

Jefferson Franklin Consortium Priority of Service & Veteran Priority of Service Policy

WIOA sec. 134(c)(3)(E) states that priority for individualized career services (see § 678.430(b) of this chapter) and training services funded with title I adult funds must be given to recipients of public assistance, other low-income individuals, and individuals who are basic skills deficient (as defined in WIOA sec. 3(5)(B)) in the local area.

Under WIOA sec. 3(63)(A) and 38 U.S.C. 101, veterans receive priority of service in all Department of Labor-funded training programs under 38 U.S.C. 4215 and described in 20 CFR part 1010. A veteran still must meet each program's eligibility criteria to receive services under the respective employment and training program. For income-based eligibility determinations, amounts paid while on active duty or paid by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for vocational rehabilitation, disability payments, or related VA-funded programs are not to be considered as income, in accordance with 38 U.S.C. 4213 and § 683.230 of this chapter.

Under WIOA, priority requirements under the Adult and Dislocated Worker programs are given to individuals with connections to the military. Veterans and eligible spouses continue to receive priority of service for all USDOL funded job training programs, which include WIOA programs.

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 having trouble obtaining or upgrading employment as defined under WIOA.

Jefferson/Franklin Consortium Workforce Development Board (WDB) has determined the following priority of services should WIOA Title I Adult & Dislocated Worker funding become limited. Priority shall be given to veterans, recipients of public assistance/other low-income individuals and individuals who are basic skills deficient. Priority does not mean that only those prioritized may be served, but they must be given first consideration.

For individuals only in need of basic career services and are not in need of services that require financial support from Title I Adult Funds, staff may complete a basic WIOA enrollment for that purpose without requiring documentation of the individual's income. If it is later

determined that the individual needs services that require expenditure of WIOA Title I Adult funding, then the delivery of these services will be based upon eligibility outlined in priority levels and the participant's income documentation must be added to the statewide electronic case-management system.

When coordinating priority of service for Veterans with recipients of public assistance and other low-income individuals, **eligible veterans will receive the highest priority** defined as veterans who are recipients of public assistance and low-income veterans. Next in the priority are other non-veterans who are recipients of public assistance, low-income non-veterans, and individuals who are basic skills deficient.

If WIOA Adult funding is available and customer's income exceeds WIOA Adult Priority Level I defined thresholds, the following priority levels may be used:

Recognizing the priorities available in WIOA (CFR 680.600), the Jefferson/Franklin Region will make participant funds available as stated below:

Priority Level I

1. An individual who receives, or is a member of a family who receives cash public assistance;
2. An individual who receives, or is a member of a family who receives or has been determined within the six months prior to eligibility determination, eligible to receive SNAP Benefits (food stamps);
3. An individual or member of a family whose annualized incomes does not exceed the higher of
 - Department of Health and Human Services poverty guidelines, or
 - the Department of Labor's 70 percent Lower Living Standard Income Level; or
4. An individual who is basic skills deficient or an English language learner.

Priority Level II (limited to 45% of Total WIOA Adult enrollments (not expenditures) per Program Year)

1. An individual or member of a family whose annualized income does not exceed 250 percent of the Lower Living Standard Income Level or Department of Health and Human Services poverty guidelines (*see Attachment 1*).

Priority Level III (must have Local WDB Director Approval)

1. An individual or member of a family with a documented need for Adult Title I Services who is not eligible to receive services under Priority level I or Priority Level II listed above.

**2024 FEDERAL POVERTY GUIDELINES
FOR JEFF-FRANK
ADULT PRIORITY LEVEL II**

| Household Size | 250% |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| 1 | \$37,650 |
| 2 | \$51,100 |
| 3 | \$64,550 |
| 4 | \$78,000 |
| 5 | \$91,450 |
| 6 | \$104,900 |
| 7 | \$118,350 |
| 8 | \$131,800 |

*For families/households with more than 8 persons add \$13,450 for each additional person

*New figures are released in January of each calendar year.