

CATAWBA TAA INSTRUCTION FY08-02

TO: All Catawba WIA One-Stop and Intensive Service Staff

SUBJECT: Alternative Trade Adjustment Assistance

ISSUANCE DATE: February 1, 2008

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 15, 2007

EXPIRATION DATE: Indefinite

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this instruction is to issue State Policy concerning the definition of full-time employment pursuant to the Alternative Trade Adjustment Assistance (ATAA) benefit under the Trade Program.

BACKGROUND:

ATAA is an alternative assistance program for older workers certified to apply for Trade Adjustment Assistance. ATAA is designed to allow TAA eligible workers for whom training may not be appropriate, and who find reemployment, to receive a wage subsidy to help bridge the salary gap between their old and new employment. To receive ATAA benefits, workers must be TAA and ATAA certified. Under ATAA, workers in an eligible worker group who are at least 50 years of age and who obtain different, full-time employment within 26 weeks of separation from adversely-affected employment at wages less than those earned in the adversely-affected employment, may receive half of the difference between the old wages and the new wage. The wage subsidy may be paid up to a maximum of \$10,000 or for a two-year period, whichever comes first. To be eligible for ATAA, workers may not earn more than \$50,000 per year in the new employment. Workers who begin receiving payments under ATAA cannot receive other TAA benefits and services.

POLICY: Effective October 15, 2007, the definition of full-time employment for purposes of ATAA will be thirty (30) hours per week. ATAA participants can have two part-time jobs to equal a full-time position. The revised definition (from 35 to 30 hours per week) is intended to expand this attractive TAA benefit for older workers, as well as ensure the use of a common definition across workforce programs.

ACTION: All applicable Catawba WIA service providers will implement and comply with these instructions.

INQUIRIES: If you have any questions regarding this instruction, please contact Nicole Lawing or Robert Barber at (803) 327-9041.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert A. Barber". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R'.

Robert A. Barber, Administrator
Catawba Workforce Investment Area

02/01/08
Date