

State of Alaska

Department of Labor and Workforce Development

Divisions: Alaska Workforce Investment Board (AWIB), Employment and Training Services (DETS)	Policy: 07-517.1
Subject: Priority Populations – Adult Program	Pages: 3
References: Federal Regulations 20 CFR Chapter V; Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, Public Law 113-128 ; Training and Employment Guidance Letter (TEGL) 19-16 .	Effective: 2/3/2016 Revised: 6/19/2020
Approved:  Louise Dean, Executive Director, AWIB	6/30/2020 Date
Approved:  Patsy Westcott, Director, DETS	6/30/2020 Date

1. Parties Affected

This policy applies to Alaska Workforce Investment Board (AWIB) and 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 WIOA implements a statutorily defined priority for individualized career and training services funded with WIOA Title IB Adult funds. The WIOA Adult program can create a pathway to the middle class and help individuals build and maintain skills needed to achieve self-sufficiency. WIOA prioritizes services to individuals with barriers to employment and ensures access to services for these populations.

3. Policy

AWIB/DETS staff administering WIOA Title IB funds must give priority to recipients of public assistance, low-income individuals, and individuals who are basic skills deficient when providing individualized career services and training services.

The characteristics and statistics of participants served are to be examined annually to compare the percentage of priority subpopulations served to the population as a whole. The results will inform outreach, partnering, and awareness strategies for program enrollment.

Veterans and eligible spouses continue to receive priority of service for all AWIB/DOL-funded job training programs. However, as described in [TEGL 19-16](#), when programs are statutorily required to provide priority to a group of individuals such as the WIOA Adult program priority populations described above, priority must be provided in the following order:

- First, to veterans and eligible spouses who are also recipients of public assistance, other low-income individuals, or individuals who are basic skills deficient;
- Second, to individuals who are not veterans or eligible spouses who are recipients of public assistance, other low-income individuals, or individuals who are basic skills deficient;
- Third, to veterans and eligible spouses who are not recipients of public assistance, low-income individuals, or basic skills deficient;
- Last, to non-covered persons who are not recipients of public assistance, low-income individuals, or basic skills deficient, but do meet Adult program eligibility requirements.

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

4. Definitions

- a) **Adult** is an individual who is 18 years of age or older.
- b) **Basic skills deficient** is an individual who is unable to compute or solve problems, read, write, or speak English at a level necessary to function on the job, in the individual's family, or in society.
- c) **Low-income individual:**
 - i. receives, or is a member of a family that receives, cash payments under a Federal, State, or local income-based public assistance program;
 - ii. received an income, or is a member of a family that received a total family income, for the six month period prior to application for the program involved that, in relation to family size, does not exceed the higher of the Federal Poverty Line for an equivalent period or 70 percent of the [Lower Living Standard Income Level](#) (LLSIL) for an equivalent period;
 - iii. is a member of a household that receives food stamps;
 - iv. qualifies as a homeless individual;
 - v. is a foster child;
 - vi. receives, or is eligible to receive a free or reduced price lunch; or

vii. is an individual with a disability whose own income meets the requirements of this clause, but who is a member of a family whose income does not meet such requirements.

- d) **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
- e) **Veteran** is a person who served at least one day in the active military, naval, or air service, and was discharged or released therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable. Active service includes full-time federal service in the National Guard or a Reserve component.
- f) **Eligible Spouse** is the spouse of any of the following:
- i) any veteran who died of a service-connected disability, or
 - ii) any member of the Armed Forces serving on active duty who, at the time of application for the priority, is listed in one or more of the following categories and has been so listed for a total of more than 90 days:
 - (1) Missing in action;
 - (2) Captured in line of duty by a hostile force; or
 - (3) Forcibly detained or interned in line of duty by a foreign government or power.
 - iii) any veteran who has a total disability resulting from a service-connected disability, as evaluated by the Department of Veterans Affairs; or
 - iv) any veteran who died while a disability was in existence.

A spouse whose eligibility is derived from a living veteran or service member would lose their eligibility if the veteran or service member were to lose the status that is the basis for the eligibility. A spouse whose eligibility is derived from a living veteran or service member, that eligibility would be lost upon divorce from the veteran or service member.