

TO: WIA ADULT CONTRACTING AGENCIES

SUBJECT: JOBS FOR VETERANS ACT
PRIORITY OF SERVICES

EFFECTIVE DATE: JULY 1, 2009

I. BACKGROUND:

The Jobs for Veterans Act, enacted into Public Law 107-288 on November 7, 2002 made a number of amendments to encourage Veterans access to services within an integrated one-stop service delivery system. A new section of law established a priority of service requirement applicable to all Department of Labor programs offering employment and training related services. (P.L. 107-288 Section 4215 (b)).

New reporting requirements to account for representation of veterans in programs in proportion to incidence of their representation in the labor market were enacted. The Secretary of Labor was directed to evaluate whether covered persons are receiving priority of services and are being fully served. (P. L. 107-288 Section 4215 (c)).

II. POLICY:

Veterans and other covered persons who are determined eligible for WIA services are entitled to priority of service under all WIA Title I funded programs e.g. adult, youth, dislocated workers, 10% funded projects, and National Emergency Grant (NEG). The term “veterans priority of service” means that a covered person shall be given priority over non-veterans except for the priority of service established by law for the WIA adult program. The adult program is the only program to have a

priority provision established by law giving priority to public assistance and other low-income persons for intensive and training services.

For example, if there were only sufficient funds to provide services to one individual and one individual is on public assistance and one is a veteran, the individual on public assistance must receive priority. For other programs, if there were only sufficient funds to provide services to one individual and a veteran is in the pool, the veteran must receive priority.

Contractors shall provide information to “covered persons” on services available under Department of Labor job training programs. Contractors shall ensure that individuals are informed of their right to priority for employment and training services. This information could be provided in any number of ways, either verbally or in writing, during orientation, assessment or registration.

Contractors shall collect and enter the required veteran data elements into SKIES when registering veterans into a WIA Title I program.

Representative from WIA funded programs shall meet as needed with the Veteran’s programs to review the referral process and ensure coordination of services between the two programs.

Definitions:

A “covered person” is one of the following:

1. A veteran who is an individual who served in the active military, naval, or air service, and who was discharged or released from such service under conditions other than dishonorable (WIA definition);

2. A recently separated veteran is any veteran who applies for participation under this title within 48 months after the discharge or release from active military, naval, or air service (WIA definition); or
3. The spouse of:
 - A veteran who died of a service connected disability;
 - A member on active duty who (at time of spouse's application) is listed as missing in action, captured in the line of duty, or forcibly detained; or
 - A veteran with a total disability from a service connected disability or one who died while being evaluated for it.

The term "veteran" is defined in WIA Title I Section 101 (49)

The term "covered spouse" is defined in P.L. 107-288 Section 4215 (a)

The term "priority of service" is defined in P.L. 107-288 Section 4215 (3)

References: WIA Adult Administrative Bulletin 02A Eligibility / Service Priority-Change 2.