

Trade Adjustment Assistance for Workers



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Benefits of Co-Enrollment

Blog-Post

Continuing in our series of guest blogs on co-enrollment of TAA Program participants in the WIOA dislocated worker program, this entry from Utah discusses the importance and benefits of co-enrollment on the suite of services made available to workers.

by Utah Trade Staff

Utah has had a state policy that if co-enrollment with WIOA DW is possible, customers must be co-enrolled since 2010. Utah is set up as a single state system and both Trade and WIOA DW services are provided by the same employment counselor for Trade participants. Trade customers only have to work with one counselor to meet all of their needs. Utah also has one electronic case management system for both Trade and WIOA services so there is only one employment plan that meets both Trade and WIOA requirements. This allows seamless service delivery and prevents a duplication of services. This allows us to document progress/benchmarks with one verification for both

programs in our system at the same time.

The co-enrollment requirement is included in the basic training for employment counselors in Utah. One of the things that the State level staff have implemented to ensure that co-enrollment is happening when possible is we go through our system and pull all individuals enrolled in Trade services and double check to see if they are co-enrolled in WIOA DW. If they aren't, we look through the notes to see if there is an explanation of why the co-enrollment has not occurred. If there is no explanation we reach out to the counselor and ask. Depending on that conversation, from that point there will either be an explanation in the notes for why the co-enrollment has not occurred or the counselor will go through the process of enrolling the Trade participant in WIOA.

The importance and benefit of co-enrollment are shown in the following example. We had a Trade participant who was getting their Registered Nursing (RN) License. Trade funds were used to pay for the licensing exam, but were not able to be used to pay for extra study guides and practice exams because they were not required. Because the Trade participant was co-enrolled with WIOA DW, we were able to use WIOA DW funding to pay for the study guide and practice exams for him. Those added resources helped him pass the exam on his first attempt.

We have seen great success in having Trade participants co-enrolled with WIOA DW. It has been very helpful to both Trade participants and Trade case managers. The WIOA DW funds really give a boost to the participants and increase their ability to do well in their training programs. We have seen countless times that Trade participants having a better experience resulting in better outcomes because co-enrollment has occurred.

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