

Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT)

Overview

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 amended the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program to establish a Community College and Career Training (CCCT) initiative. The Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act signed by President Barack Obama on March 30, 2010, included **\$2 billion over four years** to fund and expand this initiative. As a result, the U.S. Department of Labor ('the Department'), in consultation with the Department of Education, announced the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) initiative.

The TAACCCT provides **community colleges and other eligible institutions of higher education** with funds to expand and improve their ability to deliver education and career training programs that can be completed in two years or less, are suited for workers who are eligible for training under the TAA for Workers program, and prepare program participants for employment in high-wage, high-skill occupations. The targeted population of this program is workers who have lost their jobs or are threatened with job loss as a result of foreign trade. These are multi-year grants to eligible institutions for either developing innovative programs or replicating evidence-based strategies. The Department is helping to ensure that our nation's institutions of higher education are able to help the targeted population succeed in acquiring the skills, degrees, and credentials needed for high-wage, high-skill employment while also meeting the needs of employers for skilled workers.

The TAACCCT's focus on continuous improvement will help institutions develop and routinely strengthen identified program areas to better educate and train learners to get them back to work. This program is designed to meet industry needs while also accelerating learning and improving retention and achievement rates. This program has the goal of increasing industry-recognized credential or degree completion. Programs may use online or technology-driven learning to achieve these objectives. With these resources, eligible institutions of higher education will be able to expand their capacity to provide quality education and training services to individuals to improve their knowledge and skills, to enable them to obtain high-quality employment jobs to support their families. This program is especially important for the men and women who have spent many years working in industries that have been impacted by trade, and who are now facing losing their jobs and needing to start new careers. The program will help ensure that eligible institutions have the capacity to provide targeted skills training to these individuals, and that they recognize the skills that they come to the table with—that the years people have spent working are counted toward the next steps they must take to start anew.

Grantee Summaries

Thirty two (32) awards ranging from approximately \$2.5 million each for individual applicants and up to \$25 million each for consortium applicants have been made towards the implementation of the TAACCCT initiative designed to accelerate individual learning and improve college retention and achievement rates to increase industry-recognized credential or degree completion rates of TAA for Workers program participants and other individuals to enable them to meet industry needs for a skilled workforce and obtain good jobs. It is the Department's expectation that this initiative will also increase the use of online or technology-driven learning to achieve these objectives.

Timeline & Additional Information

The Solicitation for Grant Applications for the second year of the TAACCCT program was on February 24, 2012 and closed on May 24, 2012. Winners will be announced in Fall 2012. However, two additional rounds of applications will occur in 2013 and 2014 respectively.

Governor O'Malley strongly encourages Maryland's community colleges and other eligible institutions to apply for TAACCCT. For application information, award summaries, project descriptions, and other information, please see:

<http://www.doleta.gov/taaccct/>