

## **VETERAN'S PRIORITY OF SERVICE**

Southern 14 Workforce Investment Board, Inc. LWIA #26

---

Local Workforce Area #26 and its service providers shall use the most current Department of Commerce WIOA Policy concerning Veteran's Priority of Service and will give priority of service to covered persons under the Job for Veterans Act to applicants in the WIOA Title I Adult, Youth and Dislocated Worker programs, statewide activity programs, National Emergency Grants and the Trade Adjustment Assistance program.

A. Under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), priority requirements under the Adult and Dislocated Worker programs are given to individuals with connections to the military.

1. Veterans and eligible spouses continue to receive priority of service for all USDOL-funded job training programs, which include WIOA programs.
2. As described in TEGL 10-09 and 03-15, when programs are statutorily required to provide priority for a particular group of individuals, such as are outlined in WIOA Policies on Eligibility in Chapter 4 - Adult Eligibility, priority must be provided in the following order:
  - a. First, to veterans and eligible spouses who are also included in the groups given statutory priority for WIOA Adult Formula funds.
    - 1) 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.
      - a. 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.
      - b. Third, to veterans and eligible spouses who are not included in WIOA's priority groups.
      - c. Last, to non-covered persons outside the groups given priority under WIOA.
3. A veteran who is eligible or spouse of an eligible veteran who is entitled to receive priority of service is a person who has served at least one day in the active military, naval, or air service, and who was discharged or released from service under any condition other than a condition classified as dishonorable is a covered person.
  - a. This definition includes Reserve units and National Guard units activated for Federal Service.
  - b. Please reference TEGL 15-10 and 10-09 for further discussion on who is a covered person under these provisions and how to determine the status of veterans and their eligible spouses.

4. Local areas must establish written policies and procedures to ensure priority for the populations described above for participants served in the WIOA Adult program, for eligibility determinations beginning on or after July 1, 2015.
- B. Exiting service members and their spouses may be treated as dislocated workers under the following guidance.
1. Under TEGL 22-04, service members exiting the military, including, but not limited to, recipients of Unemployment Compensation for Ex-Military members (UCX), generally qualify as dislocated workers.
    - a. Dislocated Worker funds under Title I can help separating service members to enter or reenter the civilian labor force. Generally a separating service member needs a notice of separation, either a DD-214 from the Department of Defense, or other appropriate documentation that shows a separation or imminent separation from the Armed Forces qualifies as the notice of termination or layoff, to meet the required dislocated worker definition.
    - b. Additionally, in most instances an individual will have to be eligible for or exhausted entitlement to unemployment compensation in order to receive dislocated worker services.
    - c. In the case of separating service members, because they may be on a terminal leave from the military, it may make sense to begin providing career services while the service member may still be part of the Active Duty military, but has an imminent separation date.
    - d. It is appropriate to provide career services to separating service members who will be imminently separating from the military, provided that their discharge will be anything other than dishonorable.
    - e. Lastly, the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) policy generally dictates that a separating service member meets the dislocated worker requirement that an individual is unlikely to return to his or her previous industry or occupation.
  2. Regarding military spouses, WIOA expands the definition of dislocated workers to include military spouses who have lost employment as a direct result of a relocation to accommodate a permanent change in duty station of the spouse.
    - a. Military spouses may also qualify if they are a dependent spouse of a member of the Armed Forces on active duty whose family income is significantly reduced, as determined by the State or local area, because of a deployment, a call or order to active duty, a permanent change of station, or the service connected death or disability of the service member.
    - b. Military spouses also can qualify if they are unemployed or underemployed and are experiencing difficulty in obtaining or upgrading employment (see WIOA sections 3(15)(E) and 3(16)(A) and (B)).

Southern 14 LWIB and its sub-grantees will identify veterans and eligible spouses who physically access service delivery points by displaying the most current Veteran's Priority poster at its Illinois workNet Center and affiliate sites; By assuring the application process contains questions regarding such veteran eligibility; informing veterans and eligible spouses of their entitlement to priority of service; the application process of priority of service since it varies by program; and link to Veteran's Priority of Service Resources through the front page of its websites.

Southern 14 will closely review the nature and share of workforce system services to veterans in LWIA #26 through monthly reporting to the Local Board by the Service Providers.

Service Providers and staff of those Service Providers must collect the required data elements for covered persons when enrolling persons into the WIOA Title I (Adult, Dislocated Worker or Youth programs), statewide activity programs, National Emergency Grants (NEG) and Trade Adjustment Assistance programs.