

## **Trade Adjustment Assistance**

### **Minnesota is a national leader in Trade Adjustment Assistance program design.**

We are one of the only (possibly the only) state(s) in the country to co-enroll 100 percent of its TAA customers in Dislocated Worker. This means customers see fewer seams, and get higher quality services.

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**outcomes.** Co-enrollment also gives each program the chance to leverage resources from the other, to improve results for job seekers. Minnesota's performance regularly outpaces national performance – and our outcomes can be truly extraordinary. For example, for the three quarters ending June 30, 2010, our TAA performance for entered employment was 100 percent, our retention rate was 98.8 percent, and our average annual wage was \$31,659. (By comparison, the U.S. averages for the same time period were 59.6 percent, 78.9 percent, and \$29,680, respectively.)

**This agency sees the 2009 law as a critical and necessary set of improvements to an already strong program.** Excluding service sectors and certain countries' trade (e.g., China) only led to more confusion and resentment among laid off Minnesotans. With a more fair and balanced law in place, people in *and* out of TAA can focus more on their job search and training options.

**Congress should absolutely extend the 2009 law, for as long as possible.** Political realities aside for a moment, having laws sunset every year or two adds to administrative inefficiencies and costs. Every time a sunset looms, administrative staff have to waste valuable time we could spend on customer service, preparing local partners and potential customers for multiple scenarios. Living in two possible universes costs twice as much. *Congress should seek to keep administrative costs low,* give the TAA program credit for proven results, and extend the program for at least two full years.