

NorthwestTAAC

Northwest Trade Adjustment Assistance Center
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Funded by the U.S. Economic
Development Administration

Quick View of TAA for Firms (TAAF)

For Economic Development and Business Assistance Professionals

TAAF is a 40-plus year federal program that helps companies adversely affected by import competition.

TAAF is for traded sector companies (ex. fisheries, food processing, lumber mills, and some services included).

Any size company may apply – Most are manufacturers in the \$500K to \$50M size range.

Companies with import competition and lost jobs within 12-month period are likely to qualify.

Common outcomes of TAAF are: Survival and growth in Sales, Productivity, and Employment.

- The **benefit** of TAAF is a **matching fund for outside expertise (up to \$150,000 with 50% match)**.
Smaller companies (under \$1M in annual sales) may use an alternate schedule of \$30,000 with 75% match.
- The **drawback** can be an extended **entry process** (4-8 months).

The TAAF matching fund is very flexible and entirely customized to each company.

The matching fund is for **multiple projects** over a period of **5 years**.

The matching fund is for **projects companies define**, using **service providers companies select**.

Project Examples: Website, Lean, Social media, Quality, Product design, IT implementation, etc.

Economic development and business assistance professionals use TAAF alongside other solutions.

TAAF is an excellent solution for companies facing tough import competition. **Refer companies as early as possible.**

TAAF does not conflict with other programs; TAAF is a financial tool for solutions companies define.

TAAF is a long-term and flexible resource for effective business renovation. – it is **not a single project focus**.

TAAF takes place in three stages – Qualify, Plan/Propose, Implement.

Companies know within hours or days if they are eligible and proceed with very high certainty of success.

NorthwestTAAC handles all program documentation and paperwork, there is nothing for companies to learn and retain.

Companies qualify for TAAF through a formal process and a document called a “petition.”

With direction from NorthwestTAAC, **the company gathers the information and documents** needed to prove eligibility.

NorthwestTAAC completes the petition, submits it to the U.S. Dept. of Commerce and proceeds with expectation of success.

Some companies have completed petitions within a week or two; typically, they take longer.

The U.S. Dept. of Commerce generally takes about **2 months to review and approve a petition**.

Companies propose potential uses of the matching fund through an “Adjustment Proposal” or AP.

An AP is **similar to a business plan**, is based on a strategy, and is comprehensive in scope.

No preparation is required by the company – NorthwestTAAC can prepare an AP in a couple of weeks.

Many **companies find great value in the AP**. There is a cost associated with it (\$500 to \$1,000).

Companies have 2 years from the approval of the petition to submit an AP.

The US Dept. of Commerce typically approves APs within 1 month.

Companies use the matching fund more or less at will for projects cited in the AP.

Companies get a quote from a service provider for a service named in the AP.

That quote is the basis of a contract. NorthwestTAAC, the Company and Service Provider sign.

NorthwestTAAC validates the selection and **prepares the contracts**. Contracts take hours or days to prepare.

Invoice by invoice, companies pay their share, then NWTAAC pays the program share directly to the service provider.

This process is repeated until all the projects are completed or the matching fund is exhausted.