

Mountain Area Workforce Development Board
Policy Statement: 2018 Number 2
Effective Date: April 24, 2018

Policy Statement Regarding Priority of Service for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Eligible Adults

Purpose: To transmit a new Priority of Service Policy for eligible Adult participants pursuant to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and consistent with ETA TEGL 19-16 and DWS Policy Statement Number PS 03-2017.

Background: WIOA focuses on serving “individuals with barriers to employment” as defined by WIOA section 3(24) and seeks to ensure quality services for these populations Pursuant to ETA TEGL 19-16 and DWS Policy Statement Number PS 03-2017 this Local Area policy is to emphasize Priority of Service. The Jobs for Veterans Act codified at 38 U.S.C. 4215 establishes a priority service for covered persons in qualified job training programs. “Covered persons” under this Act include veterans and eligible spouses, including widows and widowers, as defined by the statute. Section 134(c)(3)E of WIOA establishes a priority of service requirement with respect to funds allocated to the Local Area for Adult employment and training activities. Recipients of public assistance, and other “low-income” individuals and individuals who are “basic skills deficient”

Action: All Local Area Adult and Dislocated Worker contractors and their staff must adhere to the Priority of Service policy outlined for Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) Adult and Dislocated Worker participants.

Attachments: WIOA Work Experience Guidelines, Sample Work Experience Agreement, and Sample Work Experience Agreement: Trainee Evaluation.

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MOUNTAIN AREA WDB PRIORITY OF SERVICE POLICY

Priority of Service

For Adult and Dislocated Worker funds and pursuant to WIOA, priority of service must be provided regardless of the level of funds. Section 134(c) (3)(E) of WIOA requires priority of service to recipients of public assistance, other low-income individuals, and individuals who are basic skills deficient. Veterans and eligible spouses shall continue to receive priority of service; priority must be provided in the following order:

- i. First, to veterans and eligible spouses who are also included in the groups given statutory priority for WIOA adult formula funds. This means that veterans and eligible spouses who are also recipients of public assistance, other low-income individuals, or individuals who are basic skills deficient would receive first priority for services provided with WIOA adult formula funds.
- ii. Second, to non-covered persons (that is, individuals who are not veterans or eligible spouses) who are included in the groups given priority for WIOA adult formula funds.
- iii. Third, to veterans and eligible spouses who are not included in WIOA's priority groups.
- iv. Last, to non-covered persons outside the groups given priority under WIOA.

Applicants for WIOA training services who are not members of a priority group may still be served, but specific efforts will be made to provide training services to applicants who are determined to be members of priority of service groups (20 CFR, 663.600).

However, it is up to the judgment of the service provider staff to determine if the applicant is "in need of training services and has the skills and qualifications to successfully complete the selected training program." (20 CFR 663.310(b))

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