



WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT

Priority of Service Policy

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Telephone Relay Service is available by dialing 711 or 800-722-0353

**Caddo County, Grady County, McClain County, and City of Chickasha Labor Market Area
Comanche County, Cotton County, Tillman County, and City of Lawton Fort Sill Labor Market Area
Jefferson County, Stephens County, and City of Duncan Labor Market Area**

Equal Opportunity Programs/Employer
Auxiliary aids and services available upon request for individuals with disabilities



PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to establish South Central Oklahoma Workforce Board's policy for Priority of Service. This policy is established in accordance with applicable State and Federal laws and regulations.

BACKGROUND:

Under WIOA, priority must be given to recipients of public assistance, other low-income individuals, and individuals who are basic skills deficient in the provision of individualized career services and training services. Priority must be provided regardless of the level of funds received by the local Board.

POLICY:**STATUTORY PRIORITY AND SPECIAL POPULATIONS FOR ADULT PROGRAMS**

ETA and the State continue to focus on the requirement to serve individuals with the barriers to employment² listed in WIOA 3(24). All barriers to employment must be documented in the individual employment plan (IEP), including each of the barriers reported in the demographics section of the virtual case management system, as well as those later addressed during an interview, assessment, or evaluation. The IEP must also document steps that will be taken to resolve the barriers, progress toward barrier removal, and indicate when the barrier has been resolved or removed.

The Statutory Priority and Special Populations for Adult Programs include individuals with the following barriers to employment:

1. Displaced homemakers, as defined in WIOA 3(16);
2. Low income individuals;
3. Indigenous Americans, including individuals who identify as Native Americans or American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians;
4. Individuals with disabilities, as defined in WIOA 3(25) and including individuals who are in receipt of Social Security Disability Insurance);
5. Older individuals (age 55 and older);
6. Ex-offenders;
7. Homeless individuals(as defined in section 41403(6) of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 or a homeless child or youth as defined under section 725(2) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act;
8. Youth who are in or have aged out of the foster care system;
9. Individuals who are:
 - a. English language learners (WIOA 203(7)),
 - b. Individuals who have low levels of literacy, defined as an individual who is unable to compute or solve mathematical problems or read, write, or speak English at a level necessary to function on a job, in the individual's family, or in society; and
 - c. Individuals facing substantial cultural barriers;
10. Eligible migrant and seasonal farmworkers (as defined in WIO 167(i)(1-3);
11. Individuals within two years of exhausting lifetime TANF eligibility;
12. Single parents (including single pregnant women);
13. Long-term unemployed individuals (unemployed for 27 or more consecutive weeks); and
14. Other groups the State determines to have barriers to employment

PRIORITY POPULATIONS UNDER WIOA

Due to the statutorily required priority for Adult funds, priority must be provided in the following order:

- Priority 1: 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 receive first priority for services provided with WIOA Adult formula funds for individualized career services and training services.
- Priority 2: Non-covered persons (i.e., individuals who are not veterans or eligible spouses) who are included in the groups given priority for WIOA Adult formula funds - recipients of public assistance, other low-income individuals, and individuals who are basic skills deficient.
- Priority 3: Veterans and eligible spouses who are not low income or receiving public assistance, and those who are not basic skills deficient.
- Priority 4: Any other priority population established by the LWDB. (An example, for non-covered persons who are not included in groups given priority for WIOA Adult formula funds, such as persons living within a designated Promise Zone.) A Priority 4 locally established priority population must be documented in local policy.**
- Priority 5: Non-covered persons outside the groups given priority for WIOA funding. This priority includes individuals who are considered to be particularly vulnerable due to specific barriers to employment, as listed in WIOA 3(24).

**** PRIORITY POPULATIONS ESTABLISHED BY THE LOCAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD**

1. Individuals participating or scheduled to participate in a Registered Apprenticeship program
2. Individuals that are committed to an On-the-Job Training opportunity with a local business

APPROVED BY FULL BOARD DATE: 1/13/2022