

VII. Program-Specific Requirements for Combined State Plan Partner Program

C. Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) Portion of WIOA State Plan for the State of Idaho

There are no program-specific state planning requirements for TAA. If the state includes TAA in a Combined State Plan, the state must incorporate TAA in its responses to the common planning elements in sections II, III, IV, and V of the WIOA State Plan requirements instrument.

The Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program is a Federal program that offers a variety of benefits and services to workers whose employment has been adversely impacted by foreign trade. Through a number of benefits and services, the TAA program provides trade-affected workers with opportunities to obtain the support, resources, skills, and credentials they need to return to the workforce to obtain suitable employment. These include employment and case management services, training, job search allowances, relocation allowances, reemployment and alternative TAA wage subsidies for older workers, and income support in the form of Trade Readjustment Allowances (TRA).

(a) The TAA program is a required partner in the one-stop delivery system, established under section 121 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). Therefore, given that the TAA program is part of the broader workforce system and a key goal for the TAA program is to ensure that trade-affected workers are able to successfully return to work, ETA strongly encourages States to integrate their TAA program activities in concert with other workforce system core and partner programs that may also address the needs of trade-affected workers. WIOA Sec. 103(3)(A)(B). Consistent with the Governor-Secretary Agreement, the States agree to use funds obligated under the TAA Annual Cooperative Financial Agreement (CFA), to carry out the TAA program, including: 1) ensuring integration of the TAA program into its one-stop delivery system; 2) using the centers in this system or network as the main point of participant intake and delivery of TAA program benefits and services; and 3) ensuring the terms of the Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with the Local Workforce Investment Boards, as established under WIOA section 121(c) will apply to the assistance provided by other one-stop partners to TAA participants. (Trade Act Sec. 239 (a) as amended by WIOA section 512 (hh))

Describe the State's process for operating the TAA program that ensures coordination and integration with WIOA core and partner programs. Provide examples, if available, of how the co-location of Wagner-Peyser in the one-stop centers and the addition of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), have improved access to these services for trade-affected workers.

The Idaho Department of Labor Workforce Services Division is the administrator for TAA, Wagner-Peyser (W-P), WIOA Title IB, and Veterans employment and training programs. Idaho Department of Labor is also the administrator of the Unemployment Insurance (UI) programs. The Department ensures that the administration as well as the service delivery of these programs are coordinated to avoid duplication of services and better service to the seekers.

After receipt of a WARN notice or other knowledge of local area layoffs, potentially trade-affected workers are contacted by a Rapid Response team made up of One-Stop partners . The Rapid Response team provides information about the full array of One-Stop services, such as UI, W-P Employment Services, TAA and WIOA. These workers are directed to American Job Centers (AJC) for immediate W-P, WIOA, or UI services, even before a Trade petition is filed. After a Trade petition is approved, trade-affected workers are contacted specifically to alert them of their entitled benefits.

Prior to dislocation, Rapid Response team members and local AJC staff work closely with service provider management staff to develop a service delivery plan that coordinates resources and ensures One-Stop access to information and enrollment in UI, TAA, WIOA, and Wagner-Peyser. Idaho's service delivery system provides the impacted worker with coordinated application and enrollment for WIOA, TAA, and Wagner-Peyser services. Forms used for WIOA career assessment and retraining plans are accepted for the TAA program, eliminating client redundancies and streamlining co-enrollment processes. Although co-enrollment is not mandated by federal law, this service delivery planning model ensures the majority of TAA recipients in Idaho are also being served with WIOA funds. The state requires co-enrollment of TAA recipients whenever the individual is WIOA-eligible and receives WIOA staff or other supportive services.

(b) States must develop and manage resources (including electronic case management systems) to integrate data, including co-enrollment data, provided through different agencies administering benefits and services to trade-affected workers in order to ensure consistent program administration and fiscal integrity, as well as reliable fiscal and performance reporting. (WIOA section 103(b)(3))

Describe how the State will use TAA funding for infrastructure, other shared costs, and the promotion of the development of integrated intake, case management and reporting systems.

Idaho's TAA program funds an integrated intake, case management, and reporting system developed by America's Job Link Alliance (AJLA) called *IdahoWorks*. *IdahoWorks* supports the state's Wagner-Peyser, WIOA Title IB and TAA programs. More programs may also be added. Approximately four percent of the total cost of the system is funded by TAA; however, this may be adjusted as the system may include more partner programs, allowing for increased cost sharing.

TAA services are tracked in *IdahoWorks*, allowing coordination of re-employment planning and service delivery. This is especially helpful where partners such as WIOA case management staff have access to information on dates, services and programs.

(c) Except for States covered by the regulatory exemption 20 CFR 618.890 (c) or to perform non-inherently governmental functions, States must engage only State government personnel to perform TAA-funded functions undertaken to carry out the TAA program, and must apply to such personnel the standards for a merit system of personnel administration applicable to personnel covered under 5 CFR part 900, subpart F. (20 CFR 618.890)

Describe how TAA program-funded benefits and services are approved by merit-staffed employees in accordance with 20 CFR 618.890.

Idaho employs only merit-based State of Idaho, Department of Labor employees to deliver TAA program-funded benefits and services.

TAA Program Assurances

The TAA program is a Required Partner in the one-stop system, established under Section 121 of WIOA. However, to receive TAA program funds, States must adhere to the signed Governor-Secretary Agreement, in addition to the terms and conditions provided in the TAA Annual CFA and the UI Annual Funding Agreement, executed each fiscal year between the State and ETA.

The CFA, which is incorporated by reference into the Governor-Secretary Agreement, explains program requirements, limitations on the use of funds, assurances and other important grant provisions that States must follow to receive TAA program funding for Training and Other Activities (which includes training, employment and case management services, and allowances for job search and relocation and State administration of these benefits and services).

At the beginning of each fiscal year, ETA provides each Cooperating State Agency (CSA) with a CFA for that year, which the CSA is required to execute and submit to ETA's Office of Grants Management. The UI Annual Funding Agreement is the mechanism for funding the State administration of TRA and older worker wage subsidies through the State agency that administers the UI laws for the State.

The State Plan must include assurances that:

On an annual basis, the CSA will execute TAA Cooperative Financial Agreements and UI Funding Agreements for each fiscal year during the four-year State planning cycle.

Yes. The CSA will execute TAA Cooperative Financial Agreements and UI Funding Agreements for each fiscal year during the four-year State planning cycle.

Has the state incorporated TAA into the sections indicated above? **Yes**