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WIA BULLETIN NO. 07-05

TO: WIA Partners

SUBJECT: Veterans' Priority

PURPOSE

The purpose of this bulletin is to inform local area grantees about the veterans' priority provisions of the Jobs for Veterans Act.

BACKGROUND

On November 2, 2002, President Bush signed the Jobs for Veterans Act (JVA). The JVA creates a priority of services for veterans (and some spouses) who otherwise meet the eligibility requirements for participation in the United States Department of Labor's (USDOL) training programs.

Various USDOL-funded training programs are covered by the JVA. The programs affected include, but are not limited to: (1) WIA Adult and Dislocated Worker Programs; (2) Wagner-Peyser Employment Services; (3) Trade Act Programs; (4) National Emergency Grants; (5) Senior Community Services Employment Program; (6) Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Program; (7) Indian and Native American Program; (8) H-1B Technical Skills Training Grants; (9) Job Corp; (10) WIA Demonstration Projects; (11) Youth Opportunity Grants; (12) WIA Youth Programs; (13) Labor Market Information Formula Grants; (14) Pilots, Research and Development; and (15) Career One-Stop Electronic tools.

Guidance for each affected program will be issued separately by the USDOL. The guidance provided in this bulletin applies to the WIA Youth, Adult and Dislocated Worker formula-funded programs.

POLICY

The veterans' priority is a statutory mandate, but is not intended to displace the core function of the program. For all WIA programs, veterans must meet the program eligibility requirements to obtain priority of service.

For programs with existing statutory targeting provisions, the veterans' priority must be applied by assessing a person's status in light of both requirements.

For example, the WIA programs have the following mandatory targeting provisions:

Youth Program

At a minimum, 30 percent of the program funds for youth shall be used to provide youth activities to out-of-school youth [129(c)(4)(A)].

Adult Program

Priority shall be given to recipients of public assistance and other low-income individuals for intensive services and training services [Section 134(d)(4)(E)].

Therefore, the veterans' priority would be applied as follows:

- Persons who meet both the veterans' priority and the mandatory targeting provisions have the highest priority for participation.
- Non-veterans who meet the mandatory targeting provisions have the next highest priority.
- Veterans who do not meet the mandatory targeting provisions have the third highest priority.
- Persons who are not veterans and who do not meet the mandatory targeting provisions have the lowest priority.

PROCEDURES

Local area grantees in conjunction with their respective local workforce investment councils should develop procedures for giving priority to veterans as required by the above stated policy.

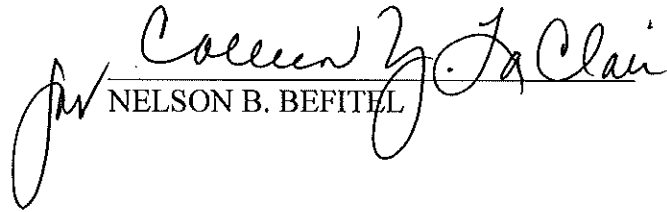
Some methods of providing priority are as follows:

1. If there are sufficient program applicants, local areas may choose to enroll only those having higher priority. Points may be assigned on the bases of priority and only those having a minimum number of points would be enrolled.

2. Applicants may be assigned points on the basis of priority, and rank-ordered on a waiting list. For programs with continuous intake, the waiting lists would need to be updated on a weekly or monthly basis.
3. Funds may be earmarked for the various target groups with the greater proportion of funds being allocated to those with higher priority. If this method is used, special attention must be given to ensure that all funds are being expended on a timely basis.

INQUIRIES

Questions regarding this bulletin should be directed to Ms. Judy Gordon Leon, Workforce Development Division Training and Development Supervisor, at (808) 586-9064.


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