

TRIDENT

Trident Workforce Development Board Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act

PRIORITY OF SERVICES POLICY

TO: SC Works Trident Operator/Staff

ISSUANCE DATE: February 27, 2018

EFFECTIVE DATE: February 27, 2018

SUPERSEDES: September 27, 2016, April 15, 2014, April 12, 2011, July 20, 2010, March 31, 2009, October 7, 2008, June 30, 2008 and September 13, 2006

SUBJECT: Priority of Services Policy

PURPOSE:

To establish the priority of services for Adults who are eligible for the WIOA program in the Trident Workforce area.

POLICY:

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act is designed to help job seekers access employment, education, training, and support services to succeed in the labor market and to match employers with the skilled workers they need to compete in the global economy. Under WIOA, priority must be provided regardless of the level of funds. SC Works Trident will follow the State Instruction Letter 15-17 and TEGL 19-16.

PROCEDURES:

Section 134(c) (3) (E) of WIOA establishes a priority requirement with respect to funds allocated to a local area for adult employment and training activities. Under this section, WIOA staff responsible for these funds must give priority to recipients of public assistance, other low-income individuals, and individuals who are basic skills deficient. Under TEGL 19-16, priority must be provided regardless of the level of funds. Priority should also be given to those with barriers to employment as outlined in the WIOA law and local and regional plans. The Operator of the WIOA programs must ensure that priority is given to those that meet the priority of services criterion and those with barriers to employment.

Individuals with Barriers to Employment

The populations included in the "individuals with barriers to employment" in WIOA sec. 3(24) include:

- (a) Displaced homemakers (as defined in WIOA sec. 3(16));
- (b) Low-income individuals (as defined in WIOA sec. 3(36));
- (c) Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians (as defined in WIOA sec. 166(b));
- (d) Individuals with disabilities, including youth who are individuals with disabilities (as defined in WIOA sec. 3(25) (includes individuals who are in receipt of Social Security Disability Insurance));
- (e) Older individuals (age 55 and older) (as defined in WIOA sec. 3(39));
- (f) Ex-offenders ("offender" as defined in WIOA sec. 3(38));

- (g) Homeless individuals or homeless children and youths (see Attachment III); 9
 - (h) Youth who are in or have aged out of the foster care system;
 - (i) Individuals who are:
 - (1) English language learners (WIOA sec. 203(7)),
 - (2) Individuals who have low levels of literacy (an individual is unable to compute or solve problems, or read, write, or speak English at a level necessary to function on the job, or in the individual's family, or in society); and
 - (3) Individuals facing substantial cultural barriers;
 - (j) Eligible migrant and seasonal farmworkers (as defined in WIOA sec. 167(i)(1-3);
 - (k) Individuals within two years of exhausting lifetime TANF eligibility;
 - (l) Single parents (including single pregnant women);
 - (m) Long-term unemployed individuals (unemployed for 27 or more consecutive weeks); and
 - (n) Such other groups as the Governor involved determines to have barriers to employment
- Statutory Priority

Veterans and eligible spouses continue to receive priority of service for all DOL-funded job training programs, which include WIOA programs. However, as described in TEGL 10-09, when programs are statutorily required to provide priority for a particular group of individuals, such as the WIOA priority described above, priority must be provided in the following order:

1. First, to veterans and eligible spouses who are also included in the groups given statutory priority for WIOA Adult formula funding. 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 with WIOA Adult formula funds for individualized career services and training services.
2. 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.
3. Third, to veterans and eligible spouses who are not included in WIOA's priority groups.
4. Fourth, priority populations established by the Governor and/or Local WDB.

Last, to non-covered persons outside the groups given priority under WIOA. Participants not in the priority of services group should demonstrate a need for career and training services. This would include underemployed individuals and/or individuals that meet the Trident area definition of not self-sufficient. See Self-Sufficiency Definition. Underemployed Definition:

- Individuals employed less than full-time who are seeking full-time employment;
- Individuals who are employed in a position that is inadequate with respect to their skills and training;
- Individuals who are employed who meet the definition of a low-income individual in WIOA sec. 3(36); and
- Individuals who are employed, but whose current job's earnings are not sufficient compared to their previous job's earnings from their previous employment.

Under WIOA, there is no minimum score requirement for the TABE assessment for enrollment.



Ronald E. Mitchum, Executive Director
BCDCOG

02/27/2018
Date