board, will be reviewed and, if appropriate, approved by the state Trade Act coordinator.

The WDA representative should be the ESD Area Director or their designated representative. Reviews of training exceptions will be conducted for the sole purpose of maintaining consistent statewide quality and performance in training programs. These reviews should be completed within fifteen (15) workdays between the date of submission of a written request for training exception and the time the panel notifies the participant of their determination. The criteria to be used in reviewing requests for training exception for a non-listed eligible training provider program will include, but not be limited to the following:

- The longevity of the training institution and program
- Published information on graduation and, or training completion rates
- Available information or data on employment after training

Washington Unemployment Insurance Training Benefits Program

The approval of Unemployment Insurance Training Benefits is conditioned upon the participant receiving training in an ETP approved program. Participants must be advised as to their inability to qualify for the Washington State Training Benefits program should they pursue training in a program that is not ETP approved.

Co-enrollment with a Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Program

The approval of training services under WIA is conditioned upon the participant receiving training in an ETP approved program. TAA participants must be counseled and advised as to their inability to qualify for any training services funded by WIA Dislocated Worker and Adult programs should they pursue their training from a training program that is not ETP approved.

4. Definitions:

None

5. References:

- [Public Law 107-210](#), Trade Adjustment Assistance Reform Act 2002

- [Training and Employment Guidance Letter \(TEGL\) 11-02](#), Operating Instructions for Implementing the Amendments to the Trade Act of 1974 Enacted by the Trade Act of 2002; [Change 1](#); [Change 2](#); [Change 3](#)

6. Supersedes:

This policy supersedes TAA Policy 3080 – Use of the Eligible Training Provider (ETP) List.

7. Website:

[Workforce Professionals Center](#)

8. Action:

Employment Security Regional Directors and WorkSource Administrators must distribute this policy broadly throughout the system to ensure that WorkSource System staff are familiar with its content and requirements.

9. Attachments:

None

Direct Inquiries To:

*Employment System Administration and Policy
Employment System Policy and Integrity Division
Employment Security Department
P.O. Box 9046
Olympia, WA 98507-9046
SystemPolicy@esd.wa.gov*