

ALABAMA WORKFORCE INVESTMENT SYSTEM

Department of Commerce
Workforce Development Division
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GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE INNOVATION DIRECTIVE NO. PY 2016-01

SUBJECT: Priority of Service for Basic Skills Deficient, Recipient of Public Assistance, Other Low-Income

- 1. Purpose.** To establish a policy for determining priority of services for adults receiving direct monetary services such as support services or training under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).
- 2. Discussion.** WIOA section 134(c)(3)(E) establishes the need for the local Workforce Development Areas to have a system of priority for services to adults:

“With respect to funds allocated to a local area for adult employment and training activities... priority shall be given to recipients of public assistance, other low income individuals, and individuals who are basic skills deficient for receipt of career services...and training services. The appropriate local board and the Governor shall direct the one-stop operators in the local area with regard to making determinations related to such priority.”

WIOA Implementing Regulations 680.600(b) requires States and local areas to establish criteria for providing priority to individualized career services and training with WIOA adult funds under Title I. The criteria may include other resources and funds for providing career and training-related services in the local workforce development area (LWDA), as well as other factors the LWDA determines appropriate.

WIOA 680.600(c) clarifies that while priority must be given under WIOA adult funds to low-income individuals, public assistance recipients, or individuals, who are basic skills deficient for individualized career services and training services, the Local Board and Governor may establish a process that also gives priority to other individuals.

A. Background

The Adult Program under Title I of WIOA provides workforce development services to adults to increase their employment, retention in employment and earnings and also support their

occupational skill attainment and career advancement. Local workforce development boards are charged with strategic planning and oversight activities in support of workforce and economic development.

WIOA specifies that services for adults will be provided through One-Stop Career Centers. Service such as career guidance and workforce information may also be provided virtually. WIOA authorizes two types of service that are potentially available to job seekers:

1. Career Services – includes outreach, job search and placement assistance, provision of labor market information, comprehensive assessments, development of individual employment plans, counseling and career planning, and other services specified in Section 134(c)(2)(A).
2. Training Services – includes Occupational Skills Training, One-the-Job Training activities, Customized, Training, Individual Training Accounts, and other training services specified in Section 134(c)(3)(D).

Priority for both career and training services must be given recipients of public assistance, other low-income individuals, and individuals who are basic skills deficient in accordance with the federal requirement specified above.

Funds allocated for WIOA Dislocated Worker eligible individuals are not subject to this Policy.

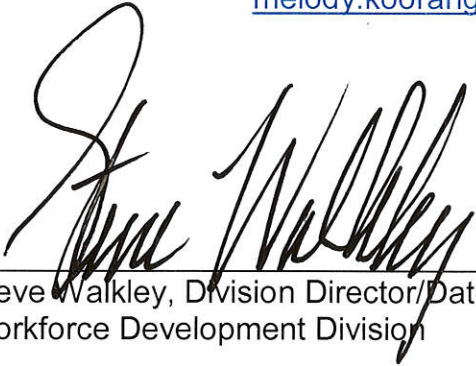
B. Compliance with the Jobs for Veterans Act

The Alabama Workforce Development System will provide priority of services to veterans and eligible spouses, as specified in the Jobs for Veterans Act and its implementing regulations at 20CFR Part 101. When Veterans Priority is applied in conjunction with Priority of Services for WIOA Adult Program Participants, veterans and eligible spouses who are also recipients of public assistance, other low-income individuals, and individuals who are basic skill deficient will receive first priority. The second priority would be recipients of public assistance, other low-income individuals and individuals who are basic skills deficient who are not veterans or eligible spouses.

C. Local Board Requirements

Local Workforce Development Boards are required to develop and include in their local plan, policies that implement Priority of Services for WIOA Adult Program Participants for the One Stop Center and service delivery plan for the local training providers.

3. **Action.** Each LWDA should take the appropriate measures to ensure compliance with the above-stated policy and amend local area plans to address the Priority of Services policy. The State Program Integrity Section is tasked with monitoring the LWDA's to ensure that Priority of Services policies are established and approved by local boards, as well as sample testing participant files for adherence to stated policies.
4. **Contact.** Any questions should be referred to Melody Koorangi, Supervisor, Program Integrity Section, at (334) 242-5175 or by email at melody.koorangi@commerce.alabama.gov.



Steve Walkley, Division Director/Date
Workforce Development Division