



NASWA Recommendations for

Reauthorization of Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA)

On February 17, 2010, the NASWA Board of Directors approved the following recommendations for reauthorization of the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program.

- 1) NASWA supports the reauthorization of TAA, and recommends changes to the TAA program under the Trade and Globalization Adjustment Assistance Act (TGAAA) be made permanent. The changes to the TAA program under TGAAA are set to expire at the end of 2010; at which point Cooperating State Agencies (CSA's) are instructed to revert back to the TAA program changes amended under the TAA Reform Act of 2002.
- 2) NASWA recommends the changes made by TGAAA should be made permanent and retroactive with the reauthorization of the TAA program. A retroactive eligibility statute would allow populations enrolled in TAA services before the enactment of TGAAA to circumvent some of the original eligibility criteria under the old TAA program and take advantage of TGAAA program benefits such as Reemployment Trade Adjustment Assistance Program (RTAA), training relocation and job search allowances. All TAA participants should have the same options for benefits.
- 3) The new reporting methods under TGAAA, specifically the implementation of the revised 2010 TAA Trade Activity Participant Report (TAPR), require fairly substantial programming modifications in many states. NASWA recommends the appropriation of additional funds to states to cover the costs of programming modifications for the revised TAPR. A study should be conducted to determine what states need to cover costs for the programming.
- 4) Increased participation in the TAA program has led to increased pressure on states' case management operations. Only \$350,000 was provided under TGAAA to each state for administration of case management; however, these funds are nowhere near the amount needed by some larger states. NASWA recommends additional funds be provided to states for the administration of case management services. A cost analysis should be conducted to determine each state's needs for case management.
- 5) Very little training has taken place with regard to case management services and other programs under TGAAA. NASWA recommends the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) provide training webinars to better educate CSA's on the TGAAA program changes and the administration of case management services.
- 6) NASWA recommends the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) expedite the petition certification process as is required under TGAAA. Many states have indicated that USDOL has failed to certify or deny petitions in the shortened duration allowed to USDOL under TGAAA. NASWA supports adequate funding for USDOL to get the task completed on a timely basis.
- 7) NASWA recommends the U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration (ETA) pursue an aggressive public education campaign to ensure the business community and potential TAA applicants are aware of the TAA program and the services available through it. Some states and local areas are not heavily impacted by direct loss of trade industries or jobs, but the expansion of TAA to cover service sector workers often does impact those areas. Many businesses and workers are not aware of this expansion. State workforce agencies and NASWA should be involved in this promotional campaign.