

Trade Adjustment Assistance for Firms (TAAF)

Federal Funds Available for Manufacturers



What is Trade Adjustment Assistance for Firms (TAAF)?

TAAF is a U.S. government program that can provide up to \$75,000 of U.S. government funds on a cost share basis for manufacturing firms that have been hurt by cheap imports and import competition. This program is available to all U.S. manufacturing and service firms that have experienced declines in sales and employment due to import competition. Georgia Tech administers the program for the Department of Commerce (DOC) in the Southeast.

How to Qualify

In order to qualify for TAAF funding, any manufacturing firm headquartered in the U.S. must show a 5% decline in both sales and employment for a current period (most recent 12 months) versus the same months for the prior year and the product they manufacture must also be import impacted. We may also use a 24-month and 36-month look-back period if necessary.

How the Program Works

The program is divided into three phases. In Phase one, the firm is certified into the program - there is no cost to the firm to get certified. Phase two is the Diagnostic Analysis and Adjustment Plan, in which we lay out recommended turn-around projects, and Phase three is the project implementation phase, in which we begin to apply the funds in contracted projects.

Private consultants and contractors perform the adjustment plan project work; we have to maintain objectivity throughout the AP analysis, so we don't perform the actual implementation projects. We do manage the contracts, and have an excellent stable of specialists in all functional areas, but the firm has final consultant selection rights and does sign all contracts.

Typical Projects

The program funds strategically sound projects that improve the firm's competitive positions. Here are a few common examples:

- **Strategic planning and target market identification/planning**
- **Identification and development of new products and new markets/prototyping**
- **Web site design/e-commerce implementation/sales literature/marketing**
- **Lean manufacturing, Six Sigma**
- **Production system innovation and re-engineering**
- **ERP and production software installation and integration**
- **Export feasibility assistance**

We cannot pay for assets, but can pay for things related to assets, such as equipment training, installation, specialized software modifications, etc. We also cannot pay for off the shelf software or modules, and cannot do anything that pays a firm's employees. Outside those few limitations, we generally can pay for anything that an outside consultant can do for a firm.

Because the program is based on available funding, funds are on a first-come-first served basis. Typically money is reserved for new clients entering the program and firms that are already certified into the program are able to complete one to two mission-critical projects each year.

For more information visit www.setaac.org or call 770-531-4550.

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