



TAA for Firms Program – Brief Overview

Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) has been a pillar of U.S. trade policy for decades. The TAA for Firms program is one of four trade remedy programs aimed at reducing the damaging impact of imports on manufacturing firms within the economy.

The TAA for Firms program is a highly effective, modestly funded program with a critical mission: saving U.S. manufacturing jobs and improving manufacturing competitiveness for future generations. TAA for Firms plays an important role in helping U.S. trade impacted firms stay in business for the long term, as well as creating job growth through export expansion. Some of the factors that have contributed to the success of the program include:

The TAA for Firms program is staffed by business professionals with advanced business degrees and extensive private industry experience. These Project Managers work with the management teams of TAA client firms to develop a strategic business plan that identifies the key projects that the program will help fund on a cost shared basis. Project Managers help select qualified consultants, negotiate contract terms, and manage the projects through completion.

TAAF is a 50/50 cost share program. The federal government assistance matches, dollar for dollar, the strategic investments companies make, up to the current limit of \$75,000 per company.

TAA for Firms is not an entitlement – only trade impacted manufacturers can qualify for funding through the program by demonstrating that both sales and employment have been negatively impacted by foreign competition.

Unique TAA for Firms service model utilizes private sector consultants to implement critical strategic projects to develop new products, expand distribution, increase exports, improve productivity, and achieve growth.

Federal funds cannot be used to purchase capital goods or equipment. The funds are used to pay for a wide range of projects utilizing external consulting expertise that will help companies develop the critical capabilities they need to compete in the global economy.

National funding for the TAA for Firms program is \$15.8 million. At the end of 2012, the TAA for Firms program was helping nearly 900 companies which employed more than 76,000 workers across the U.S.

Regional funding for the Mid-America TAAC is roughly \$1.3 million. In the Mid-American region, the TAA for Firms program is currently assisting 78 small to medium sized manufacturing firms. Current TAA for Firms clients generate sales revenues of nearly \$281 million within the region, and provide employment across the region for 5,820 employees.

In FY12 (October 1, 2012 to September 30, 2013), the Mid-America Trade Adjustment Assistance Center (TAAC), a University Extension program, managed contracts totaling \$1.5M (\$727K in grant funding) and implemented 73 projects to 35 companies.

