

Central/Western Maine Workforce Investment Board

WIA & NEG Veterans' Priority of Service Policy

Background:

In order to meet new regulations, local policies and strategies are amended to make them sufficient to meet the requirements of 20 CFR 1010.230, published at 73 Fed. Reg. 78132 on December 19, 2008, of the Jobs for Veterans Act regulations issued on December 19, 2008 implementing priority of service for Veterans and eligible spouses in Department of Labor job training programs. With the infusion of ARRA funds came a requirement to provide "priority of service for Veterans." The US DOL TEGL No. 14-08 dated March 18, 2009 and the "final rules" in 20 CFR Part 1010, dated December 19, 2008 outline those requirements and their implications for WIA services.

Section 11.C of the TEGL offers "States and local areas must incorporate priority of service for Veterans and eligible spouses sufficient to meet the requirements of 20 CFR Part 1010, published at Fed. Reg. 78132 on December 19, 2008, the regulations implementing priority of service for Veterans and eligible spouses in the Department of Labor job training programs under the Jobs for Veterans Act. Under sec. 1010.310(b)(3) of these regulations, when the Veterans' priority is applied in conjunction with another priority for recipients of public assistance and low-income individuals, Veterans and eligible spouses who are members of the Recovery Act priority group must receive the highest priority within that priority group, followed by non-Veteran members of the Recovery Act priority group."

20 CFR Part 1010.210 clarifies for which job training programs "priority of service for Veterans will apply. It reads "(a) Priority of service applies to every qualified job training program funded, in whole or in part, by the Department including: (1) Any such program or service that uses technology to assist individuals to access workforce development programs (such as job and training opportunities, labor market information, career assessment tools, and related support services); and (2) Any such program or service under the public employment service system, One-Stop Career Centers, the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, a demonstration or other temporary program; any workforce development program targeted to specific groups; and those programs implemented by States or local service providers based on Federal block grants administered by the Department. (b) The implementation of priority of service does not change the intended function of a program or service. Veterans and eligible spouses must meet all statutory eligibility and program requirements for participation in order to receive priority for a program or service."

WIA and NEG Service Providers are required to adhere to all policies and guidelines set forth in the policy below.

General Veterans' Priority of Service Policy Guidelines for Formula WIA Programs
(Adult, Dislocated Worker and Youth)

- 1.) Literature about the service priority and available services for Veterans is posted in the Information Centers of the CareerCenters.
- 2.) Information center staff does preliminary identification and refer to counseling through the CareerCenter partners Veteran's program counselors, DVOP/LVERs. If DVOP/LVERs are not available, Veterans are invited to use other services. The DVOP/LVERs are informed that a Veteran came in and make a follow up contact.
- 3.) When necessary, slots are held for Veterans for workshops and group events.
- 4.) Upon request CareerCenter staff arrange for workshops that focus on Veteran needs.
- 5.) During times of high usage, computer stations in the information centers are dedicated for Veterans.
- 6.) The CareerCenter staff work closely with the DVOP/LVERs for direct training referrals for WIA services. A review of all possible training funds is made to insure best funding options for Veterans.
- 7.) In the Local Area 3 LWIB, if all other factors are equal and there is only money to serve one of two applicants with WIA funds, then the applicant who is a Veteran gets the funding and corollary services first.

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