

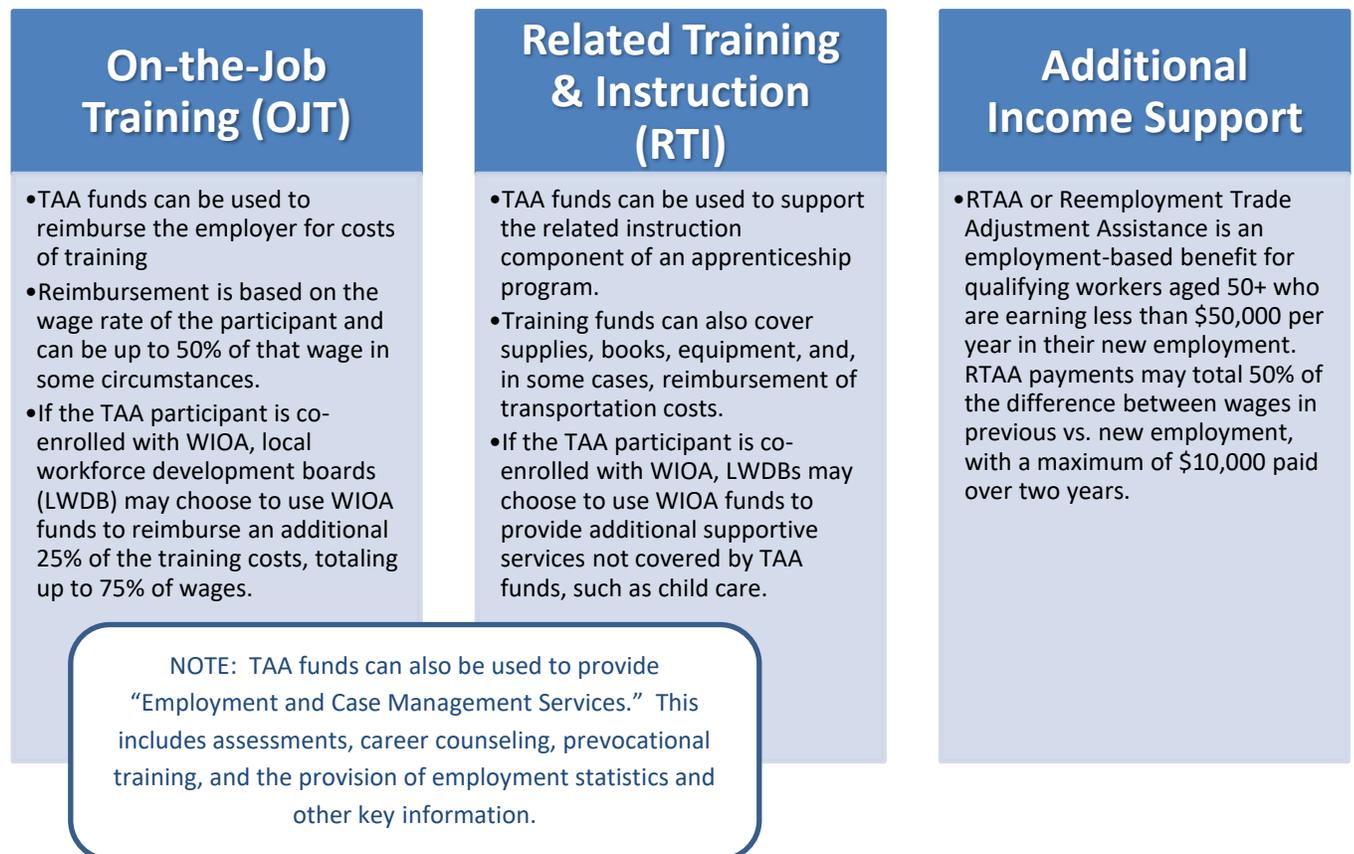


Supporting Apprenticeship through the Trade Adjustment Assistance Program

In appropriate circumstances, the Trade Adjustment Assistance Program (TAA) represents another funding vehicle to support apprenticeship. All TAA participants are covered under what is called a TAA certification. This certification confirms that the employment of a group of workers was impacted or threatened due to trade-related circumstances. Grants are provided to the states to provide services, which participants access through the American Job Center Network. States also notify individuals of their eligibility.

To understand “supporting apprenticeship using TAA funding,” it may be helpful to first look at the basic components of an apprenticeship program. Specifically, apprenticeship is an “earn and learn” training model that combines work-based learning with related class instruction using the highest industry standards.

The figure below shows how TAA funding can support core apprenticeship components:



Further information on the Office of Apprenticeship is found here: www.dol.gov/apprenticeship



Supporting Apprenticeship through the TAA Program: Scenarios

1. Suitable employment

- a. TAA Participant is matched with an apprenticeship opportunity with assistance from the TAA Coordinator, State OA Director, and direct case manager.
- b. TAA funds can be used toward apprenticeship in the following ways:
 - i. related instruction (e.g., classroom and distance learning)
 - ii. tools
 - iii. uniforms
 - iv. equipment or books
 - v. On the Job Training
- c. This funding can continue until the worker reaches “suitable employment” or 130 weeks, whichever comes first.
 - i. Suitable employment is defined as: work of substantially equal or higher skill level than the worker’s past adversely affected employment, and wages for such work at not less than 80 percent of the worker’s average weekly wage

2. RTAA

- a. TAA-eligible worker is at least 50 years old.
- b. The worker has secured a position as an apprentice in an apprenticeship program.
- c. Annualized earnings less than \$50,000 annually.
- d. The benefit:
 - i. As s/he continues to work through the apprenticeship levels, s/he will receive a benefit to help her/him continue the apprenticeship program. The benefit may total 50% of the difference between the old and new wage.
 - ii. These payments can be made for up to 2 years, but must not exceed a total of \$10,000 and must be stopped if the participant’s annualized wage, which must be computed monthly, reaches \$50,000 or more.
- e. Note that this apprentice is still an active TAA participant, and is receiving benefits (RTAA).

3. Pre-apprenticeship training

- a. If TAA eligible, TAA funds could pay for a pre-apprenticeship program as a training program
- b. To be enrolled in the training program, the TAA participant would need to meet the 6 criteria for TAA-funded training:
 1. No suitable employment is available.
 2. The participant would benefit from appropriate training.
 3. There is a reasonable expectation of employment following completion of training.
 4. Training is reasonably available.
 5. The participant is qualified to undertake and complete such training.
 6. Training is available at a reasonable cost.
- c. Pre-apprenticeship services and programs are designed to prepare individuals to enter and succeed in apprenticeship programs. These programs have a documented partnership with at least one apprenticeship program sponsor and together, they expand the participant's career pathway opportunities with industry-based training coupled with classroom instruction.
- d. Further information on pre-apprenticeship training is found here:
www.doleta.gov/OA/preapprentice.cfm