

Workforce Solutions

POLICY

CATEGORY:	Workforce System	No.: 006.00
SUBJECT:	Veteran Priority of Service	
SUPERSEDES:		
EFFECTIVE:	March 1, 2010	
RE-ADOPT:		
REVISE:	March 1, 2010	
RESCIND:		

POLICY

Workforce Solutions must ensure that eligible veterans are:

- Identified at point of entry, and
- Informed of:
 - Their right to priority of service;
 - The full array of employment, training, and placement services available under priority of service; and
 - Any applicable eligibility requirements for those programs and services.

Priority of service means the right of eligible veterans to take precedence over non-eligible persons in obtaining both workforce services and supportive services.

- Taking precedence can mean:
 - Eligible veterans receive access to workforce services before non-eligible persons; or
 - If workforce services are limited, eligible veterans receive access to workforce services instead of or before non-eligible persons.
- However, non-eligible persons who are currently receiving workforce services are not displaced in order to provide priority of service to eligible veterans. Eligible veterans and eligible foster youth receive priority over all other equally qualified individuals in their access to supportive services.

Workforce Solutions must also ensure that workforce services are prioritized and targeted for youth transitioning out of the foster care system and for former foster youth. Furthermore, where feasible, service must ensure that foster youth who need housing are referred for short-term housing stays.

Priority Order

1. Eligible veterans continue to receive priority over all other equally qualified individuals in the receipt of services funded in whole or partly by DOL, in accordance with 38 U.S.C. §4215
2. Eligible veterans receive priority over all other equally qualified individuals in the receipt of employment assistance or job training services funded in whole or in part by state funds, in accordance with HB 1452

3. Eligible foster youth receive priority over all other equally qualified individuals—except eligible veterans—in the receipt of federal and state funded services.

PROCEDURES

Workforce Solutions' service delivery contractor must implement procedures to meet the expectation of this policy, including but not limited to:

- This policy and related procedures must be maintained at all service delivery points, and, to the extent possible, posted.
- Point of entry procedures must allow individuals to self-identify (e.g. sign-in sheet, visible signage or special line).
- Use of Workforce Solutions Customer Tracking System
- When staff-assisted services are provided, the eligible veteran must either sign a self-attestation form or present a DD-214. If the DD-214 is on file at the workforce center or the veteran is registered in WorkInTexas.com, the self-attestation form is not needed.

DEFINITIONS

Eligible Veteran:

- Federal/State qualified veteran- a person who served in the active military, naval or air service, and who was discharged or released therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable. Active services include full-time duty in the National Guard or a Reserve component, other than full-time for training purposes
- Federal qualified spouse – the spouse of :
 - Any veteran who died of a service-connected disability;
 - Any member of the Armed Forces serving on active duty who, at the time of application for the priority, is listed in one or more of the following categories and has been so listed for a total of more than 90 days;
 - Missing in action;
 - Captured in line of duty by a hostile force; or
 - Forcibly detained or interned in line of duty by a foreign government or power;
 - Any Veteran who has a total disability resulting from a service-connected disability, as evaluated by the Dept. of Veterans Affairs;
 - Any Veteran who died while a disability, as indicated above, was in existence
- State qualified spouse – a spouse:
 - Who meets the definition of federal qualified spouse; or
 - Of any member of the armed forces who died while serving on active military, naval or air service.

Eligible Foster Youth:

- Current foster youth – A youth age 14 or older, who is receiving substitute care services under the managing conservatorship of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (TDFPS), including youth residing in private foster homes, group homes, residential treatment centers, juvenile correctional institutions, and relative care or;
- Former foster youth- A youth up to 23 years of age, who formerly was under the

managing conservatorship of TDFPS, until:

- o A court transferred conservatorship,
- o The youth was legally emancipated, or
- o The youth attained 18 years of age.

Point of Entry:

- The point of entry may include:
 - o Reception at a workforce center,
 - o Part of an application process for a specific program, or
 - o Any other method by which eligible veterans may express an interest in receiving services, either in person or online.

REFERENCE

Workforce Development Letter 25-15

Workforce Development Letter 43-11

Training and Employment Guidance Letter 10-09

INTENT

To provide information and guidance on applying priority of service for all new and existing qualified job training programs for eligible veterans (including eligible spouses) and eligible foster youth, specifically:

- Identifying and informing eligible veterans,
- Implementing priority of service,
- Priority order,
- Priority of service for support services, and
- Data collection.

ATTACHMENT

Sample Self-Attestation Form