



TITLE: PRIORITY OF SERVICE

PURPOSE

To direct Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) funds to those most in need, while complying with U.S. Department of Labor Priority of Service requirements for Veterans.

BACKGROUND

Priority of Service occurs when a covered individual is given priority over non-covered individuals for the receipt of employment, training and placement services provided under WIOA. These individuals are entitled to precedence over non-covered persons for services. The covered individual either receives access to a service earlier in time than a non-covered person or, if resources are limited, receives access to the service instead of or before the non-covered person.

Services provided to adults and dislocated workers under Title I of WIOA focus on building and growing skills for individuals to maintain and remain in the middle class. Across all titles, WIOA focuses on serving individuals with barriers to employment and seeks to ensure access to quality services for these populations.

Recipients (and sub-recipients) of U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) funds are subject to the priority of service regulations, and are thus required by law to provide priority of service to veterans and eligible spouses. This is a requirement of receiving DOL funds. It is important to note that a veteran or eligible spouse must first meet any and all of the eligibility criteria in order to be considered eligible for enrollment in the program, receipt of priority for enrollment, and priority for receipt of services.

In addition, WIOA requires that when funds allocated for Adult Employment and Training activities are limited, priority shall be given to recipients of public assistance, individuals who are basic skills deficient, and other low-income individuals for Individualized Career Services and Training. WIOA Adult Formula funds are limited; therefore, Priority of Service must be given to recipients of public assistance, individuals who are basic skills deficient, and other low-income adults for WIOA Adult Formula funded Employment and Training activities.

POLICY

To address the requirement of the WIOA, Rogue Workforce Partnership is establishing the following prioritization for services:

Individual with Barriers to Employment:

- Displaced homemakers (as defined in WIOA Sec. 3(16))
- Low-income individuals (as defined in WIOA Sec. 3(36))
- Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians (as defined in WIOA Sec. 166 (b))
- Individuals with disabilities, including youth who are individuals with disabilities, as defined in WIOA Sec. 3(25) (which includes individuals who are in receipt of Social Security Disability Insurance)
- Older individuals (age 55 and older) (as defined in WIOA Sec. 3(39))
- Ex-offenders ("offender" as defined in WIOA Sec. 3(38))
- Homeless individuals or homeless children and youths
- Youth who are in or have aged out of the foster care system;

- Individuals who are:
 1. English language learners (WIOA Sec. 203 (7))
 2. Individuals who have low levels of literacy; and
 3. Individuals facing substantial cultural barriers
- Eligible migrant and seasonal farmworkers (as defined in WIOA Sec. 167(i)(1-3))
- Individuals within two years of exhausting lifetime TANF eligibility;
- Single parents (including single pregnant women);
- Long-term unemployed individuals (unemployed for 27 or more consecutive weeks)


Low Income: In times when WIOA Adult funds are limited for career and training services, priority must be given to eligible individuals that are low income and for which you have documentation stating low income status. Note: Under WIOA there is no exclusion of payments for unemployment compensation, child support payments, and old-age survivors' insurance benefits from the income calculations for determining if an individual is low-income.

Basic Skills Deficient: In times when WIOA Adult funds are limited, priority must be given to individuals who are basic skills deficient. Individuals who are basic skills deficient are defined in WIOA Section 3(5)(B) as an individual who is a youth or adult, who is unable to compute or solve problems, or read, write, or speak English, at a level necessary to function on the job, in the individual's family, or in society. Individuals who are English language learners meet the criteria for "basic skills deficient" and must be included in the priority populations for the Title I Adult program.

Veterans: For workforce programs that operate or deliver services to the public without targeting specific groups, veterans and eligible spouses must receive priority of service over all other program participants. For Programs with Eligibility Criteria, veterans and eligible spouses who meet the eligibility criteria will receive priority for enrollment in the program, as well as priority for receipt of services. (i.e. Adult and DW intensive services, NEGs and any other programs that has eligibility requirements). For programs with statutory or mandatory priorities (such as programs/grants that have specific populations that are allowable to be served in the grant), priority of service is applied as described below:

1. Veterans and eligible spouses who meet the program-specific mandatory priorities will receive the highest level of priority of service.
2. Non-covered individuals who meet the program's mandatory priority receive the second level of priority of service.
3. Veterans and eligible spouses outside the program-specific mandatory priority receive the third level of priority of service.
4. Non-covered individuals outside the program's mandatory priority receive the lowest level of priority of service.

A copy of this policy may be found at www.rogueworkforce.org

Approved by:  RWP Chair Vice Chair Date: 07-20-17