



**Charlie Crist**  
Governor  
**Monesia T. Brown**  
Director

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** October 8, 2008

**TO:** Regional Workforce Board Executive Directors

**FROM:** Lois A. Scott, Program Manager, One-Stop and Program Support  
*(Signature)*

**SUBJECT:** Trade Adjustment Assistance Program

The purpose of this memorandum is to alert regional workforce boards of the increasing number of petitions being certified and the resulting increase in the number of eligible trade-affected workers needing services. As you know, the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) Reform Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-210) makes several amendments to the Trade Act of 1974. In addition to repealing the North America Free Trade Agreement-Trade Adjustment Assistance (NAFTA-TAA) and consolidating this program, it expands eligibility to more worker groups, increases existing benefits, provides tax credits for health insurance coverage assistance, increases timeliness for benefit receipt, training and rapid response assistance.

In 2006, Florida implemented a mandatory WIA/TAA co-enrollment policy for trade-affected workers who qualify for training. The available TAA funding offers an opportunity to maximize training opportunities for this impacted group by providing a new funding source that can pay for the direct training costs with WIA paying for any associated services such as core, intensive services, case management and support services. This is particularly important in these times of declining revenues in programs such as WIA and TANF. Under the federal TAA guidelines, training shall be approved for an adversely affected worker if it is determined that:

1. There is no suitable employment available for the adversely affected worker;
2. The worker would benefit from appropriate training;
3. There is a reasonable expectation of employment following completion of such training;
4. Training approved is reasonably available to the worker from either governmental agencies or private sources (which may include area vocational education schools);
5. The worker is qualified to undertake and complete such training; and,
6. Such training is suitable for the worker and available at a reasonable cost.

### Agency for Workforce Innovation

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For more information go to [www.floridajobs.org](http://www.floridajobs.org)

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When approval for training has been granted, the eligible trade-impacted individual is expected to complete the training program during the time period authorized under the Trade Act Program. Additional information about the TAA program is available on our website at: [http://www.floridajobs.org/workforce/TAA\\_Home.html](http://www.floridajobs.org/workforce/TAA_Home.html) . Because there is more than sufficient funding available for this program, you may want to consider an exception to any training cap that may be set for other programs with more limited funding.

Please contact Mershal Noble at (850) 921-3317 or via [mershal.noble@flaawi.com](mailto:mershal.noble@flaawi.com) to find out more information about Trade Act certifications in your workforce region. She can also help with any questions you may have about maximizing the use of this funding source. You may also call Fay Malone at (850) 245-7420 or via [fay.malone@flaawi.com](mailto:fay.malone@flaawi.com) for assistance.

LAS/omn

cc: Richard Meik  
Kevin Neal  
Jim Doyal  
Mike Lynch  
Fay Malone