

August 25, 2000

Workforce Investment Act Memorandum Number E&T 00-04

Topic: Services to Dislocated Workers

Subject: TAA and NAFTA-TAA Coordination

Purpose: To describe the process for coordinating Title I Dislocated Worker Services with the TAA and NAFTA-TAA programs in your area, if funds for that program should become depleted. To encourage local areas to improve the coordination of TAA and NAFTA-TAA programs with Dislocated Worker programs, in an effort to create a seamless service delivery system.

Background: The TAA and NAFTA-TAA programs are listed as mandatory partners in WIA. The Department of Labor and Workforce Development operates these programs statewide. Funding for TAA and NAFTA-TAA for each year begins in October, the federal fiscal year. Therefore, if a substantial number of dislocated workers are eligible for TAA or NAFTA-TAA, the funds for these programs may be depleted during fiscal year. WIA funds are to be used after TAA and NAFTA-TAA. According to the final regulations for WIA, it is recommended that TAA and NAFTA-TAA certified dislocated workers, who qualify as dislocated workers, should also be enrolled under Title I of WIA. By doing this, those TAA and NAFTA-TAA workers, in need of services not provided by TAA and NAFTA-TAA, would be able to receive any of these services.

Instructions: If the state has obligated all available TAA and NAFTA-TAA funds, additional funds may be requested from the federal government. During periods where TAA and NAFTA-TAA funding is not available, the WIA funds should be used to fulfill the commitments that have been made to dislocated workers in your area by TAA and NAFTA-TAA. The requirements that we utilize other funding resources first, Pell Grants, etc., obviously apply.

If this situation occurs in your area, please collaborate with the local staff from the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Employment Security Division to coordinate these services, so that participants' services will not be interrupted. The state will inform your office immediately if TAA and NAFTA-TAA funds become available. The participants could then be moved to TAA and NAFTA-TAA.

In order to assure that WIA requirements for these participants have been met, the TAA and NAFTA-TAA staff should provide verification that the participant has completed "core" and "intensive" services under that program. TAA and NAFTA-TAA are also "work first" programs. If any WIA partner provides a core or intensive service through its specific programs, these activities will count towards WIA service requirements.

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In an effort to streamline services to our customers under WIA, we are revising the TAA and NAFTA-TAA policies. Since that program is an "entitlement," participants' training needs must be met after TAA and NAFTA "core" and "intensive" services have been provided. We have attached the current TAA and NAFTA-TAA policies and will keep you informed of future changes to these policies.

Contact: For questions regarding this policy, please contact Susan Cowden, Director for Employment and Training Section, at 1-800-255-5872.

Effective Date: July 1, 2000

Expiration Date: Indefinite

RLM/SKC/RT