

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT of EMPLOYMENT SECURITY
State Policy Number 7
PRIORITY of SERVICE for
WIOA ADULT PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS
Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)

I. SCOPE AND 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).

II. REQUIREMENTS

WIOA section 134(c)(3)(E) establishes the need for the local Workforce Investment Area 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.”

Proposed § 680.600(b) requires States and local areas to establish criteria for providing priority to individualized career services and training services 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 area, as well as the needs of specific groups in the local area, as well as other factors the local areas determines appropriate.

Proposed § 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. Services 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 §134(c)(2).
2. Training Services - includes Occupational Skills Training, On-the-Job Training activities, Customized Training, Individual Training Accounts, and other training services specified in §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 requirements specified in Section II, above.

Funds allocated for WIA Dislocated Workers or TAA eligible individuals are not subject to this Policy.

B. Compliance with the Jobs for Veterans Act

Mississippi's workforce system will provide priority of service to veterans and eligible spouses, as specified in the Jobs for Veterans Act and its implementing regulations at 20 CFR part 1010, and articulated in State Policy Number 6 - Priority of Service for Veterans and Eligible Spouses.

When Veterans Priority is applied in conjunction with Priority of Service 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 skills 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 Service for WIOA Adult Program Participants for the one Stop Centers and a service delivery plan for the local training providers.

III. EFFECTIVE DATE

This policy shall be effective as of July 1, 2015.

IV. APPROVAL



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