

## 5140POL Veterans Priority of Service

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To ensure Olympic Workforce Development Council (OWDC) service providers throughout the three-county region understand and implement the Veterans Priority of Service and Eligibility requirements for covered veterans and their eligible spouses.

**1. All WIOA service providers must comply with federal law, regulations, and guidance on veterans' priority of service per 20 CFR Part 1010.**

- a. Priority of service entitles veterans and their eligible spouse (covered persons) precedence over eligible non-covered persons accessing services. The covered persons are enrolled or provided services earlier in time than others who are waiting for the same assistance.
- o If program or service resources are limited, then the covered persons are given access instead of others.

NOTE: this does not mean that the covered person is given "bumping rights" over others who are already enrolled and/or receiving services. Additionally, covered persons must meet program eligibility requirements before receiving priority into a program or service.

- b. After meeting the eligibility requirements for the program, the veteran must be given priority over all non-covered persons who also meet the eligibility requirements. Priorities set by the federal statute are at the top of the hierarchy. Priority of service for veterans takes precedence over state and local level targeting.

**2. All WIOA service providers are required to notify customers accessing services of the veteran's priority of service, whether through physical or online access.**

- d. Covered persons must indicate whether they are entitled to priority of service at entry point into the system to take advantage of this priority policy.
- i. Once identified, the covered person must be made aware of their entitlement to priority of service.
  - ii. In addition to allowing applicants to claim entitlement to priority, identified covered persons are to be given a menu of services to which the entitlement applies, and eligibility requirements for those programs.

**3. It is required for all providers to collect, retain, and report data in accordance with 20 CFR 101.320 and Washington WorkSource System Policy 1009 (Rev3). The state case management system (Efforts to Outcomes (ETO)) is the system housing all data collection.** Programs that are required to obtain and house documentation:

- WIOA Title I Adult and Dislocated Worker
- National Dislocated Worker Grants
- WIOA Title III Wagner-Peyser Employment Services

- Trade Adjustment Assistance
  - Senior Community Service Employment Program
4. **All staff within the OWDC One-Stop system receive training on priority of service and its documentation, as well as information on qualified programs to which the priority applies.**
  5. **The Washington State Governor may, at times, determine a different priority of service for the WIOA Statewide (10%) Discretionary Grants/Contracts or other programs.** Within those defined priorities for the Governor, the Veteran's Priority of Service and Eligibility still applies in that once qualified within a certain group of customers, the veteran receives priority among that group.

#### **DEFINITIONS:**

**Point of Entry:** the point of contact with the One-Stop system, either in-person or virtually, whether a service is provided. It may include reception at the front-end of a WorkSource center, as part of a program-specific application process, or any other method by which covered persons express an interest in receiving services.

**Veteran:** a person who was in active military service, and who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable, as specified in 38 USC 101(2). For clarification, a *disabled veteran* is one whose disability is permanent, and service connected. Active service also includes full-time duty in the National Guard or a Reserve component, other than full time duty for training purposes.

**Eligible Spouse:** defined in section 2(a) of JVA 38 USC 4215(a)) means the spouse of any of the following: (1) any veteran who died of service-connected disability; (2) any member of the Armed Forces service on active duty who, at the time of application for the priority, is listed in one or more of the following categories (for a total of more than 90 days): missing in action, captured in the line of duty by a hostile force, or forcibly detained or interned in the line of duty by a foreign government or power; (3) any veteran who has a total disability resulting from a service connected disability, as evaluated by the Department of Veterans Affairs; or (4) any veteran who died while a disability, as indicated above was in existence.

#### **References**

Application of Priority of Service for Covered Persons, [20 CFR part 1010](#).

Priority of Service for Veterans and Eligible Souses, [Washington WorkSource System Policy 1009 \(Rev3\)](#).

Priority of Service for Veterans and Eligible Souses Final Rule, [Training and Employment Guidance Letter \(TEGL\) 10-09](#).

Jobs for Veterans Act, [Public Law 107-288 \(38 USC4215\(a\)\)](#).

Veterans' Benefits, Health Care, and Information Technology Act, [Public Law 109-461](#).