

Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) Job Search Allowance Process and Fact Sheet

TAA job search allowances are payments issued by the Department of Labor to cover expenses incurred by adversely affected jobseekers traveling outside their commuting areas for prearranged job interviews. You may not receive a job search allowance for a job search that began prior to your total separation from adversely affected employment. You may apply for job search allowance more than once, but your total allowances may not exceed the amount permitted under your TAA certification. For petition numbers between 70000 and 79999, the maximum is \$1,500; for petitions numbers between 50000 and 69999 or greater than 80000, the maximum is \$1,250.

DEADLINES	A REQUEST FOR JOB SEARCH ALLOWANCE MUST BE FILED WITH THE STATE AGENCY PRIOR TO BEGINNING THE JOB SEARCH.	
	<p>A job search allowance application may be approved only if submitted before</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) The 365th day after the date of the certification under which you are covered, or the 365th day after the date of your last total separation, whichever is later; or (2) The 182d day after the concluding date of Trade Act-approved training. <p>If approved, completion of the job search must occur within a reasonable period not exceeding 30 days after the day on which the job search began. A job search is deemed completed when you either secure employment or contact each employer to whom referred by the state agency.</p>	
FILING PROCEDURES	<p>Meet with your TAA counselor to assess whether an adequate number of suitable job opportunities exist in your local commuting area. If you must seek work outside the commuting area and arrange a job interview, you and your TAA counselor must complete a <i>Request for Job Search Allowance</i>, form TAA-861. Your counselor will submit the original, completed application to the Connecticut Department of Labor's Trade Act Unit with a copy of your completed DOL-118/<i>Career Development Plan</i>. The TAA counselor must certify that you have registered for appropriate reemployment services; have no reasonable expectation of securing suitable employment in the local commuting area; have received a <i>bona fide</i> referral to suitable employment outside the commuting area and have a reasonable expectation of being hired, and have submitted a timely application <i>before</i> beginning your job search. Be sure to maintain a copy of your application.</p>	
	<p>The Trade Act Unit will review your application, determine eligibility and issue from TAA-861A/<i>Job Search Allowance – State Agency Determination</i>. The notice affords appeal rights.</p> <p>If approved, complete your job search within 30 days of beginning it and then submit form TAA-861B/<i>Job Search Allowance – Worker's Request for Final Payment</i>, to certify employer contacts made and amounts expended daily for lodging and meals (form TAA-861B will be provided to you with the TAA-861A determination notice if your application is approved, along with forms W-9 and SP-26NB/<i>State of Connecticut – Agency Vendor Form</i>, necessary for processing your final payment). Receipts are required for all lodging and purchased transportation expenses. You may submit form TAA-861B and required receipts to either the Trade Act Unit or your TAA counselor. State agency verification of your employer contacts is required.</p>	
ITEMS ALLOWABLE	<p>Depending on your applicable Trade Act certification, either 90% or 100% of the total costs of each of the following transportation and subsistence costs (90% if your petition number is less than 70000 or greater 80000; 100% if your petition number is between 70000 and 79999):</p>	
	Travel	<p>The more cost-effective mode of travel reasonably available using either</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The actual cost of roundtrip travel by the most economical public transportation you reasonably can be expected to take from your residence to the area of job search; or • The cost per mile at the prevailing mileage rate authorized under the federal travel regulations for roundtrip travel by the usual route from your residence to the area of job search. (Information available at https://www.gsa.gov/- POV mileage.)
Lodging and meals	<p>The cost allowable for lodging and meals is <i>the lesser of</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The actual cost to you of lodging and meals while engaged in the job search; or • 50 percent of the prevailing per diem allowance rate authorized under the federal travel regulations for the locality where the job search is conducted. (Information available at https://www.gsa.gov/ - per diem rates.) 	
SUITABLE EMPLOYMENT DEFINITION	<p>Work of substantially equal or higher still level than the worker's past adversely affected employment and wages for such work that are not less than 80 percent of the person's average weekly wage. Part-time, temporary, short term, or threatened employment is not suitable employment. For the purposes of relocation: employment that pays a wage of at least the <u>75th percentile of national wages, as determined by the National Occupational Employment Wage Estimates</u>, and otherwise meets the suitable employment requirements.</p>	