

State of Alaska
Department of Labor and Workforce Development

Division: Employment and Training Services	Policy: 07-517
Subject: Priority Populations – Adult Program	Pages: 3
References: Federal Register Vol.80, No. 73 ; Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, Public Law 113-128 ; Training and Employment Guidance Letter No 3-15	Effective: 2/3/2016
Approved:  Mike Andrews, Director	 Date

1. Parties Affected

This policy applies to Division of Employment and Training Services (DETS) staff administering Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Title I-B funds.

2. Background

Section 134 (c)(3)(E) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) implements a statutorily defined priority for individualized career services and training services funded with WIOA Title I-B adult funds.

Service’s provided to adults under Title I of WIOA can be a pathway to the middle class and for maintaining and building the skills to remain in the middle class. WIOA provides a focus on serving “individuals with barriers to employment” and seeks to ensure access to these populations on a priority basis.

3. Policy

DETS staff responsible for the administration of WIOA title I-B funds must give priority to recipients of public assistance, to low-income individuals, and individuals who are basic skills deficient in the provision of individualized career services and training services.

Veterans and eligible spouses continue to receive priority of service for all DOL-funded job training programs, however as described in [TEGL 3-15](#), when programs are statutorily required to provide priority for a particular group of individuals, such as the WIOA Adult program priority population described above, 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, meaning 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 adult program's priority groups;
- iv) Last, to non-covered persons outside the groups given priority under the WIOA adult program.

It is the intent of DETS to implement this policy to recognize the statutorily defined priority population required by WIOA; however this does not preclude providing individualized career and training services to non-priority populations after priority populations have been served.

4. Definitions

- a) An **Adult** is an individual who is 18 years of age or older.
- b) **Basic Skill Deficient** is an individual that 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.
- c) **Individuals with Barriers to Employment** means a member of one or more of the following populations: displaced homemaker; low-income individual; Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians, as such terms are defined in WIOA Title I, section 166; individuals with disabilities; older individuals; ex-offenders; homeless individuals; youth who have aged out of the foster care system; individuals who are English language learners, individuals who have low levels of literacy, and individuals facing substantial cultural barriers; eligible migrant and seasonal farmworkers; individuals within 2 years of exhausting lifetime eligibility under the Social Security Act; single parents; long-term unemployed and other groups the Governor determines to have barriers to employment
- d) The term **Low Income Individual** means an individual who—
 - i. receives, or in the past 6 months has received, or is a member of a family that is receiving or in the past 6 months has received, assistance through the supplemental nutrition assistance program established under the Food and nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.), the program of block grants to States for temporary assistance for needy families program under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.), or the supplemental security income program established under title XVI of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1381 et seq.), or State or local income-based public assistance;

- ii. is in a family with total family income that does not exceed the higher of—
 - a. the poverty line; or
 - b. 70 percent of the lower living standard income level;
 - c. is a homeless individual (as defined in section 41403(6) of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994

Additionally, if an individual with a disability meets the income eligibility criteria for payments under any Federal, State, or local public assistance program that individual will also be eligible for priority as a low-income adult. This includes recipients of SNAP, TANF, and recipients of the Supplemental Security Income program.

- e) **Veteran** is a person who served at least one (1) day in the active military, naval, or air service, and was discharged or released therefrom with other than dishonorable. Active service includes full-time Federal service in the National Guard or a Reserve component.