

TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION LETTER

ID/No: WD 52-00

Date: August 22, 2000

Key Word: Dislocated
Workers

To: Local Workforce Development Board Executive Directors
Agency Executive Staff
LWDA Coordinators
TPCS Coordinators
Agency Local Offices

From: Barbara Cigainero, Director of Workforce Development

Subject: Procedural Changes for Approving Training Contracts Funded by the Trade Adjustment Assistance and North American Free Trade Agreement-Transitional Adjustment Assistance

PURPOSE:

To provide Local Workforce Development Boards with procedural changes for approving training contracts funded by the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) and North American Free Trade Agreement-Transitional Adjustment Assistance (NAFTA-TAA).

REFERENCE:

Workforce Investment Act
20 CFR, Title 20 Chapter V, Part 617, Subpart C, Section 617.22
Texas Workforce Commission, Trade Adjustment Assistance Employment Service Manual, Chapter 3
WD Letter 24-99 Change 1, issued March 3, 1999, and entitled "Texas Workforce Commission Web Site on the Implementation of the Workforce Investment Act"
WD Letter 87-99, issued June 24, 1999, and entitled "Training Provider Certification System: Accessing the Statewide List of Certified Training Providers"
WD Letter 76-99, Change 6, issued March 16, 2000, and entitled "Training Provider Certification System: Clarifications on the Application for Initial Eligibility Under the Workforce Investment Act"

BACKGROUND:

The Workforce Investment Act (WIA) requires that, before an entity can provide training services to WIA participants, including dislocated workers, the entity must be certified eligible to receive WIA funds. The Texas Workforce Commission (Agency) developed and implemented the Training Provider Certification System (TPCS) to meet this mandate. One of the TPCS requirements is that entities seeking eligibility as WIA training providers must submit written applications. Once eligibility is approved, the training entity is included in the Statewide List of Certified Training Providers. WD Letters 24-99, Change 1; 76-99, Change 6; and 87-99 provide in-depth explanations of the TPCS, including the eligibility determination process required for training providers to be included on the Statewide List of Certified Training Providers.

Until recently, training contracts funded by TAA and NAFTA-TAA were limited to training institutions, programs, and courses approved by the Agency's Proprietary Schools Division, the Texas Education Agency (TEA), or the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Now Agency trade staff may also approve TAA- and NAFTA-TAA-funded contracts with training entities listed on the Statewide List of Certified Training Providers.

PROCEDURES:

Boards must ensure that Agency staff responsible for approving training contracts funded by TAA and NAFTA-TAA are:

- Informed that training entities included on the Statewide List of Certified Training Providers are also eligible for approval for training contracts funded by TAA and NAFTA-TAA;
- Informed of the availability of the Statewide List of Certified Training Providers located on the following Internet site:
<http://decide.soicc.state.tx.us/decide/plsql/wia>; and
- Providing dislocated workers, including trade-affected workers, with information on and access to the Statewide List of Certified Training Providers.

ACTIONS REQUIRED:

Effective immediately, Boards must ensure that Agency Trade staff located in Texas Workforce Centers are informed of the procedural changes for approving training contracts funded by TAA and NAFTA-TAA.

INQUIRIES:

Direct inquiries to Harry Crawford at (512) 463-2227 or via e-mail at harry.crawford@twc.state.tx.us.

Rescissions: None

Expiration: Continuing