

ALTERNATIVE TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE (ATAA) FACT SHEET

What is ATAA?

Alternative Trade Adjustment Assistance (ATAA) is a program that provides eligible individuals over the age of 50 who obtain new employment within 26 weeks of their separation with a wage subsidy to help bridge the salary gap between their old and new employment. The program was designed to provide assistance to workers for whom the retraining offered under the regular Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program might not be appropriate. The Connecticut Labor Department shall pay an amount equal to fifty percent (50%) of the difference between the wages received at the time of separation and the wages received from reemployment. Individuals who continue to meet the eligibility criteria are paid ATAA benefits until a total of \$10,000 in benefits has been received, or a period of two years has elapsed since their first qualifying reemployment, whichever occurs first.

Individuals who receive payments under the ATAA program cannot receive Trade Readjustment Allowance (TRA) payments, or any other TAA benefits or services (e.g. training and job search allowances) with the exception of relocation allowances.

Who is Eligible for ATAA?

Trade-impacted workers certified as eligible for the Alternative Trade Adjustment Assistance (ATAA) program may elect to receive benefits under ATAA if the worker:

- is covered by a Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) certification;
- obtains reemployment not more than 26 weeks after the date of separation from Trade Act-certified employment;
- is at least 50 years old at the time of reemployment;
- earns \$50,000 OR LESS a year in wages from reemployment;
- is employed on a full-time basis (35 hours or more per week - **Note: employment may be with more than one employer**); and
- does not return to the employment from which he/she separated. This does not preclude returning to a different job with the same employer in a different division or facility.

How to Apply for ATAA:

- ✓ Obtain ATAA application from your Trade Act representative. **(Submit a separate application for each employer if working more than one job.)**
- ✓ Complete the ATAA application within two years of the first day of qualifying reemployment.
- ✓ Provide documentation of your age (50 years old or older at time of reemployment) such as a driver's license or birth certificate.
- ✓ Provide proof of earnings from your former TAA employer for the last full week of actual work performed, and the first full week of reemployment. A full week is considered to be at least 35 hours or more per week from **all employment** (excluding overtime). Documents normally accepted are a paycheck stub, or any legitimate document from the employer that includes sufficient information to make a decision.
- ✓ Meet with your Trade Act representative to submit your application(s) and other ATAA forms.

After submitting your application and documentation, the State TAA Coordinator will issue a written determination informing you of your eligibility for ATAA payments within 5 working days of receiving your application for benefits.

Note: The willful misrepresentation or nondisclosure of material facts which result in the payment of Alternative Trade Adjustment Assistance to which you are not entitled shall, in addition to any other penalty provided by law, render you ineligible for any further payments under the Trade Act.