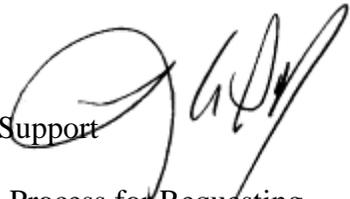

COMMUNIQUE

DATE: February 20, 2012

TO: Regional Workforce Board Executive Directors

FROM: Lois A. Scott, Program Manager, Workforce Program Support 

SUBJECT: Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 State Initial Allocations and the Process for Requesting Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) Program Reserve Funds

PURPOSE:

To transmit Training and Employment Guidance Letter (TEGL) 13-11 that provides information to State Workforce Agencies on the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) initial funding allocations and the Process for requesting Reserve Funds.

BACKGROUND:

President Obama signed the Trade Adjustment Assistance Extension Act (TAAEA) into law on October 21, 2011 which reauthorized and made major changes to the TAA program. These changes are outlined in TEGL 10-11. The legislation amended Section 236(a)(2)(A) of the Trade Act to establish a \$575 million annual cap on TAA funding for Training, Job Search and Relocation Allowances, Employment and Case Management Services, including State Administration of benefits for both Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 and 2013, and established a \$143,750,000 cap for the first quarter of FY 2014 (October 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013).

The TAAEA did not amend Section 236(a)(2)(B) and (C) of the Trade Act that governs how the funds are allocated. TEGL 13-11 announces the amount of each state's initial allocation and contains information on how reserve funds may be requested.



USE OF FUNDS:

The USDOL plans to allocate FY 2012 funds in a single grant which may be used to pay the costs for Training, Job Search, Relocation Allowances, Employment, Case Management Services and Administration. In previous years there was a separate grant for Administration. There are restrictions outlined in the TEGGL that apply to the use of FY 2012 funds for State Administration and for Employment and Case Management Services. The Department of Economic Opportunity is currently considering whether the changes in how these funds are allocated to the state will change how the Department allocates the funds to regional workforce boards and how best to track the restrictions on administrative and employment and case management costs.

It should be noted that the extension act amended Section 245 and added information that provides authority for the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) to recapture unobligated TAA funds that were allotted to a state that have not fully obligated their funding in the second and third year. These funds will be deobligated and reallocated to states that demonstrate a pattern of need.

ACTION REQUIRED:

Regional Workforce Boards should review the TEGGL provided in the link below to ensure that funds are utilized for eligible trade-affected workers who are covered under certified petitions. Under the current extension, group eligibility and petition filings may be submitted for manufacturing and service industries impacted by foreign competition from any country. Since Florida is a service industry oriented state, partners are encouraged to be more proactive in making sure that businesses within your community are aware of the services and benefits for which they may qualify. The Department will advise regional workforce boards of any change this TEGGL may require in the method of how the state allocates TAA funding to the regional workforce boards.

AUTHORITY:

United States Department of Labor (USDOL)

LINK:

http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/corr_doc.cfm?DOCN=4254