

TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT NOTICE	NO. 21-03
	DATE May 26, 2004

TO: ALL STATE WORKFORCE AGENCIES
ALL STATE WORKFORCE LIAISONS
ALL STATE TAA COORDINATORS
ALL STATE ONE-STOP CENTER SYSTEM LEADS

FROM: *Maria K. Flynn*
MARIA K. FLYNN
Administrator
Office of Policy Development, Evaluation and Research

SUBJECT: Upcoming Evaluation of the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) Program

ETA is pleased to announce the start of a major new evaluation of the Trade Adjustment Act (TAA) program. The evaluation will provide data on the impact of TAA benefits and services on eligible workers and document the nature and quality of services provided to these workers under TAA and in the One-Stop Career Center System.

The evaluation will include a study of the initial implementation of the reforms passed in TAA Reform Act of 2002, a longer process study, and an impact analysis of program outcomes, using a comparison group.

In the next few weeks, researchers from Social Policy Research and Mathematica Policy Research will begin site visits and data collection for the study of implementation of the TAA reforms. Examples of issues to be explored in this initial round of site visits include: how states notify potentially eligible workers; how the TAA program operates in the One-Stop context; the nature and level of rapid response, early intervention, training, case management, supportive and placement services; local awareness of statutory criteria for approving training plans; possible reasons why some TAA recipients are not becoming re-employed; the level of funds available locally for administrative responsibilities; and how local administrative funding levels are determined.

Subsequent site visits will focus additional attention on program operations and will also highlight innovative and promising practices. These site visits will be complemented by a survey of program practices in all local areas, which will provide a snapshot of TAA operations nationally.

The analysis of impacts will use a comparison group methodology based on administrative records from TAA, UI, and WIA and a large telephone survey of participants and nonparticipants. The

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20210**

evaluation will also link impact and process information and attempt to determine how various programmatic and administrative practices affect impacts.

The initial round of site visits will involve 12-13 states and one local workforce agency in each state. (States were selected via weighted random sampling to assure coverage of states with larger numbers of TAA participants.) Should your state be included in this or subsequent rounds of data collection, please provide your assistance in meeting with the researchers and providing the information needed. Also, please let local areas know about this research, the possibility of their being visited and our request for their assistance in responding to the researchers.

Should you wish to learn more about the evaluation, including the key questions to be answered and the methodology to be used, please contact the project officer, Charlotte "Sande" Schifferes at 202/693-3655 or schifferes.charlotte@dol.gov.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation in this important research effort and for informing local areas about it.