

# Quick Overview

## *Job Search Allowances Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA), as amended*

### **PRIOR APPROVAL**

**Must be obtained before the job search commences**

To establish eligibility for a job search allowance, an Adversely Affected Worker (AAW) must receive a determination from the State that they cannot reasonably expect to secure suitable employment in their commuting area, and that they cannot reasonably expect to obtain suitable employment or employment that pays a wage of at least the 75th percentile of national wages (as determined by the National Occupational Employment Wage Estimates) and otherwise meets the definition of suitable employment.

For this determination to be reached will require an initial assessment be conducted by the Trade Case Manager with the trade-affected worker's (TAW's) cooperation. Results of the initial assessment will determine the appropriate service strategy for a trade-affected worker to obtain re-employment.

The initial assessment includes an assessment of the availability of suitable employment for the worker in the local labor market, and must consider the following factors: (1) local labor market conditions, including unemployment rate, local employer skill demands, and hiring prerequisites; (2) the worker's skills, abilities, and knowledge, based on the worker's previous employment and education; (3) the worker's transferable skills that might be of interest to employers; (4) an evaluation of the worker's skills, aptitudes, and abilities (including skills gaps), as well as any supportive service needs; and (5) any barriers to the worker's re-employment.

**Note:** *A worker may decline an assessment but should understand may result in denial of some benefits because the TAA-prescribed assessment process informs eligibility for certain TAA benefits.*

If a determination is reached that it is necessary to conduct job searches outside the commuting area to meet the reemployment goal the following will be reviewed for each job search request:

- a. Are there available resources to conduct the job search or virtual interviews online in lieu of travel?
- b. Does this job search have a reasonable expectation of obtaining suitable employment of long-term duration outside the commuting area and in the area where the job search will be conducted?
- c. Does this job search ensure the ability to secure employment that pays a wage of at least the 75th Percentile of wages as determined by the National Occupational Employment Wage Estimates?
- d. Employer verification of position offered and wages to be paid to ensure it meets (c) above requirement.

#### **Amount covered for Job Search if approved:**

- Travel - The actual cost of round trip travel by the **most economical public transportation** the individual reasonably can be expected to take from the individual's residence to the area of job search; or the cost per mile at the prevailing mileage rate authorized under the Federal travel regulations for such roundtrip travel by the usual route from the individual's residence to the area of job search.
- Lodging and meals -shall not exceed the lesser of: (i) The actual cost to the individual of lodging and meals while engaged in the job search; or (ii) **50 percent** of the prevailing per diem allowance rate authorized under the Federal travel regulations for the locality where the job search is conducted. The amounts otherwise payable under paragraph (a) of this section shall be reduced by any amounts the individual is entitled to be paid or reimbursed for such expenses from any other source.

**FOR MORE DETAILED INFORMATION ON JOB SEARCH ALLOWANCES PLEASE CONTACT YOUR ASSIGNED MAILBOX WITH THE VIRGINIA EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION (VEC) at:  
(Assigned Mailbox City followed by [TRADEQUESTIONS@VEC.VIRGINIA.GOV](mailto:TRADEQUESTIONS@VEC.VIRGINIA.GOV))**