

LOCAL AREA  
FOR LABOR DEVELOPMENT  
MAYAGÜEZ / LAS MARÍAS

## **Public Policy**

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### **DEFINITION OF BARRIERS FOR THE YOUTH PROGRAM**

**Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act  
(WIOA)**

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**I. Introduction**

The Mayagüez-Las Marías Local Labor Development Board maintains the intention of promoting that young people in need of benefit from varied services aimed at providing academic and skill achievements and their eventual incorporation into the workforce as productive and self-sufficient entities.

**II. Legal Basis**

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) establishes in Section 129 the criteria for the development of Youth Programs in and out of school.



**III. Purpose**

Provide guidelines to the operational areas within the Single Management Center to define the priorities for the service of the youth that meet these requirements.

**IV. Definitions**

Youth Program Eligibility Criteria

SECTION 129(a)(1)(B) and 129(a)(1)(C) of WIOA establish the readability criteria for Youth Out of School and Youth in School.

**A. Youth Out of School** - A young person is considered under the category of Out of School if he meets the following characteristics:

1. Is not attending school, according to the definition that the state has adopted for this term.
2. Is between the ages of 16 -24 years at the time of registration in the System. The youth may continue to receive services after 24 years if they have not completed their occupational goals, as the age

requirement applies at the time of beginning to receive services and registration in the System.

3. Meets one or more of the following conditions:

a) School dropout.

b) A young person who is at the age of compulsorily attending school, but has not attended school in the last semester of the same school year

c) Have completed a fourth-year diploma or its equivalent, is in a low-income bracket and has one of the following barriers:

- Deficient in basic skills
- In the process of learning the English language

- d) An individual who is subject to the juvenile or adult justice system.
- e) An individual considered wandering; who has escaped from home; is in a foster home or is of childbearing age; a youth eligible for assistance under Section 477 of the Social Security Act; or an individual who is constantly allocated in and out-of-home placement.
- f) A young woman who is pregnant or a young person who is rising minors.
- g) A young person who is an individual with disabilities.
- h) A low-income individual who requires additional assistance to enter and/or complete an educational program or to obtain and retain employment.

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**B. Youth at School** - A young person is considered under the category of Youth in School if he meets the following characteristics:

1. Is attending school, according to the definition that the state has adopted for this term.
2. Not less than 14 years old (except for an individual with a disability who is attending school according to a State Law) and is not older than 21 years.
3. Low-income individual.
4. Meet one or more of the following conditions:
  - a) Deficient in basic skills.


- b) In order to learn the English language.
- c) Offender of the law.
- d) A homeless person (as defined in Section 41403(6) of the Federal Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14043e-2(6))), a child or homeless youth (as defined in Section 725(2) of the Federal Non-Home Assistance Act McKinney-Vento (42) U.S.C. 1143411 (2))), a young person who has escaped from home, is in a foster home or who is over the age to be in the foster care system, a child eligible for assistance under Section 477 of the Federal Social Security Act (42) U.S.C. 677), or is inside a placement program outside their home;
- e) A young woman who is pregnant or a young person who is raising minors.
- f) A young person who is an individual with disabilities.
- g) A low-income individual who requires additional assistance to enter and/or complete an educational program or to obtain and retain employment.

Section 129(a)(2): The term low-income individuals include young people living in areas of high poverty.

These standards are established by the Local Workforce Development Board in response to changes to the WIOA Act to identify those who qualify in the barrier (h) youth outside the school and (g) youth inside the school.

**V. Approval and Validity**

This policy will be effective immediately upon its approval. It shall be the responsibility of the Executive Director to inform the staff within five (5) working days of its approval.

  
ÁNGEL A. SAN MIGUEL HERNÁNDEZ

President of the Local  
Labor Development  
Board

  
SANDRA Y. DÍAZ VALENTÍN

Secretary of the  
Local Board of  
Labor Development

27 - October | 2016

DATE