

# PUBLIC POLICY ON PRIORITIZATION OF SERVICES TO VETERANS AND ELIGIBLE SPOUSES

## I. LEGAL BASIS

Title 38 Veterans Benefits of the United States Code of Laws defines an individual eligible to be served as a veteran by the public employment system. All Federal programs or programs receiving Federal funds are required to offer service to veterans for readjustment to civilian life. The emphasis on veterans' employment requires that all contracts of \$100,000 or more within any Department or Agency of the United States must include an affirmative action to employ or submit for employment qualified covered veterans.

## **II. INTRODUCTION**

The Mayaguez-Las Marias Local Workforce Development Area Local Board intends to offer priority services to qualified veterans and covered spouses to assist them in eventually incorporating into the workforce as productive and self-sufficient individuals.

## **III. PURPOSE**

To provide specific guidelines to the Local Area staff for determining and demonstrating eligibility for the Adult or Dislocated Worker Programs, as the case may be, so that they may attain with priority the services available under the law.

The definitions included herein shall be adopted by the Mayaguez-Las Marias Local Workforce Development Area Administration to apply and document the eligibility criteria for veterans referred to the Adult or Dislocated Worker Program as amended by the Workforce

Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

## **IV. POLICY**

The definitions included will be adapted by the Mayaguez-Las Marias Local Workforce Development Area Administration to apply and document the eligibility criteria for veterans referred to the Adult or Dislocated Worker Program, as the case may be. Services to the eligible veteran or spouse will be provided as described in TEGL 3-15, where the following priority is defined:

- First, to veterans and eligible spouses, who are also included in the priority groups for the WIOA Adult Program. This means that veterans and eligible spouses who are also recipients of public aid, other low-income individuals, or individuals who are basic skills deficient will receive priority for services provided with Adult Program funds.
- Second, to uninsured individuals (i.e., individuals who are not veterans or eligible spouses) who are included in the priority groups under the Adult Program.
- Third, to veterans and eligible spouses who are not included in the WIOA priority groups.
- Finally, to individuals who are outside the priority groups under WIOA.

## **V. DEFINITIONS**

- 1. The term eligible veteran identifies a person who:
  - Participated in Active Duty for 180 days and was discharged or honorably discharged other than by dishonorable discharge.
  - He/she was discharged or discharged from active duty for a medical condition (service-connected disability) acquired in military service.
  - As a member of the Reserve or National Guard on active duty orders under

section 12301(a), (d), or (g), 12302, or 12304 of Title 10, serving actively during a period of war, campaign, or expedition for which you will receive an authorized campaign badge and were discharged or discharged from such activation with a discharge other than dishonorable or bad conduct.

- 2. Form DD214 Member 4
  - No veteran will be considered for the Veteran's Program without displaying a DD214 form that reads "Member4" in the lower right-hand corner. Likewise, no veteran will be issued a veteran's PRES-506. He/she will proceed to regular employment service until he/she provides Form D0214 to give him/her service priority.
  - The DD214 identifies the Veteran and his or her time served. The Veterans' Hospital Card and Discharge Certificate are not used to identify time served.
  - The date in box 12B will be checked to determine if active time has ended.
- 3. Priority of Services to Military

This means that any qualified training program must prioritize service to covered veterans over nonveterans when providing training, employment, or placement services under such a program.

#### 4. State Plan

State government plan outlining the process for ensuring that veterans and eligible individuals are provided employment and training services by **integrating the Employment Service** into the WIOA One-Stop Centers, utilizing positive strategies and available services. The success of these initiatives will be monitored and evaluated.

5. Referred to Services

Eligible veterans will be given priority referral to designated services to achieve their physical, social, mental, or economic well-being and reduce or eliminate barriers to employment. Supportive services include medical and health services, transportation, financial assistance, financial planning, veteran services, educational assistance, and counseling. Referrals are made to the appropriate agencies, avoiding duplication of services.

6. Referred to Employment

All eligible veterans must be referred for employment with priority to another non-veteran individual.

#### VI. ACTION REQUIRED

The Mayagüez-Las Marías, Local Workforce Development Area Administration, shall incorporate this Public Policy in its procedures.

#### **VII. EFFECTIVENESS**

This Public Policy will be effective today, October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

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Sandra Díaz /alentír

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSLATOR

Smile Again Learning Center, Corp., certifies that a fluent translator in English and Spanish translated this document, that the above is a true and correct translation of the original document provided, in our best judgment, the translated text truly reflects the content, meaning, and style of the original text and constitutes in every aspect a complete and accurate translation of the original document. This is to certify the correctness of the translation only. We do not make any claims or guarantees about the authenticity or content of the original document. Further, Smile Again Learning Center assumes no liability for the way in which the translation is used by the customer or any third party, including end-users of the translation. Any translation into another language shall be deemed as reference and the original version shall prevail in any case. A copy of the translation is attached to this certification. In Isabela, Puerto Rico, June 30, 2024

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